



**RATION Summer School 25 - 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

**Venue:** Larissa, University of Thessaly, Greece

**The EU project RATION is organizing a summer school on «Training on new Risk Assessment Approaches and Tools for Low-Risk Pesticides/Biopesticides»**

**Main Goal:** To provide training to attendees on novel risk assessment approaches that are available and will benchmark risk assessment of low-risk pesticides in the next 20 years while it will further provide hands-on training on tools developed in the frame of the project RATION to support risk assessment of microbial and ds-RNA pesticides.

**Attendees:** The summer school is destined for people from academia, industry, regulatory bodies and consultants working on different aspects of biopesticides and especially of botanicals, microbials and ds-RNA. There will be maximum 20 positions available for face-to-face attendance. The program will involve presentations of the theory behind the different modules (morning sessions) followed by hands-on training in the afternoon.

**Venue:** The summer school is going to be hosted by the University of Thessaly, Campus of Viopolis in the city of Larissa where the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology is based (next to the University Hospital).



The project RATION has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101084163. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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**Fees:** There are no registration fees. The attendees will have to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

**Registration process:** Please follow the procedures and register through the website of RATION

**Accommodation:** Some Hotels in the city of Larissa are given for your convenience.

- Hotel Dionysos <https://www.dionissoshotel.gr/>
- Hotel Park <https://parkhotellarisa.gr/>
- Hotel Metropol <https://hotelmetropol.gr/en/>
- Divani Palace Hotel <https://divanilarissahotel.com/>
- Esperia Hotel <https://hotelesperialarissa.gr/>
- Olympus Terra Boutique Hotel (outside the city centre)
- Grecotel Larissa Imperial (outside the city centre)  
<https://www.grecotel.com/larissaimperial/>

All the above hotels could be reached and book your room through popular hotel websites (i.e. booking.com, hotels.com etc)

**Information:** please contact Anastasia Voulgara [avoul@uth.gr](mailto:avoul@uth.gr), and Dimitrios Karpouzas [dkarpouzas@uth.gr](mailto:dkarpouzas@uth.gr)

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## **Training Program**

### **Monday 25 May 2026**

10.00-14.00: Arrival of participants

14.00 – 14.30: Dimitrios Karpouzas (University of Thessaly, Greece) Introduction of the project RATION – main goals and achievements

14.30 – 15.30: Antonis Chatzinotas (UFZ-Leipzig, Germany) – Exploiting the soil predatorome for the development of innovative plant protection products

15.30- 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.00 Gunter Brader (Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria) – Using microbial consortia as plant protection products – implications for risk assessment

### **Tuesday 26 May 2026**

10.00-12.00 Joao Saraiva (UFZ-Leipzig, Germany), Sotiris Vasileiadis, Costantinos Papagiannitsis and Stavroula Makri (University of Thessaly, Greece) - Theory and practice on the WGS tool

12.00-13.00 Lunch Break

13.00 – 15.00 Practical session on the WGS tool

### **Wednesday 27 May 2026**

9.00-12.30 Gertie Arts (Wageningen Research, The Netherlands) and Zisis Vryzas (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)- Pathways to Breach the Protection Goal – Theory and Practice

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 17.30 Belen Guijarro (CSIC-INIA, Spain) – Data Decision Trees

20.30 - Social Dinner

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## **Thursday 28 May 2026**

10.00-12.30 Belen Guijarro (CSIC – INIA, Spain) – RATION Risk Assessment Approach

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 17.00 Training on RATION Risk Assessment approach

## **Friday 29 May 2026**

9.00-11.00 Thanasis Dalakouras (HAO-DEMETER, Greece) and Khalid Amari (Julius-Khun Institute, Germany) – dsRNA biology, mechanisms, mode of application and risk assessment

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.30 dsRNA analyzer software training – Christos Andronis (FORTH, Greece) – via zoom

14.00 End of Summer School – Departure of participants

A social dinner is going to be organized on Wednesday night in the centre of Larissa where all trainees and trainers are invited. Details will be given at a later stage.

A travel guide and options for accommodation in the city of Larissa will be provided in the next few weeks.

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# RATION

## Our Trainers



Brader Gunter



Antonis Chatzinotas



Dimitrios Karpouzas



Stavroula Makri



Costas Papagiannitsis



Joao Saraiva



Sotiris Vasileiadis



Gertie Arts



Zisis Vryzas



Belen Guijarro



Athanasios Dalakouras



Khalid Amari



Christos Andronis

More on the RATION project in its website: <https://www.ration-lrp.eu/>

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