

PROJECT

POLREC



D3.3 Online Networking Event 2





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1. POLREC Consortium Partners

Table 1 – List of partners

POL (FR)	Polymeris POLREC Lead Partner
CEN (PT)	Centro Tecnológico da Indústria de Moldes, Ferramentas Especiais e Plásticos POLREC Partner
MAV (ES)	Clúster de Materials Avançats de Catalunya POLREC Partner
PDC (DK)	Plast Center Danmark POLREC Partner
WFG (DE)	Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH POLREC Partner

2. Introduction

This document has been written for the Deliverable 3.3 “Online Networking Events 2” in the frame of the POLREC project “Supporting a green and resilient Europe through POLymer RECYcling” funded by the European Commission Joint Cluster initiatives for Europe’s recovery (Euroclusters) under the Single Market Programme (SMP COSME) grant agreement number 101074434.

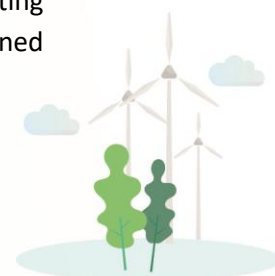
The consortium partners (see Table 1) have come together to explore how an intensified cluster and business network collaboration across borders and sectors can meet this challenge and exploit the international business opportunities related to the topic.

The report is intended to be a brief overview of the online networking events that took place between Month 13 and Month 27 of the project to promote the POLREC project and its contents. In this reporting period WFG organised 2 online events:

- One online event on **23rd April 2024** to promote the Internationalisation open call with the Networking part and the delegation to Canada
- One online event on **09th October 2024** to arrange discussions on FAKUMA and to promote the open training call

Since the report will be publicly available, we have decided to anonymize the parts regarding the names of the companies and the persons.

The main aim of the event was to establish contacts with interested and potentially interesting companies and recyclers. The range of topics POLREC deals with was presented and the planned activities outlined.





3. The POLREC Project

3.1. Objectives and Results

The objective of the POLREC project is 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 polymer waste landfilling and burning towards polymer recycling (mechanical or chemical) into raw materials (monomer polymer and additives).

The consortium partners will support Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the appropriation of polymer recycling methods through the implementation.

Clusters, by building on their network to facilitate the identification of common interests and the identification of recycling technologies and recyclers can facilitate this process.

The POLREC project will build a pan-European cross-sectoral network of Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) (Eurocluster) whose main activities will be to support SMEs in the following:

- ✓ Help SMEs in finding viable economic models that could foster the adoption of polymer recycling,
- ✓ Establishing a partnership to exchange polymer material through recycling,
- ✓ Accessing innovations in mechanical and chemical recycling,
- ✓ Accessing digital innovations for recycled material quality monitoring and tracking
- ✓ Finding innovative and viable business models based on recycled polymers,
- ✓ Identify the best practices,
- ✓ Analyse information to identify the waste fractions that could be recycled to lead to material exchange within and across value chains.

The POLREC partner consortium aims to support Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the adoption of polymer recycling methods through the implementation of the following actions:

- Establishing a pan-European network of SMEs involved in polymer recycling and promoting value chain linkages between SMEs willing to recycle their plastic waste and SMEs willing to source recycled material and produce raw materials from recycled polymers.
- Promote innovative solutions for mechanical and chemical recycling of plastic waste and digital monitoring of recycling processes.
- Encourage the adoption of innovative and viable business models by SMEs that promote the use of recycled materials.
- Train the workforce in polymer recycling technologies and digital solutions for quality monitoring and traceability of recycled material.





POLREC partners will coordinate networking and matchmaking activities throughout the project's lifetime and beyond.

4. Online Networking Events

4.1. Background and Preparation

In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the consortium has set up various work packages. The Online Networking Event is part of work package 3.

