



ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY
OF THESSALONIKI



«Laboratory of Chemical and Environmental Technology» (ChemEnvTech)

School of Chemistry

Department of Chemical Technology and Industrial Chemistry

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

<https://www.chem.auth.gr/en/departments-laboratories/xtbx-dep-en/chemical-and-environmental-technology-lab-en/>

Konstantinos S. Triantafyllidis

Professor, Lab Director

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“1st Aristotle Conference on Chemistry”

Thessaloniki, Greece

12-15 November 2023



Organizational structure



Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry

Department of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry

Department of Physical, Analytical and Environmental Chemistry

Department of Chemical Technology and Industrial Chemistry

Laboratory of Polymer and Colors
Chemistry and Technology

Laboratory of Chemical and
Environmental Technology

Laboratory of Food
Chemistry and Technology

History - Milestones

- The **Laboratory of General and Inorganic Chemical Technology** was established as an independent Chair, in the School of Chemistry of AUTH, in 1964.
- **Prof. Emmanuel Vogiatzakis** was the first Director of the Laboratory, from 1964 to 1977, that settled the **educational bases of Applied Chemistry and Technology**, offered to the students at the School of Chemistry.
- In the 1960s, the GICT Laboratory was educating and training chemists with solid knowledge of chemical technology to **meet the needs of the chemical industry**, especially in Northern Greece.
- In the 1970s (Prof. K. Sipitanos, Lab Director), the courses/books **“General Chemical Technology”** and **“Inorganic Chemical Technology”** were established.
- In the 1980s (Prof. G. Stalidis, Lab Director), the staff was expanded (K. Matis, D. Zamboulis, E. Deliyianni, D. Bakogiannakis, P. Mavros, C. Gkotsis, T. Angelidis, P. Spathis), and new Research Associates-PhD students, then staff members (A. Zouboulis, G. Gallios).
- The GICT Laboratory was **re-established/re-named in 2016, as "Laboratory of Chemical and Environmental Technology"**, currently being one of the three Laboratories of the Department of "Chemical Technology and Industrial Chemistry, in the School of Chemistry.



Prof. Emmanuel Vogiatzakis

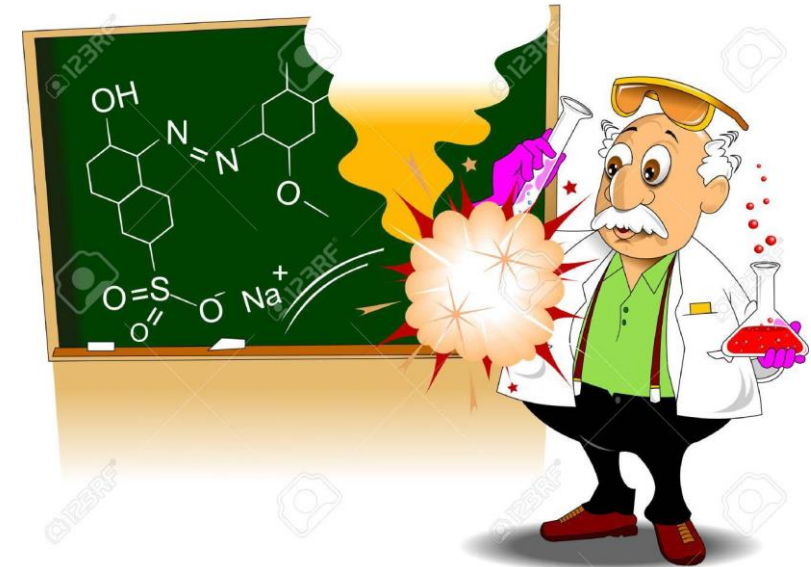


1983 - Ptolemaida Two-Day Workshop at ΔEH premises on Fly Ash. From left Prof. Thomas Angelidis (front), Prof. Anastasios Zouboulis and Prof. Konstantinos Matis (back)

Current status - Staff

- Theodoros Karapantsios, *Professor, Department Chair*
 - Georgios Gallios, *Professor*
 - Ioannis Karapanagiotis, *Professor*
 - Margaritis Kostoglou, *Professor*
 - Ioannis Katsoyiannis, *Assoc. Professor*
 - Konstantinos Triantafyllidis, *Professor, Lab Director*
 - Anastasios Zouboulis, *Professor*

 - Apostolos Fotopoulos, *Laboratory Teaching Staff*
 - Effrosyni Peleka, *Laboratory Teaching Staff*
 - Charikleia Prochaska, *Laboratory Teaching Staff*
- Konstantinos Matis, *Professor Emeritus*
 - Nikolaos Lazaridis, *Professor Emeritus*
 - Panagiotis Spathis, *Professor Emeritus*
 - Deliyanni Eleni, *Professor Retired*
 - Dimitrios Zampoulis, *Professor Retired*



Courses (under- & post-graduate)

Undergraduate Courses:

- Chemical Technology
- Physical Processes
- Chemical Processes
- Green Chemistry
- Principles of Environmental Technology
- Transfer Phenomena
- Processes in Biotechnology
- Design in the Chemical Industry
- Inorganic Materials Technology – Nanotechnology

Other postgraduate programs/courses offered:

- «Physical & Chemical Methods for Diagnosis of Deterioration of Cultural Heritage Materials»
- «Materials of ecclesiastical cultural heritage objects & conservation materials»
- “European Master Course in Archaeological Materials Science – ARCHMAT”

Postgraduate Program “Chemical and Environmental Technology” courses:

- Principles of Chemical Technology
- Environmental Technology and Management
- Catalytic Processes
- Separation Technologies for the Control of Environmental Pollution
- Design and Simulation of Waste Treatment Facilities
- Synthesis, characterization and applications of inorganic and hybrid nanomaterials

Number of students (per year/average values)

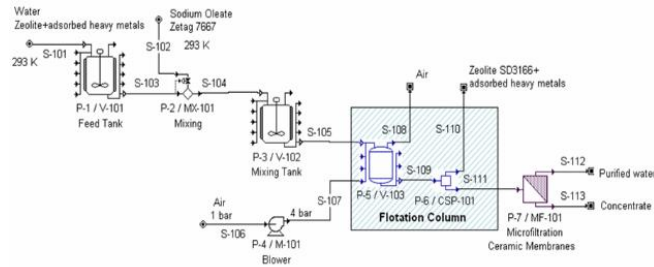
Undergraduate (all courses)	700
Postgraduate	10
PhD	25
Postdoc	10



Research areas (overview)

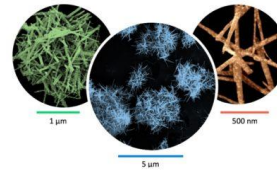
❖ General Chemical Technology

- Intensification of heat exchange processes (boiling, condensation, evaporation, frying)
- Wetting of solid surfaces (dyes, coatings, biofilms)
- Stability control and rheology of emulsions and foams (food, cosmetics, detergents)
- Theoretical analysis and mathematical modelling for interpretation of experimental data.
- Medical diagnostics for assessment of human endothelium at Heart Failure and Coronary Disease, Cor-IS



❖ Environmental (Bio)Technology

- Water and wastewater quality control and development of advanced treatment technologies
- Advanced flotation/separation processes
- Treatment of industrial solid toxic wastes
- Advanced biochemical treatment for exploitation of solid organic wastes
- Feasibility studies/design of surface and groundwater treatment plants, as well as liquid and solid waste.



❖ Green Chemical Technology

- Integrated Biorefineries
- Green chemical processes for bioenergy and bio-based chemicals, fuels and polymers
- Valorization of forest, agricultural and algae biomass
- Plastic waste chemical upcycling
- Bio-processes for municipal waste valorization



❖ Aerospace applications

- Transport processes under non-terrestrial gravity conditions (0-20g): heat transfer, bubble/droplet dynamics
- Potable water monitoring and purification, biofilm studies and mitigation techniques .
- Wastewater chemical analysis techniques
- Decompression sickness on-line diagnostics, I-VED
- High performance nano-composite materials

❖ Technology & Preservation of Cultural Heritage Materials

- Repellent coatings, nanomaterials, gels, hybrid consolidants & self-cleaning agents for conservation
- Characterization of heritage materials & buildings
- Corrosion and Conservation of Building Materials of Historic Monuments and Cultural Heritage Objects

❖ Nano-materials – Adsorption – Catalysis

- Synthesis and characterization of inorganic and hybrid nano-structured and nano-porous materials
- (Nano)materials, nano-composites, coatings
- Adsorption processes in environmental applications
- Heterogeneous catalytic processes, reaction mechanisms
- Benign-by-design photocatalytic & advanced oxidation processes

Infrastructure – Equipment – Methods (indicative)

• Materials

- Sol-gel, self-assembly, co-precipitation, impregnation
- Activation (oxidation, reduction, functionalization)

• Analytical & characterization

- Gas chromatography (GC-FID/TCD)
- Liquid chromatography (HPLC-RID/PDA)
- Ion chromatography (IC)
- Mass spectrometry (MS)
- Atomic absorption spectroscopy
- Elemental analyzer
- UV-Vis spectrophotometers
- Dynamic Light Scattering/z-potential (DLS/z-potential)
- N₂ porosimetry (BET, BJH, DFT)
- Leaching tests

• Lab-scale chemical & environmental processing

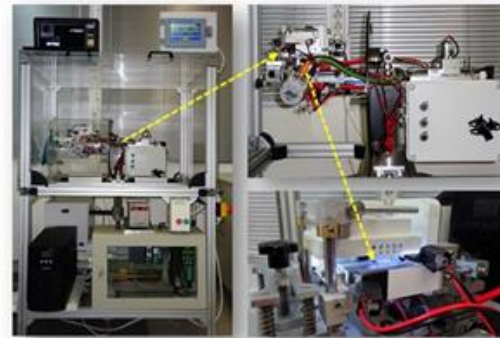
- Catalytic ozonation reactor
- Biogas upgrading unit

• (Micro)Pilot scale processes

- Membrane bioreactors (MBR)
- High-pressure, continuous flow, fixed-bed reactor
- Batch/CSTR (5L-8L) high-pressure reactor
- Continuous pyrolysis reactor

• Theoretical/simulation

- Computational fluid mechanics software
- Techno-economic analysis and LCA tools



Experimental device for studying surface wetting properties



Micro-pilot unit fluidized bed/continuous pyrolysis reactor



High-pressure, fixed-bed, continuous flow catalytic reactor (micro-pilot unit)

LABORATORY OF CHEMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY



Instrumentation for surface/interfacial tension and rheological measurements



Planetary mill



Lab-scale Membrane Bio-Reactor (MBR)



HPLC - RI/Diode array



High pressure stirred batch reactors



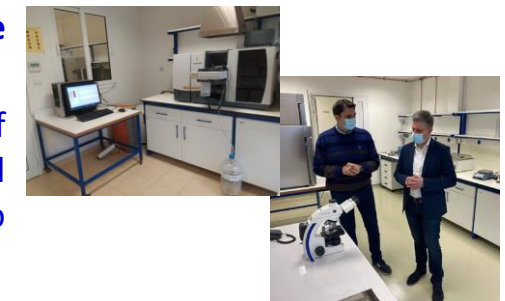
Gas Porosimeter

Furnaces & ovens

Laboratory of Environmental Monitoring and Research of the Region of Central Macedonia (organized by LCET)

The laboratory is located inside the customs zone of the Port of Thessaloniki, providing services for analysis of environmental samples for the Region of Central Macedonia, training to students & research. <https://labpkm.gr>

