

THE ISSUE

Currently, more than half of all materials extracted globally (over three billion tonnes/year in the EU only) are transformed for use in construction. The EU aims to mitigate the environmental impact of the construction sector by recycling re-using large amounts of these materials, thus reducing the consumption of raw materials. Construction and demolition waste (CDW) has been identified by the Commission as a priority waste stream due to the huge amounts generated and its high potential for re-use and recycling.







THE ECO TILES PROJECT

The LIFE ECO TILES project will demonstrate the possibility to produce fully recycled pre-casted cement-based products (Terrazzo tiles) using recycled glass from urban and industrial waste, ceramic and Construction & Demolition Waste (CDW). The production will have a substantial less environmental impact than for traditional tiles and achieve the manufacture of high-grade products. ECO TILES products will contribute to the achievement of EU 2020 goals on Waste and Resource Efficiency, by reducing emissions, waste, impacts on health and the environment.







WHAT IS A TERRAZZO TILE?

Just like many dishes of traditional Italian cooking, the terrazzo tile started out life as a product of the poor. Known throughout the world under different names terrazzo marble grit was one of the first materials created from the chips leftovers from marbleand stone-work, simply bound with cement, coloured with natural oxides and blended with water. The infinite number of decorative possibilities and the high technical quality of the product makes terrazzo tiles stand out as the most beautiful and durable flooring in Italy and throughout the world.



OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate an innovative methodology that integrates promising research results to produce a new generation of cement-based tiles made almost entirely (up to 70%) with recycled materials and with lower environmental impacts compared to current best-in-market products.
- Demonstrate the improved environmental performance in the production process of precast products, through the reuse and recycling of several streams of urban waste as well as lower energy consumption;
- Build and maintain a collection and valorisation network in the Marche region (with a focus on CDW, production of building material and glass), including fostering of green public procurement;
- Increase awareness of improved eco-innovative solutions among the general public, policy-makers and in the European industry, focusing on the environmental and economic advantages as well as on the technical feasibility of innovations such as LIFE ECO TILES.





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