

EU MSCA-ETN NEW-MINE kicks off with EU action plan

On February 7, 2017 the KU Leuven coordinated EU MSCA-ETN NEW-MINE project kicked off in Houthalen, Belgium. Houthalen hosts the benchmark landfill mining demonstration project managed by Remo Milieubeheer (Group Machiels). The kick-off meeting was organised in conjunction with the fifth General Assembly (GA) of the European Enhanced Landfill Mining Consortium (EURELCO), which took place on February 6, 2016. The GA was attended by 80 participants from 13 EU Member States. Guest speaker for this 5th GA was Belgian Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Hilde Vautmans who launched her ambitious EFM EU Action Plan (see speech and slides below). Concurrently, the newly initiated EU projects ETN NEW-MINE and Interreg Europe COCOON were presented, along with the projects that are currently in evaluation (ETN MAGNOLIA and Interreg Rawfill). Katleen Vandormael and Peter Tom Jones presented, respectively, the EURELCO communication and an outlook for the future functioning of the EURELCO network. Subsequently, new project concepts were discussed in breakout sessions. The General Assembly was concluded with a unique ETN NEW-MINE event in which the ETN NEW-MINE researchers went in dialogue with the "locals" living in the vicinity of the Remo landfill site in Houthalen-Helchteren. This "locals" event (part of the general EU MSCA-ETN NEW-MINE programme) was attended by 60 participants. The event led to an agreement between ETN NEW-MINE to organise a structural and long-lasting, interaction between the "locals" and the NEW-MINE research community.