Scientific Coordinator: Assoc. Prof. I. Katsoyiannis



Services – Standardization – ISO accreditation

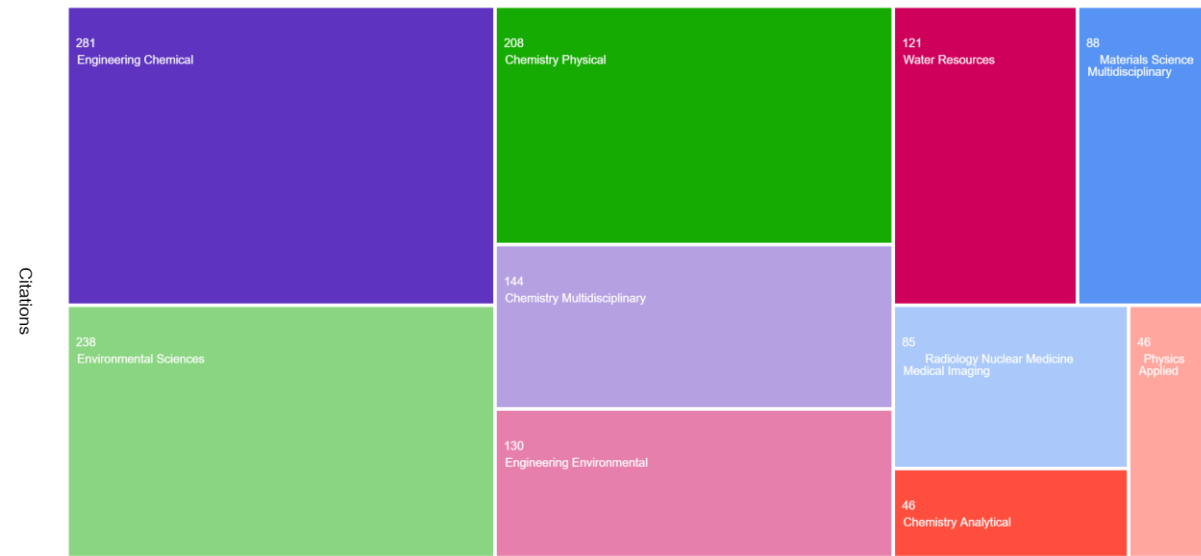
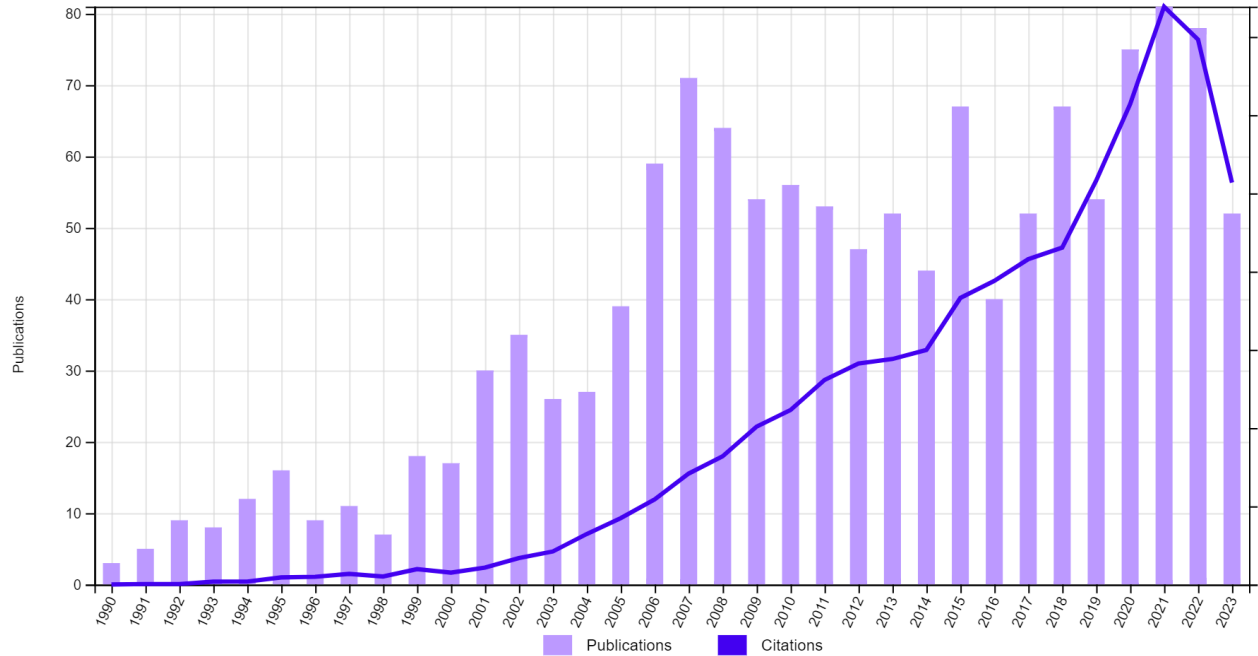
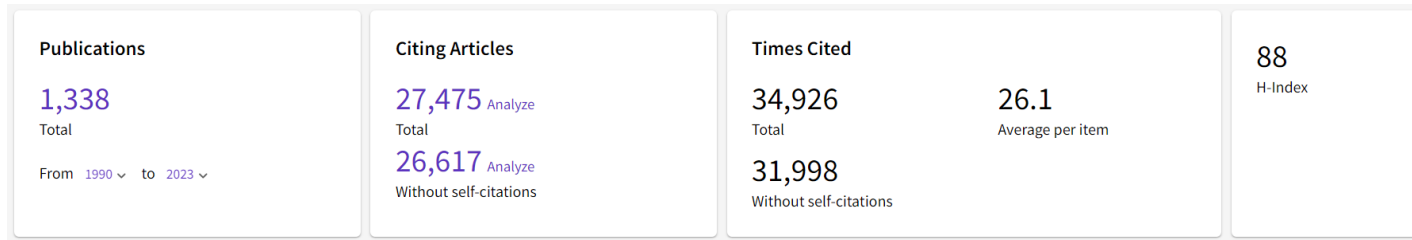
The Laboratory can offer the following services:

- Physical, chemical, microbiological, ecotoxicological analysis of environmental samples, water, liquid and solid waste.
- Environmental characterization and classification of solid waste with standard leaching tests (EN, TCLP, CEN / TS, NEN).
- Application of advanced biological and physicochemical technologies of water and waste treatment.
- Studies to maximize water recycling in industry and minimize the use of fresh water (Water pinch analysis).
- Waste management in the context of green chemistry and circular economy.
- Integrated biorefining process – design & development
- Technoeconomic analysis – LCA/LCC of biorefineries and waste treatment facilities.
- Design, synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials as catalysts and sorbents.
- Measurement of surface/interfacial and rheological properties of emulsions and foams (food, cosmetics, detergents).
- Determination of thermal and electrical properties of materials

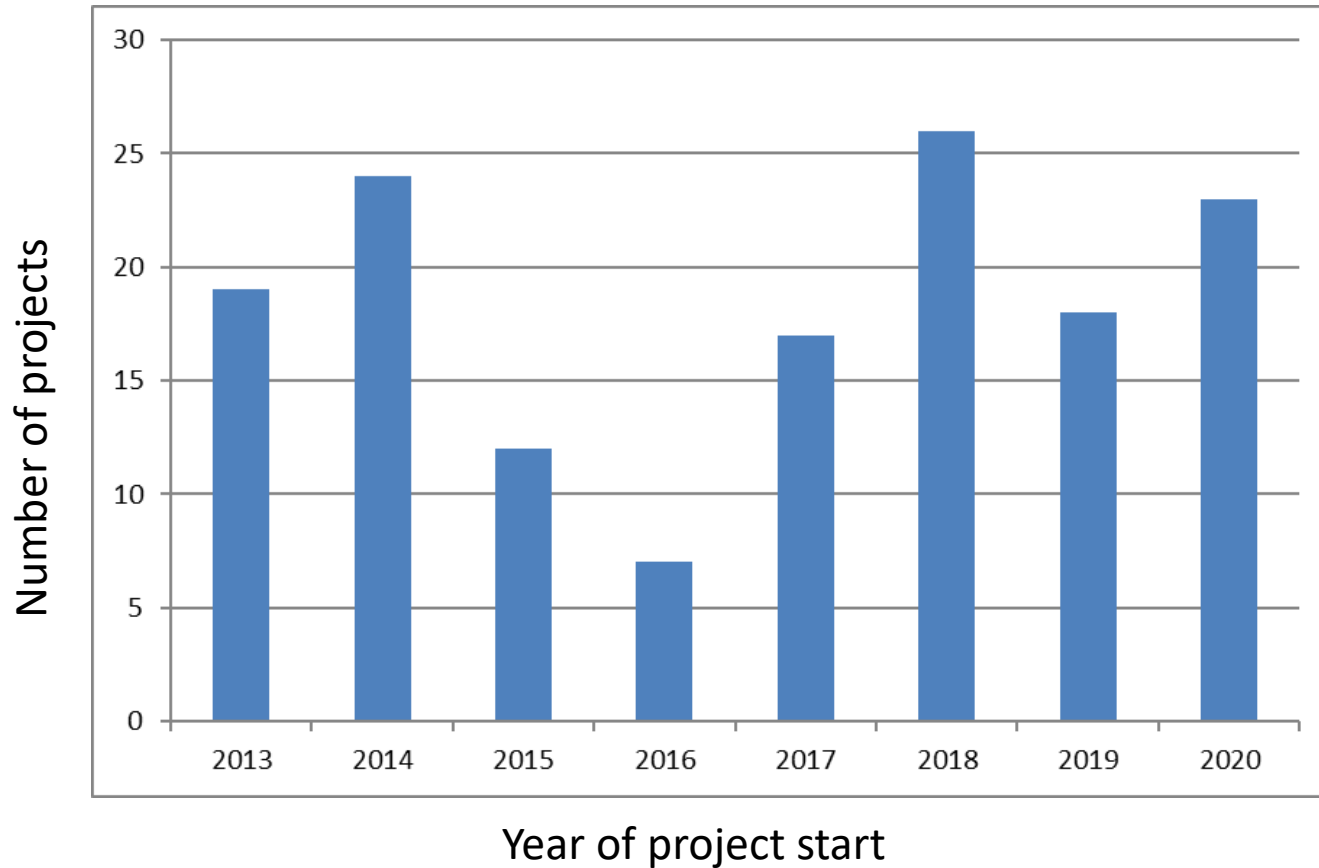
ISO accredited services:

- ISO Standard 9001:2015 – Accreditation according to the Certification System 9001:2015 in the field of "Laboratory Analyzes of Water, Liquids and Solid Waste"

Facts & figures (publications, WOS)



Facts & figures (Research projects)



Total research grants (last 5 years):

8,1 million euros

Funding/sources:

- ✓ **Competitive national projects (ESPA)**
- ✓ **Competitive EU projects (H2020 & Horizon Europe)**
- ✓ **European Space Agency**
- ✓ **Industrial contracts**

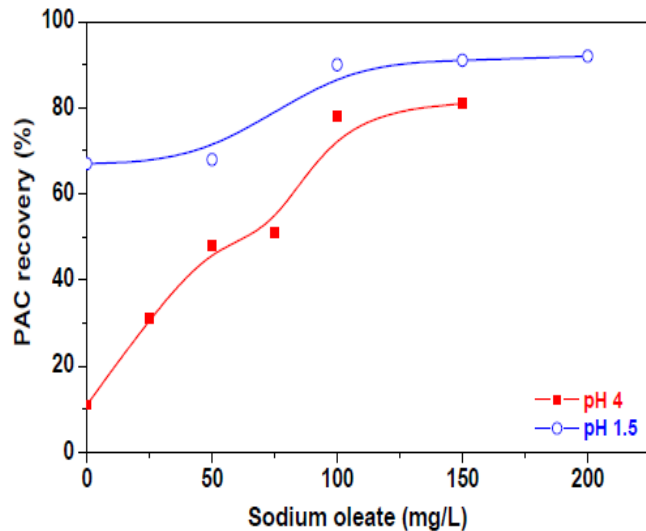
Research highlights: The Flotation Process Can Go Green

