

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Prof. LADA LUKIĆ BILELA, PhD



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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=2z8LU3oAAAAJ&hl=en>
<https://www.ipbes.net/users/lbilela>

Sex Female | Date of birth 01/02/1969 | Nationality BiH/Croatian

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Full professor
Head of Laboratory for Aquatic Molecular Biology /LAMB/
University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
- 2016 – 2020 Vice-dean for International Relations and Quality Assurance
University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science
- 2013 – 2018 Associate professor
University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
- 2013 – 2016 Chair of General Biology, Department of Biology
- 2009 – 2013 Assistant professor
University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
- 2008 – 2009 Research Associate
University of Sarajevo, Institute for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology,
Laboratory for Molecular Genetics of Natural Resources
- 2006 – 2007 Postdoctoral Fellow (Marie Curie postdoctoral fellowship)
Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Abteilung Angewandte Molekularbiologie, (Mainz, DE)
- 1995 – 2007 Assistant/Senior Assistant
Laboratory for Molecular Genetics, Institut Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb, Croatia
- 1994 – 1995 Biologist
University Clinical Centre Sarajevo, Tissue Typing Laboratory

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2006 – 2007 Postdoctoral fellow
Marie Curie Fellowship (Marie Curie Training Network), 18 months; Institut für Physiologische Chemie, Abteilung Angewandte Molekularbiologie, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany; Group leader: Prof. Dr. Werner E. G. Müller
- July 2005 PhD in Natural Sciences; Molecular and Cell Biology
Dissertation: „Primary structure and phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial genes from marine sponge *Suberites domuncula* (Olivi)”
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
Laboratory for Molecular Genetics, Institute Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb
- 1995-1997 M. sc. In Molecular and Cell Biology
Master thesis: „Ubiquitin genes from marine sponges *Sycon raphanus* and *Suberites domuncula*“
University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology
Laboratory for Molecular Genetics, Institute Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb
- 1987 – 1994 B.Sc. in Biology Education
- 1987 – 1993 B.Sc. in General Biology
University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Bosnian/Croatian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
	Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.				
German	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
	Replace with name of language certificate. Enter level if known.				
Slovenian	A2	A2	A2	A2	A2

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Communication skills

- Excellent communication skills gained through my teaching experience (see the List of courses)
- Mentor of 25 diploma, 14 master and 2 PhD students.
- 2024– Frontiers Topic Editor: Microbes in Caves: Biomes, Activities, and Potential Applications
- 2022 – Review Editor for Microbiotechnology, Frontiers of Microbiology
- 2018 – Head of Laboratory for Aquatic Molecular Biology (LAMB), Faculty of Science UNSA
- 2020 – Coordinator of STEM Laboratory in Faculty of Science UNSA
- 2020 – Coordinator of STEM Educational Training (STEM teacher trainer training)
- 2016 – Vice-dean for International Relations and Quality Assurance
- 2018 – Coordinator of Information Exchange Group UNSA
- 2018 – Intellectual Property Strategy of UNSA (working group member)
- 2018 – UNSA International Development Cooperation Strategy for the period 2018 (19) -2022 (23) (working group member)
- 2018 – Editorial Board member of “Genetics and Applications”, INGEB, UNSA
- 2010 – 2013 Editor in Chief of “Supplements to Fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina”
- 1995 – 2007 Contributor to Specialized medical bimonthly magazine Medix, Zagreb, Croatia

Organisational / managerial skills

- Principal investigator of 16 scientific projects
- Scientific/Organizing committee member (18)
- 2018 – 2020 Establishing of Laboratory of Aquatic Molecular Biology (LAMB) in Faculty of Science;
- 2019 – 2020 Establishing of STEM Laboratory in Faculty of Science (Financed by USAID and Save the Children)
- 2011 – 2022 Organization of the International Speleological/Speleodivig Expeditions Ponor Kovači - Izvor Ričine (as a president of the Biospeleological Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Job-related skills

- Molecular biology, genomics and bioinformatics methodologies
- Next-generation sequencing (NGS), metabarcoding and microbial community analyses
- Phylogenetic, population genetic and evolutionary analyses
- Microbial cultivation, characterization and biotechnological screening
- Design and management of interdisciplinary research projects
- Subterranean field research, biospeleology and cave microbiology

