

## 4-GREEN Public Results Event Marks Culmination of 30-Month Project with Promising Outcomes

*Two pioneering pilot projects showcased during the I4-GREEN final event demonstrated real-world applications of circular, SME-driven innovation in raw materials recovery.*

Madrid, 10 April 2025 – The I4-GREEN project celebrated its successful conclusion with a high-level public event held at Club Financiero Génova in Madrid. This *Final Results & Impact Session* marked the culmination of 30 months of collaborative work aimed at strengthening the EU's autonomy in critical raw materials through sustainable and circular innovation.

Stakeholders from across Europe gathered to review the progress of the project and, most notably, to present the results of its two flagship pilot initiatives.

### Breakthrough Pilots in Raw Materials Recovery

The event spotlighted the IHO pilot, led by Leonore Development, which achieved the recovery of high-grade iron ore (71% Fe) and rare earth elements (17,000 ppm TREO) from tailings. This pilot demonstrated significant environmental value by incorporating renewable energy, closed-loop water usage, and strong regional impact through job creation.

Equally impactful, the ATALAYA / LAIN TECH pilot validated the E-LIX™ hydrometallurgical process for extracting copper and zinc from complex sulphides. The process reached industrial readiness, achieving up to 90% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and showing considerable potential for replication across the Iberian Pyrite Belt and similar polymetallic deposits.

### I4-GREEN: A Pillar of the Green Transition

The **I4-GREEN project**, funded through the EU's Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) programme and coordinated by ICAMCyL, was presented as a leading model of **cross-border collaboration in sustainable raw material value chains**. With pilot initiatives underway in Spain and Portugal, the project supports SMEs and regional clusters in fostering circular mining practices and reducing reliance on imported materials, while aligning with the European Green Deal.

Milena Stoyanova, Project Officer at the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), underlined the importance of the I3 funding instrument in boosting industrial transformation. Together with Cuesta, she highlighted that I4-GREEN can mobilise up to €10 million per initiative to develop green industrial ecosystems and facilitate cooperation between businesses, innovation hubs, and public institutions.

## Looking Ahead

The event closed with a discussion on investment and future scaling, highlighting how SME-led innovation and interregional cooperation are essential to building a greener, more resilient raw materials supply chain in Europe.

For further information, please visit the project website: [i3-i4green.eu](https://i3-i4green.eu)

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