Water Separation Processes and Sustainability

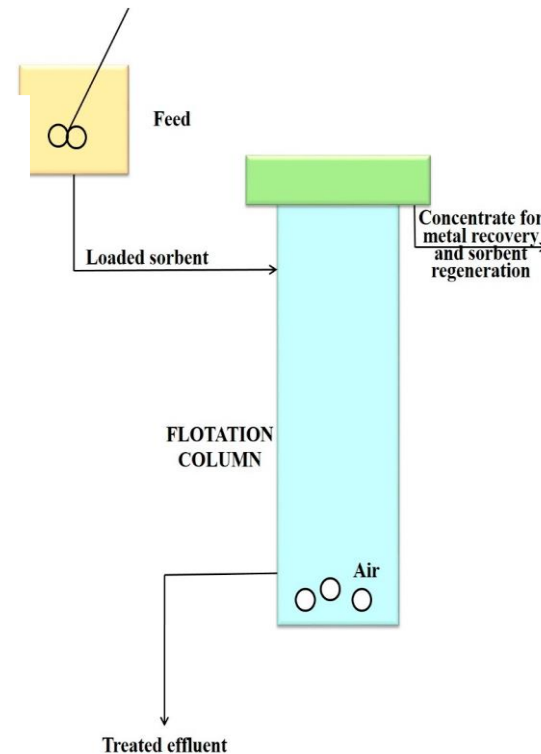


Prof. K. Matis

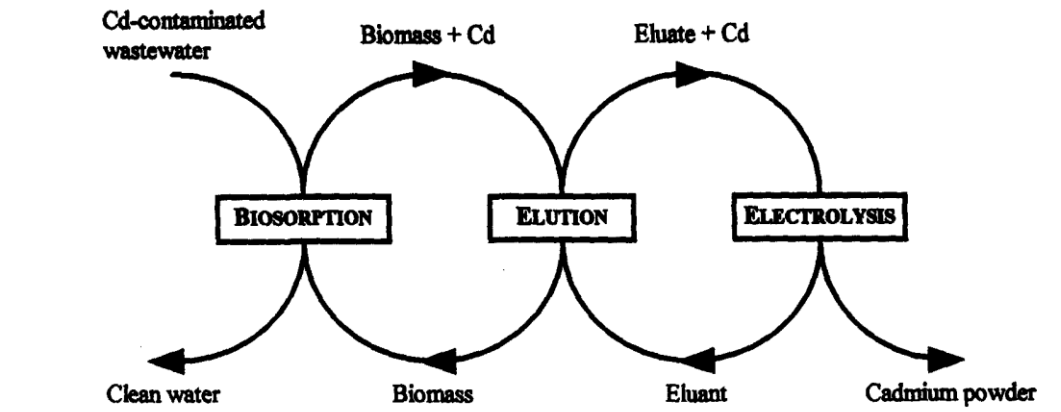
- Flotation is a rather unique separation process combining three separate phases, gas/liquid/solid
- It has been originated in minerals processing, known there as froth flotation
- Wastewater treatment has become a quite conventional application of flotation, e.g. in oil, food or chemical industries, and potable water treatment
- Various techniques are available. The use of biosurfactants in the process may be advantageous.



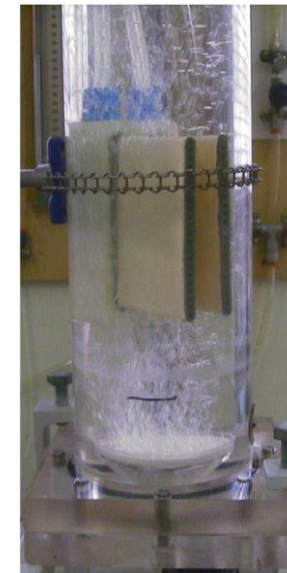
Floatability tests of 0.5 g/L powdered activated carbon, loaded with gold from thiourea solution: influence of collector concentration.



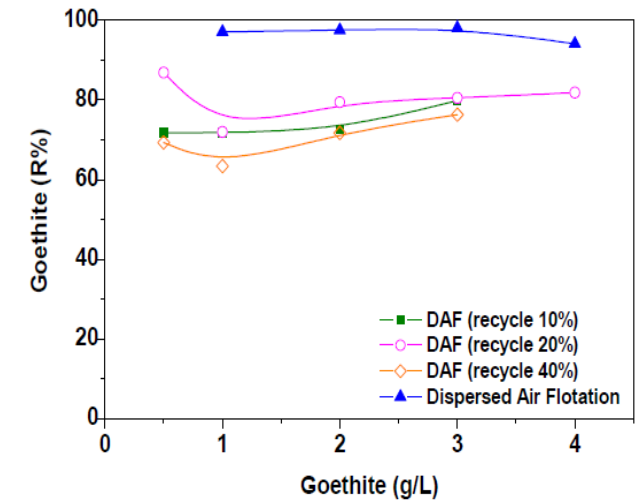
Scheme of a counter-current dispersed-air flotation rig



Removal of toxic metal ions from aqueous systems by biosorptive flotation



Photograph of hybrid flotation-microfiltration cell (i.e. microfiltration by submerged membranes inside the flotation cell)

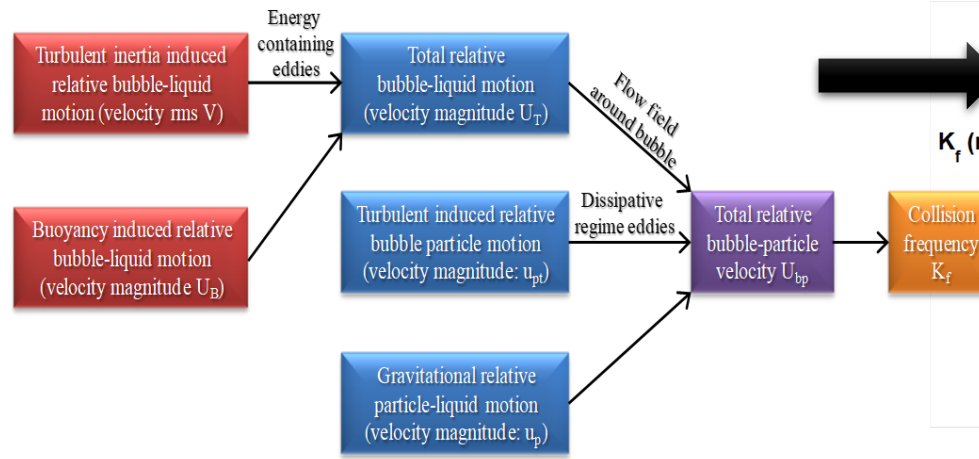
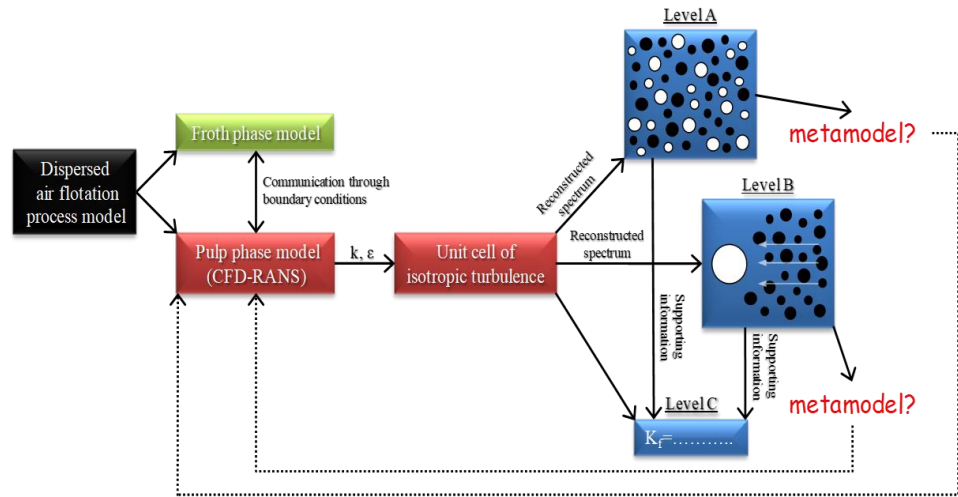


Comparison of dispersed-air with dissolved-air flotation for Zn(II) removal

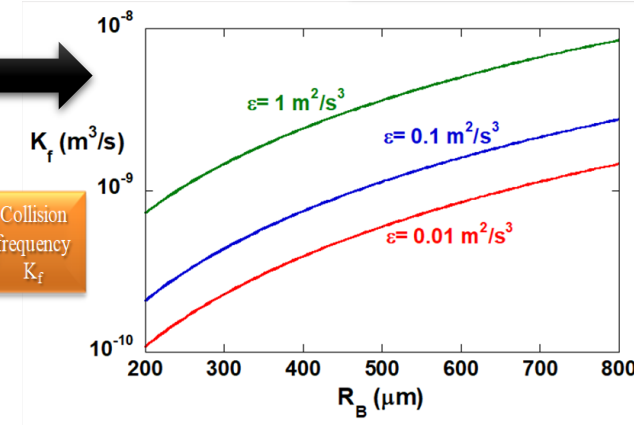


Modeling of fine particles flotation process

Development of a generalized framework for bubble-particle collision frequency in turbulent flow

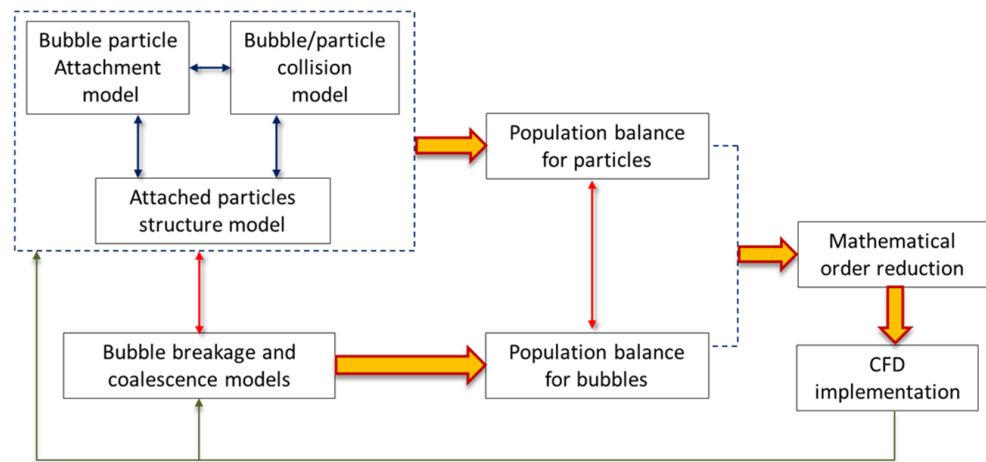


Bubble-particle collision frequency versus bubble radius



Development of a robust mean field model to simulate flotation in turbulent flow field

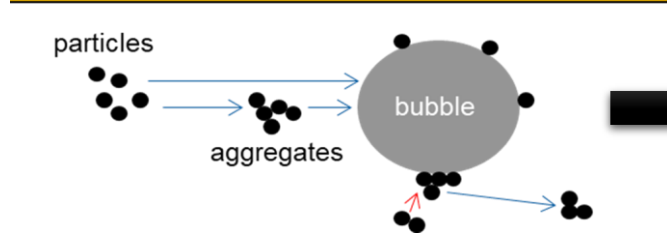
Rate functions → Zero-dimensional mean field description → 2 or 3 spatial dimensions



