



# NEWSLETTER

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## Valorisation of Agro-Industrial Wastes via the Production of Zeolite-based composite materials and their use in Environmental Remediation and Biofuel production.



Welcome to the VALZEO 5th Newsletter. In this edition, we highlight key developments from the last six months, including Project Meeting PM35, scientific progress across work packages, secondments, and major dissemination activities. We also outline priorities and upcoming actions as VALZEO enters its final project phase.

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## PROJECT COORDINATION

### VALZEO Project Meeting - PM35

The VALZEO consortium held its Project Meeting (PM35) on 19 November 2025 to review scientific progress, secondments, management processes, and upcoming actions for the final project year. Updates were presented by all Work Package leaders, highlighting progress in material synthesis (WP2), laboratory validation (WP3), pilot-scale activities (WP4), and communication achievements (WP5). The meeting concluded with a roadmap for 2026, including the UNIVPM Workshop and the completion of final deliverables.



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## TRAINING & SECONDMENTS

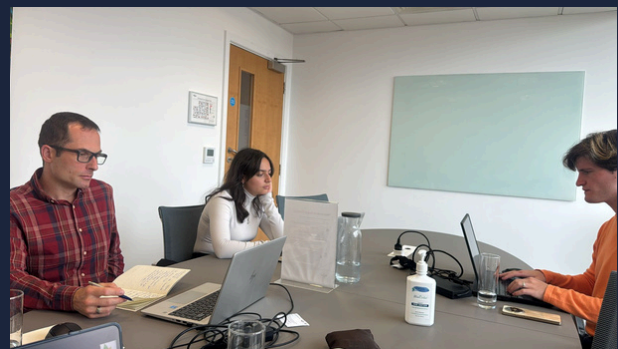


### *IP Policies in Collaborative Innovation*

During his secondment at SITES Ltd (Ireland), Dr. Gustavo Pérez González (UAB) met with Ms. Áine Moore, Research Support Manager at Dublin City University (DCU), and the Intellectual Property Manager of the UCD Innovation Centre.

The discussions focused on intellectual property strategies, contractual clauses for industrial partnerships, and best practices in knowledge valorisation for EU-funded projects. This exchange strengthened VALZEO's capacity to align research outputs with innovation pathways and future exploitation.

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### *Circular Bioeconomy with Social Impact*

Assoc. Prof. Roberto Boada (UAB) completed a secondment at SITES Ltd in Dublin, strengthening collaboration on circular bioeconomy approaches and social innovation strategies. The secondment focused on Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA), inclusive innovation practices, and integrating VALZEO technologies into circular value chains.

This exchange reinforced academic-industry cooperation and supported VALZEO's goal of connecting scientific research with societal impact.

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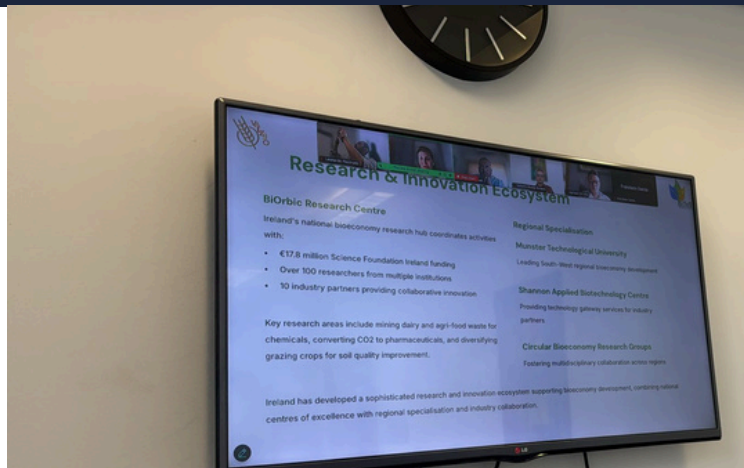
## Coordination Meeting at SITES

Assoc. Prof. Roberto Boada (UAB) joined the SITES team in Dublin for a coordination meeting focused on circular bioeconomy strategies and social sustainability.

The session reviewed project progress, upcoming priorities, and the integration of social impact frameworks into VALZEO's methodologies.

Discussions emphasised stakeholder engagement, regional empowerment, and strengthening collaboration for the final project year.

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## Advancing Water Reuse at ZPRIME

DProf. Francesco Fatone (UNIVPM) completed a secondment at ZPRIME, London, focusing on risk-based monitoring and energy-performance evaluation for water reuse.

The work included developing an H&ERA framework aligned with EU Regulation 2020/741 and improving ENERWATER-compliant audit tools.