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user

Levels: Basic user - Independent user - Proficient user
[Digital competences - Self-assessment grid](#)

- Advanced use of office and scientific productivity software (Microsoft Office, reference management tools, collaborative online platforms);
- Bioinformatics and phylogenetic analysis software (MEGA, Geneious, DnaSP, Arlequin, BEAST, EMPOP and related tools)
- Analysis of next-generation sequencing (NGS) and metabarcoding data
- Management, visualization and interpretation of large biological datasets
- Statistical data analysis and scientific graphics preparation (R, GraphPad Prism, OriginPro)
- Digital image processing and scientific figure preparation (Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW)
- Online teaching, e-learning platforms and virtual collaboration tools

Driving licence (B)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mentorship

Disertations (2/4), Master thesis (16/18), Diploma thesis (29)

Courses

Curricula: www.pmf.unsa.ba

I cycle: Molecular Biology; Regulatory Mechanisms of Animals; Ethology; General and Molecular Evolution; Elective courses: Genomics; Stress Physiology

II cycle: Elective courses: Selected topics in Molecular Biology; Transcriptional Mechanisms in Cell Cycle Control

III cycle: Diversity of Genes, Species and Ecosystems;

Elective courses: Comparative Mitochondrial Genomics; Structure and Function of Animal Genome; Energetic Metabolism of Animals

Honours and awards

1. Annual award "Friend of the Science" of the Federal Ministry for Education and Science 2022.
2. Annual reward "Josip Juraj Strossmayer" for the best scientific publication (Croatian Academy of Science and Arts and Zagreb Fair), 2007, for the textbook: Metode u molekularnoj biologiji (Methods in Molecular Biology) (editors): Andreja Ambriović Ristov, Anamaria Brozović, Branka Bruvo Mađarić, Helena Četković, Maja Herak Bosnar, Dubravka Hranilović, Silva Katušić Hećimović, Nevenka Meštrović Radan, Snježana Mihaljević, Neda Slade and Dušica Vujaklija, publisher: Institut Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb, 2007.
3. 2nd Award for the Project „Biodiversity and remediation of quarry Ribnica“ (Kakanj Cement; Heidelberg Cement Group); 15/11/2012
4. Award of the Sarajevo Book Fair for the Science: N. Drešković et al. for Natura 2000 – B&H; Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development (CESD); 23/4./2012

Memberships

ERGA - Executive Board Member (2025 - today); Committee member: SSP; DAC, CS, SJC, ELSI ERGA (European Reference Genome Atlas); Council Representative (2023-2024); COST Action 23121 (GENOA); 2024/2028, Genetic Nature Observation and Action; Member of WG5; COST Action 20110 (exRNA), 2021/2025, RNA communication across kingdoms: new mechanisms and strategies in pathogen control, MC member; COST Action CA18238 (Ocean4Bioech), 2019/2023, European transdisciplinary networking platform for marine biotechnology, MC member; Ocean4Biotech– Association of International Marine Biotechnologists; Active member since 2025 Association of Biologists in BiH); 2024-today ABMB in BiH (Association of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in BiH); 2015-today ADIPA (Association for Research and Natural Conservation of Croatia); 2015-2021 Center for Research and Sustainable Development of Karst of ANUBiH; 2013-today GENUBiH (Genetic Association in BiH); 2011-today SIBIOS/ISSB (International Society for Subterranean Biology); 2011-2018 Croatian Society of Sciences and Art; 2009-today BIOSPELD (Biospeleological Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina); 2008-today HDBMB (Croatian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology); 1996-2006

Seminars

1. Atomic Force Microscopy Training; TIKa (19.10.2022., IUS, Sarajevo) Synchrotron Radiation Training Educational and Internship Programmes for the Western Balkans at Elettra (18.02.2020.; Sarajevo).
2. TAM Workshop "Current and future trends in higher education in Europe and an overview of the state of the Priorities for the development of higher education in BiH for the period 2016-2026. (Sarajevo, UNSA, 03/12/2019)
3. Transformative change webinar -on line symposium (9-11.10.2019.) IPBES Secretariat.
4. COST 15205_GREEKC (Gene Regulation Ensemble Effort for the Knowledge Commons) (Sarajevo; 05.-07.11.2019.)
5. Training "An environment that encourages individualized learning" , UNSA; (11-12/07/2019)
6. Training in the field of inclusive education, UNSA (18-19.06, 11-12/07/2019)

