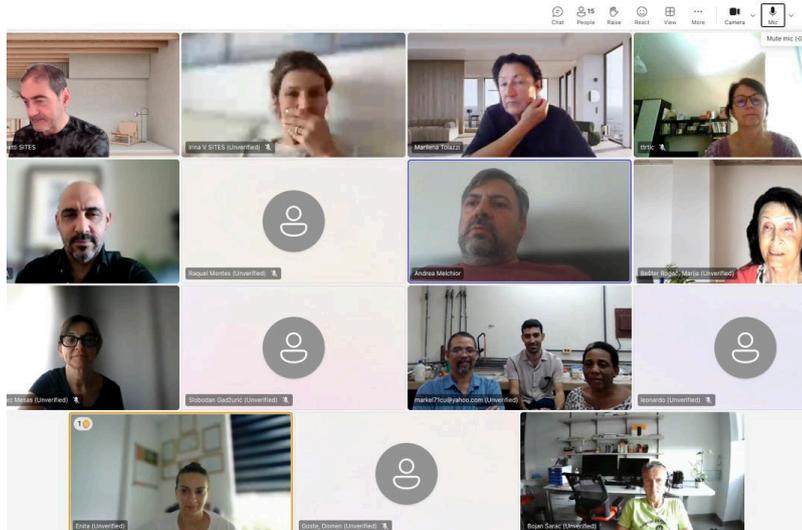




FRECOVER NEWSLETTER



FRECOVER Marks Six Months of Progress

FRECOVER partners came together for an online six-month progress meeting to review ongoing activities, coordination, and next steps. The meeting provided an opportunity to align on research developments, staff exchanges, dissemination actions, and upcoming milestones across the consortium.

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Welcome to 2ND Edition of the FRECOVER Newsletter

This issue highlights the project's latest activities, including international secondments, workshops, scientific conferences, training initiatives, and public engagement events. It also marks Project Month 6 (PM6), a key milestone reflecting strong progress in coordination, research collaboration, and dissemination. Through continued cooperation and knowledge exchange, FRECOVER advances sustainable solutions for rare earth recycling while strengthening research and innovation capacity across Europe and beyond.



FRECOVER Staff Exchanges in Action

FRECOVER continues to implement its MSCA Staff Exchanges programme, enabling international and inter-sectoral mobility among partner institutions. Recent secondments support knowledge transfer, skills development, and collaborative research on sustainable rare earth recycling.

First FREECOVER Staff Secondments



FREECOVER proudly highlights its first staff exchange under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Staff Exchanges programme. Dr. Tatjana Trtić-Petrović, senior researcher at the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences (VINS), completed a secondment at AD HARBI d.o.o. in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Hosted by AD HARBI, a key industrial partner, the secondment focused on the characterization and strategic use of pyrophyllite for sustainable Rare Earth Element (REE) recovery. Dr. Trtić-Petrović expressed her appreciation to the AD HARBI team—Muhamed Harbinja, Enita Kurtanović, and Igor Marković—for their support and technical expertise. This exchange strengthens cross-sectoral collaboration and integrates industrial needs into FREECOVER’s green innovation pathway.

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FREECOVER Workshop in Havana

Advancing Chemical Technologies for the Circular Economy

On September 5, 2025, the FREECOVER project hosted its first internal workshop at the University of Havana (UH), Cuba, titled “Chemical Technologies for the Recovery of Critical Raw Materials through Solid-Phase Extraction: Advances Toward the Circular Economy”. Organised within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges (MSCA-SE) framework, the event formed part of FREECOVER’s training and dissemination activities, bringing together 15 participants, including senior researchers, junior scientists, and students.

Led by Dr. Markel Denet Luaces Alberto (UH), the workshop featured presentations on the use of Cuban zeolites for the sustainable recovery of critical raw materials such as Co, Cu, Ni, Pt, Nd, and Pr, with contributions from researchers from UNIUD, UAB, and UH. This milestone highlights FREECOVER’s commitment to strengthening Europe–Latin America research cooperation, fostering innovation in circular economy technologies, and supporting the EU’s green and digital transitions.

