

What's Next MateriNex's Wake-up session:

Future-Proof Flanders: Opportunities in Lithium refining and Battery Recycling

Premiere screening:

Europe's Lithium Paradox

In the race towards climate neutrality, lithium stands as a cornerstone. "Europe's Lithium Paradox" dives deep into the pivotal role of lithium in this transition, unravelling the intricate web of opportunities and challenges in mining, refining, and recycling this essential element within Europe. This documentary poses critical questions: Are European companies truly at the forefront of environmental and social standards? Will the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act pave the way for a sustainable future? Can Europe resolve its lithium paradox? Journey through Europe's potential lithium mining sites across continental Europe. Witness groundbreaking, first-ever footage of Umicore's unique battery smelter recycling process and Metso's innovative lithium refining process, both of which sidestep many environmental pitfalls seen in traditional lithium processing methods worldwide. The film also sheds light on demand-side management strategies, including a modal shift in transport, aimed at reducing the reliance on primary lithium extraction. With captivating footage from various European countries and insightful interviews with a diverse array of stakeholders, "Europe's Lithium Paradox" offers a comprehensive and balanced perspective on Europe's lithium conundrum. Mark your calendars for the film's release in May 2025, with confirmed screenings on May 27 in Antwerp and June 3 in Lisbon.

A SIM² & Storyrunner co-production

This documentary film, titled "Europe's Lithium Paradox," is co-produced by SIM², the KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals. As a formal "KU Leuven Institute", SIM²'s mission is "to advance the sustainable production and recycling of metals, minerals, and engineered materials through problem-driven, science-deep research, future-oriented education, and wider-society learning". Funding for this documentary comes from Horizon Europe project funding (LITHOS & EXCEED), supplemented by internal SIM² funding and additional crowdfunding managed through KU Leuven's crowdfunding platform (<https://donate.kuleuven.cloud/crowdfunding/kuleuven>). No external company commissioned or financed this film.

Disclaimer: SIM² has no financial interest in the publication of this documentary. It will not receive royalties or commercial income from the airing of this film on television stations, streaming platforms, or social media channels. The production and dissemination of this documentary are solely part of SIM²'s mandated commitment to wider-society learning and its role as communication & dissemination Work Package leader in the Horizon Europe projects LITHOS & EXCEED.