7. Capacity development writing workshop for IPBES experts from Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia 29 January – 3 February (2017) Antalya, Turkey. Erasmus + Staff Training Programme; International week University of Primorska; Koper-Portorož, Slovenija (2017).
8. Erasmus + Staff Training Programme; International week University of Barcelona; Barcelona, Spain (2017).
9. FEBS Workshop on Molecular Life Science Education and Inauguration of the Association of Biochemists and Molecular Biologists in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 03.-04.09.2015. University of Sarajevo (2015).
10. V Consultation - Higher education reform; "Further trends in higher education reform according to the Bologna principles" 14.-15.4.20011.; University of Sarajevo, BiH
11. Profesional seminar: Education and certification of persons participating in the evaluation of the action plan and environmental impact studies in the process of issuing environmental permits. Phases I and II of the training to raise awareness on the application of environmental law and the issue of obtaining environmental permits. 1/07/2010. Sarajevo, BiH.
12. IV Consultation - Higher education reform: „Development of a quality management system in higher education. 16-17/04/2010, University of Sarajevo, BiH.
13. 2nd Project meeting, C6 monitoring project, Sarajevo, BiH.
14. Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Centre for Research and Sustainable Development of Karst, 22-24/10.2009., Sarajevo, BiH.
15. BIOCAPITAL Brussels Midterm Review Meeting, Marie Curie Research Training Network, Brussels, Belgium (2007).
16. Marie Curie Research Training Network, Ruđer Bošković Institute, Centre for Marine Research, Rovinj, Croatia. (2007).
17. FEBS Advanced Course "Origin and Evolution of Mitochondria and Chloroplasts", Hvar, Hrvatska (2002).
18. Theoretical Course "RNA: Structure and Function", Trieste, Italy (1996).
19. Institut für Physiologische Chemie, Abteilung Angewandte Molekularbiologie, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany. StudyStay 1995; 1996; 1998.

Visiting professor

2023 – University of Primorska; Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies

<https://www.famnit.upr.si/en/cooperation/visiting-professors/lada%20luki%C4%87/lada.lukic.bilela/>

ANNEXES

**Projects (48; 14+34); Scientific papers (~50); Professional papers (4);
Books /Textbooks/Monographies (15); Chapters (27); Conference papers (101)**

Projects

2025-2027 –**principal investigator**- Microbial and Biomaterial Bioprospecting from Adriatic Sponges: A Bilateral Approach to Bioactive Discovery (MiBiAS); Bilateral Slovenia - Bosnia and Herzegovina 2025 (Financed by Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2025-2027 –**principal investigator**- Mikrobiodiverzitet špiljskog sustava Vjetrenice (UNESCO): Temelj očuvanja i praćenja ekološkog integriteta (Financed by Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2024-2025 –**principal investigator**- Uspostava Biorepozitorija organizama od interesa za istraživanje novih bioaktivnih tvari (BioRepBA). (Financed by Cantonal Ministry of Science and Education).

2023-2029 –**coordinator BiH**- Thematic Community – Protecting, restoring and valorising the Mediterranean natural environment and heritage (Pro.Re.Va. TCP). (Financed by Interreg_EURO-Med; ID: Euro-MED0300730).

2023-2027 –**collaborator**- Fungi of hydrologically active Dinaric caves and their bioactive potential /Gljive hidrološki aktivnih špiljskih ekosustava Dinarida i njihov bioaktivni potencijal (FunCavBioA); HRZZ-IP-2022-10-4733. (Financed by: Croatian Science Foundation).

2023-2024 -**principal investigator**- Support to the "Biorepository O4B Workshop" within the COST action CA18238 - Ocean4Biotech (Europaeen transdisciplinary networking platform for marine biotechnology) – Genetic Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Financed by Ministry of Civil Affairs BiH).

2020-2022 -**collaborator**- Educational Capacity Strengthening for Risk Management of Non-Native Aquatic Species in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) (RiskMan). (Financed by Erasmus+).

