



# **Interregional meeting on NUTEC Plastics Marine Monitoring Network: A Common Platform for Global Knowledge**

**Hosted by**

The International Atomic Energy Agency  
IAEA Headquarters  
Vienna, Austria

**14 to 17 July 2026**

**Ref. No.: ME-INT7021-2506108**

## **Information Sheet**

## Purpose

The purposes of the event are:

- Launch the NUTEC Global Marine Monitoring Network, formally presenting its operational framework;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange among participating laboratories and stakeholders on governance, data-sharing, transparency and interoperability;
- Analyse functionalities and provide feedback on the initial user experiences;
- Discuss future developments of the NUTEC Global Marine Monitoring Network;
- Review two years of progress and challenges under Project INT7021 and approve the project work plan for 2026-2027.

## Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

## Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **14 April 2026** will not be considered.

## Project Background

Marine plastic pollution is a critical global challenge, with micro- and nano-plastics impacting marine ecosystems and human health. The IAEA's **NUTEC Plastics initiative** promotes the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques to enhance understanding of the sources, distribution, transport, and impacts of plastics in the marine environment.

Under this initiative, **Project INT7021** was launched in July 2024 to establish a global network of laboratories capable of monitoring microplastic abundance and trends using harmonized protocols.

Key achievements include:

- Expert consultations on data standards and IT architecture (October 2024).
- Development of an integrated global platform for data collection, analysis, and reporting (February-August 2025).
- Pilot testing with 27 laboratories worldwide (September-October 2025)
- Presentation of results at the **NUTEC High-Level Forum** (Philippines, November 2025).

Before the launch the NUTEC Global Marine Monitoring Network, it is envisaged that the project will define user roles in 60 Member States and populate database with counterpart's data, which will allow for enhanced knowledge exchange, data sharing, and collaborative research.

## Scope and Nature

1. The meeting will consist of plenary and group sessions divided in three segments:

1. Programmatic segment, which will center on the launch of NUTEC Global Marine Monitoring Network, with presentation of the functionalities of the platform and opportunities for data sharing and collaborative research.

2. Sharing experiences segment, featuring successful examples in microplastics monitoring, networking and use of harmonized protocols, highlighting achievements under the NUTEC Programme.

3. Project coordination segment, dedicated to discussions on project implementation, prioritization of activities, opportunities for integrated cooperation, communication, and stakeholder engagement.

## Participation

This event is open to all participating Member States of project INT7021 "Contributing to the Global Monitoring of Marine Plastic Pollution under the IAEA Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) Initiative".

Each country is invited to **nominate one (1) participant** according to the profile below.

## Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The nominated participant should be **the main counterpart of the project** as appointed in the official adhesion of the country.

## Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
  - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
  - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
  - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2506108) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

**NOTE:** Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

**NOTE:** A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

## Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

## **Disclaimer of Liability**

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

## **Note for female participants**

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

## **IAEA Contacts**

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