



Curriculum vitae Europass

Personal Information

First name(s) / Surname(s) **ORTANSA ELISABETA CSUTAK**

Address(es) **Intrarea Portocalelor, no. 1- 3, sector 6, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

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Nationality(ies) Romanian

Date of birth 29.05.1969

Sex F

Desired employment / Occupational field **Professor,
University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Dept. of Genetics**

Work experience

Dates 1995-present

Occupation or position held **assistant professor (1995-2004); lecturer (2004-2008);
reader (associate professor) (2008--2015); professor (2015-present)**

Main activities and responsibilities

Name and address of employer University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Department of Genetics, Intrarea Portocalilor no.1-3,
Sector 6, 060101Bucharest

Type of business or sector **Academic activity**

Tenure track at the Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest

Genetics and taxonomy of microorganisms with biotechnological applications, Microbial genetics, Molecular biology techniques

a) Lectures and lab sessions with undergraduate students (year II, III) and Master of Microbial Genetics and Biotechnology, Master of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Master of Applied Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Medical Biology: Microbial genetics; Recombinant DNA techniques; Genetics and taxonomy of microorganisms with biotechnological applications; Molecular biology techniques; Molecular taxonomy; Genetics and taxonomy of microorganisms with biotechnological applications, Microbial genetics, Molecular biology techniques, Genetics.

b) Leadership Diploma and Dissertation Work (over 45 thesis) in: genetics and molecular taxonomy of yeasts with xenodegrading abilities; improvement of non-conventional yeasts; genetic transformation and electrotransformation in microbial cells; biochemical and genetic analysis of yeast strains with biotechnological interest; biodiversity of yeasts with applications in bioremediation and phytoremediation; genetics and improvement of yeasts for biocontrol and biomedical applications; improvement of microbial strains for production of lipids and lipases.

c) PhD coordinator (2017 – present) for 8 students; **technical guidance** to over 12 Ph.D. students in the genetics of microorganisms (2004-present)

Scientific Research activity

Main domains of interest:

Yeast identification and biodiversity studies using morpho-physiological and molecular biology techniques (electrokaryotyping, % mol GC, plasmid profile analysis, RFLP analysis on mtDNA, RAPD, ARDRA on 5,8S) on *S.cerevisiae* and non-conventional yeast strains (*Candida*, *Rhodotorula*, *Yarrowia*, *Metschnikowia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, *Hansenula* genera).

Genetics and biodiversity studies for characterization of various populations from specific habitats from Romania.

Bioremediation and phytoremediation – identification, genetic characterization, testing growth on industrial and household wastes, biosurfactant production of microbial strains isolated from polluted

habitats.

Physical mapping of yeasts using a BAC clone library, by ³²P radiolabelling, hybridization *in situ* on bacteria colonies, Southern hybridization, PCR, RFLP, pulsed field gel electrophoresis.

Meiosis in *Shizosaccharomyces pombe* – optimisation of a CHEF method for analysis of DSBs in various cell cycle mutants.

Studies on yeasts with biomedical and bicontrol applications – biodiversity, taxonomic identification, phylogenetics, determination and improvement of antimicrobial activity.

Improvement of yeast strains with biotechnological interest – lipid and lipases synthesis.

Organizing and maintaining the microbial culture collection - isolation and classification of yeast strains from natural and industrial habitats.

Participation in **40 scientific projects/grants** (1 international and 39 national), **3 service contract, 1 international project, project director (4):**

UEFISCDI-IDEI 985/2009: *Biodiversity of yeasts of biotechnological interest – genomic and metabolic studies.*

CNCSIS - A 1668/2007: *Genetic, biochemical and molecular studies for improvement of methylotrophic yeasts with biotechnological applications .*

CNCSIS – A/2001: *Genetic characterization and taxonomic classification using molecular biology techniques of non-conventional yeast strains of biotechnological interest.*

CNCSIS - T/1999: *Studies on characterization and taxonomic classification of non-conventional yeast strains able to degrade petroleum wastes.*

Scientific publications: 165 - 7 books, from which: 5 books and book chapters at national editing houses (2 as unic author), 2 chapters in books at international prestigious editing house (Elsevier-Academic Press); 28 scientific papers in ISI journals (13 as first/main author); 39 in IDB journals (25 as first/main author); 87 participations at international/national scientific meetings (17 oral presentations) and 1 national patent.