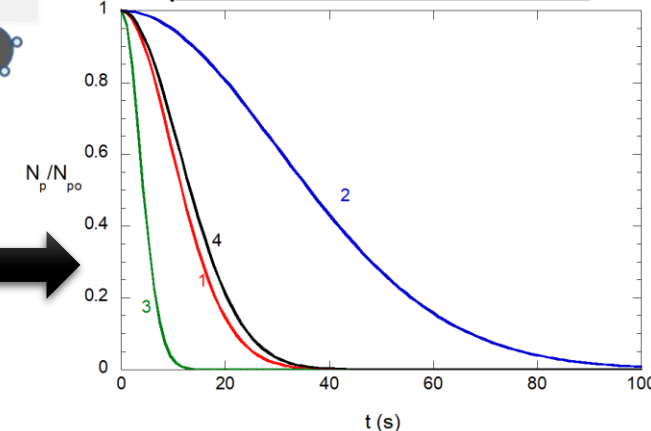
System evolution mechanisms considered



System evolution mechanisms considered



Evolution of the normalized bulk particle number concentration



Transport phenomena in micro-gravity

ESA Parabolic flights

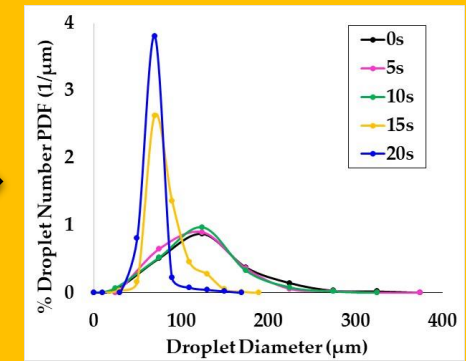
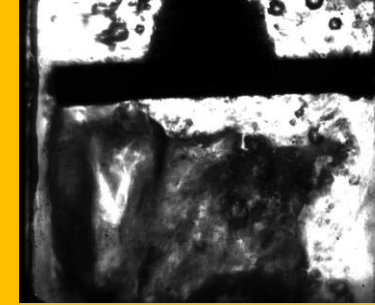


Prof. T. Karapantsios

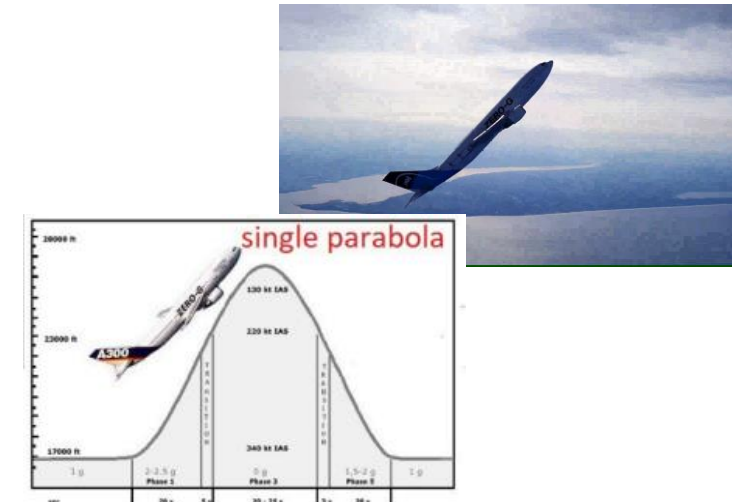
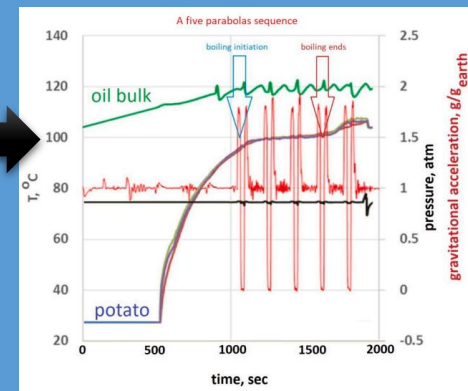
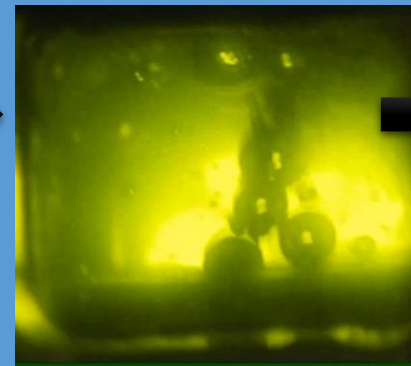


Prof. M. Kostoglou

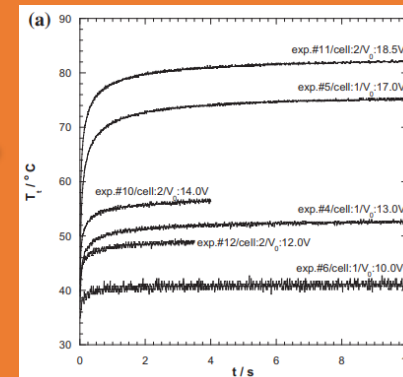
Emulsion droplet dynamics



Heat transfer in porous media



Heat transfer from small objects



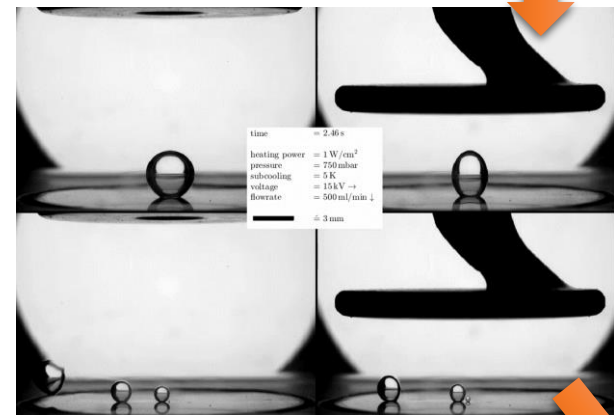
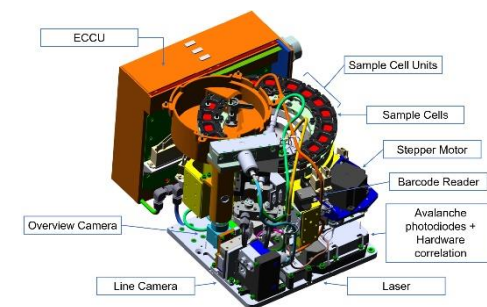
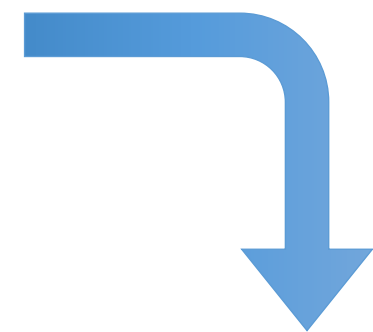
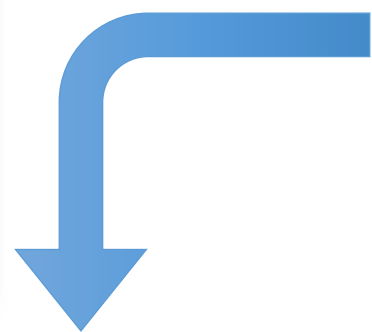
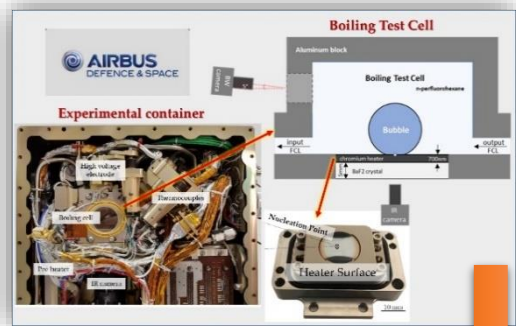
2-phase dispersion systems in space



Prof. T. Karapantsios



Prof. M. Kostoglou



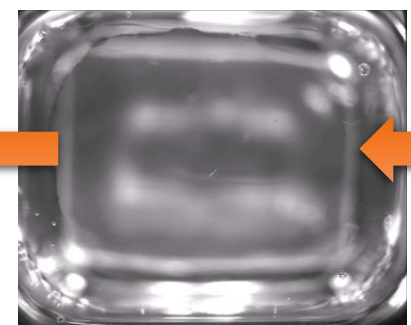
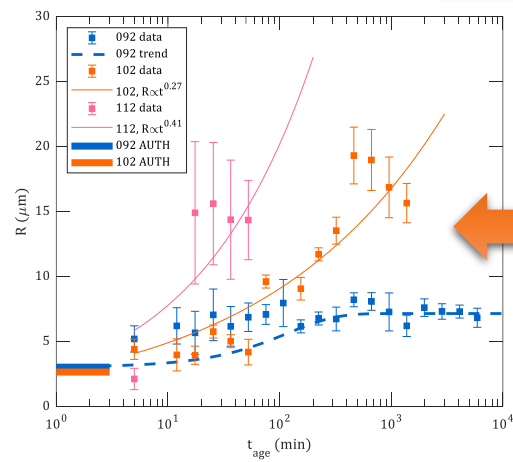
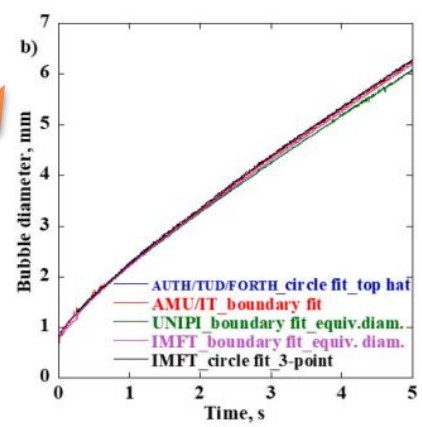
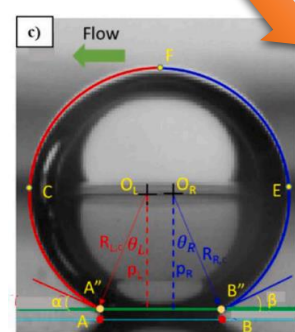
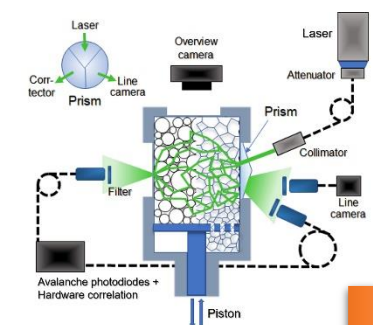
Boiling

