PROJECT

POLREC

EURO CLUSTERS

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D2.4
Summary of the workshop on digitalization



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Table of Contents

1. Introduction 5
2. Workshop on Digitalization 6
2.1. Planning of the Event 6
3. Conclusion and Further Steps 11

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Glossary of terms, abbreviations, and acronyms

Partner short name	Partner	Country
POL	Polymeris	FR
CEN	Centro Tecnológico da Indústria de Moldes, Ferramentas Especiais e Plásticos	PT
MAV	Clúster de Materials Avançats de Catalunya	ES
PCD	Plast Center Danmark	DK
WFG	Wirtschaftsförderung Raum Heilbronn GmbH	DE

Table 1 – List of partners

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1. Introduction

The POLREC project is a collaborative project between the 4 European clusters and a technological center mentioned in Table 1. It focuses on sustainable development and recycling of high and low value polymers as a contribution to the objectives of the European Green Deal aiming at zero CO_2 emissions in 2050 and to increase the European strategic autonomy on raw materials for polymer production.

During a project period of 3 years the consortium will explore how an intensified cluster and business network collaboration across borders and across sectors can meet this challenge and exploit the international business opportunities related to this topic.

A number of activities have been lined up to handle this challenge and one of them is the organization and implementation of one open online workshop on digitalization.

This report is intended to be a brief overview event that took place on 30 October 2024. Moreover, the report serves as Deliverable 2.4 “Summary of the workshop on digitalization” 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.

Since the report will be publicly available, it was decided to anonymize the participants’ list.

2. Workshop on Digitalization

The open online workshop on digitalization is part of Work Package 2, Task 2.5.

The goal of Task 2.5. is to connect SMEs with common digital transformation challenges related to the green transition to enable them to identify and implement the most competitive digital solutions.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of SMEs on digital transformation opportunities.

2.1. Planning of the Event

The workshop on digitalization was set-up by PCD in a timely manner. All project partners were held accountable to participate in. The virtual workshop was promoted as a webinar in the beginning of October 2024 towards all project partners and their networks. LinkedIn posts were created.



Figure 1: Post on LinkedIn

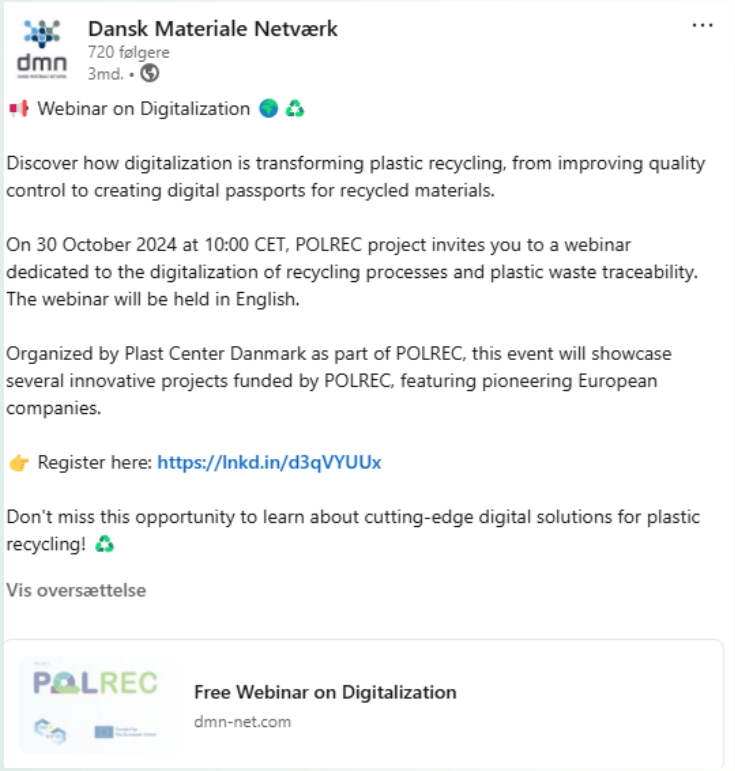
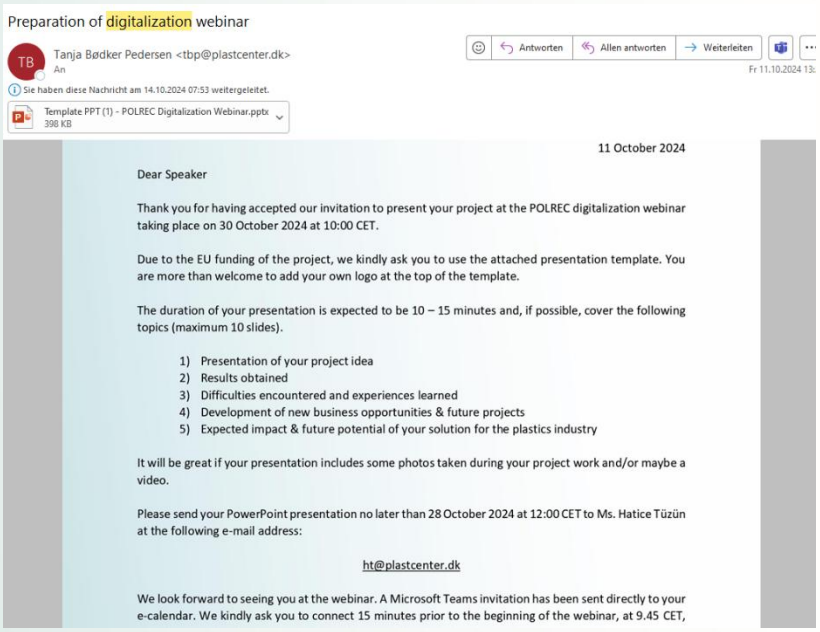


