SMART GROUND PROJECT: A NEW APPROACH TO DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND COLLECTION FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS IN EUROPE

Giovanna Antonella Dino1*, Piergiorgio Rossetti1, Giulio Biglia1, Maria Luisa Sapino1, Francesco Di Mauro1, Heikki Särkkä2, Frederic Coulon3, Diogo Gomes3, Lucía Parejo-Bravo4, Pilar Zapata Aranda4, Antonia Lorenzo Lopez4, Jorge Lopez5, Ernő Garamvölgyi6, Sandra Stojanovic6, Antonietta Pizza7, Marco de la Feld7

1University of Torino - Via Valperga Caluso 35, Torino 10125, Italy
2South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, Puteristonkatu 3 D, 50100 Mikkeli, Finland
3Cranfield University, School of Water, Energy and Environment, Cranfield, MK43 0AL, UK
4Bioazul, Avenida Manuel Agustin Heredia, 29001 Malaga, Spain
5ATOS - Calle de Albaracin 25, Madrid 28037, Spain
6BZN - FEHERVARI UT 130, Budapest 1116, Hungary
7ENCO srl - via Michelangelo Schipa 115, Napoli 80122, Italy

Abstract

Steady Raw Materials (RM) supply is essential for the EU economy and increasingly under pressure to sustain the businesses and industries demand. The supply of RM is not only a matter of availability of primary but also of secondary raw materials (SRM). In fact a great amount of waste can be regained as practical and valuable SRM by enhancing the recovery processes from industrial, mining and municipal landfill sites, especially if we consider that Europe is highly dependent on the imports of several RM. Nevertheless, there is to date no inventory of SRM at EU level. Smart Ground project aims to facilitate the availability and accessibility of data and information on SRM in the EU, as well as creating synergy and collaboration between the different stakeholders involved in the SRM value chain. In order to do so, the Smart Ground consortium is carrying out a set of activities to integrate in a single EU database all the data from existing sources and new information retrieving pilot landfills as progress is made. Such database will enable the exchange of contacts and information among the relevant stakeholders, interested in providing or obtaining SRM. Finally, Smart Ground project will also spin out the SRM economy and employment thanks to targeted training activities, organized during congresses and dedicated meeting with stakeholders and end users interested in calculating the potentiality for SRM recovery from selected landfills, contemporary constituting a dedicated network of stakeholders committed to cost-effective research, technology transfer and training.

Key words: circular economy, extractive waste, landfill mining, municipal solid waste, secondary raw materials

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