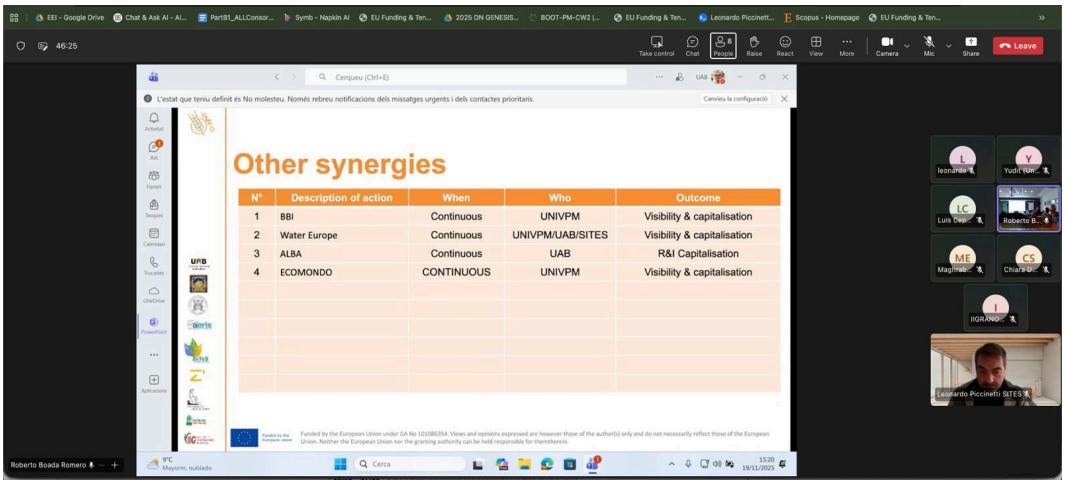

VALZEO Consortium Convenes Mid-Term Meeting to Accelerate Circular Zeolite Innovation

19 November 2025 — The VALZEO project partners from Europe and Latin America met today for their official Mid-Term Progress Meeting (PM35), taking stock of achievements in converting agro-industrial waste, particularly rice husk ash, into high-value zeolite-based materials for water treatment, environmental remediation, and biodiesel production.

The session opened with Assoc. Prof. Roberto Boada (UAB), who provided an update on project management activities, including secondment implementation, IPR issues, risk assessment, outstanding deliverables, and preparations for the upcoming UNIVPM workshop in May 2026. He also presented progress under WP1 on raw material characterisation and silicon extraction, outlining bottlenecks identified and upcoming publications and mobility actions.

Dr. Ángel Rabdel Ruíz-Salvador (UPO) then reported on WP2, highlighting advances in the development of functional materials such as zeolites, MONs, and MOFs for catalysis and water purification. This was followed by Dr. Daniele Caterino (UNIVPM), who presented WP3 updates on laboratory-scale validation, testing protocols, milestones achieved, and remaining challenges prior to pilot deployment.

The WP4 session, led by Dr. Dr Raquel Montes Martínez (AERIS), focused on the transition to pilot-scale activities, including progress on real-environment validation and plans for forthcoming field trials. The meeting concluded with an overview from Dr. Leonardo Piccinetti (SITES) on WP5 communication, dissemination, and networking actions, summarising recent publications, Science Cafés, website and social media growth, and upcoming outreach events.

The consortium closed the meeting with a coordinated plan for deliverables, risk mitigation, and the final-year roadmap.

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