Citations: 515. Hirsh Index (h): 12;

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-7899-9481

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Member in the Faculty of Biology Council** (2016-present)

- **Member in the Council of Dept. of genetics, Faculty of Biology** (2019-present)

- **Member in the Ethics Committee, University of Bucharest** (2018-2020)

- **Member in Committee for admittance at PhD studies, Doctoral School of Biology, University of Bucharest**

- **Member in Committees for granting the PhD title;**

- **Member in Committees for admission and granting the Bachelor and Master title Faculty of Biology**

- **Member in Committees for competition in academic education and high-school education**

- **Reviewer for international ISI and IDB indexed journals:** Journal of Phytopathology, Canadian Journal of Microbiology, Folia Microbiologica, Romanian Biotechnological Letters, Microbial Research International, African Journal of Microbiology Research, Journal of Soil Science and Environmental Management, Source Journal of Bioremediation, International Journal of Environmental Science and Toxicology, Journal of Agricultural Science and Food Technology, Open Access Journal of Agricultural Research, International Journal of Advanced Agricultural Research, Issues in Biological Sciences and Pharmaceutical Research, Journal of Environment and Waste Management, Journal of Surfactants and Detergents, Plant Cell Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, Merit Research Journal of Microbiology and Biological Sciences, International Journal of Biochemistry Research & Review.

Dates	1994-1995
Occupation or position held	Biologist
Main activities and responsibilities	Scientific research activity in microbial genetics and physiology
Name and address of employer	BIOTEHNOS S.A., Bucharest
Type of business or sector	Scientific research on lactic acid bacteria

Education and training

Dates	1997 - 2002
Title of qualification awarded	PhD in Biology

Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Biology, Microbiology, Genetics/ occupational skills in biology, microbiology, genetics and biotechnology
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology / Ministry of Education
Level in national or international classification	PhD studies
Dates	1989-1994
Title of qualification awarded	Biologist/Bachelor's Degrees in Biochemistry/ Specialization Genetics and Developmental biology / Licence Certificate
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Developmental biology, Chemistry / occupational skills in biology, biochemistry , genetics, microbiology
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology / Ministry of Education
Level in national or international classification	Academic studies
Dates	1984 – 1987
Title of qualification awarded	Highschool degree
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Principal subjects - biology, chemistry, physics/ occupational skills in biology, chemistry
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Industrial Highschool 35, Bucharest / Ministry of Education
Level in national or international classification	Highschool studies

Training

International post-graduate training / fellowships:

2002 – 2003 : Post-doc NATO fellowship at Université Paris XI, France: *Establishing the physical map of the yeast Kluyveromyces lactis* ("Génolevures" yeast sequencing programme)

October 2004 - January 2005: SNF fellowship at Institut of Cell Biology, University of Berne, Switzerland: *PFGE analysis of meiotic DSBs in S. pombe mutants*

July 2005 - September 2005: invited researcher at Université Paris XI, France: *Analysis of non-conventiona yeasts genome*

Post-graduate training:

- June 2002: Bioinformatics – Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest

- June 2001: CEFOR European course of Microbiology and Biochemistry – Université Francophone, French Embassy and Université Paris-Sud XI

- November 1999: CEFOR European course of Microbiology and Biochemistry – Université Francophone, French Embassy and Université Paris-Sud XI

- July 1997 - European FEBS course "Advanced Course on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Non-Conventional Yeasts" (Madrid, Spain)

- May 1996: CEFOR European course of Microbiology – Université Francophone, French Embassy and Université Paris-Sud XI

Personal skills and competences

Mother tongue(s) **Romanian**

Other language(s) **English, French**

Self-assessment

European level (*)

Language

Language

Understanding			Speaking				Writing		
Listening		Reading	Spoken interaction		Spoken production		Exprimare scrisă		
1	Engleza	C2	1.	C2	1	C1	1	C2	1
2	Franceza	C2	2.	C2	2	B2	2	B2	2

(*) [Nivelul Cadrului European Comun de Referință Pentru Limbi Străine](#)

Social skills and competences

Organisational skills and competences

Managerial skills – During the 27 years of academic activity I participated in the development of research infrastructure of the Dept. of Genetics, acquisition of scientific equipment and reagents for the development of academic and scientific research activities.

