

SymbioSteel Newsletter No.5, 2026

Update of SymbioSteel activities in the 2nd year

The EU RFCS project SymbioSteel focuses on Industrial Symbiosis (IS), which concerns the use by one company or sector of underutilized resources from another, making those resources last for longer to enhance efficiency and sustainability. It aims to transform the steel sector by promoting collaboration and reducing environmental impact. The project aims to accelerate the adoption of Industrial Symbiosis in the steel industry, supporting decarbonization and resource efficiency.

The project is now approaching the end of its second and final year. Throughout this year, we have continued our efforts to advance and support Industrial Symbiosis in the steel sector.

As the project progressed, a growing number of research findings and practical insights were generated, providing valuable material for dissemination and outreach activities. These include KPI assessment results, evaluations of Industrial Symbiosis initiatives, guidance on future opportunities and challenges, analyses of key drivers and barriers, and recommendations for future collaboration networks, etc.

By July 2026 in the 2nd project year, multi DEC activates were conducted to introduce the scopes and concept of SymbioSteel, as well as promote the results and outcomes obtained.

Consortium team:



Main completed activities in the 2nd year

- Special session on Industrial Symbiosis, SymbioSteel presentation and interviews in the ESTAD 2025 conference, October 6-9, 2025, Verona.
- SymbioSteel online project meeting, October 15, 2025.
- Communication, interviews, and flyer distribution in the ESTEP annual event 2025, 28-30 October 2025, Udine.
- Publication of the open access journal paper (see the link on page 5).
- SymbioSteel special session, presentation, booth and interviews in the EEC/EMECCR 2026 conference, May 11-13, Milan.
- Communication and flyer distribution in the Hubs4Circularity Final Conference, May 27, 2026, Brussels.
- SymbioSteel special session, presentations, booth and poster in the EUROSLAG 2026 conference, June 15-17, 2026, Luleå.
- SymbioSteel partners participated in the 2026 conference on Socio-Economic Metabolism by the International Society for Industrial Ecology in Cambridge, July 6-8th.
- Acceptance of conference paper in Net-Zero Future 2026 conference (June 2026).

Follow our website and LinkedIn page for the latest project updates and materials (links on Page 5).

Activities in ESTAD 2025

We were delighted to participate in ESTAD 2025, held in Verona, Italy.

Prof. Valentina Colla delivered the presentation “Recent achievements of Industrial Symbiosis in the steel sector based on the Symbio-Steel project”, in the session on Circular Economy and Industrial Symbiosis.

In addition, we engaged with and interviewed several industry experts to gather their perspectives on Industrial Symbiosis.



ESTEP annual event

The event focused on advances in decarbonization, digitization, industrial symbiosis, and circular solutions, and on how these areas contribute to a more sustainable future for the European steel industry.

During the event, we gained valuable insights into these topics and engaged in meaningful discussions with industry peers. We also presented the SymbioSteel project in our conversations and distributed flyers highlighting the project's focus areas, activities, and expected outcomes.

In addition, we conducted interviews with experts on Industrial Symbiosis



EMECR 2026

At EMECR 2026, we hosted the special session: "Industrial Symbiosis for the steel sector: opportunities, challenges and success stories.", which attracted strong engagement from industry experts and stakeholders. During the session, we presented the project's objectives, progress and key results.

A big thank you to those who stopped by the SymbioSteel booth to connect with our project team.

During the conference, we also had the opportunity to conduct additional interviews with experts and stakeholders.

Hubs4Circularity

We attended the Hubs4Circularity Final Conference on May 27, 2026, in Brussels, joining ~150 experts to reflect on progress toward industrial Ecosystems and future collaboration. We were happy to connect with participants and share insights about SymbioSteel through project flyers and discussions.

A big thank you to the H4C organizers and contributors for a well-curated event and for fostering such an engaged community



EUROSLAG 2026

It was our pleasure to participate in the EUROSLAG 2026 conference, June 15-18 in Lulea, Sweden. We organized a SymbioSteel workshop as a special session on Industrial Symbiosis. Prof. Valentina Colla and Dr. Han Yu chaired this session with a strong participation from the audience and very interesting discussions. Six engaging presentations were delivered, covering both SymbioSteel results and findings from other EU-funded projects related to Industrial Symbiosis.



EUROSLAG 2026

A SymbioSteel exhibition booth featuring project roll-up and flyers was also showcased during the conference providing opportunities for valuable discussions and knowledge exchange with visitors and stakeholders. A SymbioSteel poster was presented to introduce the research results from the



Open access journal article: "Recent achievements of Industrial Symbiosis in the steel sector based on the Symbio-Steel project: a review":

<https://doi.org/10.1051/mattech/2026002>

**Stay tuned for
updates**

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