

Press Release

ARMADILLO Project Kicks Off: Pioneering GHB Detection for Law Enforcement

The **ARMADILLO** Project has officially launched with a successful kick-off meeting held on October 3-4, 2024, at the premises of the National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos" in Athens, Greece. This EU-funded initiative is set to revolutionize forensic science by developing innovative, portable tools for rapid and reliable GHB detection, empowering Law Enforcement Authorities (LEAs) and forensic institutes across Europe.

Over two dynamic days, project partners, leading scientists, forensic experts, and security practitioners convened to shape the strategic roadmap of ARMADILLO. Discussions focused on advancing forensic capabilities, leveraging cutting-edge optical spectroscopy and electrochemical detection technologies, and ensuring court-proof evidence collection to combat drug-facilitated crimes effectively.

Funded under Horizon Europe, ARMADILLO is a pioneering initiative that integrates AI-powered detection, data fusion mechanisms, and risk assessment strategies to provide a holistic solution for tackling the challenges of GHB detection. The project will deliver:

- Portable readers for in-situ GHB detection in urine, saliva, and beverages
- AI-enhanced forensic analysis for rapid and precise identification
- A secure forensic data-sharing framework ensuring interoperability among EU forensic institutes
- Preventive risk assessment tools to mitigate drug-facilitated crimes





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Led by Demokritos, ARMADILLO brings together 17 partners from research institutions, forensic laboratories, legal experts, and law enforcement agencies across Europe, all dedicated to enhancing forensic capabilities and public safety. The kick-off event set the stage for groundbreaking collaboration, with stakeholders aligning on key priorities, pilot deployments, and the implementation of field-deployable forensic detection kits. The insights and expertise shared during the discussions marked a pivotal step toward transforming forensic investigations and empowering law enforcement agencies with next-generation forensic tools.

With the project now in motion, the ARMADILLO consortium will embark on research, development, and validation activities, ensuring the deployment of highly accurate, easy-to-use, and legally admissible forensic tools. The upcoming phases will include pilot demonstrations across Poland, Spain, and Finland, where law enforcement authorities will assess the effectiveness of ARMADILLO's solutions in real-world conditions.



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