Figure 2: Post on LinkedIn

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The registration process followed via PCD website.

The speakers for the webinar were reminded to follow a structured process and use POLREC templates:



Preparation of digitalization webinar

TB Tanja Bødker Pedersen <tbp@plastcenter.dk>
An

Antworten | Allen antworten | Weiterleiten

Fr 11.10.2024 13:

Sie haben diese Nachricht am 14.10.2024 07:53 weitergeleitet.

Template PPT (1) - POLREC Digitalization Webinar.pptx
398 KB

11 October 2024

Dear Speaker

Thank you for having accepted our invitation to present your project at the POLREC digitalization webinar taking place on 30 October 2024 at 10:00 CET.

Due to the EU funding of the project, we kindly ask you to use the attached presentation template. You are more than welcome to add your own logo at the top of the template.

The duration of your presentation is expected to be 10 – 15 minutes and, if possible, cover the following topics (maximum 10 slides).

1) Presentation of your project idea
2) Results obtained
3) Difficulties encountered and experiences learned
4) Development of new business opportunities & future projects
5) Expected impact & future potential of your solution for the plastics industry

It will be great if your presentation includes some photos taken during your project work and/or maybe a video.

Please send your PowerPoint presentation no later than 28 October 2024 at 12:00 CET to Ms. Hatice Tüzün at the following e-mail address:

ht@plastcenter.dk

We look forward to seeing you at the webinar. A Microsoft Teams invitation has been sent directly to your e-calendar. We kindly ask you to connect 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the webinar, at 9.45 CET,

Figure 3: Presentation speaker e-mail

The webinar took place virtually on 30 October 2024 at 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Totally 4 companies who were previously awarded with POLREC Innovation Sub-grants on digitalization presented best practices in digitalization within the recycling industry.

The agenda was as follows:

- Welcome
- Introduction to POLREC
- Presentation of project: 8TWIN by Revival, France - Presentation of project: A new intelligent technology for QC in recycled plastics, by GAVIPLAST, S.L., Spain
- Presentation of project: Recycling towards sustainability by MaxiPlás, Portugal
- Digital passport developed by Zupply, Denmark
- Questions and Answers – interactive session
- Rounding of

In this online event the focus was on digitalization in the recycling industry. As an introduction to the event the POLREC project was introduced.

Then 4 projects were given the floor to present.

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Afterwards there was a Question & Answers interactive session, providing a valuable platform for knowledge exchange.

The format enabled the rapid and efficient dissemination of key learnings while allowing project owners to receive immediate, constructive feedback from participants. The interactive session fostered engagement, with thought-provoking questions sparking insightful discussions.

Additionally, the webinar served as a valuable networking opportunity, enabling attendees to connect and exchange ideas.

At the end PCD, who moderated the call, rounded off.