2020-2023 -**collaborator**- Development of master curricula in ecological monitoring and aquatic bioassessment Western Balkans HEIs (ECOBIA). (Financed by Erasmus+).

2020-2022 -**principal investigator**- Imunoenzymatic detection of antibodies against SARS-Cov-2 from selected species form fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Cantonal Ministry of Science and Education).

2018-2019 -**collaborator**- Procurement of inventory services and geographical interpretation of invasive species in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism of FBiH)

2016-2018 -**collaborator**- Improving of Basic Education in BiH (ENABLE BH) (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). (Save the Children International, Sarajevo and USAID); expert for Biology.

2016-2017 -**principal investigator**- Valorisation of speleological objects in the area of planned National Park Treskavica-Igman-Bjelašnica-Kanjon-Rakitnice. (No. 4: "Environment Strategy Action Plan" for the 2016, the program "Support to raise awareness about the environment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism).

2016-2016 -**collaborator**- Birds and Bats Study (Valorisation of ecosystems of Ormanj Mt.); (Ministry of Education and Sport of Canton Sarajevo; expert for Bats/Birds).

2016-2016 -**collaborator**- Birds and Bats Study (As a Part of the Request for Environmental Permit to Build a Future VP Bitovnja, Konjic Municipality); (JP Elektroprivreda BiH, d.d. Sarajevo; expert for Bats/Birds).

2015-2016 -collaborator- Revision of the conservation status and proposal of measures for all recorded individual monuments of natural heritage of Sarajevo Canton. (Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage of Sarajevo Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

2014-2015 -collaborator- Equipping Project: Museum of Biospeleology of Vjetrenica Cave (Financed by JU Vjetrenica) BIOSPELD (BiH) / ADIPA (HR) collaboration.

2015-2016 -**collaborator**- Biological and landscape diversity of travertine rivers in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Una, Pliva, Trebižat): actual state and protection measures. (Environmental Fund of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

2014-2014 -**collaborator**- Ecological baseline survey in the area affected by facilities of HPP Vranduk. Birds and Bats Study; (JP Elektroprivreda BiH, d.d. Sarajevo; expert for Bats/Birds).

2013-2014 -**collaborator**- Support to the Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Bosnia and Herzegovina" - Biodiversity – Bats and Habitat Expert /with the reference EuropeAid/131488/C/SER/BA/.

2013-2014 -**principal investigator**- Comparative analysis of selected meristic characters and molecular markers in determining the structure and dynamics of populations *Sander lucioperca* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the Neretva river basin. (Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2013-2014 -**principal investigator**- Protecting importance of the populations of selected bat species in caves in FBiH. (No. 3: "Environment Strategy Action Plan" for the 2013, the program "Support to raise awareness about the environment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism)).

2013-2014 -**principal investigator**- Valorization of Megara Cave at the Bjelašnica Mt. (Municipality of Hadžići) (Municipality of Hadžići); Phase II.

2012-2013 -**principal investigator**- The Current State and Protection Importance of the Cave Type Localities of Endemic Stygobiontes in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Biospeleological Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina; (Environmental Protection Fund FB&H).

2012-2013 -**collaborator**- Biodiversity and Remediation of Quarry Ribnica" In organization of Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Sarajevo. (Financed by: Kakanj Cement; Heidelberg Cement Group).

2012-2012 -**collaborator**- The Project of Forest and Mountain Protected Areas, No.: BA-FMPAP-TF091919-CQ-21-S-12/FBiH „Preparation of the Red Lists of endangered plants, animals and fungi in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ecological Society „Greenway“ Sarajevo).

2012-2012 -**collaborator**- The Report of Zero-State Ecological Assessment in National Park "Una" and Nature Park Blidinje (Enova d.o.o. Sarajevo).

2011-2012 -**principal investigator**- Valorization of Megara Cave at the Bjelašnica Mt. (Municipality of Hadžići) (Municipality of Hadžići); Phase I

2010-2011 -**principal investigator**- Molecular-Genetic Characterization and Microbiological Determination of the Symbiotic Bacterial Colonies from Vjetrenica, INGEB, Sarajevo (Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2010-2011 -**principal investigator**- Biosystematical Overview of Subterranean Fauna in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a Base for the Red Book of Subterranean Fauna in B&H –The First Phase; Biospeleological Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism).

