

## PRESS RELEASE #1

### **EU-funded I4-GREEN project drives Interregional investment for the sustainable supply of raw materials in the EU Green Energy Transition**

November 21, 2022- In November 2022, a research and innovation project funded by the Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3) has started, focused on the research and innovation for new models of interregional EU collaboration.

I4-GREEN is a 30-month European project that aims to drive and boost green, circular, and social tech deployment through joint investments, to ultimately reduce the EU dependence on imports of Critical Raw Materials and the negative impact on the environment of their extraction and processing.

The project is focused on the sustainable improvement of the value chain of raw materials and will implement 2 consolidated and profitable pilots in the southern region of Europe (Portugal and Spain) to deploy green circular innovations to the market, searching to achieve replicability in other EU regions by the end of the project.

The Iron Holm Oak pilot is an industrial-mining project for the recovery of rare earth elements from mining waste, incorporating modern technologies, under high criteria of environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The Atalaya/Lain Tech pilot will innovate with an SME-owned green tech to extract strategic raw materials (Cu, Zn, Co and PGMs) from low grade ores.

As a cascade-funding project, I4-GREEN will establish an Open Call for SMEs developing solutions to cover the pilots' technological needs. Awarded SMEs will not only have the possibility to collaborate with the pilots through their solution's deployment but will receive support in the form of business services and financial support.

The final goal of these activities is to promote technology transfer, services, and products into targeted sectorial SMEs and to promote cluster collaboration tools involving business services and financial support to SMEs in the ecosystem.

Additionally, through its quadruple helix (enablers, investors, developers, and regional governments), the project will research and define the optimal approach for the integration of circular and sustainable practices within SMEs and its interregional deployment and replication to full EU scale.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 an on-line kick-off meeting will take place where the I4-GREEN consortium partners, beneficiaries of the funding, meet and present their role within the project: the Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources (ACPMR, Coordinator), ICAMCYL Foundation, Gevora, Leonore Development, Atalaya, Lain Tech, the Iberian Sustainable Mining Cluster (ISMC) and Nanofabre.

*The I4-GREEN project is coordinated by ICAMCYL Foundation, please contact us for further information: [projects@icamcyl.com](mailto:projects@icamcyl.com) or [i3.i4green.eu@gmail.com](mailto:i3.i4green.eu@gmail.com)*