

PROJECT

POLREC



D3.9 – Face to Face meetings - 2





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1. POLREC Consortium Partners

Table 1 – List of partners

POL (FR)	Polymeris POLREC Lead Partner
CEN (PT)	Centro Tecnológico da Indústria de Moldes, Ferramentas Especiais e Plásticos POLREC Partner
MAV (ES)	Clúster de Materials Avançats de Catalunya POLREC Partner
PCD (DK)	Plast Center Danmark POLREC Partner
WFG (DE)	Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH POLREC Partner

2. Introduction

This document has been written for the Deliverable 3.9 POLREC project “Supporting a green and resilient Europe through POLymer RECycling” funded by the European Commission Joint Cluster initiatives for Europe’s recovery (Euroclusters) under the Single Market Programme (SMP COSME) grant agreement number 101074434.

The report is intended to be a brief overview of the activities carried out so far in the area of personal talks with SMEs in relation to POLREC and its contents.

Since the report will be publicly available, we have decided to anonymize the reports on the individually conducted talks. We of course have the companies and the names of the persons we have talked to.

The main aim of the conversations was to establish contacts with interested and potentially interesting companies and recyclers. The range of topics POLREC deals with was presented and the planned activities outlined. Likewise, possible points of contact in the further course of the project.





3. The POLREC Project

3.1. Objectives and Results

The objective of the POLREC project is to enhance the polymer industry's capacity to reduce the environmental impact of its products while increasing the European strategic autonomy in its supply of raw materials for polymer production.

To achieve those objectives, POLREC will help the industry to switch practices from polymer waste landfilling and burning towards polymer recycling (mechanical or chemical) into raw materials (monomer polymer and additives).

The consortium partners will support SMEs in the appropriation of polymer recycling methods through the implementation of a support scheme to third parties and by building on their network to facilitate the identification of common interests, recycling technologies and recyclers that can facilitate this process.

The POLREC project will build a pan-European cross-sectoral network of SMEs (Eurocluster) whose main activities will be to support SMEs in the following:

- ✓ Help SMEs in finding viable economic models that could foster the adoption of polymer recycling,
- ✓ Establishing a partnership to exchange polymer material through recycling,
- ✓ Accessing innovations in mechanical and chemical recycling,
- ✓ Accessing digital innovations for recycled material quality monitoring and tracking
- ✓ Finding innovative and viable business models based on recycled polymers,
- ✓ Identify the best practices,
- ✓ Analyse information to identify the waste fractions that could be recycled to lead to material exchange within and across value chains.

The POLREC partner consortium aims to support SMEs in the adoption of polymer recycling methods through the implementation of the following actions:

- ✓ Establishing a pan-European network of SMEs involved in polymer recycling and promoting value chain linkages between SMEs willing to recycle their plastic waste and SMEs willing to source recycled material and produce raw materials from recycled polymers.
- ✓ Promote innovative solutions for mechanical and chemical recycling of plastic waste and digital monitoring of recycling processes.
- ✓ Encourage the adoption of innovative and viable business models by SMEs that promote the use of recycled materials.
- ✓ Train the workforce in polymer recycling technologies and digital solutions for quality monitoring and traceability of recycled material.





4. Face-to-face-meetings

4.1. Overview

To achieve the above-mentioned goals, the consortium has set up various Work Packages. The report of the face-to-face-meetings (D3.9) is part of Work Package 3. This Work Package includes the following components and objectives:

- a) Promote collaboration between clusters (C2C).
- b) Promote collaboration from SME to SME (B2B).
- c) Identify materials that are recycled and exchanged between value chains.

The face-to-face meetings are an important component in the communication of the project. They enable the project partners to approach individual potentially interesting SMEs and recyclers in a targeted manner. Making the project known with its advantages for the SMEs in bilateral talks will extend over the entire project duration. During the project, the partners will submit 3 reports on the face-to-face meetings that have taken place. This is the second in the series.

The conversations reported on in this deliverable have been conducted by each project partner in the field with their contacts. For this reason, each conversation per project partner will be discussed individually in the following subsections, and the discussions and activities that took place will each be listed separately in alphabetical order in this subsection.

5. Face-to-face-meetings per partner

5.1. CENTIMFE

CENTIMFE used its biannual event Moulds Event 2023 (<https://www.mouldsevent.com/>) to present the POLREC project and disseminate it in the B2B Moulds 2023 bilateral meeting (<https://mouldsevent.com/2023/media/program-be.pdf>). In this scope we add the opportunity to present the project and its activities to other entities. The meetings held in this scope were with:

- Susana Remotti – PROPLAST Cluster, Italy
- Cristina Monge – AVEP Cluster, Spain
- Vanessa Vitorino - Void Software, S.A. SME, Portugal
- Mihail Fontul - Iber-Oleff big company, Portugal
- Olli Hatakka - Karelia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Torsten Urban - KIMW, Kunststoff - Institut Luedenscheid, Germany





5.2. PCD/DMN

PCD/DMN had face-to-face meetings with companies, some of them already use recycled materials in their products. Some of them were interested in the open calls to gain insights in the opportunity of the open calls.

