

Press Release – 21 November 2018

During the European Raw Materials Week 2018 in Brussels, securing sustainable supply of primary and secondary raw materials was discussed from different aspects. The event took place from November 12 to November 16, organised by the European Commission and supplemented by side events organised by major players in the EU raw materials sector and various EU funded projects. The event also marked the 10th Anniversary of the European Raw Materials Initiative (RMI). GeoERA's four Raw Materials Projects, [EuroLITHOS](#), [FRAME](#), [MINDeSEA](#) and [Mintell4EU](#), are designed to add to the success of RMI by focusing on sustainable supply of primary raw materials from both on-shore and off-shore mineral resources. GeoERA Raw Materials projects are committed to assist in unlocking the Raw Materials of Europe, which is an integral part of the RMI Pillar "securing sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources". As leitmotif of the Raw Materials Week 2018, raw materials for e-mobility and energy transition required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were central topics of discussion. GeoERA's Raw Materials projects are well designed to respond to those trendsetting challenges, as part of the broader goals of GeoERA to establish a Geological Service for Europe and underpinned by the overarching EuroGeoSurveys Strategy.

GeoERA and its four Raw Materials projects was highly visible throughout the week. Project posters were on display and six GeoERA presentations and panel discussions took place in the context of [Responsible Supply of Raw Materials](#), [Copernicus for Raw Materials](#), [EIT RawMaterials](#), the [Drivers and Solutions for Integrating Information In the EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base](#) and the EuroGeoSurveys co-organised [Workshop on UNFC](#). The GeoERA Raw Materials projects received positive feedback and the backing of the European raw materials community from all parts of the raw materials value chain, including representatives from industry, academia and governments. General discussions and in-depth exchange of views with numerous EU-projects during the week served to strengthen existing good contacts, broadened the expert network and extended it internationally to colleagues from Canada and Australia.

The need for coherent and harmonised data for the entire value chain has been pointed out on several occasions by stakeholders from industry and academia as well as policy makers. Hence, the efforts made by the GeoERA consortium as a real cooperation of Member State Organisations has been very welcomed. It has been widely acknowledged that data needs to be concise, reliable, solid, traceable and integrative and at the same time available in due time, easily accessible, while fit for purpose. Moreover, numerous European Geological Survey organisations received much attention through their own presentations during the Raw Materials Week. Their work and expertise has been acknowledged and underpinned that the individual Geological Surveys are the right group of experts with experience on regional and national levels, but also at transnational level. However, on transnational level the coherence and harmonisation of data continues to be a challenging task tackled chiefly by GeoERA's project Mintell4EU. New data and information compiled within GeoERA Projects will add to improve the European Knowledge Base on Raw Materials by continuing to develop and add to the European Geological Data Infrastructure ([EGDI](#)) run by [EuroGeoSurveys](#). Those data are needed to secure a more circular economy and to help overcome the socio-economic challenges of our times.

This last requirement of course will change with time and by the issues addressed. It is now task of the GeoERA community to provide via the GeoERA Information Platform high quality, fully harmonised data accessible to the stakeholder community through EGDI and linked to the central European science hub RMIS, the Raw Materials information System of the EU.

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