



**POLREC**



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### **POLREC: A European consortium to promote plastic waste recycling**

The European project POLREC "**Supporting a green and resilient Europe through POLYmer RECYcling**" funded by "Euroclusters", of which Polymeris is the coordinator, has started on September 1, 2022.

The objective of the project is double: 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 polymers waste landfilling and burning towards polymer recycling (mechanical or chemical) into raw materials (monomer polymer and additive)

According to a study published by the European Parliament, in 2018 about 70% of plastic waste generated in Europe was burned for energy recovery (43%) or landfilled (25%). Therefore, the POLREC project aims to support and encourage SMEs to adopt chemical and mechanical recycling processes of plastic waste and to use raw materials from recycled polymers with the ambition of increasing the use of raw materials from recycled polymers from 6% in 2018 to 15% in 2023 and 40% over the next 10 years.

Funded by the European Commission as part of the "Euroclusters" initiative, the project involves five European partners:

- Polymeris, competitiveness cluster for rubber, plastics and composites (France)
- CENTIMFE, Technological Center for the Mouldmaking, Special Tooling and Plastic Industries (Portugal)
- MAV, Advanced Materials Cluster of Catalonia (Spain)
- WFG, regional agency for the economic development of the Heilbronn region (Germany)
- PCD, facilitator of the Danish Materials Network

This consortium of partners will support SMEs in the appropriation of polymers recycling methods through the implementation of the following actions :

- Developing a pan-European network of SMEs involved in polymer recycling and foster value chain inter-linkage between SMEs looking to recycle their plastic waste and SMEs willing to source recycled material and produce raw materials from recycled polymers.



- Promote to SMEs innovative solutions for mechanical and chemical recycling of polymer waste and digital monitoring of the recycling processes.
- Encourage the adoption by SMEs of innovative and viable business models promoting the use of recycled material.
- Train the workforce on polymer recycling technologies and digital solutions for recycled material quality monitoring and traceability.

With a total budget of 1.28 million euros for 3 years, the project foresees the implementation of cascade-funding for companies through 8 different open calls aiming to support SMEs in :

- The development of mechanical & chemical recycling solutions for polymers as well as digital solutions for recycled material quality monitoring and traceability.
- The technical training of the workforces on polymer recycling methods and digital solutions
- The development of business & technological partnerships with other European SMEs and the securing of their raw material supply chains.

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This initiative supports projects that promote the implementation within industrial ecosystems of the new European industrial strategy.

The POLREC project partners will meet on September 29 and 30, 2022 in Brussels for the project's kick-off meeting.



## About the project partners :

- **Polymeris - coordinator of the POLREC project**

[Polymeris](#) is the French competitiveness cluster for rubber, plastics and composites. It relies on 15 years of expertise and experience in supporting companies, with an in-depth knowledge of the techniques and markets of tomorrow. It currently has more than 500 members, including 386 manufacturers. A reference in innovation for the plastics, rubber and composites sectors, the cluster works in France and internationally to promote a dynamic and innovative industry by relying on a network of public and private players at the regional, national and European levels.

- **Centro Tecnológico da Indústria de Moldes, Ferramentas Especiais e Plásticos (CENTIMFE)**

[CENTIMFE](#) is the Technological Center for the Mouldmaking, Special Tooling and Plastic Industries. As a non-profit organization, its main objective is to support the technological development of the moulding and plastics sectors in Portugal. Founded in 1991, it currently gather about 230 associates, including companies and public institutions. The main CENTIMFE's services are Development & Engineering, Industrialization & Production, Management of R&D+I projects, technology transfer and specialized training in order to reinforce industrial competitiveness to support the green and digital transition of its associates.

- **Clúster de Materials Avançats de Catalunya (MAV)**

The [Advanced Materials Cluster of Catalonia](#) (MAV) based in Barcelona (Spain) comprises an ecosystem of 70 members aiming to become the reference cluster on materials and their technologies based on polymers, metals, ceramics and composites applied to multiple sectors such as energy, mobility, health or construction. Created in 2015, its mission is to boost the competitiveness of Catalan industry through close collaboration between companies and research partners. The main objectives addressed by MAV are promoting business opportunities, providing a fertile environment for collaborative projects, bringing strategic and technological information, and innovating in materials and manufacturing processes for an industrial context.

- **Plast Center Danmark (PCD)**

[Plast Center Danmark](#), PCD is the facilitator of the Danish Materials Network. Established in 2003, its main mission is to serve as a knowledge and competence center for the plastics and polymer industry within Danish industry. Created in 2014, the network has 138 members. PCD addresses all companies that process, use or intend to use plastics as well as academic and public institutions related to the plastics and polymer field. Its main objectives are to provide knowledge about aluminium, polymers, steel and recycling of materials at specialist level, build bridges between industry and universities, organize matchmaking and networking events, support its members in their internationalisation strategy and provide project management, administration and application.

- **Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH (WFG)**

[Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH](#) is the regional agency for the economic development of the region of Heilbronn. It is an umbrella organization for three clusters: KunststoffDIALOG, MetallDIALOG and AutomotiveDIALOG. Most of its members come from the automotive industry as suppliers of technical parts. The main mission of WFG is to provide company support and strategic business development by offering services to its members focused on strategy development, cost and production efficiency, production quality, product development and access to new markets.