Totally 43 participants were in the call. The webinar can be reviewed under following link:

POLREC Digitalization Webinar 29.10.2024

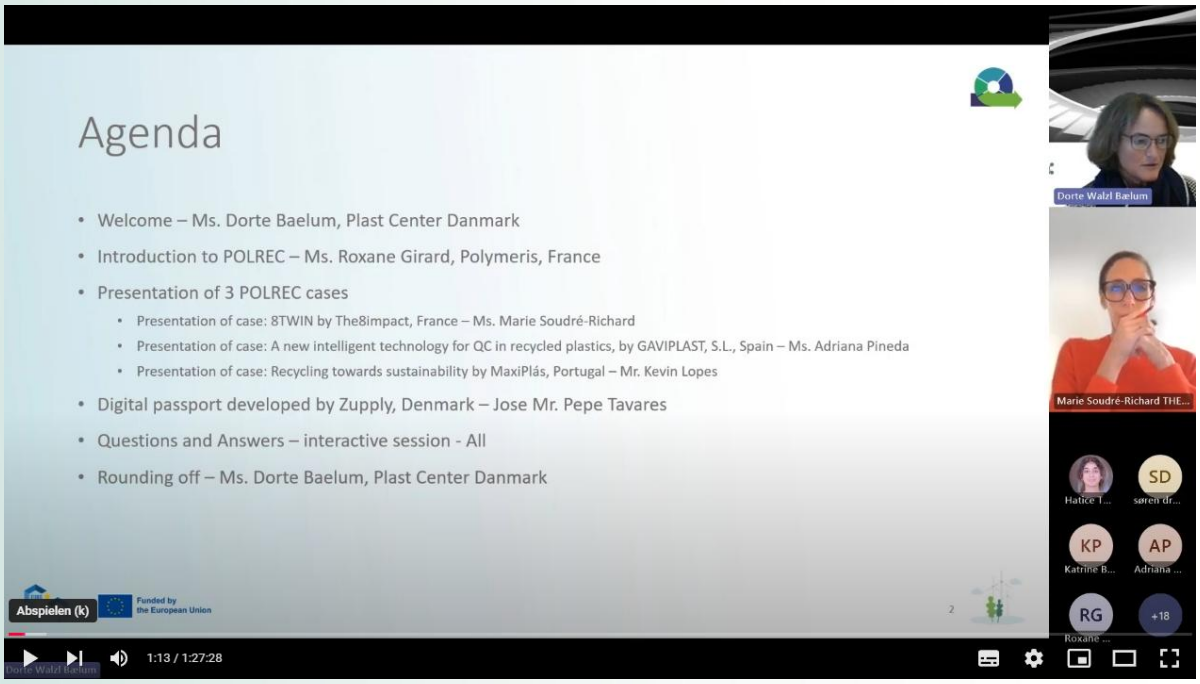


Figure 1: Agenda during webinar

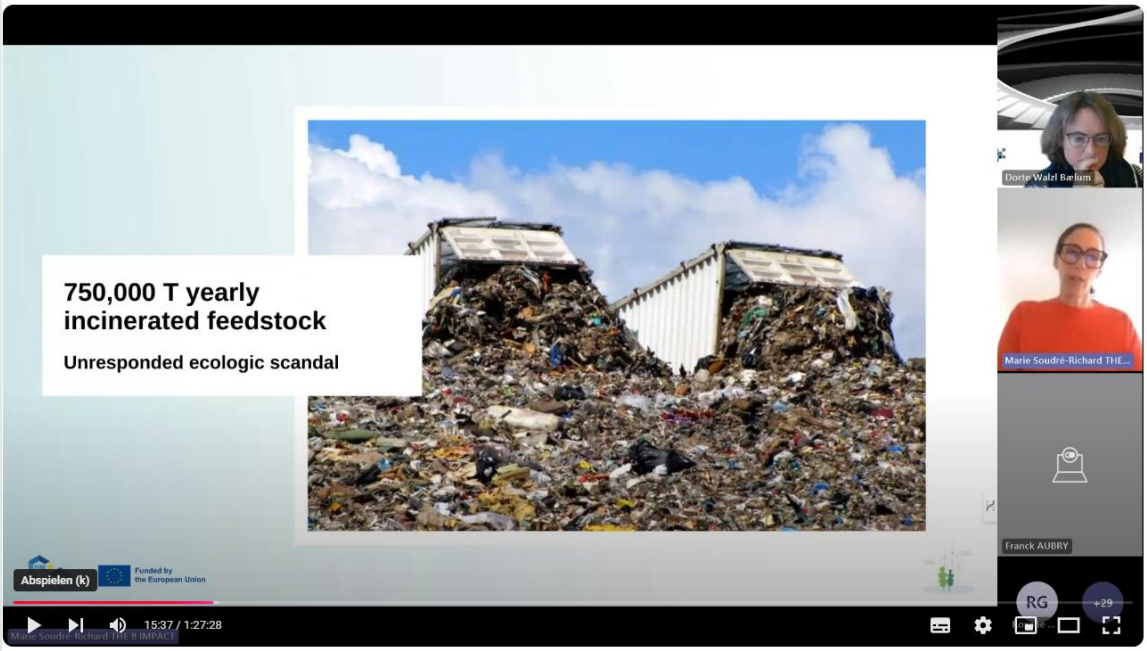


Figure 2: Presenter during webinar – 750.000 T sneakers from the US and Europe incinerated every year

