

FineFuture

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FINE FUTURE WEBSITE GOES LIVE

A NEW EU PROJECT EXPLORES INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND CONCEPTS FOR RECOVERING ULTRA FINE PARTICLES OF MULTIPLE RAW MATERIALS.

Froth flotation is arguably an essential mineral separation technique. By making use of differences in surface properties between minerals, valuable particles are concentrated in large tanks by attaching to bubbles, which form a froth phase that overflows as a mineral-rich concentrate. However, current flotation technologies do not work adequately for fine particles, below 20 µm in size. This is a severe challenge at present, limiting the exploitation of deposits and proper recycling of end of life products containing Critical Raw Materials (CRM).

The *FineFuture* project will advance the fundamental understanding of fine particle flotation phenomena, which will lead to the development of ground-breaking technological solutions delivering on two strategic developments:

1. Help unlock new CRM deposits, contributing to boosting the resource and energy efficiency of current operations where the fines are lost to tailings.
2. Enable valorisation through reprocessing of old tailings deposits and be technology-transferred to other raw material particle-based processes within the circular economy, thus leading the way in the sustainable use of resources.

For the EU industry, the ability to float fine particles will be fundamental in securing access to raw materials in the future, yet to date, there is no large-scale collaborative effort to achieve this. Through a first of its kind research approach, the consortium's combined expertise in science, engineering and industrial practice will allow a robust and knowledge-based development of innovative fine particle flotation technologies. The *FineFuture* consortium brings together an industry- and user-driven multidisciplinary team with the skills and experience required to tackle the challenging objectives set up for this project.

The launch of the *FineFuture* website is an important milestone that delivers a platform where issue holders and solution finders can exchange towards achieving on industry competitiveness and policy goals such as the circular economy and sustainable development goals.

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FINE FUTURE PARTNERS:

COORDINATE BY: 

PARTNERS:




POLSKA MIEDŹ


MAGNESITAS NAVARRAS

 ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY OF
THESSALONIKI

 UNIVERSITÉ
DE LORRAINE

 MAELGWYN MINERAL SERVICES

 Instytut
Metali Nieżelaznych
Gliwice




GRECIAN MAGNESITE

 IMA Europe

 Imperial College
London

 ITÜ GLOBAL
ITÜ

 POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

 18 88

MORE INFORMATION:

Project Coordinator / Dr. Martin Rudolph
m.rudolph@hzdr.de

Project Manager / Dr. Stefan Dirlich
s.dirlich@hzdr.de

Media Contact (IMA-Europe)
Dr. Aurela Shtiza / Policy Director
a.shtiza@ima-europe.eu

Ignacio Gentiluomo / Communication Officer
i.gentiluomo@ima-europe.eu

WWW.FINEFUTURE-H2020.EU



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