The exchange strengthened academic-industry collaboration and supported VALZEO's efforts toward safer and more sustainable water-reuse strategies

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## SCIENCE & INNOVATION

### Water Treatment Research in Action

At UNIVPM's WHEELab, VALZEO researchers advanced new catalytic and adsorption approaches for sustainable water treatment. Seconded researchers Acela Diaz de La Osa (UH) and Hanwen Luan (UAB) collaborated with Daniele Caterino (UNIVPM) on zeolite-based materials from rice husk. The team also welcomed Albert Bartoli Almera (AERIS) and Kasia Budkiewicz to discuss pilot-scale validation. With guidance from Prof. Francesco Fatone and Prof. Massimiliano Sgroi, the initiative strengthens VALZEO's circular and international innovation efforts.

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### Strengthening Euro-Cuban Scientific Collaboration

VALZEO reinforced Europe-Cuba cooperation during the II International Conference on Innovation and Development in Havana. Fundación Universidad de La Habana (FUH) hosted partners for discussions on innovation, open science, and sustainable technology transfer. UAB representatives presented advances in multifunctional materials, while AERIS highlighted innovation pathways. SITES supported project visibility and outreach throughout the event. The conference strengthened Europe-Cuba scientific collaboration and laid the groundwork for future joint actions in agri-tech, water treatment, and circular innovation.

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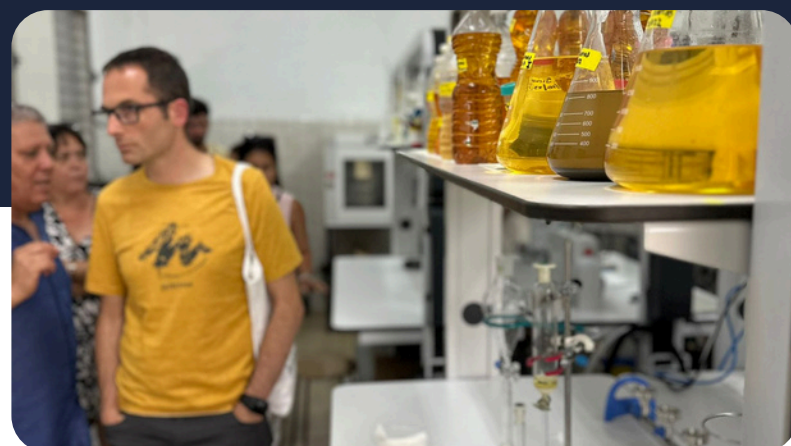


## International Workshop - Cuba 2025

The VALZEO International Workshop - Cuba 2025 opened in Havana on May 30 with a strong focus on circular innovation and scientific collaboration. Hosted at Hotel Habana Libre, Day 1 featured keynote interventions from Dr. Vilma Hidalgo (FUH), Dr. Manuel Valiente (UAB), and Dr. Leonardo Piccinetti (SITES). Two technical panels explored raw material characterisation, silica extraction, synthetic and natural zeolites, catalytic applications, and advanced materials for water treatment. A closing Science Café encouraged dialogue and strengthened Euro-Cuban cooperation.

On June 2, the second day of the workshop took place at the Indio Hatuey Experimental Station (EEPFIH), where researchers transitioned from laboratory findings to practical demonstrations. Dr. Luis Cepero Casas and Dr. Luis Alberto Hernandez Olivera presented advances in biodiesel catalysis and guided participants through live demonstrations at the biodiesel plant. Additional technologies used at EEPFIH were showcased, reinforcing VALZEO's commitment to real-world validation of sustainable solutions in agriculture, bioenergy, and environmental management.

The afternoon shifted toward long-term impact and strategic development. Dr. Gustavo Pérez González (UAB) presented business models for the exploitation of project results, highlighting pathways for sustainable market uptake. Dr. Roberto Boada (UAB) concluded with reflections on scaling innovation, strengthening international cooperation, and sustaining capacity-building beyond the project. Together, both workshop days demonstrated VALZEO's integrated approach to scientific excellence, circular value creation, and international partnership

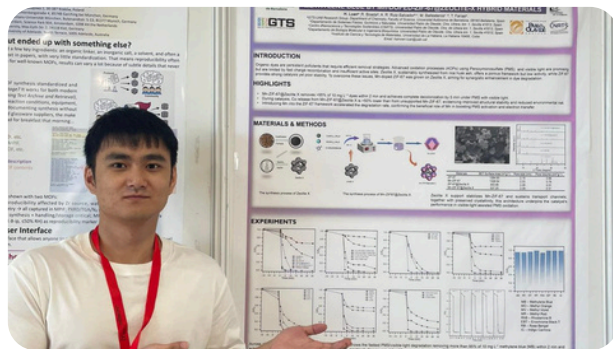




## SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

### VALZEO at EuroMOF 2025

Hanwen Luan (UAB) presented VALZEO research at EuroMOF2025, showcasing MOF-Zeolite hybrid materials for pollutant adsorption and photocatalytic degradation. His poster demonstrated the efficiency of Mn-doped ZIF-67@Zeolite-X composites for water remediation, strengthening WP2 and WP3 outcomes. The contribution highlights VALZEO's support for young researchers and advances in sustainable materials for circular-economy applications. [know More](#)



