



LABORATORIO DI  
**CHIMICA**

## From Spent Lithium-Ion Batteries to an Heterogeneous Co-Ni Catalyst for the Reductive Upgrading of Biomass-derived furanics

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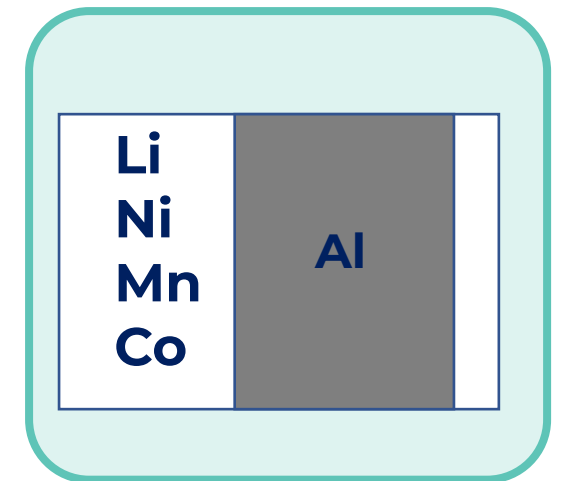
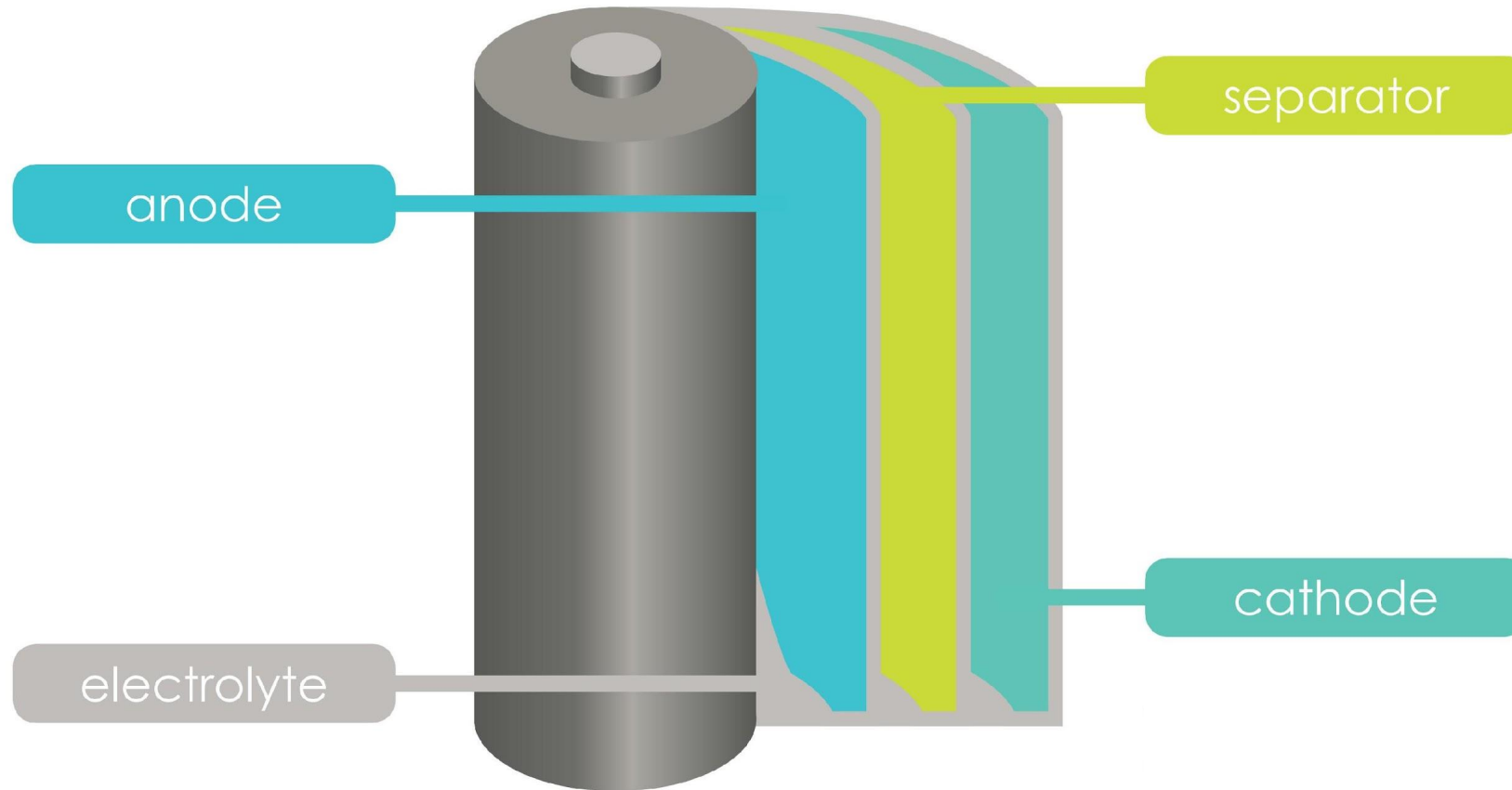