In this context a meeting was arranged with Continium a company recycling blades from wind windmills. A meeting was held with the company Nobse a startup planning to manufacture composite sheets made of used football fields.

Trebo a company dealing with mechanical recycling showed an interest in a digitalization voucher, but they did not want to work with a service provider.

The start-up Circular Plastic Systems came to visit PCD/DMN. They showed an interest in a voucher for chemical recycling of plastics. They found that the size/amount of the voucher was too small, so they ended up not applying.

Redivius Polymers and Polymer One met online with PCD/DMN. They had a great joint project planned on mechanical recycling of PA from railroads, but they missed the deadline.

Comfil wanted to work with Redivius, but they did not have the time. PCD/DMN tried to set up a joint meeting, but they could not find the time to apply.

Plastix and a supplier of bigbags showed an interest in a mechanical recycling voucher, but did not apply – due to lack of time.

Découvertes and Battenfeld – washing of RPET. Were connected after end of open calls.

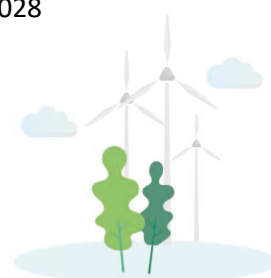
IMDEX is a mechanical recycler and they collaborate with A-Skrot and Østrup Autoophug. They work with End-of-Life Tires. The objective is to avoid incineration of the 45.000 tons of ELT waste generated in DK every year. A contribution to reduce CO2-emissions from the car industry and create a more circular and more environmentally friendly business model.

PCD/DMN had several face-to-face meetings with IMDEX in order to motivate them to send an application. They managed to do so.

AGON will collect used slings and the service provider Textile Change will process the slings via their 5-step solvent-based chemical recycling method.

The expected output is to verify that Textile Change can make recycled polyester based on used polyester slings and that the recycled material is fulfilling all quality parameters to be used for making new polyester slings. The quantities of used polyester slings are rapidly increasing. In 2028 Agon expect to have around 2,000 tonnes of used polyester slings annually.

PDC-Plast: Production of component in recycled plastics





One such product is golf discs, which are produced from TPU. This product is highly suitable for production in recycled plastics, as it can be produced in high quality with up to 30% recycled material. The main obstacle currently preventing the manufacturing of the product is adhesion of the plastics to the moulding tools. However, with the ideal surface coating, the demoulding problems that arise from adhesion of the material can be significantly reduced.

This solution will be explored through a collaboration with the service provider CemeCon, who will coat the molds with a physical vapor deposition.

Mälarplast – Maximizing sustainability by recycling bioplastics

The product in question is a phone case produced in bioplastics. The manufacturing of this product has shown to be challenging, as the fibers cause significant wear on the moulding tools. Moreover, the company wish to incorporate recycled PLA materials into the product.

In this project the prospective of solving these challenges by having our moulding tools coated with physical vapor deposition (PVD) coatings will be addressed.

The objective is to develop a solution for these combined challenges, based on specialized PVD-coatings.

In some of the face-to-face-meetings first thoughts of potential cooperation opportunities were made and further collaboration potentials were discussed.

Totally 25 meetings were held.

5.3. MAV

MAV members are divided into 5 working groups (WG) and they meet periodically. In this reporting period (July – end of Feb), financial opportunities of POLREC project were presented to them. In concrete, among 3 of them, Circular Economy WG, Lightweight Materials WG and Advanced Manufacturing WG, a high level of interest was attracted. After these encounters, MAV had between 8 and 10 face-to-face meetings with members of MAV to explain them the Open Calls of POLREC.

Also, among the network of MAV, several face-to-face meetings were programmed:

- MAV had a meeting with a Spanish mechanical polymer recycler to introduce them the project, to include them in the mapping of recyclers and check their potential service provider of the Innovation open calls.
- MAV had an online meeting with a Spanish mechanical plastic recycler to introduce them the project, to include them in the mapping of recyclers and check their potential service provider of the Innovation open calls.
- MAV had an online meeting EEN Catalonia to explain them the project and to get their support to make dissemination of the project.





- MAV had different meetings with companies during the Equiplast fair (Plastics and Rubbers) in Barcelona and explained the possibilities of the POLREC project.
- MAV had meetings with 2 clusters to explain them the project and to get their support to present the Open Calls to their companies.
- MAV had meetings with 2 organisations with their main focus is plastic industry to explain them the project and to get their support to present the Open Calls to their companies.