Technical skills and competences
Computer skills and competences

MS Office 7, 10, CorelDraw, Adobe Photoshop, PowerPoint, Internet

Artistic skills and competences

Other skills and competences

Editing activity – Associated Editor for Romanian Biotechnological Letters (ISI)

Driving licence

YES

Additional information

Prizes:

2020 – Best Poster 19th International Conference "Life Sciences for Sustainable Development", Cluj-Napoca, sept. 24-25 2020, Corbu V., Csutak O., *Candida tropicalis* CMGB165 with biodegradative potential - an important tool for bioremediation.

2018 – Best Poster for session Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology, International Conference „Agriculture for life, life for agriculture”, 7-9 June 2018, Bucharest, Romania: Csutak O., Corbu V., Stoica I., Vassu T., 2018, *Fatty acids effect on lipase and biosurfactant induction in Rhodotorula glutinis* CMGB-RG5.

2017 – Best Poster for session Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology, International Conference „Agriculture for life, life for agriculture”, 8-10 June 2017, Bucharest, Romania: Csutak O., Simon-Gruita A., Corbu V., Constantin N., Pojoga D., Vassu T., Duță-Cornescu G., *Preliminary studies on yeast-plant systems with applications in phytoremediation*,

2015 – Best Poster for session Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology, International Conference „Agriculture for life, life for agriculture”, 4-6 June 2015, Bucharest, Romania: Csutak O., Corbu V., Stoica I., Ionescu R., Vassu T., 2015, *Biotechnological applications of Yarrowia lipolytica* CMGB32.

2013- Scientific research activity prize UEFISCDI PNII-RU-PRECISI-2013-7-3621: Csutak O., Vassu T., Sarbu I., Stoica I., Cornea P., 2013, *Antagonistic activity of three newly isolated yeast strains from the surface of fruits*, Food Technol Biotech, vol. 51(1), 70-77. (IF 0,977)

Nominations:

Marquis Who's Who in the World (2013, 2015)

Selected scientific publications

I. Books

I.1. International editing houses

1. Sarbu I., Csutak O., 2019, Chapter 13. *The microbiology of cocoa fermentation*, in: Beverages. Vol 8: Caffeinated and cocoa based beverages, Eds: A.M. Holban, A.M. Grumezescu, Academic Press, Elsevier, pp. 423-447, ISBN: 978-0-12-815864-7.

2. Csutak O., Sarbu I., 2018, Chapter 6: *Genetically modified microorganisms: Harmful or Helpful*, în: Genetically engineered foods. Handbook of Food Bioengineering. Volume 6.; Eds: A.M. Holban, A.M. Grumezescu, Academic Press, Elsevier, pp. 143-175. ISBN: 978-0-12-811519-0.

I.2. National editing houses

1. Vassu T., Stoica I., Csutak O., 2020, Cap. 3: *Cromozomul la pro- și eucariote*, în: Tratat de biotehnologie, vol II, Ediție revizuită și adăugită, Ed: Ș. Jurcoane, Ed. Tehnică, București, ISBN: 978-973-31-2404-7, pp. 45-69.

2. Csutak O., 2014, *Genetica și biodiversitatea drojdiilor cu aplicații biotehnologice*, Ed. Universității din București, p. 163, ISBN 978-606-16-0483-8.

3. Vassu T., Stoica I., Csutak O., 2010, *Genetică și inginerie genetică*, Ed. Universității din București, p. 214, ISBN 978-973-737-846-0.

4. Csutak O., 2007, *Genetica și taxonomia drojdiilor implicate în biotehnologia compușilor petrolieri*, Ed. Universității din București, p. 126, ISBN 978-973-737-370-0.

5. Vassu T., Stoica I., Csutak O., Mușat F., 2001, *Genetica microorganismelor și inginerie genetică microbiană. Note de curs și tehnici de laborator*, Ed. Petron, București, p. 256, ISBN 973-9470-24-6.