*in 2019*

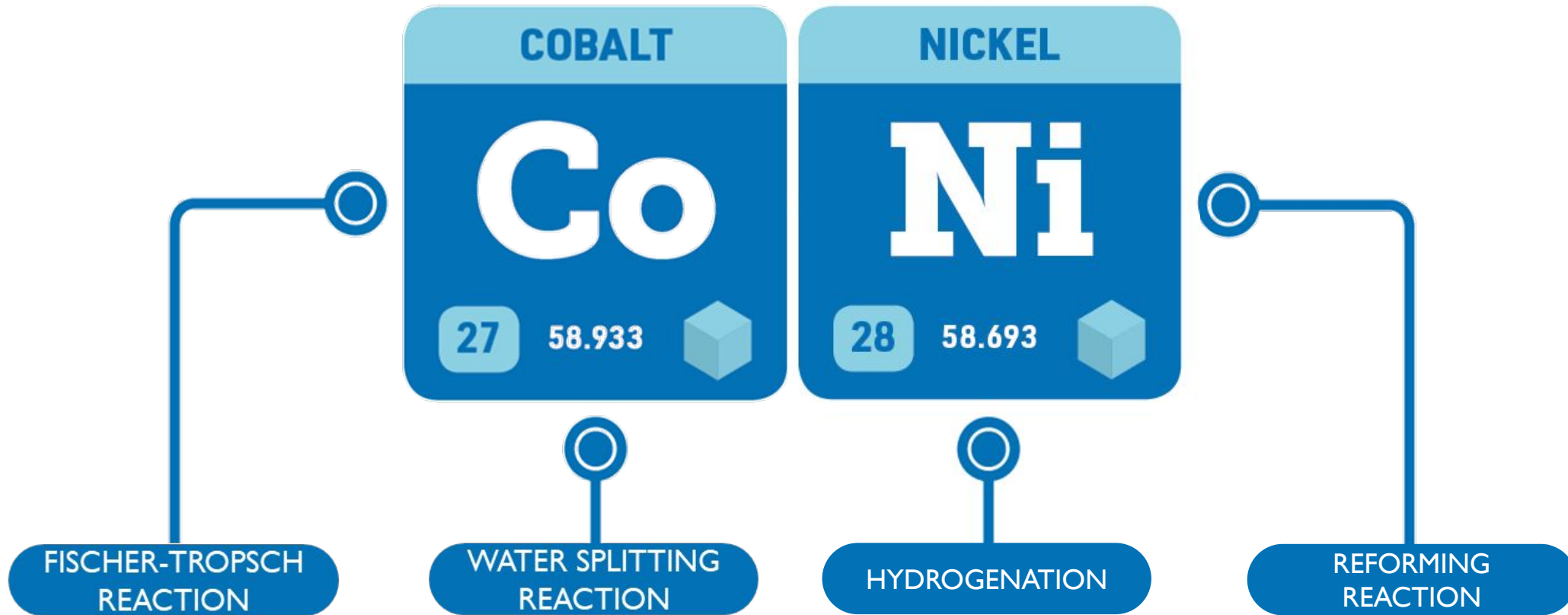
**53.6**  
Mt

e-waste arising from the disposal of electrical and electronic equipments with an average of **7.3 kg per capita**

## Li-ion Battery (LIB)



## Co- and Ni-based catalysts



F. Mauriello, E. Paone, R. Pietropaolo, A.M. Balu, R. Luque. ACS Sustain. Chem. Eng., 2018, 6(7), 9269-9276.

F. Mauriello, H. Ariga-Miwa, E. Paone, R. Pietropaolo, S.Takakusagi, K. Asakura. Catal. Today. 2020, 357, 511-517.

...and many others!



## FURFURAL: a platform molecule for biobased industry

**Agro-based feedstocks** – plants that are rich in carbohydrate, such as corn or sugar cane.



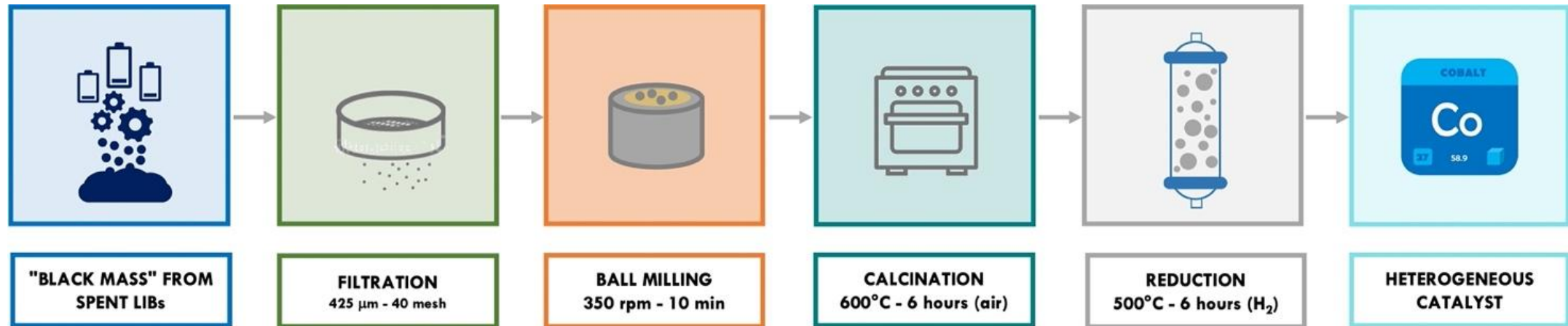
**Ligno-cellulosic feedstocks** – plants that are not eligible for food or feed production.



