

Welcome

Good morning everybody and thanks for joining this meeting despite the “last-minute-notice” caused mostly by the covid-19 fast evolving situation. Despite these difficulties and the resulting uncertainty for participation, we were able to secure an agenda with key speakers that I would also like to thank for their efforts and availability.

In collaboration with the Nuclear Physics Laboratory of ATh, and in particular with Aleksandra Ioannidou, vice-president of the Physics Department, we start today with this first meeting, And we certainly wish to have a more extended one, sometime in the near future, ideally in person and, lets wish, with no corona restrictions.

SLIDE AIMS as in INDICO

The aim of this first short meeting, in the format of a regular informal scientific exchange, is:

(1) to inform the scientific community in Greece, starting in Thessaloniki about:

- (a) the status and recent progress in cancer therapy using ions, further potential and opportunities of this method, as well as plans for future developments.

Then we wish to present

- (b) the proposal for an “A Facility for Tumor Therapy and Biomedical Research in South East Europe” pursued by the “South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies” and related possibilities for scientific research and patient treatment.

Such a Facility will require cooperation of a large multi-disciplinary scientific community.

Therefore, our aim is also

(2) to establish contact with the broader scientific and medical community in Greece, including the Greek scientific communities of diaspora, in order to discuss current activities, interests and future plans related to this topic.

There are ongoing efforts to identify and integrate such communities from South East Europe. Our meeting today has also this goal. These disciplines span from (a) medicine and medical physics, (b) nuclear, radiation, accelerator, detector physics, to (c) engineering, informatics, industrial research and material science disciplines.

SLIDE PHOTOS

At this point I should answer the question: “why in Thessaloniki” and I should mention that myself, I am a graduate of the University of Thessaloniki starting my scientific career at the Nuclear Physics Laboratory. Presenting this project at a seminar at the university, invited by my old Prof. Tasos Liolios, attracted some attention, with end result an ongoing collaboration.

Also, my old professors and colleagues from the university, some of them working now at the Papageorgiou hospital, brought me in contact with their community. At the same time, we established contacts with Technopolis, a HI-TECH park with an ongoing collaboration agreement with CERN.

These communities have shown great interest for more details on the project, and this has triggered this first “get-to-know-each-other” meeting, with the aim to expand to a wider community in the future.

SLIDE: registration/maillists

For that, the maillist from the registrations via the indico page will be very helpful.

So, if you have not done so, and you are interested to receive further communications,

you could register through the link <https://indico.cern.ch/event/968289/>

or you can simply type your name and email via the chat window in zoom.

Also, to underline that immediately after the meeting the registrant list will no longer be visible, in accordance with Data Protection Policy rules.

SLIDE AGENDA PART1 PART2

So, in the agenda we start with an

- Introduction of the SEEIIST project, current status and plans by the chairperson of the SEEIIST project, Sanja Damjanovic, also a physicist at the Accelerator Department of GSI.

and then we have presentations from colleagues from:

- GSI, the heavy-ion research center where ion therapy was first applied in Europe as a pilot project, Christian Graeff, deputy of the Biophysics Department at GSI, will discuss first results of this pioneering experience in Europe, and future plans, prospects and opportunities for research and patient treatment.
- A representative of the SEEIIST Steering Committee, Mimoza Ristova from Uni Skopje, will present details on cancer statistics and registers, underlying the need for such an ion therapy facility in the area
- From CERN, the well-known particle physics research center, Maurizio Vretenar, group leader of the NIMMS medical accelerators project, will discuss experience with accelerators and their medical applications for cancer treatment focusing on opportunities and plans for a next generation ion facilities for research and cancer therapy.

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- Education and Outreach is also important: PTMC, is an educational outreach package, embedded in the International MasterClass project, where currently 55 countries participate. As a member of its Steering Committee, I will discuss its potential on raising awareness on related topics and career opportunities.
- TECHNOPOLIS: an important HI-TECH park in Thessaloniki, one of the biggest, if not the biggest in Greece, Its President, Tasos Tzikas, will discuss its projects focusing on recent developments and activities related to Informatics and Artificial Intelligence
- AUTH, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Its structure and community, will be presented by the deputy president of the Physics Department, Aleksandra Ioannidou, while results from a recent collaboration related to the subject will be presented by Masters student Aris Mamaras.
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- PAPAGEORGIYOU Hospital, a modern hospital in Thessaloniki Its President will discuss,

its infrastructure, clinics and equipment, as well as connections to the university, education and research communities.

- A representative of Kopfklinik, a comprehensive medical facility of the Heidelberg Uni Campus with direct connection to the Heidelberg Ion Therapy center, Doctor Simon Hoene will discuss current real-life experiences and applications of ion therapy for cancer treatment.
- Finally, in the last presentation, Greek Architect Dimitris Kaprinis, will flash first drafts of architectural plans and concepts of an entire complex evolving towards a CERN-like structure as well as considerations of a Green Facility to leave us with a nice visual impression of an ambitious challenging project that has a lot to offer not only in the area but the whole Europe also.

Here I should thank Emmanuel Tsesmelis, from CERN Directorate International Relations for accepting to summarize with some closing remarks and monitor the QuestionsAndAnswers session.

I should already mention that while this meeting is focusing on scientific exchange of information we are taking appropriate actions at the political front to define the formal participation of Greece in this project.

And I should ask participants to type any questions on the chat, to discuss them at the very end of the meeting, while many items will be addressed by the following presentations.

And with that I will pass the microphone to our colleague SD working also as a physicist at GSI and CERN, chair-person of SEEIIST, and at the same time, the last four years, minister of science of Montenegro, who is going to present the motivation and current status of the project, future plans and timelines, as well as the benefits for the whole South-East European area and beyond.