2010-2011 -**collaborator**- National Capacity Self-Assessment in the Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Member of UNCBD Group). GEF Implementation Agency, UNEP.

2011-2012 -**collaborator**- Subterranean Conservation of the Lost Cave Systems of the Dinaric Arc – Financed by Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN); (Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina).

2010-2011 -**collaborator**- WWF MedPO "Europe's Living Heart - Phase IV"- Project consultant (Habitat 8310; Chiroptera Annex II).

2010 International Conference on Transboundary Cooperation in the Dinaric Arc; Project consultant, WWFMedPO & IUCN.

2009-2010 -**principal investigator**- Genetic Characterization and Analysis of the Freshwater Sponges as a Clean Water Indicators and the Source of Bioactive Compounds in Water Flows of FB&H; INGEB, Sarajevo (Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2009-2010 -**collaborator**- WWF MedPO "Europe's Living Heart - Phase III"- Project consultant (Habitat 8310; Chiroptera Annex II).

2009-2010 -**collaborator**- Analysis of the Populations of Pleistocene and Holocene Fauna in Speleological Objects at Tajan Mt.; Centre for karst and sustainable development, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federal Ministry of Science and Education).

2008-2009 -**principal investigator**- Organizing of the First Biospeleological Symposium in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Establishing of Biospeleological Society in B&H; INGEB, Sarajevo (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism).

2008-2009 -**collaborator**- Molecular-Genetic Determination of Autochthonic Bosnian and Herzegovinian Huchen Population (*Hucho hucho*); Consultant; INGEB, Sarajevo; Project leader: Dr. Naris Pojskić.

2007-2008 -**principal investigator**- Genetic Determination of the Endemic Species from Vjetrenica Cave System Towards a Biodiversity Knowledge Improvement in FB&H", INGEB, Sarajevo; (Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism).

2007-2008 -**collaborator**- DNA Characterization of the Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) Pond Populations; INGEB, Sarajevo Project leader: Dr. Naris Pojskić.

2007-2008 -**collaborator**- Characterization of the Grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) mtDNA Portion (ND1, ND5/6), Consultant; INGEB, Sarajevo Project leader: Dr. Naris Pojskić.

2007-**collaborator**- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft Grant Mü/14/3, the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, Germany (Project: Center of Excellence BIOTECmarine); Institut für Physiologische Chemie Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany; Project leader: Prof. dr. Werner E.G. Müller.

2007 -**collaborator**- „BIOCAPITAL – Cope with the Challenges and Opportunities of the 21st Century: Integrated Basic and Applied Training in a Success-oriented Bioprospecting" CORDIS FP6; Institut für Physiologische Chemie Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany; Project leader: Prof. dr. Werner E.G. Müller.

2007 -**collaborator**- DFG-program SPP1174 „Deep Metazoa Phylogeny“– „Molecular evolution of basal metazoans“ (Wiens Matthias); Institut für Physiologische Chemie Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany; Project leader: Dr. Mathias Wiens.

2006 -**collaborator**- SPONGES – Sustainable production, Physiology, Oceanography, Natural Products, Genetics and Economics of Sponges“, FP6 project; Institut für Physiologische Chemie Mainz, Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, Germany; Project leader: Prof. dr. Werner E.G. Müller.

2006-2010 -**collaborator**- Genes and Genomes: Structure, Function and Evolution; Ruđer Bošković Institut, Zagreb; Project leader: Dr. Vera Gamulin; (MZOŠ)

2000/2005 - **collaborator** Study of Phylogenetical Conserved and Industrial Important Genes; Institut Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb; Project leader: Dr. Vera Gamulin; (MZOŠ).

1995/2000 - **collaborator** - Study of Evolutionarily Conserved and Economically Important Genes and Genomes; Institut Ruđer Bošković, Zagreb; Project leader: Dr. Vera Gamulin; (MZOŠ).