**Organic waste feedstocks**

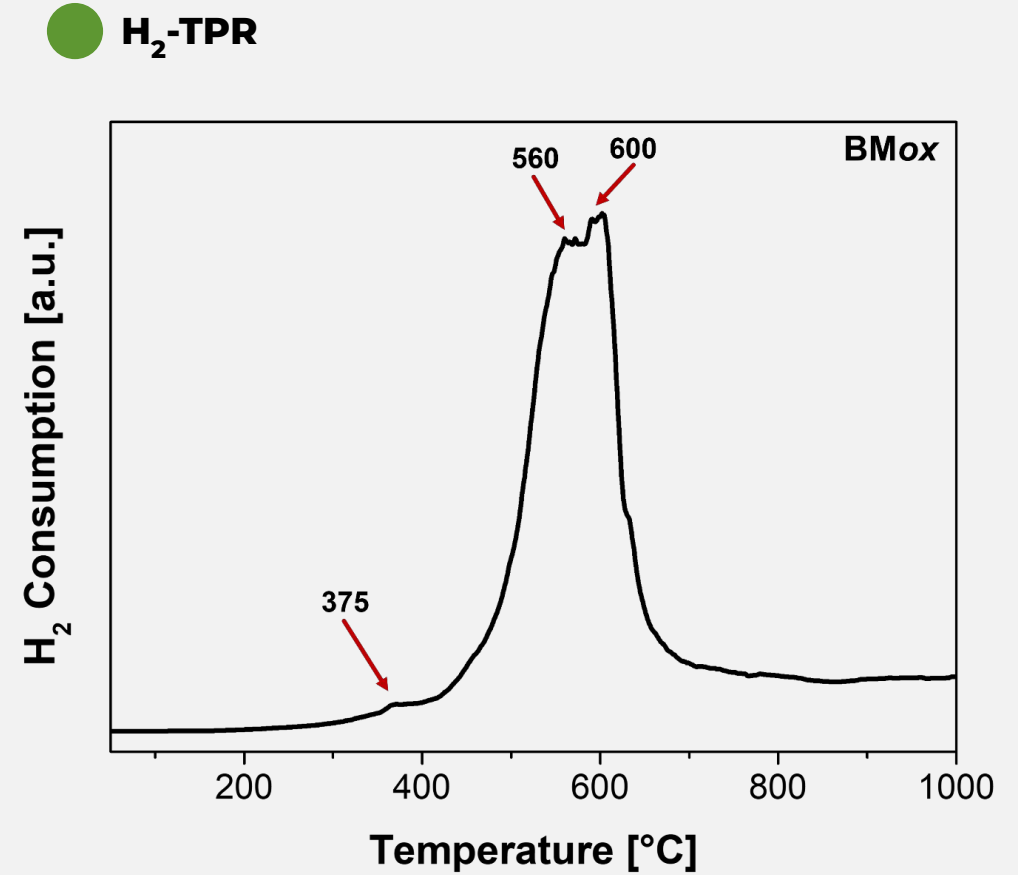
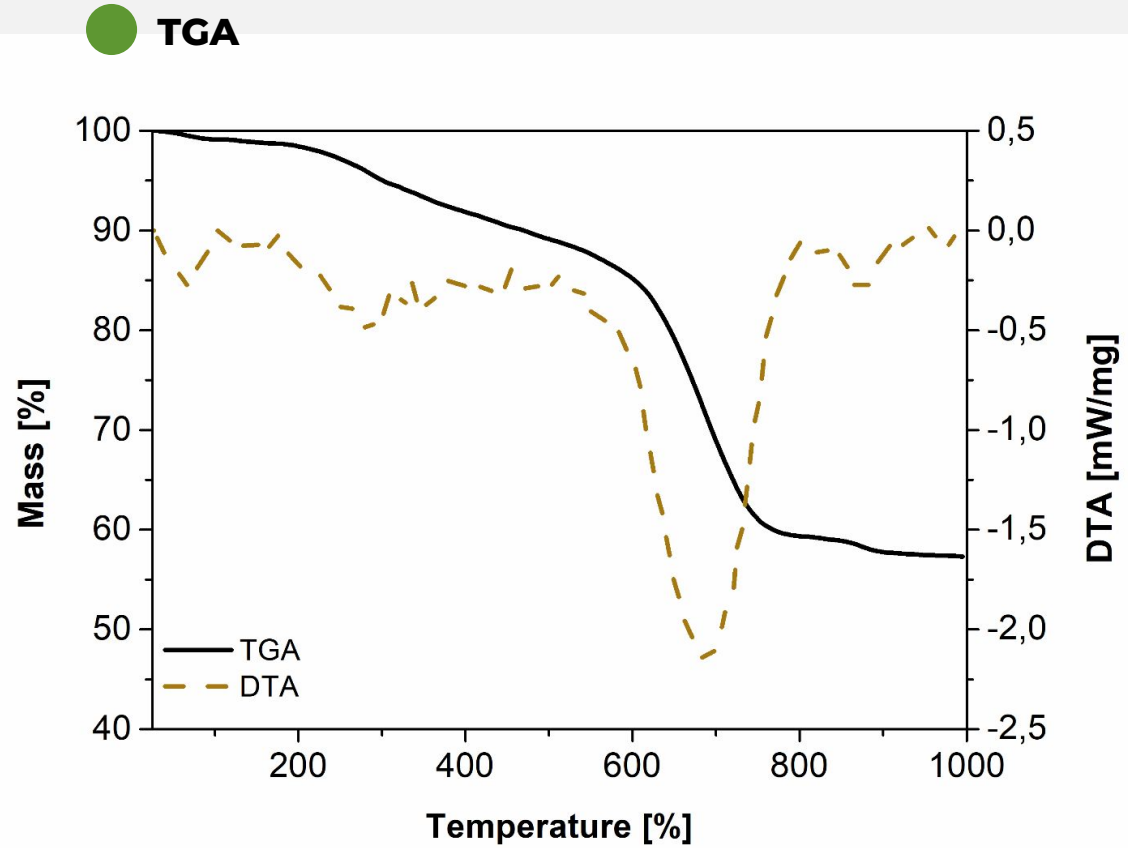