This work package includes the following components and objectives:

- a. Promote collaboration between clusters (Cluster to Cluster = C2C).
- b. Promote collaboration from Small and medium sized enterprises (SME) to SME (Business to Business = B2B).
- c. Identify materials that are recycled and between value chains.

The Online Networking Events are one of several components in the communication of the project. Here information can be given collectively to participants, but there is also the possibility for individual communication and networking between the participants. During the project 3 reports on the online-networking events will be submitted. This is the second in the series.

In the **first online networking event** organized during the period M13-M27, the goal was to promote the Internationalisation call for the Networking part and the delegation to Canada. It took place virtually on **23rd April from 1 – 2 pm**. The agenda was as follows:

13:00 – 13:30 Welcome and introduction of POLREC Internationalisation Funding Call incl. Q&A

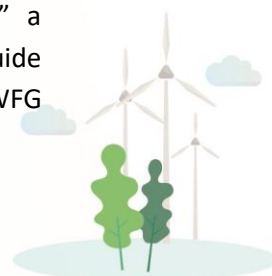
13:30 – 13:45 Introduction Matchmaking Tool

13:45 – 18:00 Bilateral Networking / Match-Making Option

For the internationalization call we went into details, e.g. explaining eligibility criteria, explaining the deadlines and the funding that companies can receive. We have established a new tool for this online event, which was developed by Ascricion. This tool allows you the following functionality:

- Schedule bilateral meetings
- Adjust your own availability
- Post suggestions / project ideas via a marketplace
- Direct message and contact functionality
- Download the current Guide for applicants for the relevant calls

There are different register cards. The “Home” section shows the current online networking event, the “Partner” section shows the POLREC consortium. At section “1:1 Meetings” a description of the matchmaking tool can be found. In the “Downloads” section the current Guide of Application for the current call is online. In the “Contact” section a personal contact from WFG





D3.2 – Online Networking Event

is shown. Below is an example of the whole screen and one of a personal profile as example for Polymeris:

