Fostering international raw materials cooperation

More information: www.intraw.eu

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Project duration: 1 February 2015 – 31 January 2018
The INTRAW project has been formulated with the objective of mapping best practices and boosting cooperation opportunities on raw materials with technologically advanced non-EU countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States) in response to similar global challenges.

The project will address:

- 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
- Management and substitution of Critical Raw Materials

The ultimate goal is to set up and launch the European Union’s International Observatory for Raw Materials as a definitive raw materials intelligence infrastructure. As a permanent international body, the Observatory will be launched as a permanent body to continue as an independent entity after the project’s end.

The Observatory will have the following main services and objectives:

- Management and substitution of Critical Raw Materials
- Exploration, extraction, processing and recycling, energy, industrial production and transport systems
- Benefit the EU industry conditions for sustainable access and supply of raw materials (within the EU);
- Foster a stable and synergetic cooperation with technologically advanced countries.
- Fostering synergies with international research and innovation programmes
- Assist in the development of international cooperation on raw materials
- Ensure economic sustainability and to improve our quality of life.

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The European Union’s overall growth strategy “Europe 2020” (2010) outlines the EU’s aim to develop into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy. In this context, seven so-called flagship initiatives were presented as new engines to boost growth and jobs. Two of these initiatives are particularly relevant for the INTRAW project:

- “A resource-efficient Europe”
- “A resource-efficient Europe”

In the first project year the partners will map the contextual environment of the target countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States) against the contextual environment of the European Union. This will lead to a better understanding of best practices in the raw materials value chain. In addition, the corresponding policies and practices of each of these domains will be mapped and compared to their European counterparts. Based on best practices identified in the target countries, cooperation strategies will be developed in the second project year. Special attention will be given to communication methods and tools, regular and systematic market monitoring, export-import policies, foreign cooperation, taxation, incentive programmes, research/industry cooperation, geological data availability and reporting and skills training.

**WHY INTRAW?**

**OUR APPROACH**

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

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 raw materials for EU industry in line with the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials.

**OUR OBJECTIVES**

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Towards the end of the project, the European Commission’s communication “The raw materials initiative - meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe” (November 2008) recognises the need to address the raw materials issue at a high political level to ensure future security of supply for Europe.

**OUR APPROACH**

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

INTRAW will:

- Enhance the EU’s scientific capabilities in the raw materials area in the mid-term and long-term
- Promote evidence-based policies and appropriate, cost-effective management, planning and adaptation decisions by the public sector
- Contribute to the transparency and harmonization of mineral policies all over the EU
- Enable a better alignment of the R&I activities among the EU research facilities and universities, boosting synergies with international research and innovation programmes
- Benefit the EU industry conditions for sustainable access and supply of raw materials (within the EU)
- Foster a stable and synergetic cooperation with technologically advanced countries.

The services offered by the International Observatory for Raw Materials will include:

- A comprehensive database on cooperation opportunities between EU/individual EU members and international cooperation countries
- Industry-financed grants and other research cooperation activities
- Information on events relevant for international cooperation on raw materials
- Communication activities towards the active development of R&I activities between the EU, individual EU member and technologically advanced countries.