5.4. Polymeris

Polymeris participated to trade fairs and conferences to promote POLREC project and discuss about its activities and opportunities with the participants:

- Pollutec trade fair was organised from the 10th to the 13th of October. Polymeris participated on the 10th of October in an interclustering meeting gathering 14 European and international French speaking clusters, chambers of commerce and business support organisation (Rencontres francophones internationales) as well as SMEs members of those organisation. Polymeris presented POLREC project and the Innovation Open-Call to the audience. Following the POLREC General Assembly organised in Lyon on the 12th of October, Polymeris, CENTIMFE and Plast Center Denmark met on POLLUTEC trade fair 7 enterprises and partners to present them the Innovation Open Call and activities of the project: MTB recycling (French recycler), Pollystyvert (Canadian recycler), Piemonte development agency, Russo Filippo (Italian plastic transformer), ATIM cluster (Irish advanced manufacturing cluster), Total Plastic Solution (Irish SME) and Shabra (Irish recycler)
- Polymeris participated to Fakuma trade fair (17-21 October 2023) through the organisation of an exhibition booth with 10 of its companies' members. A networking event was organised with POLREC partners WFG and its members present at the trade fair. This mission to the trade was also the occasion to present POLREC opportunities to the French delegation of Polymeris' companies members through bilateral meetings and facilitate networking between Polymeris and WFG members.
- Polymeris participated to Ambition Europe, a dedicated event with conferences and exhibition on European projects and opportunities, organised by the Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes development Agency in Lyon on the 14 November 2024. During this event, Polymeris promoted POLREC project through flyers on its exhibition booth but also through a dedicated session organised during the lunch break to present to the visitors of the event the up-coming cascade-funding opportunities offered by the regional clusters. Polymeris presented POLREC project and the Internationalisation and Training up-coming opportunities. Around 3 enterprises met with Polymeris afterward to further discuss about the project.





Moreover, Polymeris organised face-to-face meetings with companies that were interested in applying to POLREC Innovation Open call to present the project and its funding opportunities:

- GBCC on the 01 September 2023
- Innoinside on the 04 September 2023
- Recyouest on the 28 September 2023
- Revival company on the 23 October 2023
- OSTIUM on the 24 October 2023
- Poly to Poly on the 25 October 2023

Polymeris also took part in Haute-Loire monthly local meeting organised by the cluster to inform the members located in a specific region about the clusters' activities and opportunities. Polymeris took this occasion to present POLREC project and its innovation Open Call during the monthly meeting on the 15 September 2023 (15 participants).

5.5. WFG

In this reporting period (July – end of Feb) WFG met with companies at the Fakuma Fair in Friedrichshafen from 17th to 21st October. A networking lunch was initiated by WFG and Polymeris on 18th October. The collaboration with EVOLUTE project through a ClusterXchange took place where member companies from the plastics industry could meet up with potential clients from the Automotive industry. In addition to that WFG had a joint stand with several companies. Following companies met: Cabamix, Inventivematl. Lda, Pernoud, TJ Moldes, SISE SAS, TJ Acos, ITJ Internacional Moldes, Sedem with local companies from WFG: Michel Tube Engineering GmbH, Druckflex-Kuchenbrod GmbH, Mühlbeyer Werkzeug- und Formbenbau GmbH, Xaloy Europe GmbH, Werner Wirth GmbH, DIETZ Solutions GmbH.

Furthermore WFG constantly approaches companies that might be potentially interested in the project in various ways.

- WFG continuously visits companies in the region and informs them about the POLREC project
- At various Networking events (e.g. barbecue event, networking breakfast ("Punkt 8 – auf den Punkt gebracht") the POLREC project is discussed
- Further discussions with professors from the Heilbronn University and the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University were being held to inform about POLREC opportunities
- At the ClusterXchange Hydrogen in Heilbronn POLREC project was introduced to the participants on 28th June 2023





1. Conclusion and further steps

The Face-to-Face Meetings during this reporting period, as well as other virtual discussions took place not only to disseminate the project, but also to inform companies about the FSTP calls. For the first published call a lot of applications were received, this emphasizes the importance and needs of those calls.

As written in the last report the FAKUMA fair took place in October 2023. This was a great opportunity for all project partners to inform about the project and get together at a lunch with invitations towards companies.

In the frame of the trade-fairs and other events, the Project partners will bring together relevant stakeholders (cluster managements, member companies, member RTOs and possibly other interested entities) and discuss POLREC specific topics.





PROJECT INFORMATION

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PROJECT CONSORTIUM



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POLREC



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