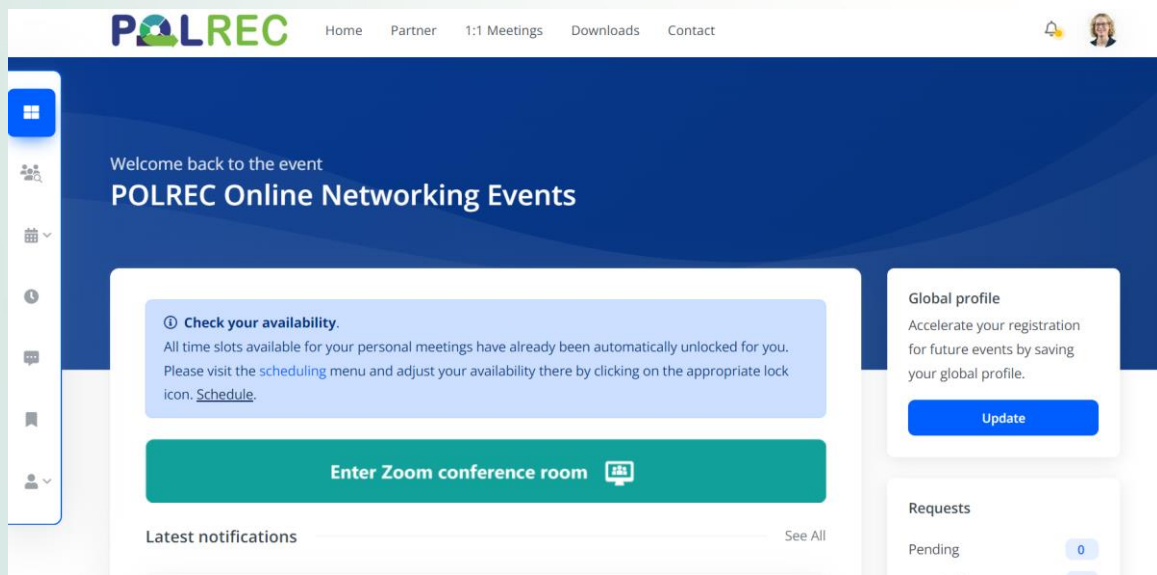


Figure 1: POLREC Networking Event: Entry screen

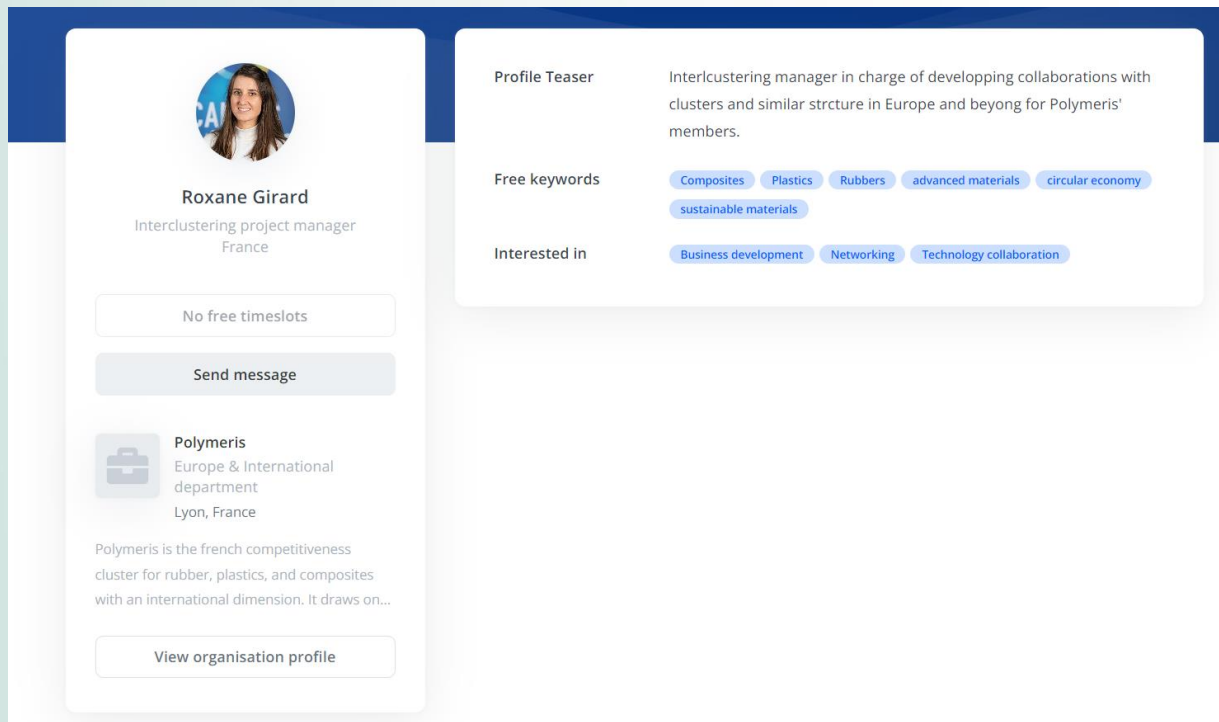


Figure 2: POLREC Networking Event: Organisation Profile





The meeting schedule as an example:

