



## The Power of Phage- PhageEU's 2025 highlights

*Dear Readers,*

*in July 2025 PhageEU celebrated its first anniversary and the first half of 2025 was another milestone for us. With new corporate and scientific members our voice has been strengthened and our expertise broadened.*

*Since the beginning of 2025 PhageEU has engaged in a number of advocacy activities. We have developed our position paper on the revision of the Pharmaceutical Package and provided feedback to a number of public consultations launched by European Commission with regards to start up and scale up strategy, European strategy on medical countermeasures as well as European Biotechnology Plan.*

*We were consequently building recognition of PhageEU and strengthening our relations with EU decision makers via numerous meetings with representatives of European Commission, European Food Safety Authority and European Medicines Agency. We have been also consequently broadening network of phage ambassadors- our "Common declaration on the recognition of the potential of bacteriophages in fighting AMR" has been co-signed by Members of the European Parliament representing various political groups and EU Member States.*

*We will continue our efforts in the second half of 2025 in order to maximise the potential of phages for patients, farmers and consumers. If you want to support our advocacy efforts and make the voice of the phage community even stronger, join PhageEU as a corporate or scientific member. "*

*Jarosław Dastyh, PhageEU President*

*Michael Fink, PhageEU Vice-President*

## PhageEU Highlights

### PhageEU is growing

PhageEU is currently representing 12 members from 9 European countries.

In 2025 our organisation has been joined by new corporate members: Rime Bioinformatics from France, SK8 Europe from Spain, LxBio from Portugal, IZS Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Abruzzo and Molise from Italy and Precision Phage from Finland as well as scientific members: Dr. Grégory Resch from Lausanne University Hospital in Switzerland, Dr. Sandra Sevilla Navarro from CECAV in Spain, Amaia Lasabagaster Bilbao and Maria Lavilla-Martin from AZTI, Spain.

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### New signatories of PhageEU Common declaration on phages and AMR

#### Common declaration on the recognition of the potential of bacteriophages in fighting AMR

1. Whereas antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been recognised by WHO as one of the top global public health and development issues and by the Commission and the Member States as one of the top three priority health threats in the EU;
2. Whereas it is estimated that AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths. Whereas, in addition to death and disability, AMR has significant economic costs;
3. Whereas despite various efforts at European and global level, AMR is still on the rise and the latest data show significant, increasing trends in the number of infections and attributable deaths for almost all bacterium-antibiotic resistance combinations, especially in healthcare settings;
4. Whereas in order to fight against AMR there is a significant need to develop novel treatments;
5. Whereas research and practice show that bacteriophages (phages) can be part of the solution as they can be used as alternatives to antibiotics or can be applied in parallel with antibiotic treatment making the latter more effective and sustainable. Whereas the potential of bacteriophages has been already recognised by the European Parliament, EMA or WHO;
6. Whereas bacteriophages can contribute to the One Health approach in a wide variety of applications in the environment, agriculture, aquaculture, food production and veterinary and human medicine.

The signatories of this declaration jointly commit to do their best and to use available tools and resources in order to support the recognition of the role of bacteriophages in fighting AMR and to bring phage products and treatments closer to EU citizens.

Depending on their respective functions and available means, signatories commit to engage into various activities such as awareness raising, communication campaigns, research and development, advocacy, policy and regulatory work, so that the full potential of bacteriophages is recognised and used in the EU for the purpose to reduce antimicrobial resistance. The signatories therefore commit to working together to achieve these goals.

In December 2024 PhageEU has launched a *“Common declaration on the recognition of the potential of bacteriophages in fighting AMR”*. Since that time the declaration has been supported by a number of Members of the European Parliament representing various political groups and EU Member States.

We are inviting all like-minded stakeholders to co-sign this common declaration. For further information please contact our secretariat:

[contact@phageurope.eu](mailto:contact@phageurope.eu).

lock is for special content that you want to stand out.

