



European  
Commission

# Gypsum to Gypsum

Lessons on recycling plasterboard

EUROGYPSUM



The Gypsum to Gypsum project has manufactured new drywall from 30% recycled material.

## OUR STORY

We established Ritleng Revalorisations as a family business to deal with mounting volumes of gypsum waste generated by the construction and demolition sector. Our company operates recycling centres in mainland France where more than 48 000 tonnes of plaster have already been treated and reused in new buildings.



Circular economy



Waste reduction



Environment

## Larger with Life

Between 2013-2016, the EU LIFE Programme invested nearly €1.8 million in the €3.6 million Gypsum to Gypsum project to boost the recycling rate of plasterboard from the construction sector. Over 2 million of tonnes of demolished plaster are buried each year in Europe. Ritleng Revalorisations has been recycling this waste since 2012, engaging in efforts later pursued by peers in the LIFE-funded project Gypsum to Gypsum.

## EU added value

- Alleviate burden on EU landfills
- Curtail unnecessary mining activities
- Keep Europe's ecosystems unpolluted

## Prospects

- Set building deconstruction standards
- Favour green public procurement
- Green partnerships in other industrial sectors

## Achievements

- Produced plasterboard with up to **30% recycled gypsum** from the demolition sector
- Demonstrated the feasibility and benefits of building **deconstruction** over demolition
- Spread best practices for **re-routing gypsum** waste separately from other building materials
- Published the first comprehensive assessment on the **carbon footprint** of recycling gypsum
- Ran the first internationally **synchronised trials** in the plasterboard manufacturing industry

## Policy support

- Recycle **construction and demolition waste** identified in the EU Waste Framework Directive
- Increase the **reuse rate** of gypsum as set out in the European circular economy action plan
- **Minimise waste** to limit its environmental impact in line with the EU Landfill Directive

## Contact

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Environment  
& Climate  
Action



# LIFE supporting companies



The **LIFE Programme** has financed green innovation and clean tech solutions since its start in 1992. One of today's key priorities for LIFE is to support close-to-market projects delivering innovative environmental solutions, ensuring that they are sustainable and capable of being widely taken up by society in general, and the economy in particular.

The **Close-to-market initiative's** aim is to help and assist the LIFE projects with market potential to develop towards successfully maintaining project results via commercialisation and upscaling of the proposed innovative solutions.

## How can LIFE support beneficiaries with close-to-market activities?

- Expert review of the close-to-market stage of your project and assessment of the close-to-market potential.
- Help with determining milestones and action points based on project readiness and assisting you with their progress during your project's whole lifecycle.
- Flexibility to use the LIFE project budget to get the necessary expertise including market analysis, detailed business plan preparation, coaching etc.
- Linking you with a network of advisers including the Enterprise Europe Network, coaches and accelerators.
- Assistance with financing and contacts with the investor community through events, introducing you to the SME Instrument and the European Investment Bank Group.
- Networking opportunities through LIFE platforms in order to build business partnerships with other key players.
- Gaining additional publicity for your innovative green solutions through the Innovation Radar platform and via dedicated handouts promoting close-to-market activities of LIFE.

*“LIFE can help you to sustain and thrive even after the end of the LIFE project.”*

## LEARN MORE

 [ec.europa.eu/life](http://ec.europa.eu/life)  [LIFE programme](#)  
 [@LIFEprogramme](#)  [LIFE programme](#)

## HOW TO APPLY FOR LIFE FUNDING

The European Commission organises annual calls for proposals.  
Full details are available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/your-close-market-proposals-tips-applying>

## CONTACT

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European Commission – Directorate-General for Climate Action – B-1049 Brussels ([clima-life@ec.europa.eu](mailto:clima-life@ec.europa.eu))  
European Commission – Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) – B-1049 Brussels ([EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EASME-LIFE-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu))

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