## FROM LIBs to HETEROGENEOUS Co-based CATALYST



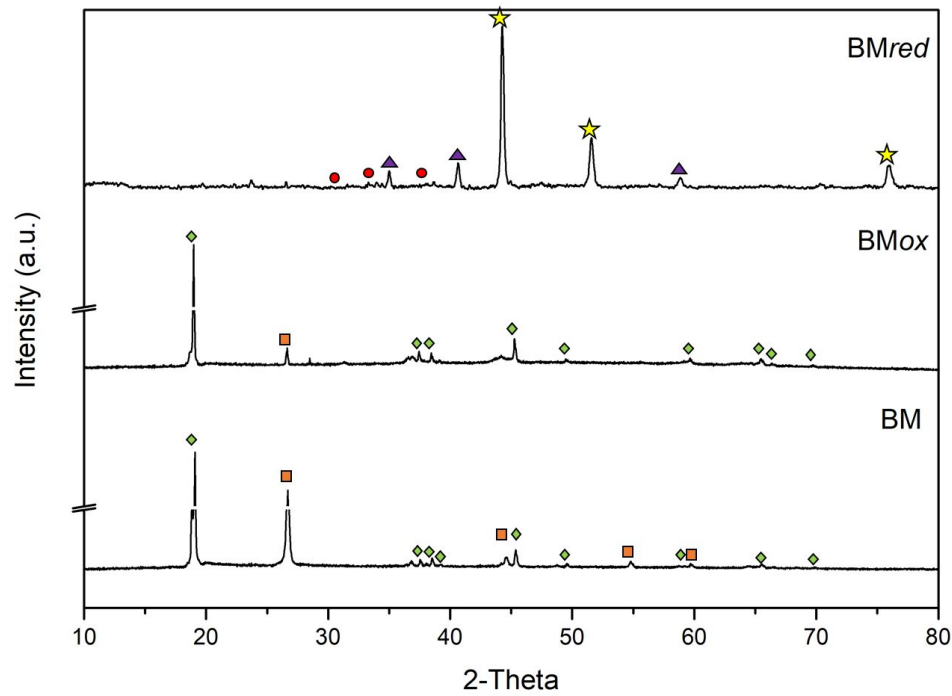
After a first **ball milling process (350 rpm for 10 min)**, the milled sample was filtered by using a sieve screen mesh (425  $\mu\text{m}$  - 40 mesh) and **calcined under atmosphere conditions at 550°C for 6 hours**. Before catalytic tests, BM was finally **reduced at 500 °C for 6 hours under  $\text{H}_2$  flow (1 mL/min)**

## PHISICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION (i)

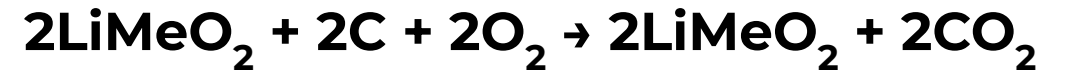


## PHISICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION (ii)

XRD



★ Co   ● LiO<sub>2</sub>   ▲ MnO   ◆ LiCoO<sub>2</sub>   ■ C (Graphite)



[Me: Co, Ni, Mn] (BM oxidation)

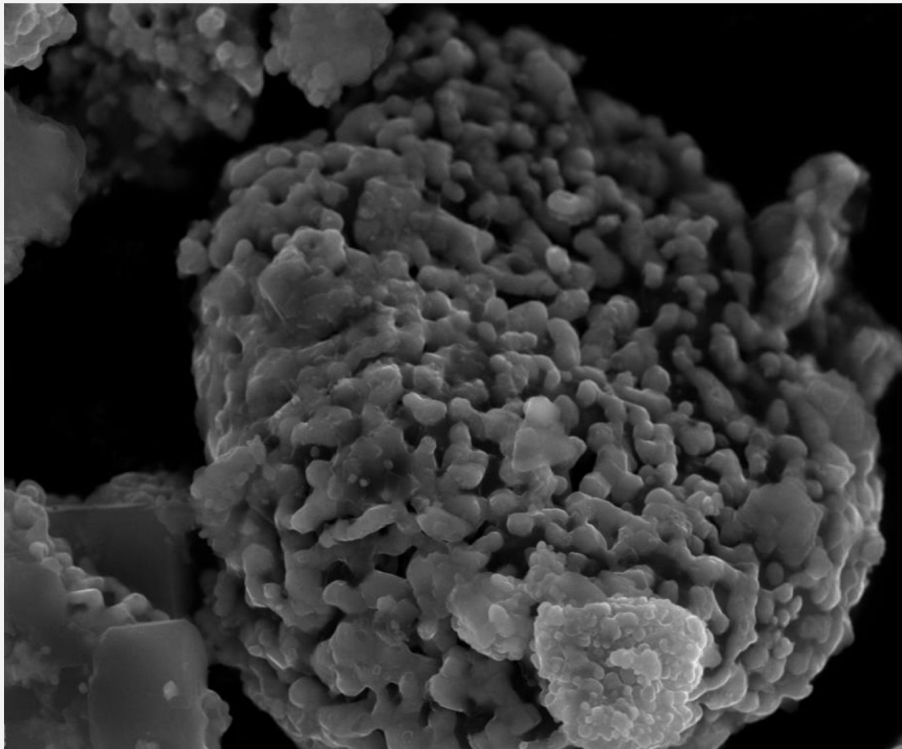


[Me: Co, Ni] (BM reduction)