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FRECOVER Masterclass From PhD to Research Manager



On 26 September 2025, the FRECOVER consortium hosted its first internal masterclass seminar, “From PhD to Research Manager: Grant Writing, Leadership & Project Management”, at the Università di Udine, Campus dei Rizzi (Aula Gialla). Organised within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges (MSCA-SE), the event formed part of FRECOVER’s training and capacity-building activities. The masterclass was opened by Prof. Andrea Melchior (UNIUD, FRECOVER Coordinator), who welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of strengthening research management skills in sustainable research projects.

The seminar was delivered by Dr. Leonardo Piccinetti (SITES), who shared over 25 years of experience in EU programme management, sustainability, and innovation. Sessions covered career pathways in research management, grant writing essentials, project design and risk management, and effective communication and dissemination strategies. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, participants developed leadership skills and tools to support their transition from academic careers to research management roles, in line with FRECOVER’s mission to foster excellence in sustainability and Rare Earth Element innovation.

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FRECOVER at INORG 2025

FRECOVER was proudly featured at the Italian Chemical Society Conference on Inorganic Chemistry (INORG 2025), held in Naples, strengthening the project’s visibility within the scientific community. Fabio Piccinelli from partner institution UNIVR presented a poster outlining the project’s mission, objectives, and overall vision. This dissemination activity supported knowledge sharing and raised awareness of FRECOVER’s work on sustainable solutions for Rare Earth Element recovery. The participation reflects the consortium’s strong commitment to scientific excellence and effective communication of project progress.

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Excellence in Chemistry Honoured



The FREECOVER consortium is proud to announce that Prof.ssa Marilena Tolazzi of the Università degli Studi di Udine, a key partner in the project, has been awarded by the Associazione Italiana di Chimica per l'Ingegneria for her outstanding contributions to chemistry and engineering. Her research strongly aligns with FREECOVER's mission to develop green chemical technologies, including ionic liquids and advanced sorbent materials, for the sustainable recovery of Rare Earth Elements (REEs). This prestigious recognition reflects the high scientific standards and interdisciplinary excellence within the FREECOVER consortium. The award also highlights the vital role of chemistry and engineering in supporting circular economy strategies. FREECOVER warmly congratulates Prof. Tolazzi and looks forward to her continued leadership and innovation.

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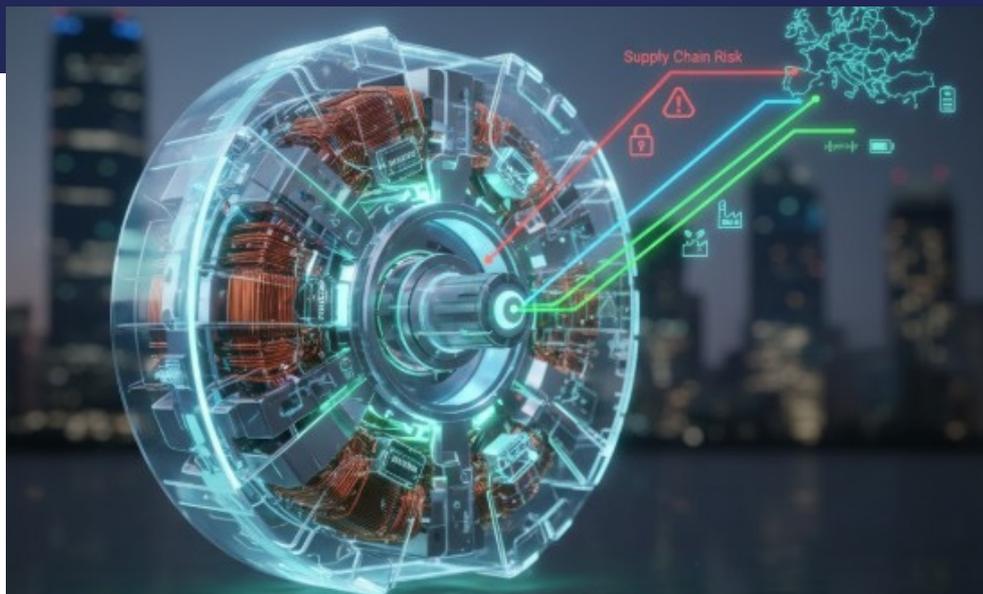
FREECOVER at Trieste Next

