

**The conference is supported by the
National Laboratory for Health Security project
RRF-2.3.1-21-2022-00006**

On continuously structured epidemic and ecological models

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The basic reproduction number \mathcal{R}_0 is defined, in an epidemic model, as the expected number of new infections produced by an infected individual in a fully susceptible population. In an ecological model, the basic reproduction number \mathcal{R}_0 is defined as the expected number of offspring that an individual has throughout its life. It is generally calculated as the spectral radius of the so-called *next-generation operator*. However, when considering continuously structured populations defined in a Banach lattice X with concentrated states at birth it is not possible to define the next-generation operator in X . We will present an approach to compute \mathcal{R}_0 of such models as the limit of the basic reproduction number of a sequence of models for which \mathcal{R}_0 can be computed as the spectral radius of the next-generation operator. We will present some examples, in particular an epidemic model with asymptomatic transmission for which we will also discuss the final infection size.