

WP 10 meeting report 2025

This year, the WP10 session saw approximately 30 participants, with consistent attendance throughout the event. The audience size was slightly smaller than the previous year. However, the joint session JS19 (WP9–WP10) attracted approximately 50–60 participants, which is approximately double the attendance from last year. The MIC methods course, which covered the three fundamental disciplines of microbial corrosion, including microbiology (by Dr. Reynold Homan, Microbial Analysis, NL), material surfaces (by Prof. Roberta Amendola and Prof. Iwona Beech, Montana University, US), and electrochemistry (by Dr. Regine Basseguy, CNRS, F), attracted the same level of attendance as the regular session on Thursday morning, the final day of the conference. It is noteworthy that at least five participants did not attend the main session, which is encouraging for expanding the WP10 audience in the future. The significant turnout for the joint session underscores the value of sustaining this partnership and avoiding scheduling conflicts with the Marine Corrosion session.

The only presentation that was not delivered occurred on the first day, just prior to lunch. The chairs allocated time for discussion on specific MIC issues, as has been the case in previous years. The vast majority of participants chose to stay for lunch, underscoring the value of addressing program gaps through open dialogue. This approach will be repeated next year.

Two keynotes were delivered:

- Prof. Dake Xu (China) on MIC mechanisms.
- Prof. Ignacio Vargas (Chile) at the beginning of the joint session, presenting on biofilm inhibition through surface design.

The WP10 business meeting was scheduled on Tuesday during lunchtime. It is important to note that the business party was initially planned for just before lunch (which is why there was a free slot in JS01). The chairs decided to use this free slot to start the business party before lunchtime (this had been announced in advance and on several occasions) to avoid losing people. The business party was attended by approximately 15 people. The following three points were discussed:

1. MIC short course

- There was broad agreement to repeat the short course next year, with the same format covering the fundamentals of material science, microbiology, and electrochemistry.
- The course could be scheduled either during the regular session or on Sunday afternoon before the conference and consist of three 1.5-hour lessons delivered by recognized experts. These would provide concise overviews of advanced and relevant techniques.
- If held outside the regular program, the course might require an additional fee (approx. €150, as in past editions), subject to agreement with the organizing committee and depending on the number of lectures and room availability.
- It was noted that the course had been interrupted in the past to avoid overlap with COST Action EUROMIC activities (2020–2025), which also offered MIC courses to their members each year. Unfortunately, the coordinators of EUROMIC decided not to collaborate with WP10 and instead supported other events (e.g., ISMOS and IBBS), which focused mainly on biology. Consequently, EUROMIC provided support only for a single participation to EUROCORN 2025. Furthermore, the timing of the EUROMIC final meeting in Denmark was close to that of EUROCORN, which further deterred participation. In contrast, the former Marie Curie Network BIOCORN established strong links with EUROCORN, significantly contributing to the growth of WP10.

2. Follow-up web seminars

- It was agreed upon that online meetings would be organized to continue scientific discussions via seminars on work presented at EUROCORN. This will allow participants to explore individual presentations in greater depth.
- These meetings will be restricted to EUROCORN participants included in the WP10 “Friends of Microbial Corrosion” list and will serve as an added incentive for attending EUROCORN.
- The WP10 Chair, Vice-Chair, and Young Vice-Chair will be responsible for coordinating the seminars. Authors must request participation by emailing the WP Chair.

- Three seminars are currently scheduled; however, the number may be subject to change based on the level of interest expressed. Equinor has already preliminarily agreed that their presentation will be the first to be discussed. It is anticipated that this will be finalized by the end of the year.
- The Young Vice-Chair will also promote the seminars to the WP6 community of young corrosionists, update the WP10 webpage, and maintain the “Microbial Corrosion Specialists and Friends” list (currently about 84 people).

3. Elections for new chairs

- It was announced that elections for new WP10 leadership (Chair, Vice-Chair, Young Vice Chair) will take place next year (2026).
- Dr. Regine Basseguy (Vice-Chair) announced her irrevocable decision not to seek re-election. Dr. Pierangela Cristiani (Chair) and Dr. Giorgia Ghiara (Young Vice Chair) also confirmed they will not run again in favor of new candidates.
- The Chair emphasized the importance of ensuring that candidates collectively represent the three disciplines essential to microbial corrosion research: material science (including surface analysis), electrochemistry, and microbiology. This is essential for effective management of abstract selection and scientific discussions.
- After the meeting, the Chair engaged in discussions with several potential candidates from the MIC community who regularly attend WP10 and WP9–WP10 joint sessions. Preliminary candidatures have already emerged, including a Chair candidate from France, a Vice-Chair candidate from China, and a Young Researcher Chair candidate from Chile. It was noted that over half of WP10 participants typically come from outside the EU (e.g., Chile, USA, China, Australia, Japan, Brazil, India). Consequently, candidatures for Vice-Chair and Young Researcher Chair from non-EU countries will be strongly supported (subject to clarification of EFC rules).
- If confirmed, all three Chair positions will be renewed next year, with the full support of the current leadership.