

MINING NON-CONVENTIONAL YEASTS BIODIVERSITY



17th February 2026 - online

Meeting organized within the framework of the Non Conventional Yeasts (NCY) diversity project, funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU, Mission M4C2, Investment 1.1, PRIN PNRR 2022 (Project Code P20229JMMH, CUP B53D23024920001).

Chair: NICOLA VITULO

**GENOMICS AND
BIOINFORMATICS:
UNLOCKING YEAST
BIODIVERSITY**
10:00-11:40

Chair: EUGENIO PARENTE

**MICROBIAL
COLLECTIONS AS KEY
INFRASTRUCTURES FOR
BIODIVERSITY AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY**
12:00-13:00

Chair: GIOVANNA FELIS

**FROM BIODIVERSITY
TO BIOTECHNOLOGY:
HARNESSING
BIOLOGICAL
RESOURCES FOR
INNOVATION**
14:30-16:00

- 10:00-10:20 - **NICOLA VITULO** (University of Verona, Verona, Italy)
Welcome and introduction to the project
- 10:20-10:40 - **FRANCESCA DI CESARE** (University of Verona & VUCC, Verona, Italy)
Inside *Mrakia*: from genomes to metabolic function
- 10:40-11:00 - **EUGENIO PARENTE** (University of Basilicata, Potenza, Italy)
Metataxonomic insights in the ecology of yeasts in foods
- 11:00-11:20 - **PRANAS GRIGAITIS** (Institute for Biological Interfaces (IBG-5), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany)
Quantifying the metabolic potential of NCYs using genome-scale metabolic models as tools for knowledge transfer from model yeasts
- 11:20-11:40 - **FRANCESCA CORDERO** (University of Turin, Turin, Italy)
How to reveal the function-specific microbial communities: from metagenomic profiling to metabolic models
- ☕ 11:40-12:00 - Coffee break
- 12:00-12:20 - **BENEDETTA TURCHETTI** (University of Perugia & DBVPG, Perugia, Italy)
Non-conventional yeasts: from the environment to innovative brewing
- 12:20-12:40 - **NEŽA ČADEŽ** (University of Ljubljana & ZIM Culture collection, Ljubljana, Slovenia)
Adaptation of a thermotolerant *Hanseniaspora* species to European vineyards over the last 20 years
- 12:40-13:00 - **ANDREY YURKOV** (Leibniz Institute DSMZ - German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Germany)
Yeast diversity in bee-angiosperm systems in natural and agricultural settings
- ☕ 13:00-14:30 - Lunch
- 14:30-14:50 - **JOHN MORRISSEY** (University College Cork, Cork, Ireland)
Understanding and exploiting the diversity of sugar transporters in *Kluyveromyces marxianus*
- 14:50-15:10 - **ROSANE SCHWAN** (Federal University of Lavras, Lavras, Brazil)
Non-*Saccharomyces* yeasts in coffee and cocoa fermentation: from microbial ecology to quality attributes
- 15:10-15:30 - **LAURA CANONICO** (Università politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy)
Non-conventional yeasts: exploring biodiversity in brewing
- 15:30-15:50 - **MARILENA BUDRONI** (University of Sassari & MBDS-UNISSCC, Sassari, Italy)
Type I Sourdough Sardinian Culture Collection: a hub of biodiversity protection
- 15:50-16:00 - **GIOVANNA FELIS** (University of Verona & VUCC, Verona, Italy)
Concluding remarks