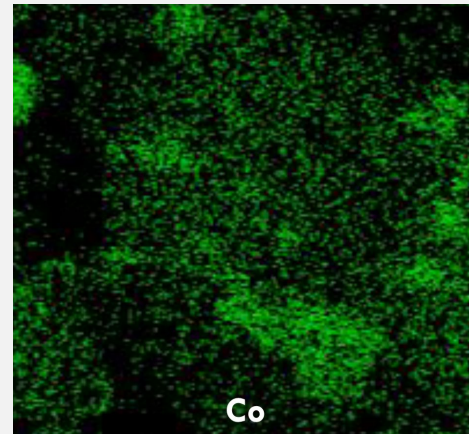


## PHISICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION (iii)

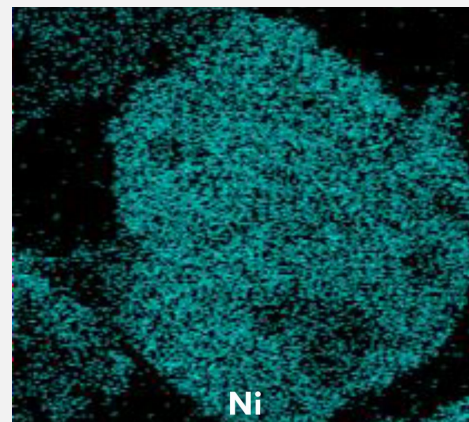
### SEM-EDX



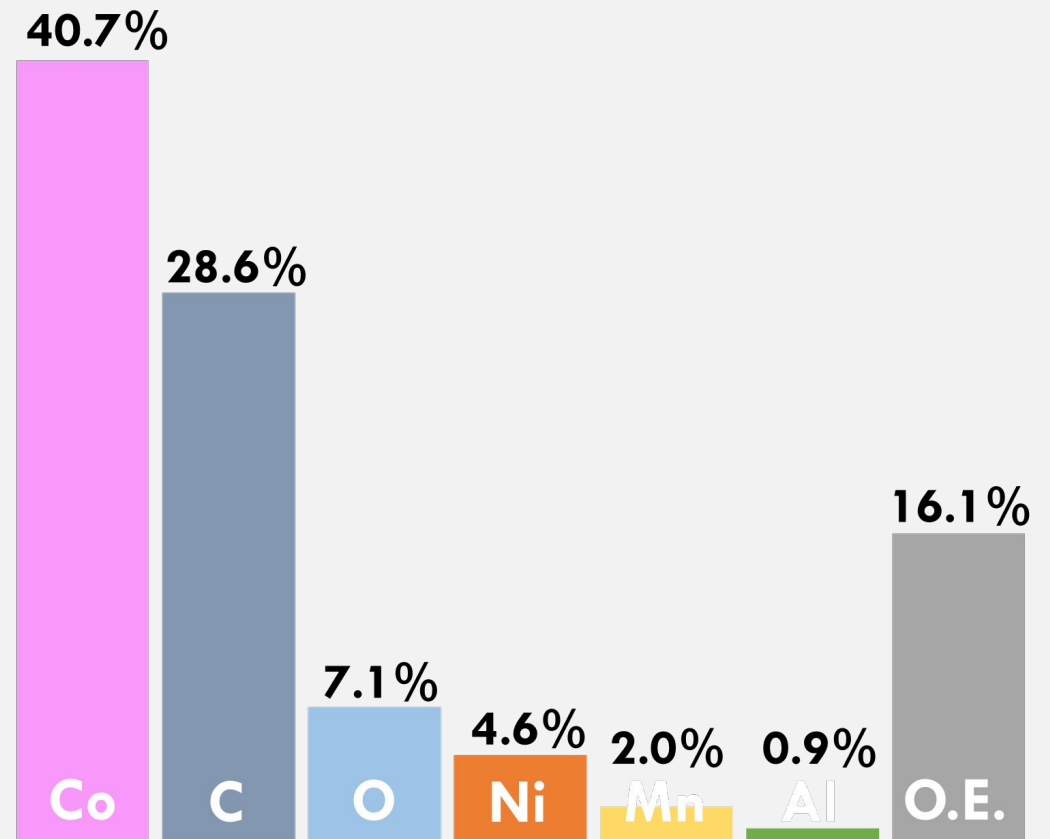
2 μm



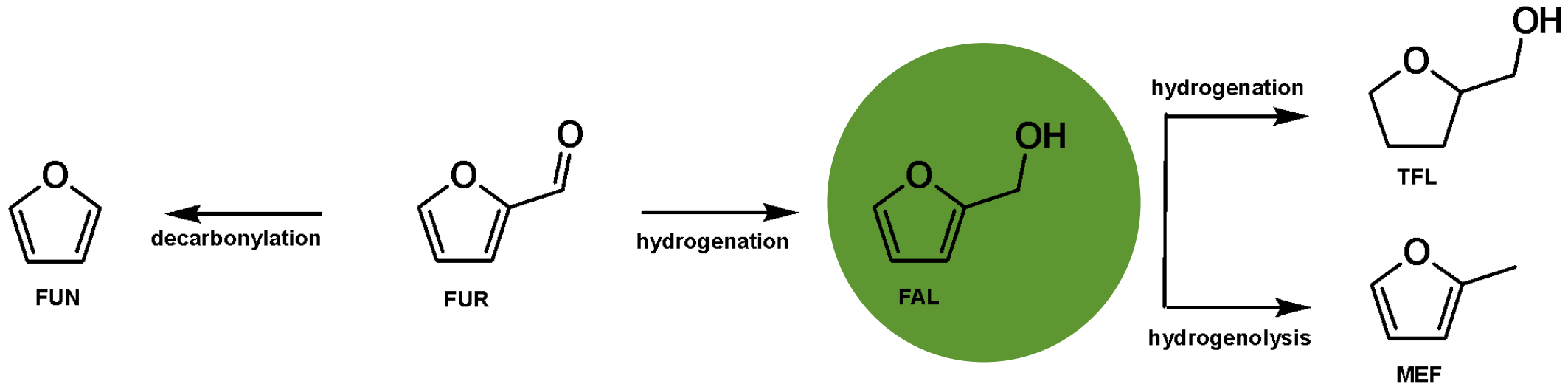
Co



Ni



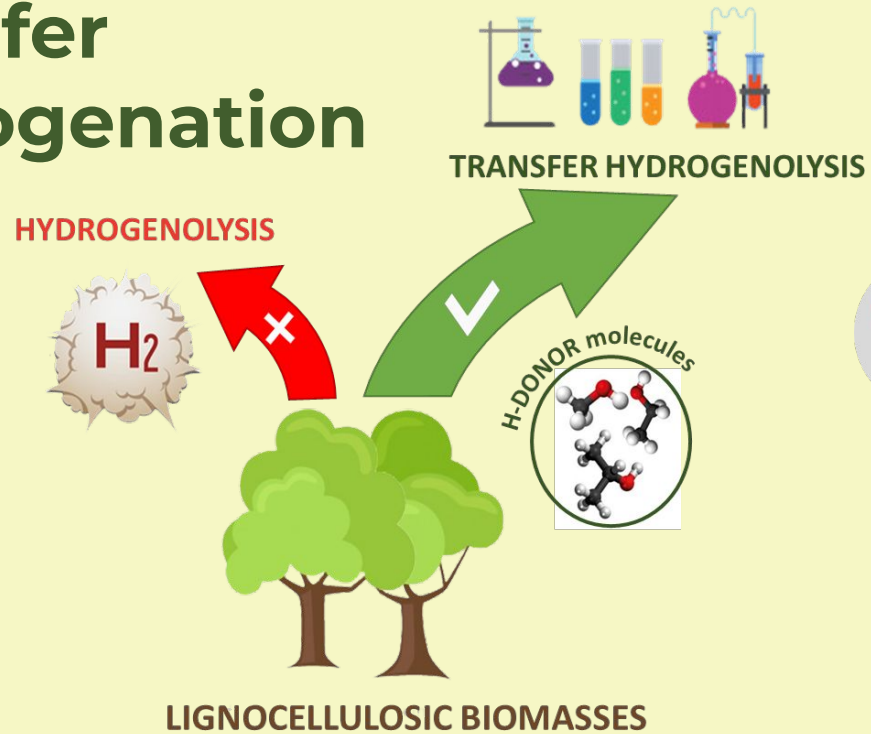
## From Furfural to Furfuryl Alcohol



**Furfuryl alcohol** is also the chemical substrate in the production of tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, levulinic acid, pentane diols and precursor molecules for many materials and pharmaceutical intermediates

