

PRESS RELEASE – June 2019

## What are the outcomes of SUPERMET after one year?

One year after its launch, the SUPERMET project shows promising results to develop a new technique for the process of recycling precious metals coming from spent catalysts. Gathered in the General Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2019 at INOE-ICIA Institute, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the partners of the SUPERMET project confirmed that both scientific and dissemination activities have been carried out according to the foreseen timetable.

The main technical challenge in the SUPERMET project will be to develop and test new copolymers as extracting additives for the extraction of the precious metals in supercritical  $CO_2$  from spent catalysts. During this first year of project, the scientific teams of the partners (ICGM, Heraeus, Fraunhofer ICT, INOE-ICIA, IFS) have selected and characterized virgin and spent catalysts containing palladium and platinum metals. Besides, a broad range of copolymers has been synthesized and tested in supercritical  $CO_2$ . First extractions using supercritical  $CO_2$  and combining selected copolymers and catalysts showed promising extraction results. For the second coming year of project, scientific activities will address validation and optimization of the obtained results.

The SUPERMET project has been communicated to scientific networks: towards French supercritical network at the "National French Workshop on Supercritical Fluids" held on December 2018 in Toulouse, France; more recently at the "5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Green Chemistry" in La Rochelle, France (May 2019). The SUPERMET project will also be presented in June 2019 during the "International Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy" (Venice, Italy) and the "European Polymer Congress 2019" (Crete, Greece).

Updated news on the SUPERMET project are available through the dedicated website <u>www.supermetproject.eu</u>.







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