STILLMETALEVO PROJECT RELEASE

STILLMETALEVO develops a strategic recovery solution of siderurgical and foundry waste for critical raw material extraction and circular eco-materials

STILLMETALEVO is a research and development project funded under the EU Cohesion Policy 2021–2027 of Veneto Region. Coordinated by lead partner Veneto Green Cluster and SINFONET (two regional cluster network) with the University of Padua, the project is building a pioneer circular economy supply chain in Veneto. The Regional Innovative Network (RIR) Veneto Green Cluster, coordinated by Green Tech Italy RDI, serves as the regional institutional hub driving industrial sustainability, bioeconomy, and waste valorization across the Veneto Region. Recognized under regional innovation policies and co-funded through the European Regional Development Fund (PR FESR 2021–2027), Veneto Green Cluster brings together leading industrial enterprises, specialized engineering firms, and high-level research organizations to accelerate the transition from linear production models to closed-loop circular systems.

In the context of the project, Veneto Green Cluster collaborates closely with the RIR SINFONET and the University of Padua. This inter-RIR partnership unites the metallurgical and foundry sectors with the construction, ceramic, environmental, and eco-design industries, establishing an integrated regional value chain that spans raw waste collection, thermal/chemical transformation, advanced characterization, and final industrial end-use.

STILLMETALEVO by processing massive industrial waste streams—including steelmaking furnace slag, spent foundry sand, and exhaust dusts—extracts critical raw materials (CRMs) and high-value mineral precursors for eco-construction, water treatment, and metallurgy.

The European Union faces unprecedented geopolitical and economic vulnerabilities regarding the supply of Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)—including metallic Silicon, Magnesium, Aluminum, Manganese, and Ferrosilicon alloys. These strategic inputs are fundamental to high-tech manufacturing, renewable energy infrastructure, and automotive engineering. European industry remains heavily reliant on third-country imports, exposing regional value chains to supply bottlenecks, price volatility, and geopolitical shocks.

Simultaneously, the European metallurgical sector generates vast quantities of solid inorganic residues annually. In the Veneto Region, steel manufacturing via Electric Arc Furnaces (EAF) and secondary metallurgy (SMS/Ladle Furnace), alongside iron and steel foundries, produces thousands of tons of black slag, white slag, spent green foundry sand, and flue dusts.

Historically, a significant portion of these streams was directed to landfills, incurring substantial disposal costs and environmental liabilities.

STILLMETALEVO addresses this double mandate—raw material security and waste reduction—by aligning directly with the EU Critical Raw Materials Act, the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, and the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) framework under Regulation (EU) 2020/852. By shifting from simple waste disposal to target mineral extraction, STILLMETAL-EVO demonstrates that industrial slag and spent sands contain valuable reactive phases capable of substituting virgin clinker, natural silica, and imported ferroalloys.

The Companies participating in the project are:

ZEROCENTO SRL
PIGOZZO SYSTEM SRL
FONDERIA POVOLARO SRL
FONDERIA ZANARDI SRL
ITALKER SRL
ALUSISTEMI SRL
FERRARI BK SRL
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