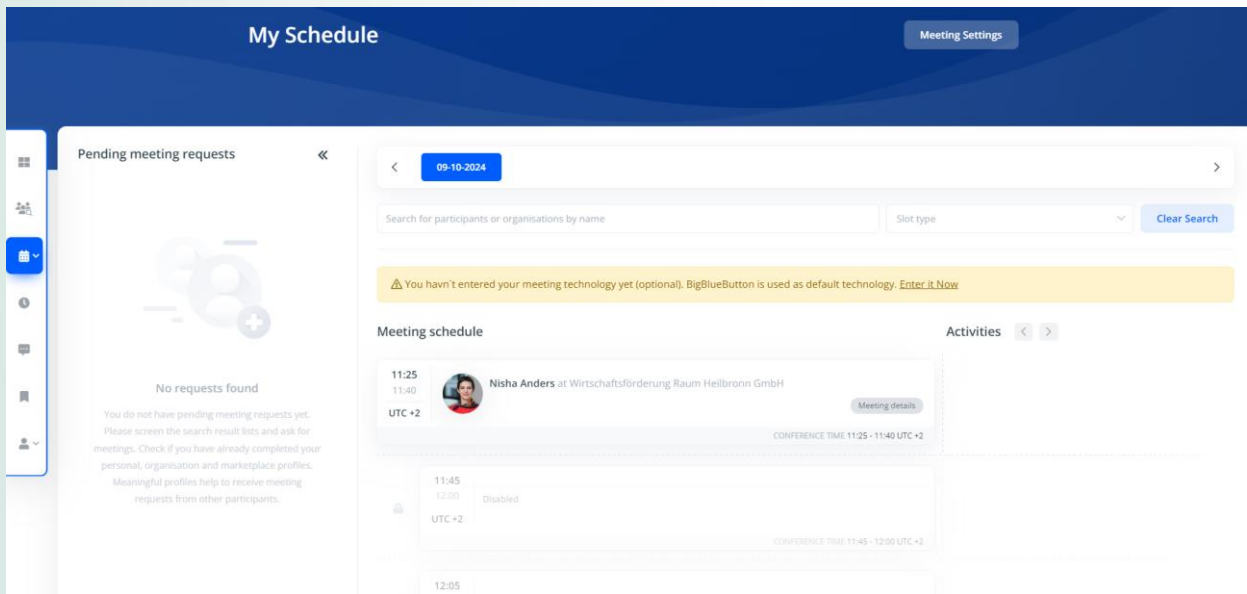


Figure 3: POLREC Networking Event: My Schedule

Extract of a final agenda:

