LIFE Reclaim: A Landfill Mining case study in Greece

S. Papagrigoriou (1), S. Stasinos (2), D. Damigos (3), E. N. Makrykosta (1), Z. Gaitanarou (1), V. Andrea (2)

(1) ENVECO S.A., Athens, Greece
(2) HELECTOR S.A., Athens, Greece
(3) National Technical University of Athens, Greece

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Presenting author email: info@enveco.gr

The LIFE+ Reclaim project with the title “Landfill mining pilot application for recovery of invaluable metals, materials, land and energy” which is co-funded by the EU, has started in July 2013 and will be completed by June 2016. The project is coordinated by ENVECO S.A., while the Associated Beneficiaries are HELECTOR S.A., the Municipality of Polygyros and the School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering of the NTUA. In the context of the project, a mobile pilot demonstration unit was installed in order to mine parts of the Polygyros Sanitary Landfill in Northern Greece (Chalkidiki). The aim of the project was to separate useful materials, introduce elements from the mining industry and suggest an alternative concept of waste valorization.

The results of the project come from various different actions which include amongst others an extensive research about the landfill mining method and sharing the knowledge from international experts, as well as the outcomes from the demonstration unit operation. Equal importance bear the results of the analysis of the socioeconomic impacts, the creation of a relevant national action plan and the elaboration of a strategic environmental assessment for the introduction of Landfill Mining in Greece.

Along with these actions, public awareness activities are organized in relation to the benefits of Landfill Mining and Post-disposal waste treatment, such as the possible recovery of precious natural resources, the rehabilitation of the environment and the reclamation of land.