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PRESS RELEASE

START OF THE PROJECT *LIFE for Acid Whey*

Company Arhel, d. o. o. has signed a Grant Agreement for the opening of a four-year project with the title “Reuse of waste acid whey for extraction of high added value bioactive proteins” co-funded by European financial instrument LIFE

Company Arhel, d.o.o. will carry out the project in the partnership with the Institute of Dairy Science and Probiotics of the Biotechnical Faculty University of Ljubljana. The project, worth EUR 4.4 million, will be co-funded of 60% of the total eligible budget by the European LIFE financial instrument, supporting environmental and nature conservation projects.

The aim of the project is the optimisation and demonstration of a technological solution of processing byproduct of the production to reduce the negative impact on the environment and offer in an otherwise traditional industry, a possibility of new revenue. The project focuses on acid whey generated in the process of production of cottage (fresh) cheese and Greek (strained) yoghurt. Despite its high nutritional value, unlike the sweet whey, it is rarely further technologically processed. Acid whey is thus often a waste of the production, where 2,500 litres of whey equals to the burden on the environment caused by wastewater from 1000 inhabitants.

In the project, multiple ways of whey uses and processing will be demonstrated, which enable the production of energy, the production of dairy starter cultures, vitamins, as well as the isolation of individual whey proteins, which can achieve in the market of dietary supplements a very high market value. In the latter case, the industrial-scale technology of chromatographic separation with high flow rates will be used, a result of Slovenian development.

Company Arhel, d. o. o. is engaged in the development, production and sales of high-tech products. In recent years, the company has directed its development into solutions for the removal of micropollutants from wastewater and protection of freshwater bodies, through the introduction of innovative technologies in the field of electrochemistry, robotics and sensor technology. The result of the recent development are the patent applications, and the two completed demonstration projects LIFE Stop CyanoBloom and PharmDegrade from the field of detection and control of cyanobacteria in water bodies and removal of residues of pharmacologically active substances from the wastewater after completed biological treatment process.