On 27 September 2025, FREECOVER was showcased at Trieste Next Science Week during the European Researchers' Night. Representing the project, Dr Leonardo Piccinetti and Donatella Santoro (SITES) participated in a University of Trieste podcast interview, sharing FREECOVER's vision for sustainable innovation. Dr Piccinetti highlighted the project's work on eco-friendly methods for Rare Earth Element recovery, supporting Europe's circular economy and critical raw materials strategy. This participation reinforces FREECOVER's commitment to public engagement and green innovation.

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Rare Earths in Automotive



On 23 October 2025, FREECOVER followed the 7th Rare Earth Roundtable webinar, organised by EIT RawMaterials SIGN under the MAGELLAN Project, focusing on Rare Earth Permanent Magnet Applications in the Automotive Sector. Experts from ZF, VDA, and IFPEN discussed Europe's strong dependency on China for NdFeB magnets, highlighting supply chain risks, carbon footprint challenges, and limited transparency around "green magnet" production. The webinar emphasised technological innovation, supply diversification, and circular economy strategies—particularly magnet recycling—as key pathways forward. The discussions reinforced the need for coordinated European action to ensure secure and sustainable rare earth supply chains.

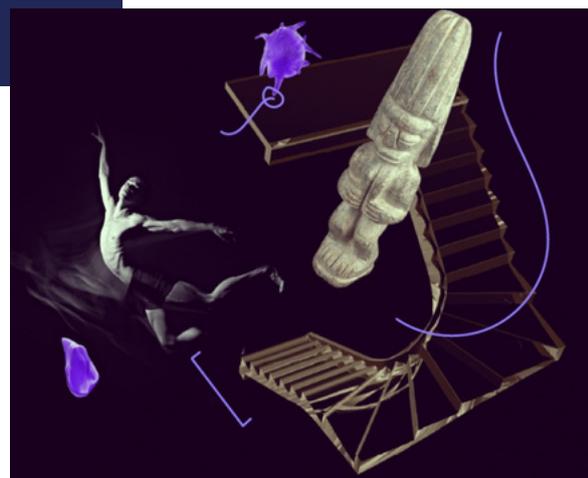
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Prepared by Shariefah Darries (SITES).

MSCA Staff Exchanges Results

On 9 October 2025, the European Commission announced the results of the 2025 MSCA Staff Exchanges call, which attracted 363 proposals requesting nearly €423.6 million in funding. Around 80–90 projects are expected to be funded, involving 2,757 organisations from 134 countries, including strong participation from non-academic sectors. As an MSCA Staff Exchanges project, FREECOVER continues to benefit from this dynamic framework, strengthening international collaboration and advancing sustainable Rare Earth Element recovery through staff mobility.

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UAB

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

FREECOVER Next Workshop

FREECOVER's next project workshop will be hosted by UAB on 22–23 January 2026, alongside the Project Meeting at Month 12 (M12). The event will bring partners together to review progress, strengthen collaboration, and plan upcoming research, mobility, and dissemination activities within the MSCA Staff Exchanges framework.

Thank you



Project Consourim



hic sunt futura

COORDINATOR

The Università degli Studi di Udine (UNIUD) serves as the coordinator of the FREECOVER project, overseeing its strategic direction and scientific advancements. With extensive expertise in **hydrometallurgy, material chemistry, and circular economy solutions**, UNIUD plays a pivotal role in the development of **eco-friendly technologies for Rare Earth Element (REE) recycling**.



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