Publications (selected)

- de Guttry, C., Bortoluzzi, C., Marins, L. S., Chkhartishvili, T., De Pierri, C. R., Kamenova, S., Leonard, J. A., Lucek, K., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Mazzoni, C. J., McCartney, A. M., Mikalsen, S.-O., Miraldo, A., Montoliu-Nerin, M., Mouton, A., Ometto, L., Pohjoismäki, J., Ruiz-López, M. J., Steeves, T. E., Zinenko, O., Bužan, E., & Waterhouse, R. M. (2026). Engaging European local communities in biodiversity genomics research: A five-step framework for scientists. *Biological Conservation*, 321, Article 111991. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2026.111991>
- Milanović, V., Sulejmanović, J., Suljević, D., & **Lukić Bilela, L.** (2026). Assessing potentially toxic element contamination in bat guano as a bioindicator of habitat pollution: a pilot study across Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Chemistry and Ecology*, 42(5), 599–617. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02757540.2026.2664552>
- Reichel, K., J. Pohjoismäki, J. Astrin, J.J., Böhne, A., Bortoluzzi, C., Bužan, E., del Campo, J., Ciofi, C., Di-Nizo, C.B., Divakar, P.K., Greve, C., Hampl, V., Hilgers, L., Laine, V.N., Leonard, J.A., Lozano-Fernandez, J., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Mazzoni, C.J., McCartney, A.M., Melo-Ferreira, J., Monteiro, R., Oomen, R.A., Pavlek, M., Pimenta, J., Rindos, M., Seehausen, O., Tarieiev, A., Tomasello, S., Vinnere Pettersson, O., Waterhouse, R.M., Weber, A.A.-T., Zinenko, O., de Guttry, C. (2026). "From Permits to Samples: Addressing Key Challenges for High-Quality Reference Genome Generation in Europe." *Molecular Ecology Resources* 26, no. 2: e70100. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.70100>
- Kataržytė, M., Toruńska-Sitarz, A., Overlingė, D., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Gaudêncio, S.P., Nika, N., Rotter, A., Theodotou Schneider, X., Chirivella, J., Matijošytė, I., Grundmane, L., Kalamujić Stroi, B. & Bordenave-Juchereau, S. (2026). Charting the future of marine biotechnology: educational strategies for empowering Europe's blue bioeconomy workforce. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 13:1723529. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2026.1723529
- Pojškić, L., Bajrović, B., Kiseljaković, E., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Kalajdzic, A., Hercegovac, A., Hadziabulic, S., Vidović, S., Durmic-Pasic, A., Gajević, M., Skriješlj, R., Hadziselimovic, R (2025). Strategic Guidelines and Framework for Advancing Higher Education Programs in the Field of Biotechnology in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Genetics & Applications*, 9(2), <https://doi.org/10.31383/ga.vol9iss2ga05>
- Milanović, V., Sulejmanović, J., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Suljević, D. (2025). Environmental exposure to heavy metals in *Miniopiterus schreibersii* (Kuhl, 1817) from polluted and reference sites: blood cell impairment as a biomarker of pollution. *Environmental Research*, 290, 123355. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2025.123355>
- Babinskas, J., Krutkevičius, J., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Bešta-Gajević, R. & Matijošytė, I. (2025). Potential of Subterranean Microbes: High-Throughput Screening for Industrially Relevant Enzymatic Activities in Dinaric Caves." *MicrobiologyOpen* 14: e70146; 1– 13. <https://doi.org/10.1002/mbo3.70146>.
- Rotter, A., Rinkevich, B., Deniz, I., Reddy, M.M., Girão, M., Carvalho, M.F., Gunde-Cimerman, N., Gostinčar, C., Cueto, M., Díaz-Marrero, A.R., Komarysta, V., Akgul, F., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Grigalionyte-Bembič, E., Mandalakis, M. (2025). Innovative solutions for valorization of desalination brine. *Water Research X*, 28, 100372. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wroa.2025.100372>
- Brown, T., Corre, E., de Guttry, C., Diroma, M.A., Harrison, P., **Lukić Bilela, L.**, Muffato, M., Waterhouse, R.M. (2025). ERGA IT & Informatic Standards. *Zenodo*, DOI 10.5281/zenodo.17206806
- Reichel, K., Pohjoismäki, J., Astrin, J., & de Guttry, C. (2025). Addressing key challenges in sample handling for high-quality reference genome generation. *Authorea*, DOI: 10.22541/au.174889351.10048878/v1
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