II. Scientific papers in journals indexed Thomson ISI

1. Corbu V., Petrut S., Vassu T., Pelinescu D., Sarbu I., Rusu E., Csutak O., 2021, *Environmental stress responses in yeasts and lactic acid bacteria strains isolated from dairy traditional Romanian fermented products*, Romanian Biotechnological Letters, vol. 26 (2), 2548-2259 (IF 0,765)

2. Csutak O., Sarbu I., Rusu E., Vassu T., Corbu V., 2020, *Antimicrobial and antiadhesion activity of biosurfactants from Rhodotorula glutinis grown on n-dodecane*, Revista de Chimie, vol. 71 (5), 99-105. (IF 1,755)

3. Csutak O., Corbu V., Vassu T., 2017, *Studies on the correlation between biosurfactant and lipid*

- synthesis by Candida tropicalis CMGB114 using hydrocarbons and vegetable oil wastes*, Revista de Chimie, vol. 68 (2), 255-259. (IF 1,755)
4. **Csutak O.**, Vassu T., 2014, *Phylogenetic analysis and characterization of an alkane-degrading yeast strain isolated from oil-polluted soil*, Turkish Journal of Biology, vol.38, p. 601-610 (IF 1,452)
5. **Csutak O.**, Vassu T., Sarbu I., Stoica I., Cornea P., 2013, *Antagonistic activity of three newly isolated yeast strains from the surface of fruits*, Food Technology and Biotechnology, vol. 51(1), 70-77. (IF 3,918)
6. **Csutak O.**, Stoica I., Vassu T., 2012, *Evaluation of production, stability and activity of biosurfactants from yeasts with application in bioremediation of oil-polluted environment*, Revista de Chimie, vol. 63 (10), 973-977. (IF 1,755)
7. Latypov V., Rothenberg M., Lorenz A., Octobre G., **Csutak O.**, Lehmann E., Loidl J., Kohli J., 2010, *The roles of Hop1 and Mek1 in meiotic chromosome pairing and recombination-partner choice in Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, Molecular and Cellular Biology, vol. 30 (7), 1570 – 1581. (IF 6,188)
8. Gregan J., Rabitsch P. K., Sakem B., **Csutak O.**, Latypov V., Lehmann E., Kohli J., Nasmyth K., 2005, *Novel genes required for meiotic chromosome segregation are identified by a high-throughput knockout screen in fission yeast*, Current Biology, vol. 15, 1663-1669. (IF 8,983)
9. Fologea D., Vassu T., Stoica I., **Csutak O.**, Radu M., 1998, *Increase of Saccharomyces cerevisiae plating efficiency after treatment with bipolar electric pulses*, Bioelectrochemistry and Bioenergetics (actual: Bioelectrochemistry), vol. 46 (2), 285-287. (IF 3,556)

III. Scientific papers in journals indexed in IDB

1. Corbu V., **Csutak O.**, 2020, *Biodiversity studies on Pichia kudriavzevii from Romanian spontaneous fermented products*, AgroLife Scientific Journal, Vol. 9 (1), 104-113.
2. Corbu V., Vassu T., **Csutak O.**, 2019, *Pichia (Kodamaea) ohmeri CMGB-ST19 – a new yeast strain with complex biotechnological properties*, AgroLife Scientific Journal, vol. 8 (1), 77-86.
3. Corbu V., Vassu, T., Bala I., Petrut, S., **Csutak O.** 2018, *Candida vanderwaltii CMGB-ST1 from peony petals–identification and biotechnological potential*. The Eurasia Proceedings of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics, vol. 3, 1-10.
4. **Csutak O.**, Corbu V., Stoica I., Vassu T., 2018, *Fatty acids effect on lipase and biosurfactant induction in Rhodotorula glutinis CMGB-RG5*, Agriculture for Life Life for Agriculture” Conference Proceedings, vol.1, Ed. DeGruyter 10.2478/alife-2018-0081.
5. **Csutak O.**, I. Sarbu, Vassu T., 2013, *Influence of sodium bicarbonate, calcium chloride and growth media on antimicrobial activity of Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, Journal of Food Science and Engineering, vol.3 (2), 79-86.