

## The latest news from project ASCLEPIUS

### Highlights of the past year

Major events from year one after launching project ASCLEPIUS

### Exchange visits of junior researchers

Research conducted at home and host institutions

### Trainings, workshops and conferences

Events visited by and organised by ASCLEPIUS team members



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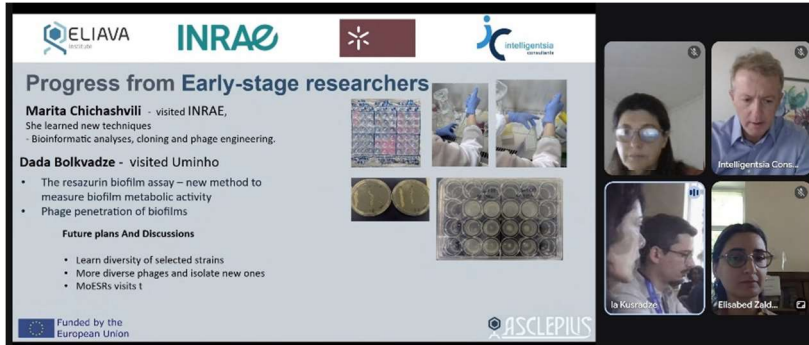
**Project ASCLEPIUS was launched in October 2025. All four members of the consortium have been active in the first year, which has been full of knowledge exchange and networking activities.**

The consortium held its inaugural in-person meeting on November 29, 2024, at the Eliava Institute in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Institute welcomed twinning partners from INRAE (France), the University of Minho (Portugal), and Intelligentsia Consultants (Luxembourg). During this productive gathering, partners outlined plans for the coming months and scheduled the next meeting in Braga, Portugal.

On June 18, 2025, the University of Minho hosted the second meeting in Braga, with full participation from all partners. The team reviewed recent progress and refined strategies for upcoming activities.

The first year concluded with a successful progress meeting on September 22, 2025, returning to the Eliava Institute in Tbilisi. Fifteen team members attended in person, with two joining virtually. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on twelve months of collaborative achievements and set objectives for the year ahead. The next consortium meetings are scheduled for 2026.





## Trainings, workshops and conferences

Project Asclepius organised and successfully carried out a number of trainings, workshops and one summer school.

Early-stage researchers from the ASCLEPIUS team visited two secondary schools in Tbilisi, introducing students to bacteriophages, their therapeutic potential, and the project's objectives. The outreach expanded further during open science days at the Eliava Institute, where students from three schools and two universities toured the laboratory facilities and learned about phage research and the project's mission.

ASCLEPIUS team members participated in the Advances in Phage Therapeutics Symposium, organised by partners at the University of Minho. This gathering provided a valuable platform for phage scientists to share cutting-edge research and developments in the field.

Intelligentsia Consultants delivered a comprehensive series of virtual training sessions covering project management, scientific dissemination, and communication strategies. This training program continued at the Eliava Institute, where partners from INRAE and the University of Minho conducted workshops on scientific writing, scientific presentation skills, and bioinformatics, alongside educational lectures on phages and biofilms.

In September 2025, the Eliava Institute hosted the ASCLEPIUS Summer School, bringing together bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students from four Georgian universities and ASCLEPIUS partner institutions for an intensive learning experience.

One-on-one mentoring sessions between experienced researchers took place at multiple locations: INRAE in France (April 2025), the University of Minho in Braga (June 2025), and the Eliava Institute in Tbilisi (September 2025), strengthening collaborative ties and facilitating knowledge transfer.

## Exchange visits of junior researchers



Two early-stage researchers from the Eliava Institute completed extended research stays of 12 weeks each with partner institutions in France and Portugal. Reciprocally, two early-stage researchers from the University of Minho and two from INRAE each spent two weeks conducting research at the Eliava Institute.

These exchanges significantly advanced the research progress of Project ASCLEPIUS across all three areas: bacterial biofilm studies, bacteriophage selection and characterisation, and bioinformatics approaches for phage analysis.

The three partner institutions have successfully shared their specialized knowledge and methodologies for studying phage-bacterial interactions, with further research visits and collaborative work already scheduled.