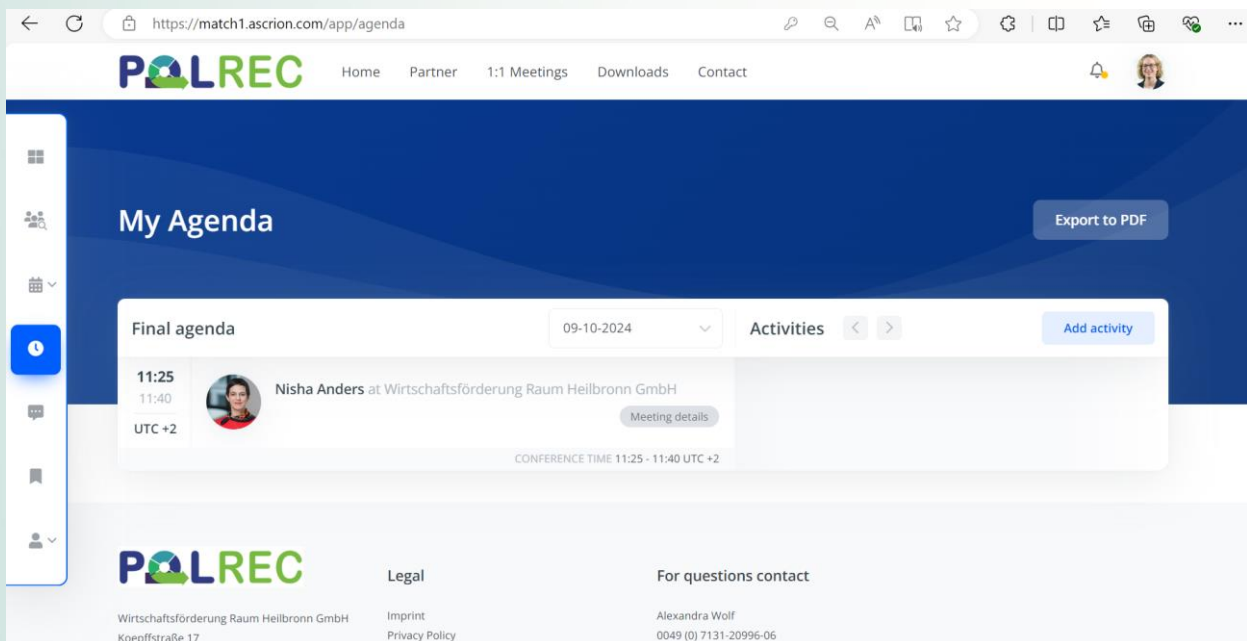


Figure 4: POLREC Networking Event: My Agenda

For this event in April we counted 10 participants from 3 different countries: Germany, Spain, Denmark. The presentation held can be found in our Sharepoint server and participants received a copy.





	Sub-Topic	Objective	Activities funded	Dates	Second optional cut-off	Max. b...
Internationalisation	Networking	Supporting the networking of European SMEs active in the recycling of industrial polymer waste	Participation to European trade fairs and networking events related to polymer recycling.	22 March – 22 May 2024	15th January – 15th March 2025	Ma 1 full 2 full da More th 1
	International match-making mission	Supporting the internationalisation of European SMEs from the polymer recycling industries.	Participation in a 5-day match-making mission in Quebec (travel included), organised by POLRE's partners, with site-visits and B2B meetings with local enterprises, research centers, clusters etc.	22 March – 22 May 2024	No second cut-off	3

Figure 5: Screenshot of April Online Event

The **second online event** organized during the period M13-M27 of the project was held on **9th October from 12 – 1 pm** and we could gain a keynote speaker. The agenda for the third online event was as follows:

- 12:00 – 12:30 Welcome and introduction to POLREC including open funding call
- 12:30 – 12:45 Keynote: *The challenges of implementing secondary mass streams (Keynote Speaker MD from Polymer One: Mr. Rauschert)*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Introduction to the Matchmaking Tool and Networking options at Fakuma
- 13:00 – 18:00 Bilateral Networking / Match-Making Option

Participants were 14 from Denmark, Canada, France, Germany, Portugal. Below you can find a screenshot.



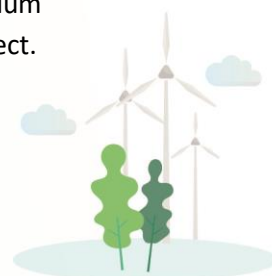


Figure 6: Screenshot of October Online Event

In this online event WFG introduced the POLREC project and the current funding opportunity of the Training open call incl. outlook on the next Networking call to be released in January 2025. After that Mr. Rauschert, MD from Polymer One gave his keynote speech about implementing secondary mass streams. Then the Matchmaking tool was introduced again and Networking options like the Networking cocktail at Fakuma Fair in Friedrichshafen was shown. Afterwards the participants could freely network and schedule bilateral meetings until the evening.

5. Conclusion and further steps

The conclusion in this reporting period is that companies are going back to meetings in presence. Participation for both events was lower than expected. It has been shown so far that the personal discussions in the face-to-face meetings and on other occasions for personal meetings are an important element for understanding the project and its possibilities to participate. At the Networking cocktail in presence at the Fakuma Fair on 15th October 2024 was a higher participation than in the online calls. The conversations held during the reporting period, as well as the other measures carried out so far, primarily serve to publicize the project itself and its opportunities for participation. In this matter, the FSTP calls with the various pillars of funding opportunities are promoted and questions answered towards potential participants. The organization of the online networking events is a building block in the communication with the companies and parties involved in the POLREC project. The combination of the participation in expert forums, trade fairs and events with the face-to-face meetings planned by the consortium will be a successful mix in the future to successfully advance the activities in the POLREC project.





PROJECT INFORMATION

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PROJECT CONSORTIUM



PROJECT

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Funded by
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