

FineFuture

FEBRUARY 2020 #5

FINE FUTURE PARTICIPATES IN MINEA FINAL CONFERENCE

The pan-European expert network [Mining the European Anthroposphere \(MINEA\)](#) supports the assessment of anthropogenic resources to valorise the secondary raw materials. MINEA expertise focuses on four types of waste, namely:

- Residues from extractive industries
- Landfills
- Construction and demolition waste
- Residues from waste incineration

The MINEA aims to develop a new UNECE standard for global communication on the future availability of secondary raw materials.

During the MINEA Final Conference on 20-21 February 2020 in Bologna (Italy), multiple EU material recovery projects were presented. PoliMI experts, Benedetta Marmioli and Lucia Rigamonti on behalf of the *FineFuture* project presented a poster entitled 'Life Cycle Assessment of innovative flotation technology to enhance metal fine particle recovery'. The research described the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach undertaken to valorise the fine particles of various secondary raw materials from extraction and historical mining waste. In this work, the challenge of assessing the environmental impacts of flotation technology is tackled. After a literature review on current flotation LCA studies, the research faces the challenges of setting the system boundaries and the functional unit of this innovative technology, addressing issues such as function inequalities of the systems understudies, data unbalance between well-established systems and innovative technologies, clustering with other projects that encountered the same challenges.

Around 120 attendees from more than 20 European countries attended the event. The attendees were from the governmental authorities, policymakers, industry and researchers looking for ways to valorise the waste flows thanks to the research innovation and replicability of findings to cross-sectoral innovation.

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