## From Furfural to Furfuryl Alcohol

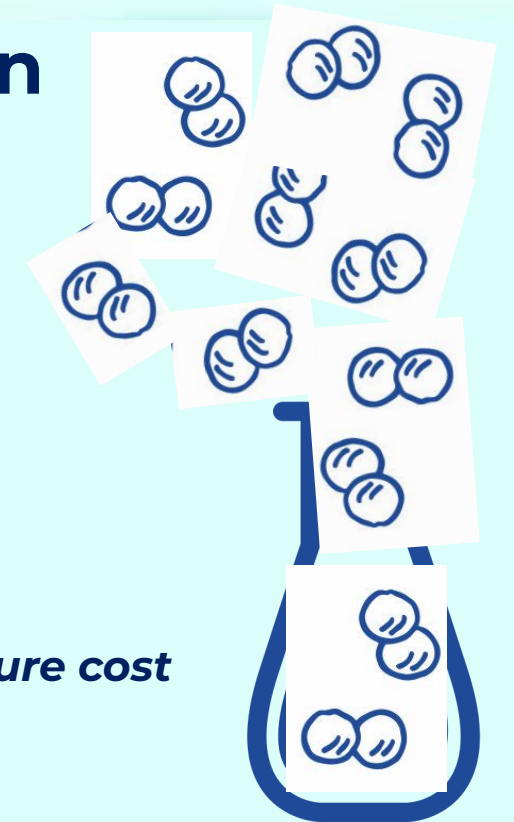
### Transfer hydrogenation



VS

### Hydrogenation reactions

- pure selective
- explosive
- high safety and infrastructure cost

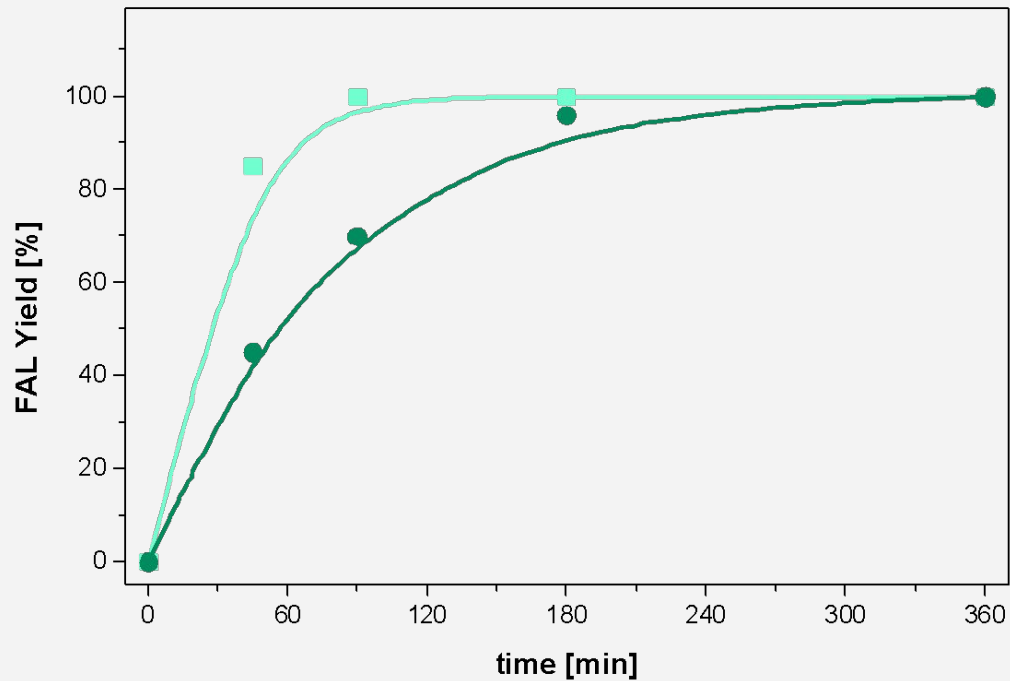


C. Espro, B. Gumina, T. Szumelda, E. Paone, F. Mauriello.  
Catalysts, 2018, 8(8), 313.



## CATALYTIC TESTS: hydrogenation of furfural

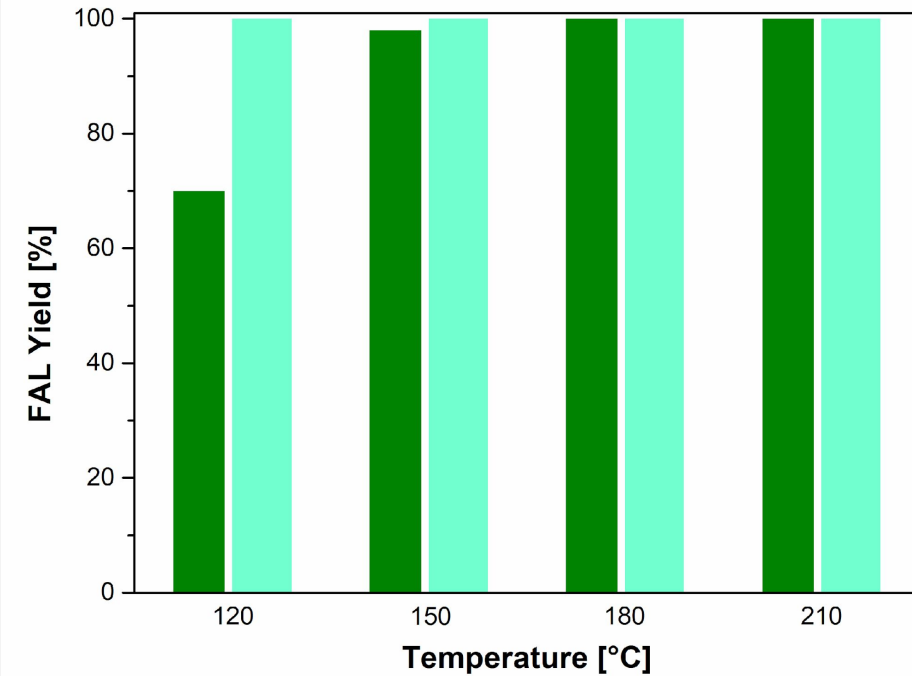
### A TIME EFFECT



**Reaction conditions:** 120 °C, 0.25 g catalyst; 40 mL solution of furfural (0.1 M); solvent, 2-propanol; H<sub>2</sub> or N<sub>2</sub> pressure, 10 bar; stirring, 500 rpm; FAL, furfuryl alcohol.

