'Science and Society' event 'Contribution of Biosciences to the Green Transition'

Venue: Journalists' Building (Big hall), Perkovčeva ul. 2, 10000, Zagreb
Date: 24. 05. 2023. 14 – 18 h

The Croatian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (HDBMB), within the activity "Science and Society", with the support of FEBS (Federation of European Biochemical Societies), is organising a popular science event on "Contribution of Bioscience to the Green transition" for the general public.
The topic is highly relevant and crucial to the goals promised by the EU Commission for the future of Europe and the environment as a whole under the 'European Green Deal'. Our goal is to raise awareness in Croatian society about the importance of molecular biosciences for the green transition by: (A) informing the public about the scientific advances that exist and are being developed in Croatia, and (B) organising a public discussion and panel on this topic. The event includes **four popular science lectures** followed by a **panel discussion** with the participation of speakers as well as representatives of the private sector, civil society organisations, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the City of Zagreb. Speakers include:

(1) Prof. Dubravka Vitali Čepo (Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Zagreb) will present her recent discoveries on efficient methods for the extraction of biomolecules from the **agricultural waste** as a valuable secondary raw material with great potential for reuse;
(2) Prof. Božidar Šantek (Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb) will focus on the potential of **biogas, biodiesel and bioethanol** as a renewable energy source for the green transition in Croatia;
(3) Prof. Aleksandra Maršavelski (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb) will give an overview of her recent scientific advances in the development of enzymes that degrade **polluting bioplastics** - an emerging problem for the already stressed environment as there is still no approach for degrading the main bioplastic polymer, polylactic acid (PLA), after use, and
(4) Assoc. prof. Nenad Malenica (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb) will give an overview of current and latest technologies in **plant genetic engineering** (CRISPR-Cas) which offer significant potential for solving food production challenges in the context of the green transition.

The presentations and Q&A session will be followed by a **moderated panel discussion** (45 minutes, moderator: Dr. sc. Marta Popović, Ruđer Bošković Institute) with audience participation. The discussion on the main topics covered in the presentations will be closed by conclusions and projections on the potential of molecular biosciences in solving crucial issues for Green Transition as well as for the green economy in Croatia.

Programme: 14 - 16 h: Lectures (1), (2) and (3)
16 - 16.30 h: Coffee break
16.30 - 18 h: Lecture (4) and panel discussion

Funded by *Federation of European Biochemical Societies* (FEBS) and HDBMB
Admission: free

Coordinator of Science and Society Committee
Dr. sc. Marta Popović, Institut Ruđer Bošković

President of HDBMB
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