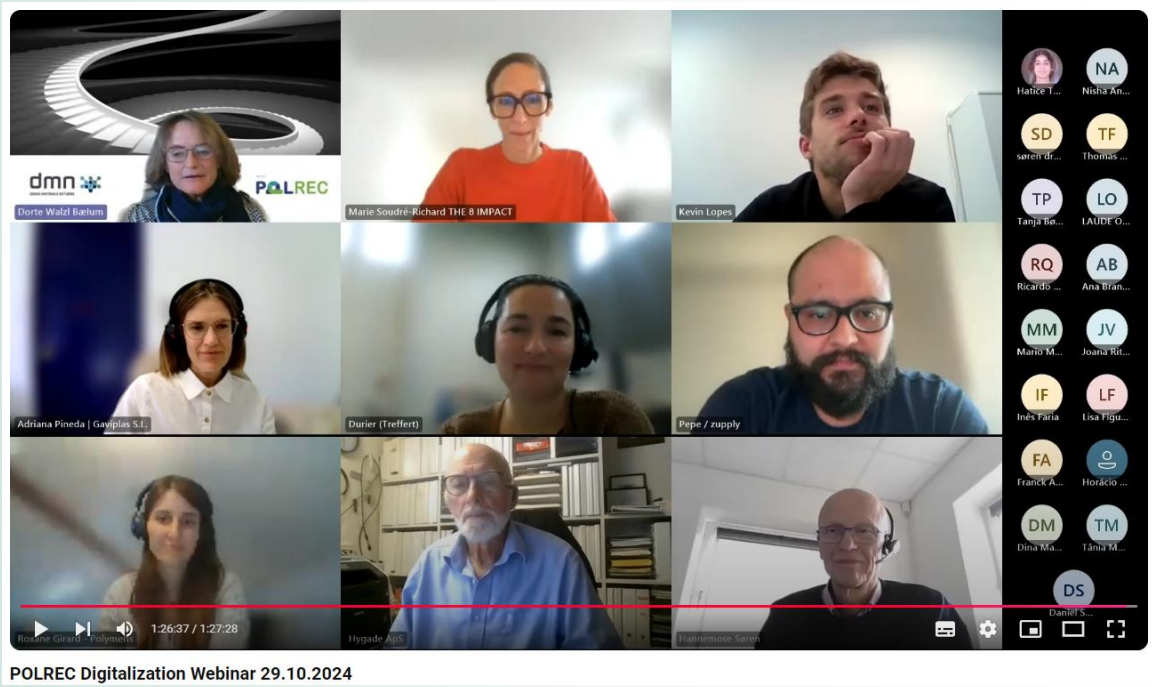


Figure 3: Group picture during webinar

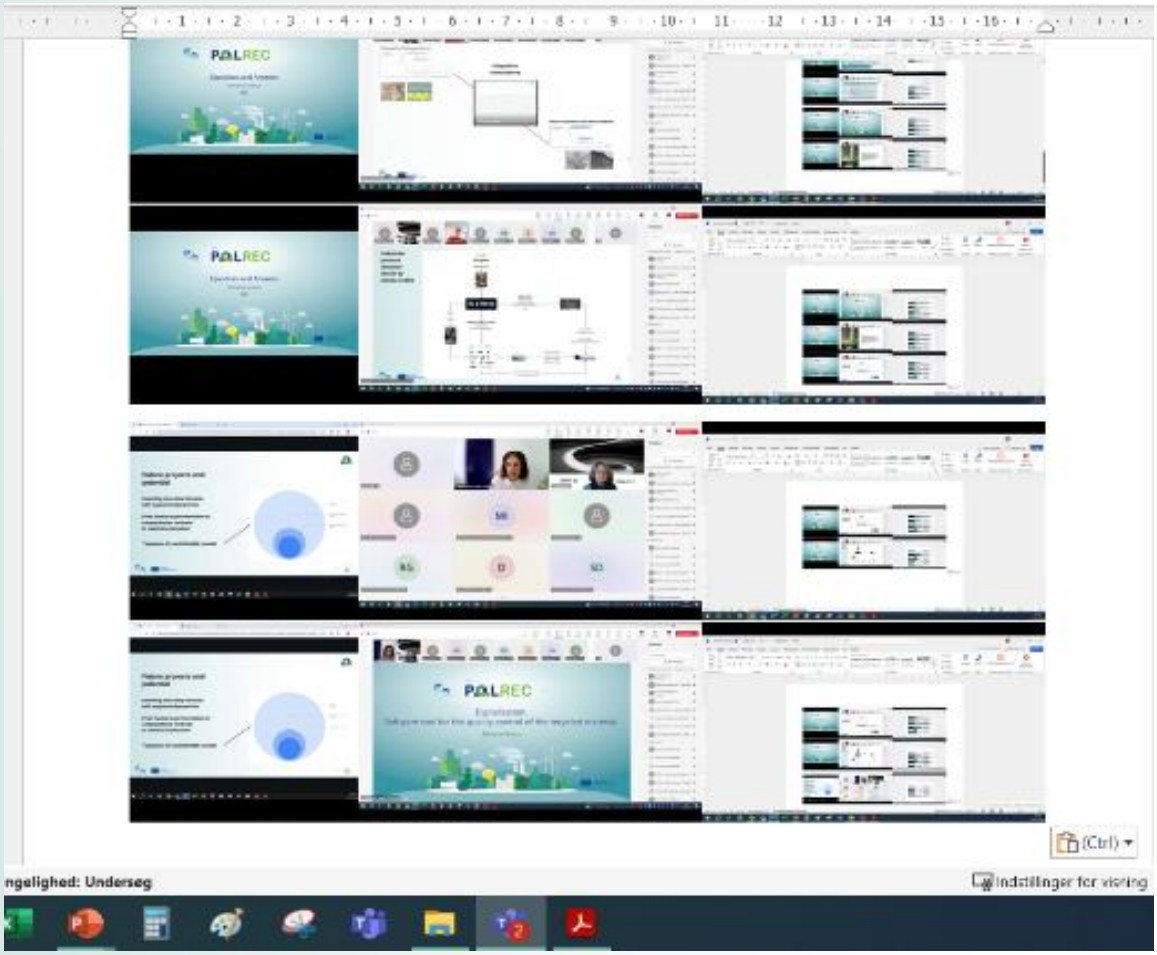


Figure 4: Screen shots during webinar

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3. Conclusion and Further Steps

The online workshop was structured as a webinar with an interactive session, providing a valuable platform for knowledge exchange. This report concludes that hosting a webinar to share insights gained from POLREC-funded projects on digitalization was highly beneficial.

The format enabled the rapid and efficient dissemination of key learnings while allowing project owners to receive immediate, constructive feedback from participants. The interactive session fostered engagement, with thought-provoking questions sparking insightful discussions. Additionally, the webinar served as a valuable networking opportunity, enabling attendees to connect and exchange ideas.

Among the most significant takeaways from the webinar were:

- **Advancing Material Development with AI:** Human experiment-based material development can be significantly enhanced through AI-driven material exploration, leveraging vast datasets—both collected and computer-generated. However, for AI models to effectively predict the quality of recycled plastic, they require well-labeled data, rigorous training, and validation.

- **Overcoming Data Gaps in the Circular Economy:** Insufficient data on waste and resource flows remains a major obstacle to achieving circularity. A potential solution lies in developing software platforms that integrate digital twins and automate circular workflows using AI.

Ultimately, these advancements aim to empower brands to reduce their environmental impact by utilizing high-quality recycled materials that match the performance and cost of virgin materials—all while being produced within Europe.

To build on the success of this webinar and continue advancing the goals of POLREC-funded projects the following steps should be considered:

1. Organize targeted discussions on AI-driven material development and circular economy data strategies.
2. Test AI models in real-world recycling and material development to improve data quality and model accuracy.
3. Collaborate on tools that enhance material tracking, automate workflows, and address data gaps.
4. Work with policymakers and industry leaders to align technological advancements with regulations.
5. Continue webinars and workshops to share insights and best practices.

By taking these steps, the insights gained from this webinar can be translated into tangible progress, driving innovation in digitalization and sustainability within the circular economy.

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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Programme	Single Market Programme (SMP COSME)
Call	SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER
Topic	SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER-01
Type of action	SMP Grants for Financial Support
Project Title	Supporting a green and resilient Europe through POLymer RECycling
Project starting date	1st September 2022
Project end date	31st August 2025
Project duration	36 months

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