

## **Welcome by Prof. H. Mavromichalaki**

Dear colleagues, Dear friends,  
Dear students,

Three years after our last hybrid meeting ‘NMDB@ATHENS’ in 2022, I would like to welcome you once again in Athens for the NMDB Meeting 2025: Cosmic Ray Studies with Neutron Detectors. The Athens Cosmic Ray Group and I decided with great pleasure to host a new in-person NMDB Meeting this year. This meeting signifies a successful and long-lasting collaboration between scientists and research groups from around the world, whose work revolves around neutron monitor technology.

The initiative was partially because the year 2024 proved to be a year of extreme, interesting and sometimes rather peculiar geophysical events that needed to be discussed further by the scientific community.

However, another significant reason is weighed up in our decision. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Athens Neutron Monitor’s continuous operation and it is with great joy that we can celebrate this milestone year within the NMDB community.

It is a great honor for our Institution to host such a meeting and participate in scientific projects and interuniversity collaborations, which contribute to the development and promotion of new technologies. The experience of the established scientists along with the fresh ideas of new researchers could contribute greatly to promoting the knowledge in this field and guarantee the continuity of the scientific research.

Concerning the meeting, the topics that will be addressed include Cosmic Rays in the Heliosphere, Cosmic Rays and Space Weather effects, Cosmic Ray Detection Instrumentation and Databases and Catalogues. A separate session related to the Intense Events of 2024 was introduced, due to the special nature of the events that took place in 2024. This meeting is attended by 71 participants in total coming from 24 different countries and 34 Universities and Institutes from around the world. More than 40 contributions (oral and e-posters) will be presented.

I would also like to take this opportunity and welcome some new members of our community. Our colleague Prof. Veronica Bindi from the Department of Physics & Astronomy of the University of Hawaii in Manoa and Principal Investigator of the newly founded neutron monitors in Hawaii. I would also like to welcome in Athens for the first time the Cosmic Ray Groups from Thailand and Hungary.

Hopefully we will have a successful meeting, and the next three days will be scientifically productive. Thank you all very much not only for accepting our invitation and for being here today but also for your constant and reliable presence all these years of our common effort.