

# Sustainable ink, sustainable value chain



Key words: **coffee waste, sustainable pigments, circular economy**



## Eline Leising

General Manager, Caffelnk and Consultant, RebelGroup | Main product: Caffelnk

### Aim

To extract pigments from coffee waste and use them to create sustainable ink

### EIT Community connection

EIT Climate-KIC Master Label programme (2014-2016), EIT Climate-KIC Journey, EIT Climate-KIC Greenhouse programme (the Netherlands, 2015-2016)

## The project

### The idea

Caffelnk gives coffee waste a second life by extracting the pigments and using them to produce sustainable ink, forming part of a new value chain based on sustainability.

### Inspiration

Coffee is the most consumed beverage in the world, and coffee waste equal to three Eiffel Towers in weight is produced each day. Meanwhile, the demand for ink is increasing, with ink production polluting the environment – especially pigments. Our team wanted to replace polluting pigments with a sustainable alternative, so we developed ink pigments sourced from waste coffee grounds.

### Unique selling points

Our method of connecting the coffee sector with ink producers is revolutionary. Caffelnk is both a service provider and a technologically innovative enterprise.

### EIT Community support

It was thanks to the EIT Climate-KIC Summer School that our team met, and we received training to develop our idea and present it during a pitch competition. We benefited from EIT Climate-KIC's Greenhouse programme, which supported us with financials,

personal and professional coaching, and opportunities to meet relevant experts.

### The future

Our aim is to successfully establish a new value chain making pigments from coffee waste in the Netherlands and France. We will develop coffee waste recycling and aspire for all pigments to be extracted from natural sources. On a global level, Caffelnk aims to raise awareness of the possibilities to create value from waste.

## The nominee

### The beginning

Nature has always inspired me and it motivated me to complete a Master's programme in industrial ecology, based on learning from nature and viewing waste as a valuable resource. At Caffelnk, we want to do this by closing loops and re-purposing waste products.

### Joining the EIT Community

I strongly believe in the power of collaboration. The EIT connects science, business and policy, and therefore boosts sustainable innovation processes. The EIT and EIT Climate-KIC offer opportunities to meet like-minded young professionals from all around Europe, eager to make this world a more sustainable place.

### Entrepreneurial spirit

Sustainable change and transitions have always fascinated me, but before I joined EIT Climate-KIC I did not see myself as an entrepreneur. EIT Climate-KIC made me realise my own potential to create positive change.

### An ideal world

I would like to drastically decrease current levels of meat consumption in the world, since this would solve many environmental problems.



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