

2 April 2015

PRESS RELEASE

INTRAW - Fostering international cooperation on raw materials

In the last decade, a structural change has taken place in the world's mineral markets and the global demand for raw materials stands at the bottom of a new growth curve. In this perspective, safeguarding the domestic minerals supply in a sustainable and responsible way will be challenging not only to Europe but also to other technologically advanced countries such as Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States. As part of the European Commission's **Horizon 2020 Programme for Research & Innovation (R&I)**, the new EU funded 36-month project INTRAW has been launched in February 2015 to foster international cooperation on raw materials.

INTRAW will play a key role in the alignment of the R&I activities among the EU countries, boosting synergies with international research and innovation programmes, and reinforcing the European role and scientific capabilities for the sustainable access and supply of non-agricultural and non-energy raw materials for EU industry in line with Europe 2020, the Raw Materials Initiative and the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

The overall aim of the INTRAW project is to **map best practices and develop new cooperation opportunities** related to raw materials between the EU and technologically advanced countries, in response to similar global challenges, by addressing research and innovation; raw materials policies and strategies; joint educational and skills programmes; licensing and permitting procedures, royalties and tax policies; data reporting systems; exploration, extraction, processing and recycling practices; and management and substitution of critical raw materials.

The outcome of the mapping and knowledge transfer activities that will be conducted in the first two years of the project will be used as a baseline to set up and launch the **European Union's International Observatory for Raw Materials** as a definitive raw materials knowledge management infrastructure. The Observatory will be a permanent international body that will remain operational after the end of the project aiming at the establishment and maintenance of strong long-term relationships with the world's key players in raw materials technology and scientific developments.

Under the coordination of the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), the INTRAW project brings together an international consortium of 15 partners with extensive experience in research, innovation, education, industry, trade and international networking across the entire raw materials value chain. The project partners will be actively supported by three Panels of Experts on "Research & Innovation", "Education & Outreach and "Industry & Trade". Through EFG's third parties that represent the members of professional geosciences organisations in 18 European countries, the USA, Australia, South Africa and Canada, a broad network of more than 450.000 geoscientists will further leverage the project.





EFG's third parties will therefore act as a veritable mothpiece of INTRAW at country level and foster communication and cooperation between institutions and individual stakeholders interested in mineral raw materials. In particular, EFG's European membership associations and international counterparts will enhance the project dissemination at national level by spreading the word about INTRAW's objectives and activities in relevant web portals, journals, conferences or exhibitions. At a later stage, the third parties will help to set up bilateral cooperation agreements and provide information related to raw materials supply chains and correspondent industry and trade stakeholders at national level.

EFG third parties:

National Association members of EFG

Belgo-Luxembourg Union of Geologists, Belgium/Luxemburg
Croatian Geological Society, Croatia
Czech Association of Geologists, Czech Republic
Finnish Union of Environmental Professionals, Finland
French Geological Society, France
Professional Association of German Geoscientists, Germany
Hungarian Geological Society, Hungary
Institute of Geologists of Ireland, Ireland
Italian National Council of Geologists, Italy
Royal Geological and Mining Society of the Netherlands, the Netherlands
Polish Association of Minerals Asset Valuers Country, Poland
Association of Portuguese Geologists, Portugal
Serbian Geological Society, Serbia
Official Spanish Association of Professional Geologists, Spain
Geological Section of the Swedish Association of Scientists, Sweden
Swiss Association of Geologists, Switzerland
Ukrainian Association of Geologists, Ukraine
Geological Society of London, United Kingdom

EFG International Counterparts

American Institute of Professional Geologists, USA
Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Australia
Geological Society of South Africa, South Africa
Geoscientists Canada, Canada

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MORE INFORMATION

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