### VALZEO at Trieste NEXT

VALZEO participated in Trieste NEXT and European Researchers' Night 2025, where Dr. Leonardo Piccinetti and Donatella Santoro (SITES) presented the project during a University of Trieste podcast. They highlighted VALZEO's circular approach to transforming agro-industrial waste into sustainable zeolite materials. The event strengthened public engagement and showcased VALZEO's contribution to Europe's green and bioeconomy goals. [know More](#)



### VALZEO Masterclass - University of Insubria

VALZEO delivered a masterclass at the University of Insubria on 1 October 2025, where Leonardo Piccinetti (SITES) introduced students to research project management within the circular bioeconomy. The session explored grant writing, leadership, and innovation pathways, while showcasing VALZEO's work on zeolite-based materials and sustainable technologies. The activity supported capacity building and inspired future professionals in EU-funded research. [know More](#)



### VALZEO at Ecomondo 2025

VALZEO participated in ECOMONDO 2025 in Rimini, presenting advances in circular materials, water treatment technologies, and waste-valorisation strategies. Represented by Assoc. Prof. Roberto Boada (UAB) and SITES, the project engaged with European stakeholders and shared progress from Horizon Europe MSCA-SE activities. A dedicated session highlighted VALZEO's Social Life Cycle Assessment approach, presented by Chiara De Santis (SITES), emphasising the project's holistic view of sustainability. [know More](#)



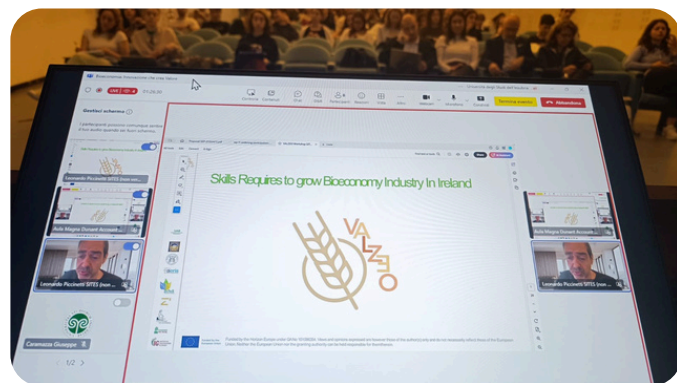
The event offered strong networking opportunities through meetings, exhibitions, and the EIT Raw Materials session. These exchanges enabled new collaborations and strengthened VALZEO's role in Europe's circular economy community. "ECOMONDO 2025 was a tremendous success for VALZEO," noted Assoc. Prof. Boada, reflecting on the high interest in the project's work on converting agro-industrial waste into high-value materials and advancing socially responsible circular solutions.

## EVENTS & DISSEMINATION

### VALZEO at Italy's National Bioeconomy Day

The project was showcased at national events across Italy, highlighting innovation in circular materials, water treatment, and bio-based solutions.

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### VALZEO at CEDIS3 - Türkiye

VALZEO was featured at the CEDIS3 Conference, presenting its multidisciplinary approach to zeolite materials and environmental remediation technologies.

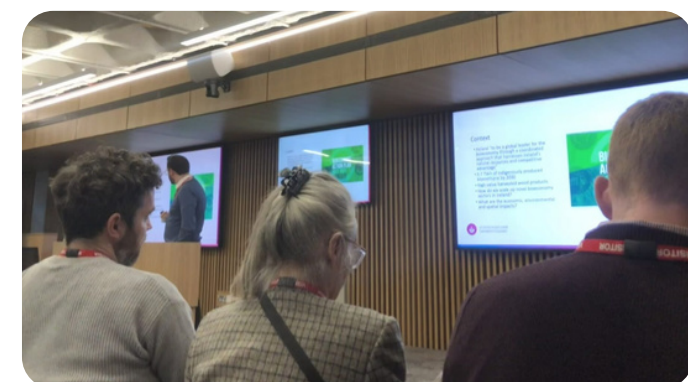
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### VALZEO at Bioeconomy Research Symposium

SITES represented VALZEO at Dublin's Bioeconomy & Bioenergy Research Symposium, where Marsela Lesaj engaged with researchers and explored emerging innovations in Ireland's renewable energy and circular materials sector, strengthening VALZEO's awareness of evolving bioeconomy trends.

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## LOOKING AHEAD - FINAL PROJECT YEAR

VALZEO will focus on:

- final secondments,
- pilot-scale testing,
- scientific publications,
- policy briefs,
- training modules,
- and enhanced communication activities.

The consortium is committed to delivering strong scientific, technological, and societal impact by 2026.



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