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## **PhageEU co-signs Call for Action on Sepsis**

Sepsis is the most severe complication of infections and a leading cause of preventable deaths and disability in Europe. Despite its devastating human, societal, and economic impact, this medical emergency is largely absent from high-level political discourse and receives disproportionately low levels of investments. This is why PhageEU has decided to co-sign a “Call to Action: Stop Sepsis, the leading cause of preventable deaths and disability in Europe”.

This initiative has been launched by the European Sepsis Alliance and has been supported by 16 global, European and national organisations.

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## **PhageEU General Assembly 2025**

PhageEU has held its General Assembly 2025 on 26 June. This was a great opportunity to sum up PhageEU communication and advocacy activities in 2024, in first half of 2025 and to discuss plans and future initiatives. PhageEU corporate members have accepted unanimously PhageEU financial accounts for 2024, PhageEU budget for 2025 as well as granted discharge to PhageEU Management Board and Secretary General for their work in 2024.

PhageEU secretariat would like to thank all PhageEU members for their presence during the General Assembly as well as for their continuous trust and daily engagement.

**PhageEU Positions**

## PhageEU position on Pharmaceutical Package

Given the urgent need for antibiotic alternatives, PhageEU is convinced, that phages shall be integrated into the EU regulatory framework such as Pharmaceutical Package in order to make it fit for future developments.

This is why PhageEU has published its position paper on Pharmaceutical Package. With its recommendations for decision makers, PhageEU aims at making sure, that phage therapies are recognised within key areas of pharmaceutical legislation like antimicrobial incentives, regulatory flexibility, and streamlined approval pathways.

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## PhageEU contribution to consultation on medical countermeasures

PhageEU has contributed to the call for evidence launched by the European Commission on EU strategy to support medical countermeasures (MCMs) against public health threats. Bacteriophage technology is key for the development of MCMs to fight AMR and reduce the use of antibiotics. This is especially important now, when antimicrobial resistance is on its rise despite various efforts at European and global level.

[Read more](#)

## PhageEU contribution to consultation on EU Biotech Act

In 2026 European Commission will come up with a proposal for European Biotechnology Act. PhageEU believes, that this framework should also cover alternative approaches towards antimicrobial resistance. In the context of increasing AMR, the EU Biotech Act should recognise the role of innovative biological therapies, products and applications, such as bacteriophages, in supporting the One Health objectives, strengthening health resilience, and promoting sustainable and targeted biocontrol.

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## Events

## News from PhageEU members

### **“High-Performance Genome Annotation for a Safer and Faster-Developing Phage Therapy” by Rime Bioinformatics**

Study conducted by Rime Bioinformatics compares manual annotation (SEA-PHAGES) with their own pipeline. The comparison shows that:

- Manual annotation remains slightly better for structural annotation (gene-calling), but has minimal impact on functional annotation;
- rTOOLS outperforms in functional annotation;
- Overall, the results are very similar : rTOOLS is the first automated pipeline to match human expert-level performance in phage genome annotation.

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## **BAFASAL® registered in the EU**

BAFASAL®, Proteon Pharmaceuticals' pioneering bacteriophage-based feed additive, has received full regulatory approval from the European Union for use in poultry.

This decision has now been formally adopted and published in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#) and the Regulation entered into force on 15 July 2025. This is a groundbreaking step for the European poultry sector, paving the way for broader use of feed additives based on phage technology in everyday farming practice.

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## **News**

### **Horizon work programme 2025 now published**

In May European Commission has published Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025. More information and all documents can be found [here](#).

In the document called “Horizon Europe Work programme (2025) - Cluster 1” there is a funding opportunity for the phage community: HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01- DISEASE-01: Testing safety and efficacy of phage therapy for the treatment of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections: Budget per project: The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 15.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 45.00 million.

A dedicated training session has been organised by the European Commission.

[Watch the training](#)

### **PhageEU is open to welcome new members**

If you are working on phage technology and representing industry, science or civic society please reach out to us at [contact@phageurope.eu](mailto:contact@phageurope.eu) and we will be happy to provide you with information about membership opportunities. PhageEU is consolidating corporate members representing industry and academic institutions as well as individual scientists.

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