



Reflecting on 2024



Welcome to the first nexus monARC Newsletter of 2025!

As we look back on an eventful second half of 2024, we're excited to bring you the latest updates, remarkable milestones, and share our project's success.

Thank you for being a valued member of our community and here's to a prosperous and exciting 2025!



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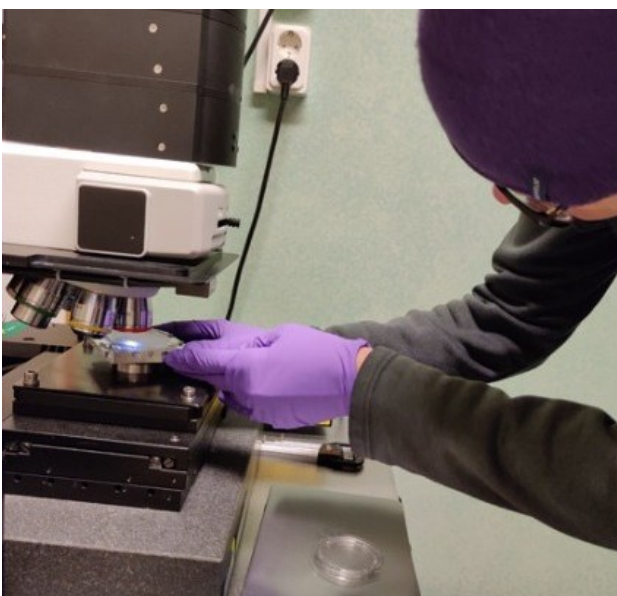
Highlights

by Anna Katsigera

This past year, the nexus monARC project gained significant visibility through two insightful articles that explored the collaborative efforts of European researchers and the pressing issue of microplastics in marine ecosystems.

4 Ευρωπαϊκοί ερευνητές ενώνουν τις δυνάμεις τους για τη διεπιστημονική μελέτη των μικροπλαστικών και των συνεπειών τους

Published by AMNA, this article spotlighted the cross-disciplinary collaboration of four European researchers. By merging expertise from diverse scientific fields, the study delves into the sources, distribution, and long-term impacts of microplastics on marine life and human health. [Read more](#)



Μία θάλασσα από πλαστικό στα δίχτυα της Dive in Action

Featured in GRTimes, this article shed light on the alarming presence of plastics in our seas. It showcased the innovative use of *Dive in Action* tools in tracking and capturing marine plastics, while emphasizing the urgent need for collective action to address this growing environmental challenge.

[Read more](#)



Key Takeaways and Milestones

Marine Monitoring in Action: Milos Summer School 2024

Last October was an exciting month for the nexus-monARC project, as we organized and completed the 1st Summer School on Marine Environment Monitoring with a focus on Milos Island. The event combined virtual lectures (October 1-3) with immersive field exercises (October 14-16), offering students and researchers hands-on experience in monitoring marine ecosystems affected by hydrothermal and human activities. Alongside the summer school, a Stakeholders Meeting co-organized by the nexus monARC and DiverSEA projects brought together professionals, educators, local government representatives, and marine-related businesses.

This collaboration fostered meaningful discussions on sustainable practices and marine resource management. Additionally, the nexus monARC research team conducted fieldwork, collecting valuable samples and measurements from hydrothermally active zones in costal areas of the island. These efforts contribute to a deeper understanding of the interplay between natural and human impacts on marine environments. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Adamas Primary School and Milos Upper-High School for their enthusiastic participation in our activities, which enriched the experience for all involved.



International Summer School on Environmental Intelligence

In July 2024, nexus monARC joined the International Summer School in Methana, part of the European project RAMONES. Students and researchers explored environmental intelligence, focusing on marine radioactivity monitoring, AI in risk forecasting, and ICT sustainability.

Assistant Professor Savvas Genitsaris and Dr. Andreas Gondikas of NKUA, represented the nexus monARC project, sharing expertise drawn from our project's work. The event emphasized sustainable practices and innovative technologies.



Tackling Microplastics- Keynote Lecture



Our project manager, Dr. Andreas Gondikas, delivered a keynote speech at the 3rd International Student Conference on Medical Geology and Environmental Health (ISCMGEH) on November 27. Titled "Tackling the issue of micro and nanoplastics in the marine environment through monitoring, training early career researchers, and enabling citizen science," his presentation highlighted innovative strategies for addressing the microplastics crisis. Dr. Gondikas emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research, empowering the next generation of scientists, and engaging the public through citizen science initiatives.

Building Entrepreneurship Skills

From October to December 2024 members of the nexus monARC team greatly benefited from participating in the 8th workshop series of structured training by the NKUA Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship "Archimedes". Through the practice-oriented sessions, they gained valuable insights into refining a business strategy and advancing their ideas toward market readiness. By completing the concrete execution tasks and deliverables, the team made significant progress in becoming investment-ready, laying the foundation for creating a sustainable entity devoted to protection and monitoring of multiple stressor environments.





A Major Step Forward: Successful Progress Review Meeting

The successful completion of the Progress Review Meeting at the European level marks a significant milestone for the nexus monARC project. During this pivotal meeting, project partners showcased the actions, achievements, and deliverables to date, while thoroughly reviewing progress against the established objectives. This event not only highlighted the project's advancements but also fostered a valuable exchange of ideas, setting the stage for continued development and the achievement of our ambitious goals.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Exciting developments await! Stay tuned for major announcements from the nexus monARC project that promise to shape the future of multidisciplinary research and action.

Our next in person project partners meeting is taking place in March, while later this year we are planning to conduct the HVA flagship tour for conducting scientific and training activities!

Also, mark your calendars for our next workshop on microplastics, which will take place in **Sweden from October 12–18, 2025**. This event will bring together leading experts and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, foster collaborations, and advance solutions to this global issue.

Thank you for your continued support of the nexus monARC initiative. Together, we're working towards a cleaner, healthier future for our oceans and beyond.