Reference Multiscale Boiling Experiment



Emulsions

Particle Stabilised Emulsions and Foams



Multi-national team

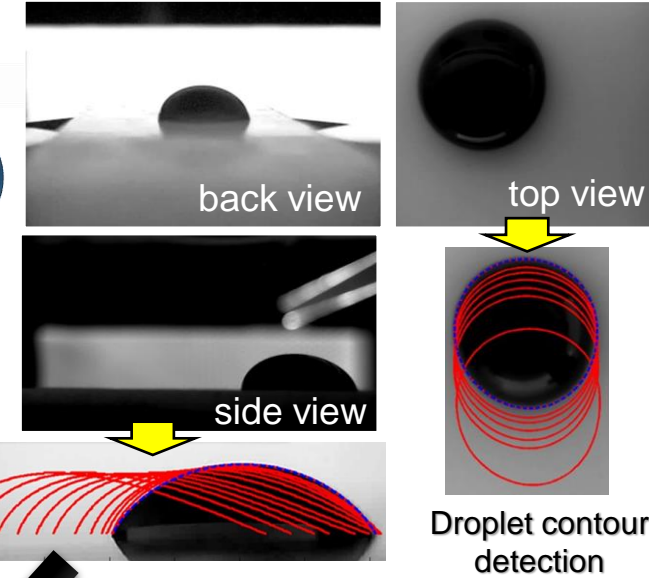
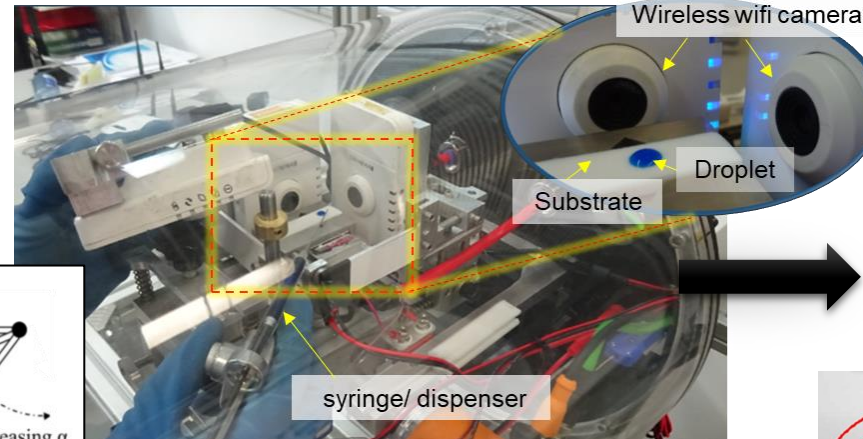
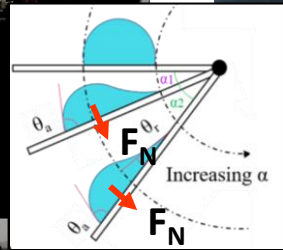
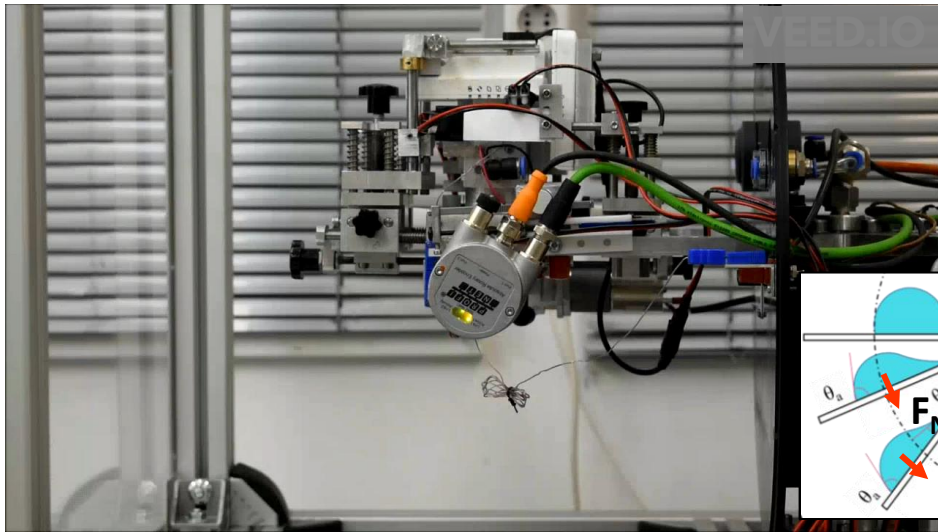


Forced wetting dynamics of solid substrates

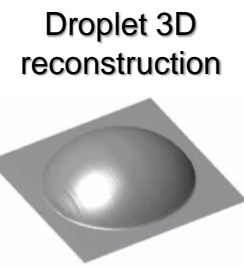
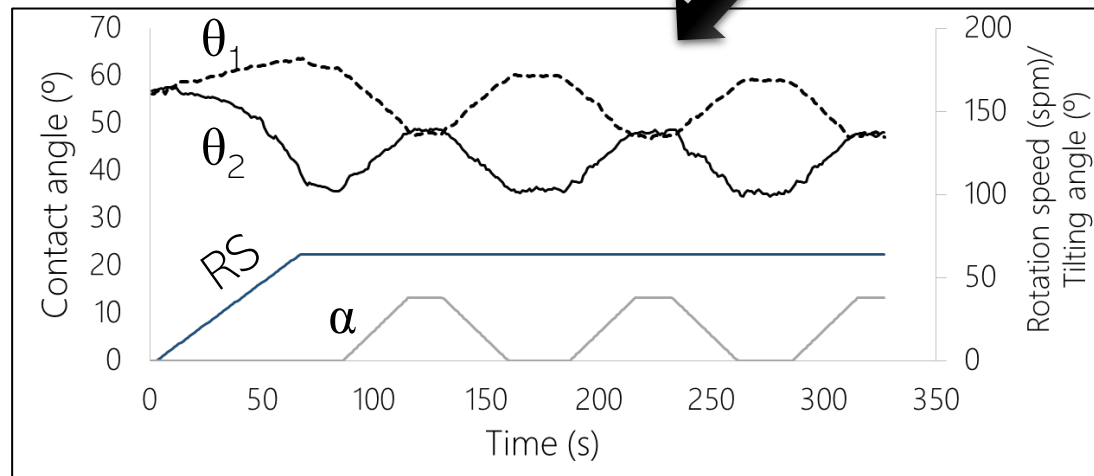
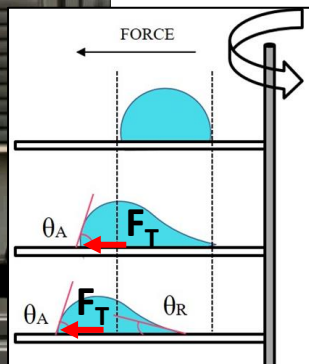
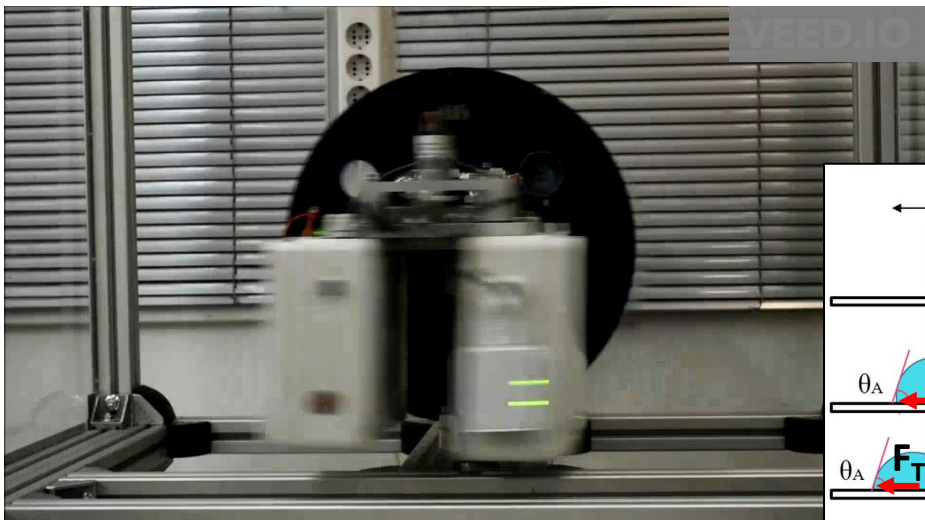


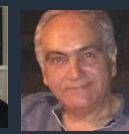
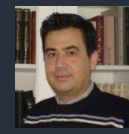
3D monitoring of droplets motion on solid substrates under the application of external body forces; **Kerberos device**

Tilting substrate (360°) → **normal force**



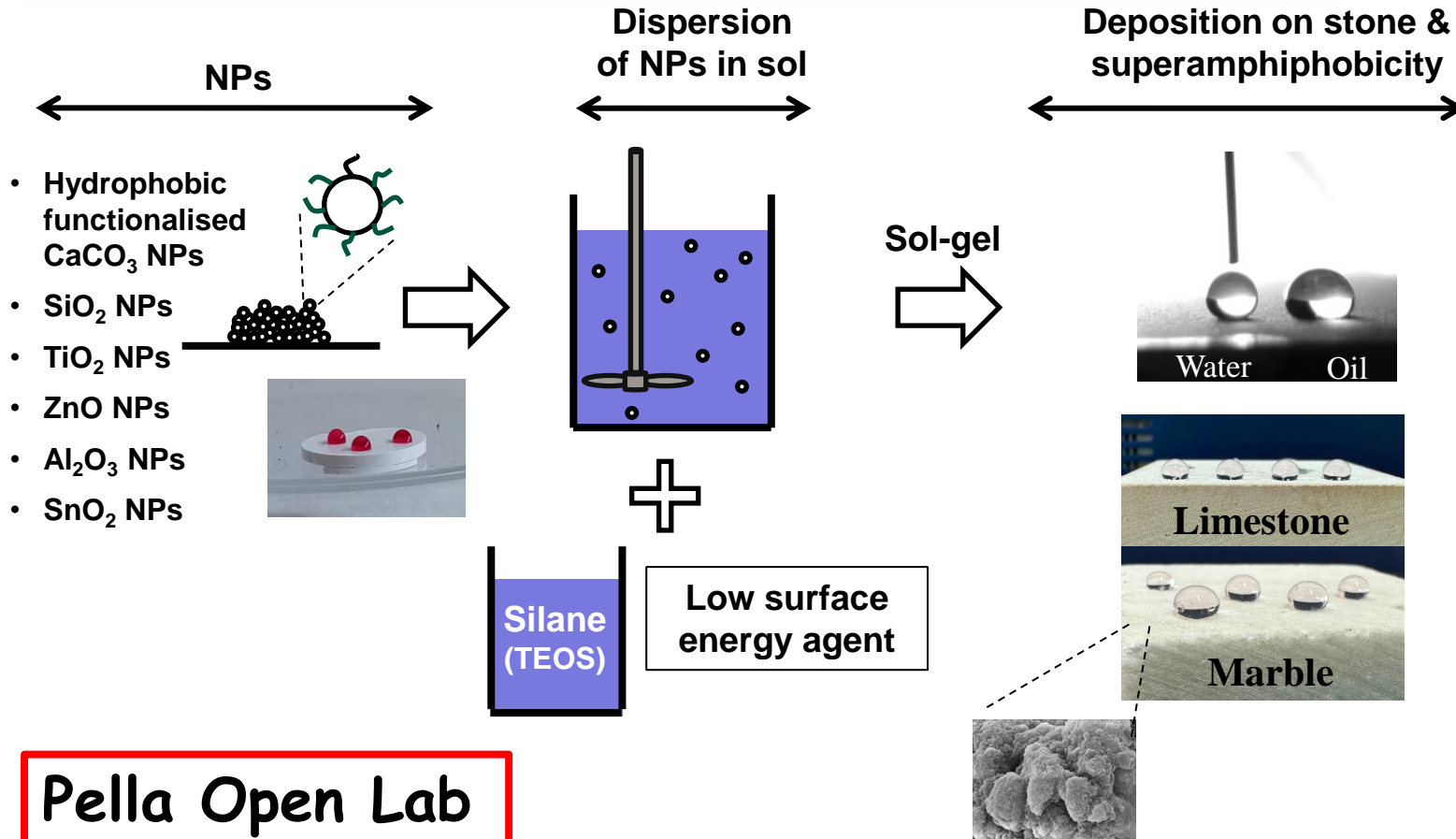
Rotating substrate (< 200rpm) → **tangential force**



