

CYanoTech Open Day Event at Cyprus University of Technology Showcases a Sustainable Approach in Addressing Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms

Limassol, 14/02/2024

On Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, CYanoTech had an Open Day Event at the premises of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT). The event aimed to divulge the outcomes of the past two years that the project has been running on a pioneering approach dedicated to tackling the environmental and economic impact of cyanobacteria harmful blooms (cyano-HABs) while prioritizing food safety.

Cyano-HABs have emerged as a pressing global concern, posing significant threats to aquatic ecosystems, human health, and economic sectors reliant on freshwater resources. In response to this challenge, the CYANOTECH project was conceived with the objective of developing and validating an innovative and holistic system for mitigating cyano-HABs that can be adapted into current infrastructures. This collaborative effort among three European universities combines the collective knowledge and resources of experts across multiple disciplines (chemists, agricultural engineers, and environmental scientists) to tackle the complex challenges posed by cyano-HABs. By combining cutting-edge research, technological innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the project aims to develop holistic and sustainable solutions for mitigating the impact of toxic cyanobacteria.

The Open Day Event gave the opportunity to the researchers, students, general public and environmental authorities to learn about the key findings and advancements achieved through the project. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with experts and gain insights into the multifaceted approach employed to address the complex issues associated with cyano-HABs.

Led by the Water Treatment Laboratory-AQUA under the supervision of Dr. Maria G. Antoniou, this ambitious project brings together expertise from diverse fields to develop innovative solutions. The consortium comprises leading researchers and institutions, including the Hydro-Aromatic Plants group of CUT, headed by Dr. Nikolaos Tzortzakis, renowned for their expertise in hydroponic studies. Additionally, the project benefits from the involvement of the Ionian University in Greece, represented by Dr. Ioannis Fotidis, who specializes in anaerobic digestion and product valorization. Finally, contributing to the analysis of cyanotoxins is the University of Gdansk in Poland, led by Prof. Hanna Mazur-Marzec who has years of experience in advanced analytical techniques.

"We are very excited to share the outcomes of CYanoTech with the community" said Dr. Maria G. Antoniou, the co-ordinator of the project. "This event marks a significant milestone in our efforts to develop sustainable solutions for managing cyano-HABs and safeguarding water resources and food safety."

The involvement of esteemed institutions from Cyprus, Greece, and Poland underscores the global significance of this initiative. Together, these partners are committed to advancing scientific knowledge and developing practical solutions that will benefit communities worldwide.

The CYanoTech project is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Cyprus through the Research and Innovation Foundation (EXCELLENCE/0421/0212).

For inquiries or further information about the CYanoTech project, please contact Dr. Maria G. Antoniou at maria.antoniou@cut.ac.cy or visit our website <https://cyanotechproject.wordpress.com> and the [#cyanotech_project](#) in LinkedIn.

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Picture 1: Consortium of CYanoTech. (left to right: Mr. Giannis Neofytou (CUT), Dr. Nikolaos Tzotzakis (CUT), Dr. Antonios Chrysargyris (CUT), Dr. Maria G. Antoniou (CUT), Mr. Robert Konkel (UG), Mrs. Nikoletta Tsiarta (CUT), Mr. Andreas Hadjicosti (CUT), and Mrs. Efthymia Chatziathanasiou (CUT). Note: Dr. Ioannis Fotidis (IU) joined remotely.



Picture 2: The Dean of the Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences and Environmental Management, Dr. George Botsaris, gave the opening speech on the importance of the CYANOTECH project on showcasing the work that is currently conducted at the faculty as both departments of the faculty are project partners.



Picture 3: Dr. Maria G. Antoniou (Director of the Water Treatment Laboratory-AQUA) gave an overview on the research and dissemination activities that took place the past two years.



Picture 4: Mrs. Nikoletta I. Tsiarta, research associate at the Water Treatment Laboratory-AQUA of CUT, presenting the results on the treatment of cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins with physicochemical treatments.



Picture 5: Dr. Ioannis Fotidis, Ionian University, presenting remotely its group's outcomes on the anaerobic co-digestion on aquatic biomass with livestock waste.



Picture 6: Mr. Giannis Neofytou, researcher from the Hydro-Aromatic group of CUT, presenting the results from the agronomic evaluation.



Picture 7: Mr. Robert Konkel of the University of Gdansk presenting the obtained results on the analysis of cyanotoxins from aqueous and plant tissue samples.



Picture 8: Snapshots from the audience participation to the Open Day Event of CYanoTech.