

NEWSLETTER

ADVANCING RESEARCH TOGETHER

RESEARCH MOBILITY: THE FIRST WAVE OF SECONDMENTS BEGINS!

The heart of our project relies on knowledge exchange, and we are thrilled to announce that the GuardAgents Secondment Program is officially underway! Researchers are crossing borders to collaborate, share expertise, and advance our shared mission for a greener and well-protected agricultural future.

KICKSTARTING INNOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

The Department of Pharmacy at the University of Patras (Greece) recently hosted Mr. Hilmi Eriklioğlu and Mr. Barış Ege Gülenç from the Middle East Technical University (METU, Turkey).

During the first phase of their secondment, they received intensive training in structure-based nanobody design and evaluation activities, specifically targeting the coat protein of the *Cucumber Mosaic Virus*. Their hard work yielded incredible initial results:

- **Five promising nanobody candidates** were successfully selected based on structural modeling.
- Expression conditions for **three 14 kDa nanobody** were successfully fine-tuned and further optimization of the proteins' yields are underway to achieve efficient nanobody production.



GLOBAL MOBILITY ACROSS THE CONSORTIUM

The momentum continues across Europe with more researchers embarking on training placements:

- PhD candidate, Nikola Djordjevic from Agrounik (Serbia) kicked off his secondment at the end of April, joining the UPAT Department of Pharmacy to start his collaborative research.



WHAT'S NEXT: SUMMER 2026 MOBILITY PIPELINE

The upcoming summer months will see an even busier exchange schedule:

- New researchers from Agrounik (Serbia) and METU (Turkey – Miyase Mutlu, Zeynep Toksoy and Bengisu Korkmaz) will arrive in July at the UPAT's Department of Pharmacy (Greece).
- Concurrently, team members from the UPAT's Department of Sustainable Agriculture are preparing to travel to METU (Turkey) in mid-July for their specialised training.

- COLLABORATIVE GROWTH -

These exchanges are not just about **transferring knowledge**; they are about **building lifelong scientific bonds** that will sustain the impact of the GuardAgents project long into the future.

PROJECT PROGRESS

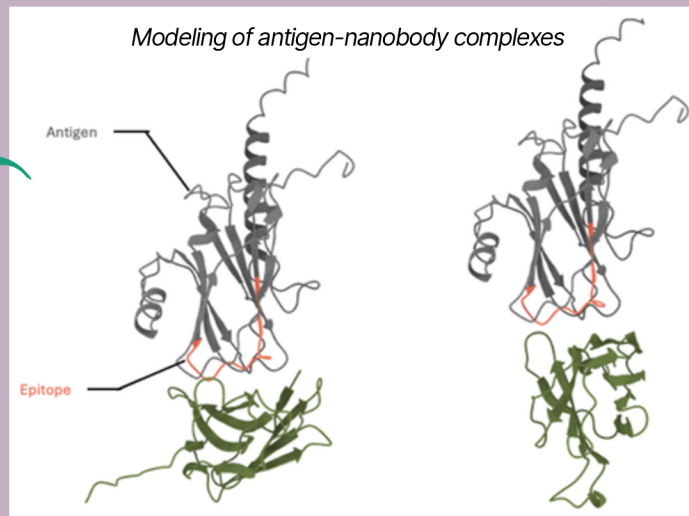


GUARDAGENTS SPRINGING INTO ACTION!

We are excited to share that the core tasks of the GuardAgents project are officially underway, marking significant strides in both the laboratory and the field.

Our team is carrying out several key activities, which include the design, *in vitro* production, and biophysical and analytical characterization of our custom nanobodies.

In parallel, the first plans for the experimental trials have begun to introduce these nanobodies into plants for targeted disease control, alongside the initial implementation of molecular farming techniques.



COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT ALIGNMENT

To ensure our technology is both safe and impactful, we are moving forward on all fronts:

- **Sustainability & Impact:** The environmental and socio-economic assessment activities are progressing with the establishment of the methodological framework for the evaluation of the GuardAgents systems. Key activities include defining assessment scenarios, functional unit and system boundaries, mapping production pathways, and developing data collection workflows to support future sustainability analyses.
- **Exploitation Strategy:** We are actively designing our exploitation roadmap to ensure the effective spread and maximisation of the project's outputs and results—both during the project's lifetime and well after its completion.



PUBLICATIONS & OUTCOMES



GUARDAGENTS AT AGROTICA 2026!

On 12-15 March, 2026, the **GuardAgents team** was spotted at Agrotica 2026 in Thessaloniki, getting the word out about our mission to produce next-generation nanobodies for a greener, more sustainable agriculture! At the International Exhibition and Conference Center, GuardAgents showcased our project's vision, connected with industry leaders, and engaged with the people who are actively writing the future of agriculture.

Looking Ahead: The enthusiastic feedback we received at Agrotica reinforces the vital need for eco-friendly crop protection solutions. We are more motivated than ever to push the boundaries of agricultural next-generation biopesticides — the GuardAgents nanobodies.



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