

Factsheet on the film: *Into the Microverse: Journey through the amazing world of microbes*

Background and objectives

The film "Into the Microverse: Journey through the amazing world of microbes" is an initiative of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, created in close collaboration with the Cluster of Excellence "Balance of the Microverse" and other partners. The aim of the film is to communicate the diverse significance of microorganisms to a wide audience and to present selected research areas of the Microverse Cluster. The film illustrates the interactions between microbes as well as their importance for the health of all living organisms and their influence on ecosystem processes.

Duration, format and use

The film was produced in collaboration with the full-dome film production company Softmachine Immersive Productions and fully developed for the immersive 360-degree full-dome format. It is available in English and German and has a duration of 15 minutes. There are no costs or licence fees for its use, as the film is intended to be available to all planetariums and other venues worldwide for their educational activities in line with the open access approach.

Target groups

"Into the Microverse: Journey through the amazing world of microbes" is aimed at a diverse and curious interested audience aged between 9 and 99.

Summary of content

The film's protagonists are two drones: C.A.R.L. (Completely Automated Researcher of Life) and C.A.R.L.A. (C.A.R.L. Advanced). They are sent on a mission to find out how the smallest living creatures - microbes - can contribute to a sustainable future on Earth. On their journey, they discover that microbes produce useful chemicals that can be used as medicines, and are essential for the life of plants and animals. In addition, C.A.R.L.A. and C.A.R.L. learn that microorganisms provide clean drinking water, generate electricity and produce most of the oxygen in our atmosphere while absorbing carbon dioxide. They use their built-in microscopy functions to provide an amazing insight into life on a microscopic level.

Outlook: Planned communication measures

In the future, topics and methods from Microverse research will be brought closer to different target groups. To this end, further formats are planned that complement the film thematically and deepen the various research focuses. In this context, collaborations are also possible that promote dialogue with the interested public.

Contributors, partners and sponsors

The Cluster of Excellence "Balance of the Microverse" at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and its graduate school "Jena School for Microbial Communication" played a leading role in the creation of the film. Other contributors were:

<p>Research Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friedrich Schiller University Jena • University Hospital Jena • FSU Jena Profile Line "Life" • Collaborative Research Centre FungiNet (DFG funded) • Collaborative Research Centre Aquadiva (DFG funded) • Collaborative Research Centre ChemBioSys (DFG funded) • Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry • Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology e.V. • Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology Hans Knöll Institute
<p>Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Research Foundation • Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH • Friedrich Schiller University Jena • Ernst Abbe Foundation • Carl Zeiss Foundation • MPI-BGC 	<p>Film Production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Softmachine Immersive Productions • Fulldome Foundation • xFilms