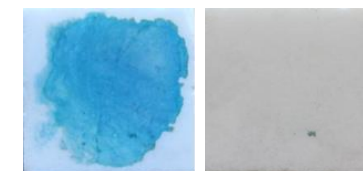
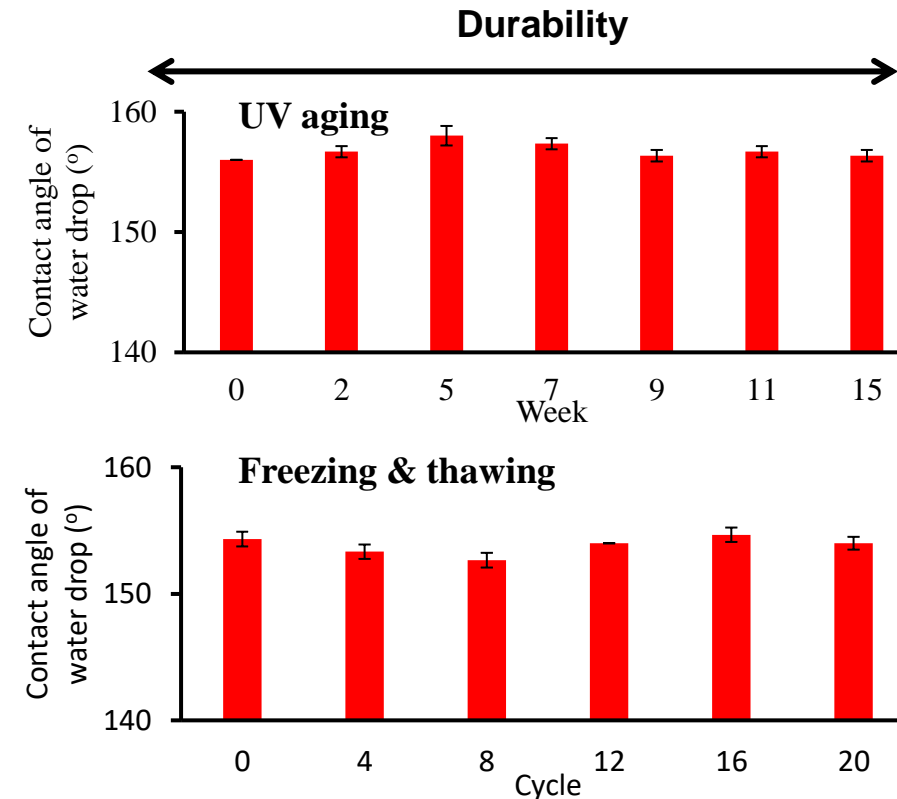


Super-amphiphobic coatings and consolidants for the protection of natural stone of the cultural heritage

Archaeological site of Pella



Pella Open Lab

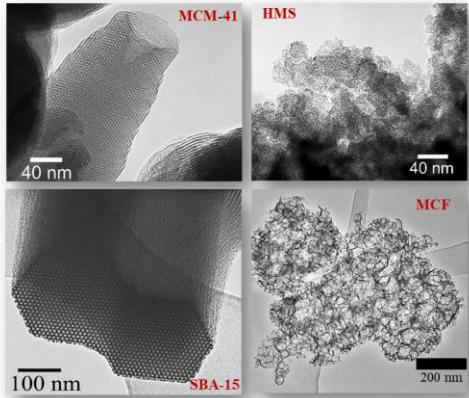


Self cleaning through photocatalysis (TiO_2 NPs)

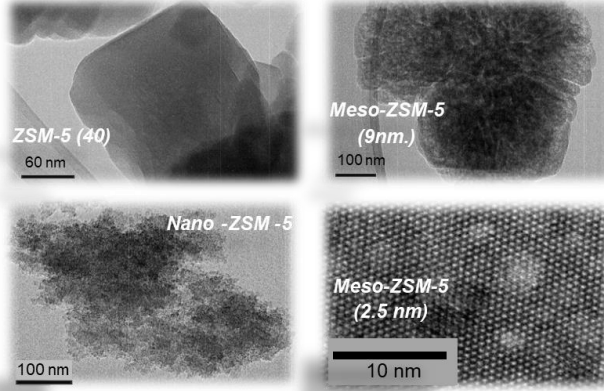
Nanostructured and nanoporous materials

Supports development

Ordered mesoporous (organo)silicas with varying pore structure and size



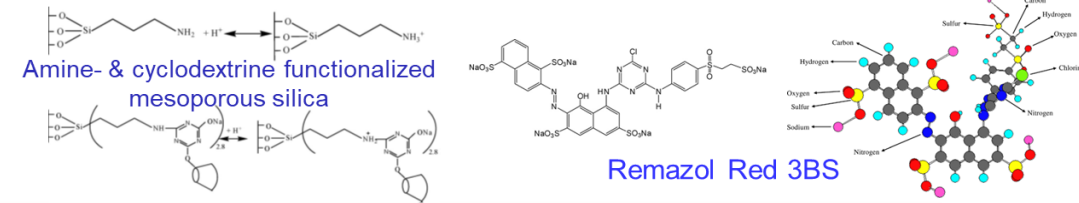
Conventional microporous & hierarchical ZSM-5 zeolites



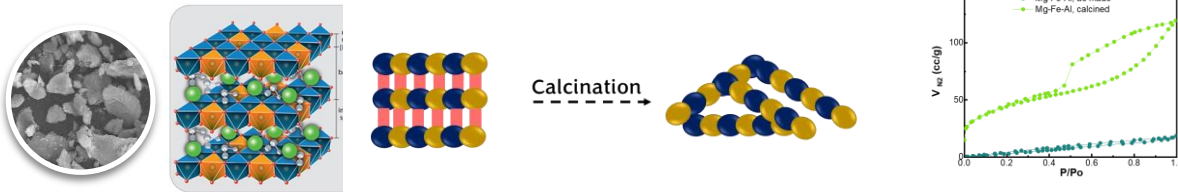
Deep desulfurization of model and real diesel fuels



Sorption of dyes by organo-functionalized mesoporous silicas

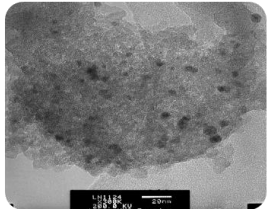


Layered double hydroxides

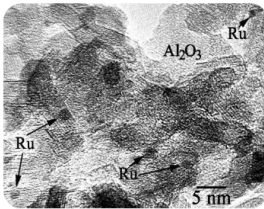


Supported metallic nano-catalysts

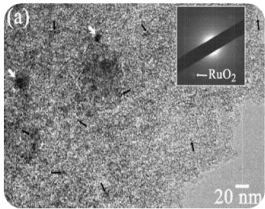
Ag nanoparticles supported on mesoporous silica HMS



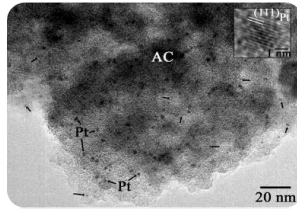
Ru nanoparticles supported on γ - Al_2O_3



Ru supported on activated carbon



Pt supported on activated carbon



(nano)PhotoCatalysts: Design, Synthesis & Characterizations



Nanostructured Metal oxides (MOXs)

1-D nanomaterials (MOFs & MOXs)

Multiphases Composites of MOXs & MOFs

Nanoclusters decorated on graphitic phases (graphite or $g-C_3N_4$)

Development of optimized processes for exploration of chromite ores and Platinum Group Metals, ore enrichment and exploitation of the extraction and enrichment by-products



Prof. A. Zouboulis

CHROMEupgrade TARGETS

- The research on and development of optimized processes for the exploration of chromite and platinum group elements.
- The enrichment of the ores.
- The separation the 2 main mineral phases of the enrichment processes by-product (olivine-serpentine) for their valorization in the frame of the circular economy.
- The research on the Critical Raw Materials availability of these ores.

METHODOLOGY – WORK PACKAGES

1. Literature review and collection information about deposits and production of chromite.
2. Sampling & Mapping.
3. Lab scale separation and enrichment tests.
4. Byproducts utilization.
5. Design, construction, operation and evaluation of a pilot enrichment device.



PROJECT PARTNERS



NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
SCHOOL OF MINING AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

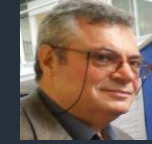
Laboratory Of Metallurgy

ELLIMET GREEK
MINING
COMPANY



Co-financed by Greece and the European Union

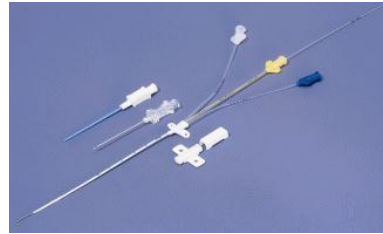
Investigating the recovery of noble metals from single-use medical technology specific waste streams



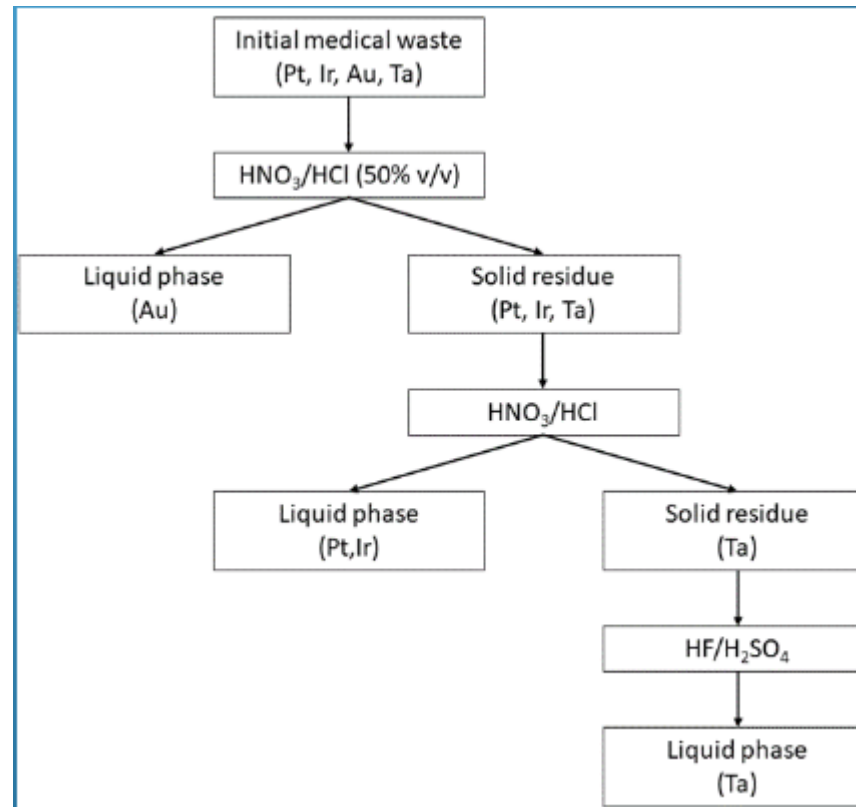
Prof. A. Zouboulis

RECAT TARGET

- The development of an integrated process for the safe medical waste disposal.
- The complete recovery of precious metals from discarded medical equipment and diagnostic systems.
- The medical waste risk management minimization with simultaneous significant financial benefit.



