

February 2nd, 2024

SMARTHANDLE: Project hosts its 1st General Assembly **Meeting in Patras**



The SMARTHANDLE project, a **Horizon Europe-funded initiative** focused on enabling intelligent, reconfigurable robotic handling systems for the European manufacturing sector, held its first General Assembly meeting on 23-24 January 2024 in Patras, Greece.

The meeting was hosted by LMS (Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation) at the University of Patras.

This milestone gathering brought together the consortium partners to evaluate progress, share insights from technical work packages, and collaboratively align on next steps as the project entered its second year.

A two-day collaboration in action

The meeting opened with a warm welcome by LMS and an update from the project coordinator, TECNALIA, followed by a series of presentations on ongoing and upcoming activities across the project's technical work packages:

- WP1 Project Management
- WP2 Requirements & Specification Analysis (TF-CC)
- WP7 Communication, Dissemination & Exploitation (Netcompany-INTRASOFT)
- WP3 Intelligent Agents & Mechatronic Tools (UPC)

A highlight of the first day was the guided tour of the LMS Labs, offering a hands-on look at the project's research environment and real-world use case potential.

The second day focused on:

- WP4 Planning & Monitoring (LMS)
- WP5 AI-Based Performance Optimisation (TECNALIA)



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- WP6 Validation & (DEMCON), Demonstration including in-depth discussion on pilot implementations
- consortium-wide workshop addressing pilot dependencies, system architecture, and data formats. The meeting closed with remarks from TECNALIA, summarizing achievements and emphasizing the shared vision moving forward.

Looking ahead

With Use Cases ranging from delicate contact lens handling to aluminium profile packaging and EV battery disassembly, SMARTHANDLE continues to push boundaries in adaptive, safe, and efficient automation. The Patras meeting solidified the consortium's collaborative spirit and commitment to delivering impactful, human-centered innovation for Europe's manufacturing future.

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