**H-source:** H<sub>2</sub> Hydrogenation conditions

### B TEMPERATURE EFFECT

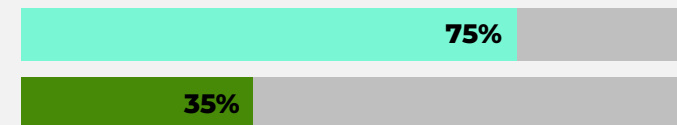
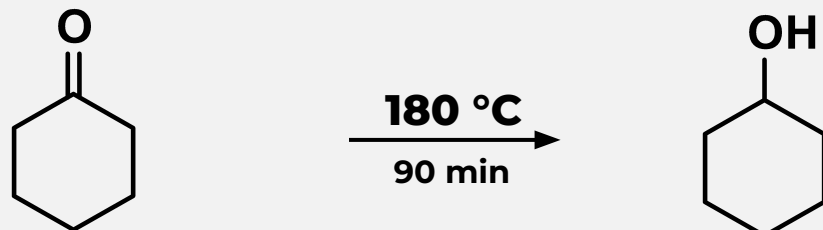
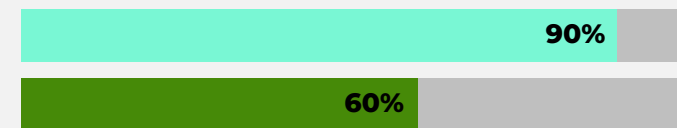
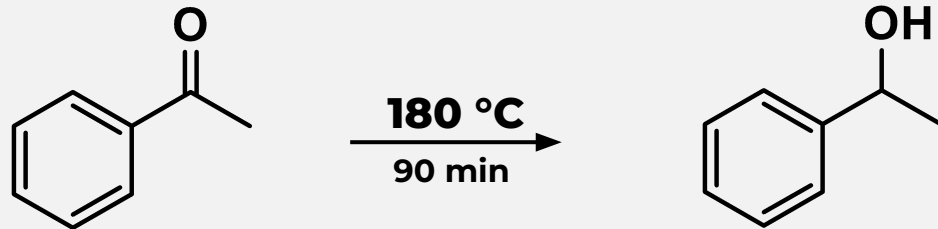
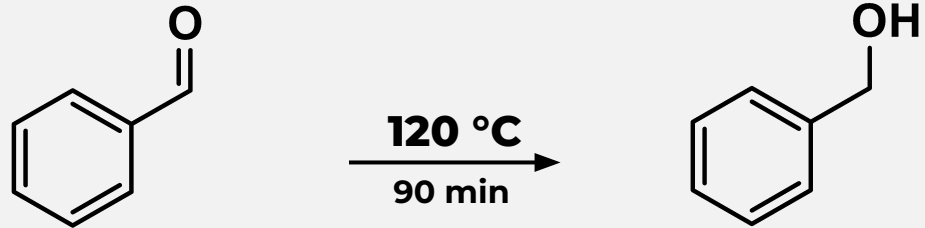
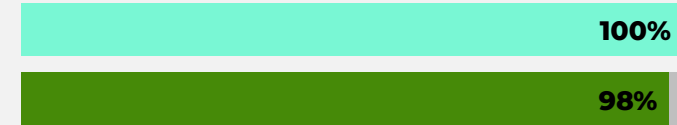
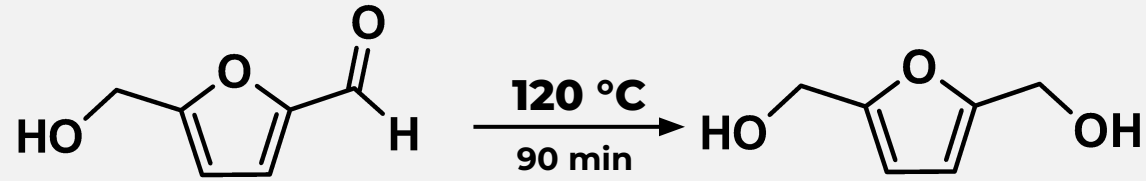


**Reaction conditions:** 90 min, 0.25 g catalyst; 40 mL solution of furfural (0.1 M); solvent, 2-propanol; H<sub>2</sub> or N<sub>2</sub> pressure, 10 bar; stirring, 500 rpm; FAL, furfuryl alcohol.

2-PrOH Transfer Hydrogenation conditions (CTH)

## CATALYTIC TESTS: extending the substrate scope

### CONVERSION



H<sub>2</sub>

2-PrOH





# CONCLUSIONS

**1.** SPENT LITHIUM-COBALT BATTERIES WERE EFFICIENTLY USED AS **HETEROGENEOUS Co-Ni CATALYST** FOR THE REDUCTIVE UPGRADING OF LIGNOCELLULOSIC DERIVED MOLECULES

**2.** PHYCO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION CLEARLY INDICATE THAT, AFTER A THERMAL PRETREATMENT, **METALLIC Co AND Ni SPECIES** ARE PRESENT

**3.** BM CATALYST IS ABLE TO PROMOTE THE **SELECTIVE HYDROGENATION OF FURFURAL IN FURFURYL ALCOHOL** UNDER BOTH HYDROGENATION AND CTH CONDITIONS

**4.** BM CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY ADOPTED AS HETEROGENEOUS **Co-Ni** BASED SYSTEM FOR THE **HYDROGENATION OF OTHERS CARBONYL COMPOUNDS**

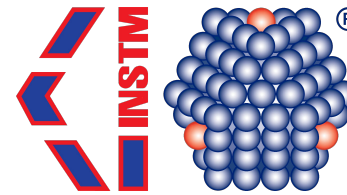
# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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ON RAW MATERIALS  
TO FOSTER CIRCULAR ECONOMY