
PIANOFORTE travel grant report

Schoefs Daan, Hasselt University, CMK & NuTeC research groups

ENA workshop 2026 Presentation and phosphogypsum legacy site visit

The ENA workshop is a two – year organised congress organised by the European Norm Association (ENA). Bringing together experts and professionals from the field of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM). During the 3 – day congress, approximately one hundred participants attended various presentations about the latest developments in regularisation and research in the field of NORM. On an additional 4th day, participants had the opportunity to visit a restoration project of the phosphogypsum legacy site in Huelva.

This year's edition, which was hosted in Sevilla by the Centro Nacional de aceleradores (CNA) together with the university of Seville and the university of Huelva, was titled '*NORM: Rethink. Reclaim. Revalue*'. With this theme, ENA aims to bring change to the NORM industry by rethinking industrial processes to avoid production of NORM, and reclaim legacy sites by revaluing NORM through the valorisation of NORM products.

I had the opportunity to present my study titled '***Valorisation of CaF₂ byproduct from a former phosphate industry: characterisation and exploratory leaching experiments.***' in an oral presentation. This opportunity allowed me to present my work in front of an expert audience and inspire professionals active in NORM industries, while receiving useful feedback, building connections and gathering suggestions for my research.

Attending and presentation during the ENA workshop enabled me to connect with experts in the field, receive feedback on my experimental approach, and discover new avenues for future collaboration. Engaging in thought-provoking discussions during the coffee breaks and poster sessions provided invaluable insights into how other researchers and industry professionals are tackling similar challenges.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to PIANOFORTE for their financial support, which made my attendance and active participation in this inspiring conference possible.