Flow-chart of the proposed selective recovery method of the noble metals



PROJECT PARTNERS



ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI



NORTH AEGEAN SLOPS s.a.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES



ASSIST HOMECARE



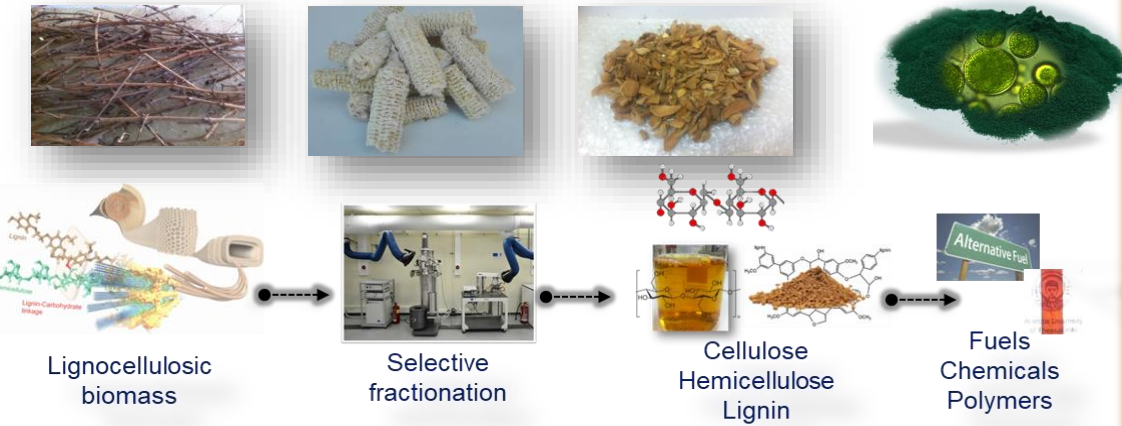
ΙΠΠΟΚΡΑΤΕΙΟ
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

Integrated biorefinery to platform chemicals, polymers and fuels



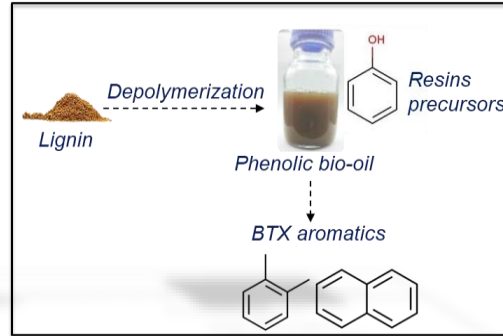
Prof. K. Triantafyllidis

Forestry/agricultural residues, food industry wastes and microalgae

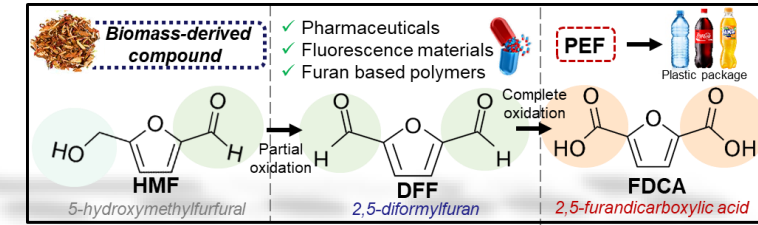


Platform chemicals

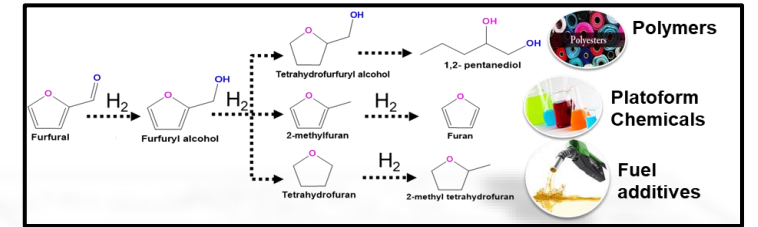
Phenol based chemicals



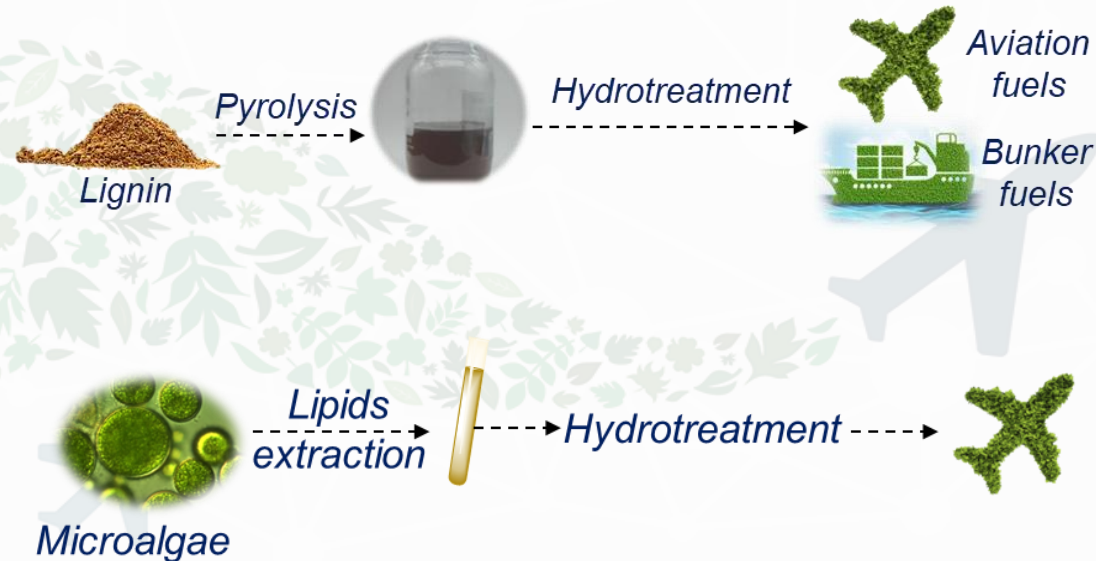
HMF based chemicals



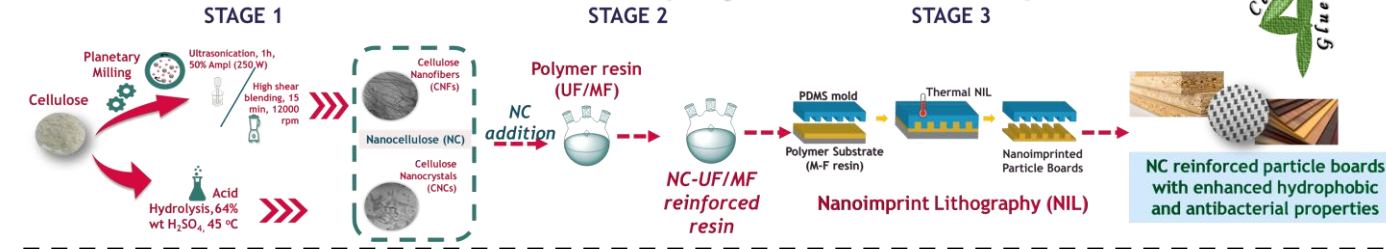
Furfural based chemicals



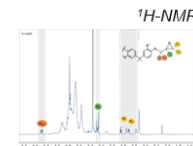
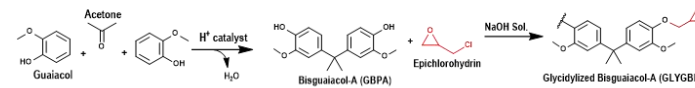
Biofuels



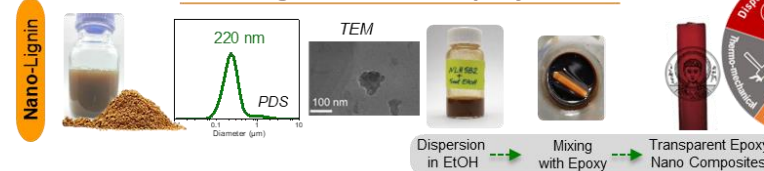
Biobased Monomers, polymers and Composites



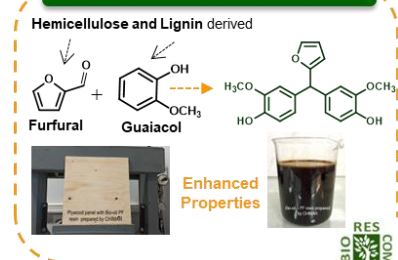
Phenolic Monomer Condensation and Functionalization



Nano-Lignin as filler in Epoxy Resins



100% Bio-based Phenolic Resins

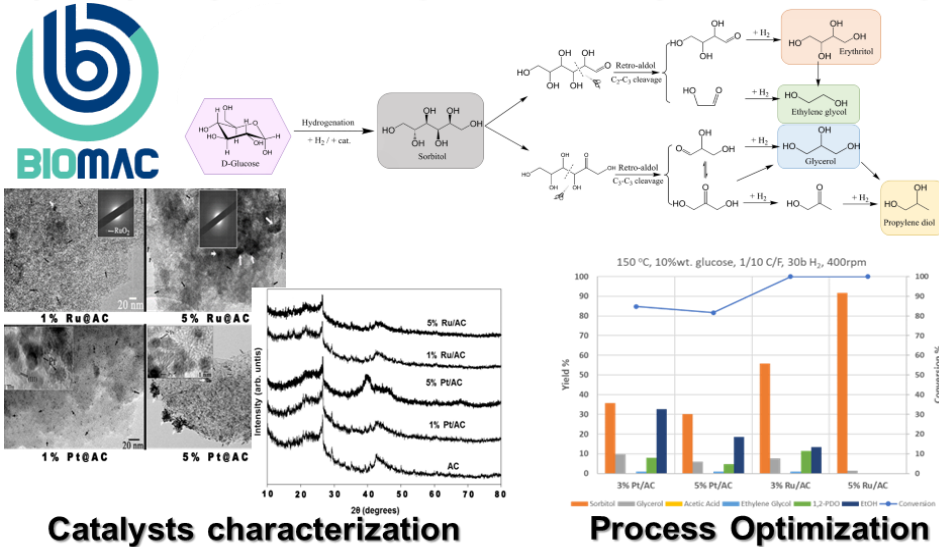


Heterogeneous catalysis

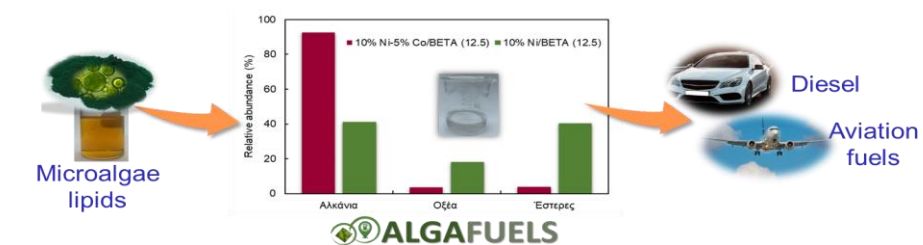
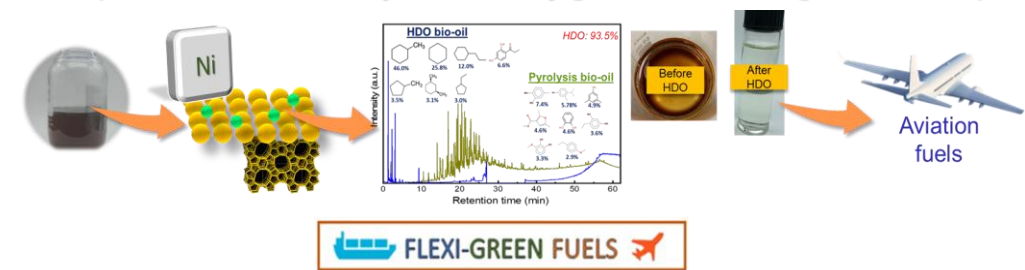


Prof. K. Triantafyllidis

Catalytic hydrogenation of glucose to sugar alcohols & glycols



Biofuels production via hydrodeoxygenation of lignin and lipids oil



PhotoCatalysis



Synthetic chemistry (biomass valorization)



Environmental remediation applications

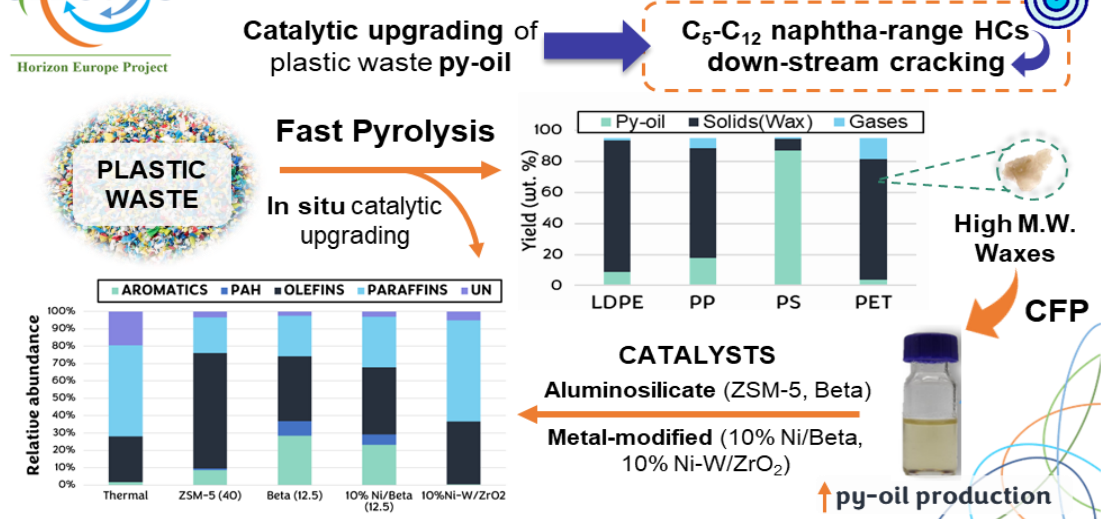
Our approach in photochemistry...

