

# RECLAIM

## PRESS RELEASE

Introducing the RECLAIM Project (<https://reclaim-box.eu/>): EU funded partnership announces collaboration to develop a Portable Robotic Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to bring improved/modern waste management to remote areas

Rotterdam, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Waste management is a difficult task in remote places or where the waste generated is not enough to justify substantial infrastructure. In places like the Greek Islands, every summer waste must be shipped to the mainland to be treated or processed. This is costly and inefficient. The RECLAIM project is developing a low cost, portable, easy to install and efficient portable MRFs, which will allow for material recovery anywhere, even in the most remote areas. Additionally, the project will develop environmental games to increase awareness and engagement with citizens, encouraging their involvement in taking action towards improving material recovery from waste.



The project consortium is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 program and consists of three research and technology organisations, two universities, one Regional Authority, one Producer Responsibility Organisation, one Robotics company, one Innovation Management

company and one International Association; the members of the consortium, led by FORTH – Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas (Greece) include: Aimplas – Plastics Technology Centre (Spain), Axia Innovation (Germany), ION (Greece), IRIS (Spain), HRRC



The RECLAIM Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No: 101070524

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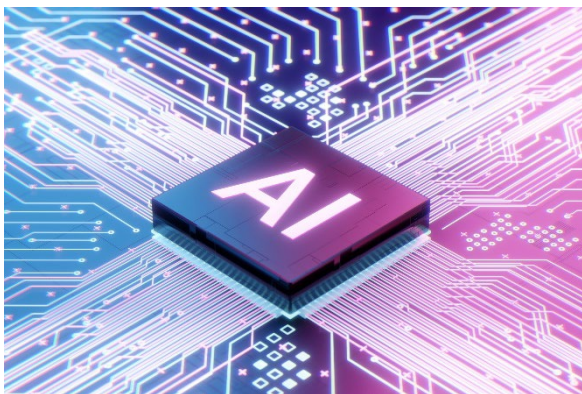
– Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation (Greece), KU Leuven (Belgium), Robenso – Robotic Environmental Solutions (Greece), ISWA - International Solid Waste Association (Netherlands) and UoM - L-Universita ta' Malta (Malta).

Servicing remote areas -or where waste generation spikes temporarily- makes it difficult to justify the development of large- scale infrastructure. For this we need to develop decentralized solutions for waste processing and material recovery.

Michalis Maniadakis, Senior Researcher at FORTH and Coordinator for RECLAIM, led the kick off meeting on October 13-14 in the city of Heraklion, Greece with all 10 partners present. He said " RECLAIM is developing a new automated solution for the distributed and direct recovery of recyclables away from urban centres. In full compliance with the European Green Deal, the RECLAIM integrates state-of-the-art technologies to create a portable, robotic material recovery facility that will boost circular economy activities in remote and isolated areas."

**This is a three-year project which aims to integrate technologies to enable circular economy.**

RECLAIM will develop a novel compact mobile MRF. This will combine established recycling processing mechanical equipment and AI-powered robotic sorters in a container box which can be easily transported where needed and be ready for operation within a few hours. The MRF enable the efficient recovery of recyclable materials with a minimal number of recycling workers and remain functional and sustainable for several years after the project ends. The system will be demonstrated and validated in real-life scenarios in the Greek Ionian Islands. Additionally, the project expects to increase social awareness for recycling via a novel Recycling Data-Game (RDG) that highlights the related challenges and encourages citizens to participate in project activities through a citizen science approach for providing data to AI-ILC training.



#### About FORTH

Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas was founded in 1983 and its one of the largest research centres in Greece. FORTH conducts specialized scientific research in strategic high-added value sectors, focusing on interdisciplinary research and development (R&D) activities in areas of major scientific, societal, and economic interest. <https://www.forth.gr/>

#### About AIMPLAS

AIMPLAS is a technology centre based in Spain with 30 years of experience in the plastics industry. <https://www.aimplas.net/>



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## **About AXIA**

Axia Innovation is a German company that has broad experience in consultancy services on project management, innovation management, technology transfer and communication & design. Axia offers integrated and comprehensive approach to respond to customer's needs through the most effective way, from strategic thinking to project implementation. <https://www.axia-innovation.com/en/>

## **About HRRC**

The Hellenic Recovery Recycling Corporation has extensive expertise in industrial material recovery. It will undertake a major part of prMRF implementation costs and will contribute to the synthesis, implementation, and on-site assessment of the prMRF. <https://www.herrco.gr/en/about-us/>

## **About ION**

ION is the local authority responsible for waste management in Ionian Islands, Greece. <https://diktiofodsa.gr/>

## **About IRIS**

Iris is a Spanish leading company in the manufacture of photonic and artificial intelligence solutions for the control of industrial and production processes in real time. <https://www.iris-eng.com/about-iris/>

## **About KUL**

The Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, participates in the project with their specialized department on industrial robotic systems with a focused expertise on gripping mechanisms. <https://www.kuleuven.be/kuleuven>

## **About RBNS**

Robenso is a new Greek start up specialized in material recovery robotics. They develop intelligent, autonomous robots capable of identifying, categorizing and physically sorting recyclables into separate bins according to their type of material. <https://www.robenso.eu/>

## **About ISWA – International Solid Waste Association**

ISWA is the world's leading network promoting professional and sustainable waste and resource management. [www.iswa.org](http://www.iswa.org)

## **About UoM**

University of Malta is a public higher education institution in Malta. The university carries out academic research and is very experienced in scientific AI-driven tools for game design and development. <https://www.um.edu.mt/>

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