The possibly **LOWest** environmental footprint

- avoid precious/noble metals
- avoid additives/hazardous chemicals
- ambient conditions (low energy)
- simple & low-cost setups
- solar light utilization



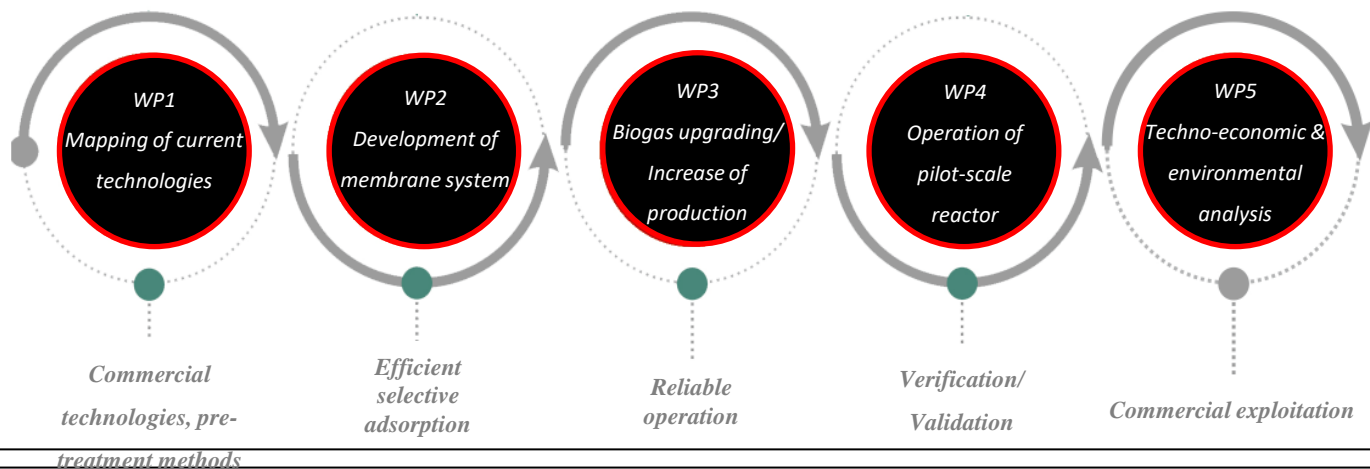
Plastic waste chemical recycling (Pyrolysis)



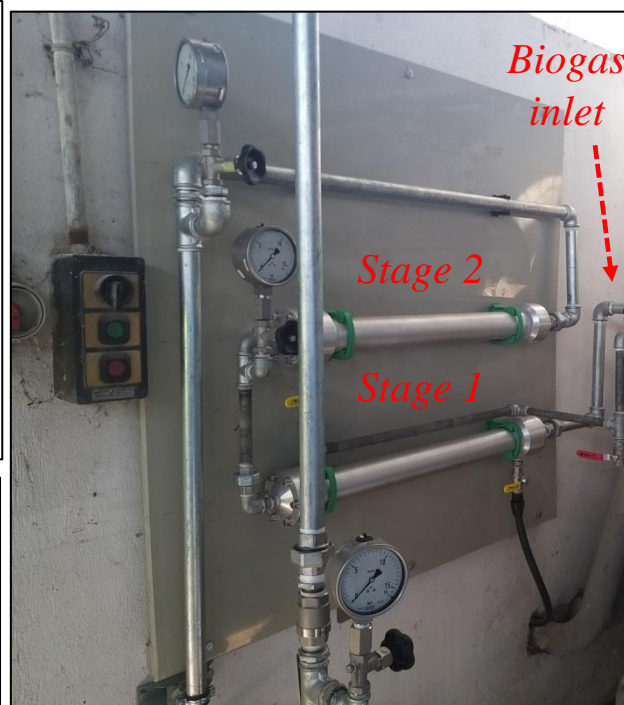
PROJECT TARGETS

- The development of a **novel membrane technology** for the purification and upgrading of biogas
- The **production of biomethane** as a natural gas substitute for the production of thermal & electrical energy or transport fuel
- The application of an intelligent method for the pre-treatment of the reactor feed substrate **by recycling & utilizing the produced CO₂** for the hydrolysis of complex organic compounds

METHODOLOGY – WORK PACKAGES



TWO-STAGE MEMBRANE SYSTEM



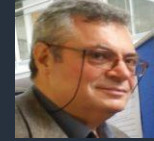
PROJECT PARTNERS



Co-financed by Greece and the European Union



CO₂ capture and utilization (microbial methanation)



Prof. A. Zouboulis

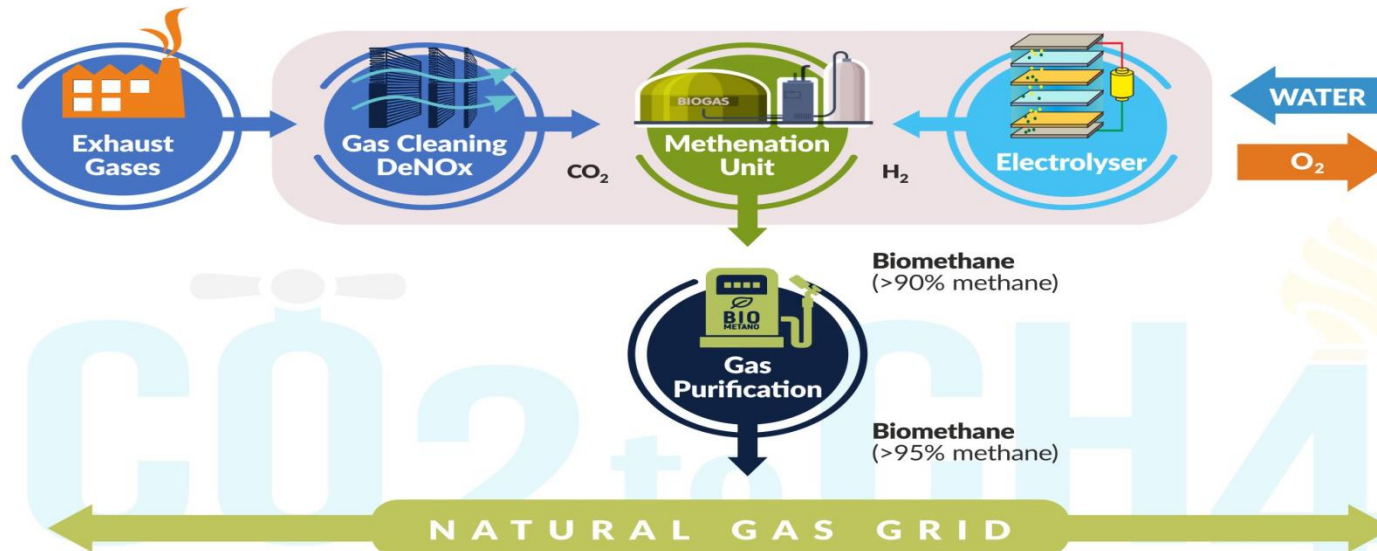


Demonstration of a mobile unit for hybrid energy storage based on CO₂ capture and renewable energy sources



With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union
LIFE20 CCM/GR/001642

LIFE CO₂toCH₄ Mobile Unit for Hybrid Energy Storage



THE OBJECTIVES

- # 01 **Efficient energy storage and CO₂ capture & utilisation**
By constructing, testing and operating (TRL6) a smart mobile unit for hybrid energy storage able to be installed in remote energy systems that commonly have low capacity.
- # 02 **Maximise efficiency**
By developing technically advanced systems and control architectures based on microbial resource management.
- # 03 **Process Sustainability**
By demonstrating system evaluation and assessment of environmental, economic and social impacts
- # 04 **Market exploitation**
By identifying any safety, environmental, regulatory, or resource (economic) constraints that may affect its penetration into the market. / By assessing the viability, cost and benefits of the proposed system.
- # 05 **Replication, Transferability**
By defining business requirements and critical success factors that must be met.
- # 06 **Promote public awareness on climate change mitigation & circular economy concepts.**
By fostering employment growth and increasing capacity building in relevant technologies for increased competitiveness. / By contributing to the implementation of the EU policy and legislation.

Coordinating Beneficiary:



NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (NTUA)



ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

PARTNERS



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA



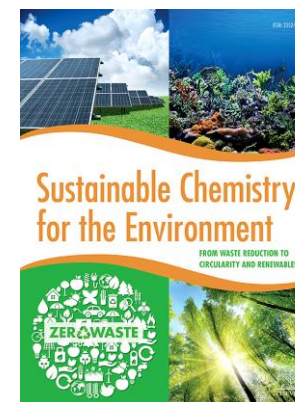
Dissemination, communication and outreach

- Advanced Study Institute: "Innovations in Advanced Flotation Technology", Kallithea, Chalkidiki (Greece), 12-25 May 1991 (Chairs K. Matis & P. Mavros)
- Biennial Meeting & General Assembly of the European Low Gravity Research Association, Santorini, Greece, September 21 – 23, 2005 (Chair Th. Karapantsios).
- 17th International Conference on Chemistry and Environment, Division of Chemistry and Environment, Organization AGC/EuChemS, 16-20/9/2019, Chair: I. Katsoyiannis
- 5th EuChemS Conference on Green and Sustainable Chemistry (5th EuGSC), Organization AGC/EuChemS, 26-29/9/2021, Chair: K. Triantafyllidis
- 9th IUPAC International Conference on Green Chemistry", Athens, Organization AGC/EuChemS, 5-9 Sept. 2022, Chair: K. Triantafyllidis
- Working meeting of the "LIFE CO₂toCH₄" Research Project (30/03/2023) at ELGO DIMITRA with the participation of members of the laboratory.
- Parabolic Flights of the European Space Agency, May 2009 (from left to right: Prof. Th. Karapantsios, Dr. S. Evgenidis, Dr. K. Zacharias).



Recognitions

- 2023: Speech at the United Nations Conference on Water, which took place in New York, at the UN headquarters March 22-24, 2023, by Assoc. Prof. I Katsogiannis
- 2023: Members of the LCET within 2% of the world's leading scientists (and in the first places from the point of view of AUTH), according to the ranking of Stanford University (USA)
- 2023: Editor-in-Chief of the international journal "Sustainable Chemistry for the Environment", Gold open access, Elsevier (K. Triantafyllidis)
- 2022: President of the Association of Greek Chemists (I. Katsoyiannis)
- 2022: Presentation of Prof. Katsoyiannis at the Zero Pollution Platform Meeting of the European Commission in Brussels, 15 December 2022 (I. Katsoyiannis)
- 2021: President of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Academy of Industrial Property (I. Katsoyiannis)
- 2020: Representative of the Association of Greek Chemists to the Division of Green and Sustainable Chemistry, European Chemical Society (DGSC/EuChemS) (K. Triantafyllidis)
- 2019: Election to the board of directors of the European Union of Chemists (for the first time a Greek chemist participates in this governing body) (I. Katsoyiannis)
- 2019: 1st "Innovative Technology Award" and "Business Seeds Award" of the National Bank of Greece for the "Medical device from space for the diagnosis of Coronary Artery Disease" among 204 entries, in the context of the "11th International University Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition" 2018-Ennovation 2018" (Prof. Karapantsios group, S. Evgenidis)
- 2018: Award "Excellence in Natural Science" by the Rector of Aristotle University (A. Zouboulis)



Future & Outlook

