

Global cooperation for a more resilient and secure supply of raw materials: the Raw Materials Week

Brussels, 23/11/2021

EuroGeoSurveys renewed its commitment in the 2021 edition of the Raw Materials Week event by engaging in “4th EU Critical Raw Materials” of the Horizon 2020 SCRREEN2 project along with “4th Event on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System” co-organised with UNECE, highlighting perspectives and best practices for the implementation of sustainable raw materials management and crucial messages for policy and industrial players.

From 15th to 19th November 2021, key policy makers, industrial players, and a wide range of stakeholders engaged in discussions during the “Raw Materials Week” 2021 edition, hosted yearly by the European Commission.

In this context, and as a partner of the [H2020 project SCRREEN2](#), EuroGeoSurveys took part in the “4th EU Critical Raw Materials” event, organized in collaboration with DG GROW on 15th November. The event aimed at raising awareness about the necessity of critical raw materials, reducing dependencies on strategic raw materials with improvements in their circularity which should be reflected in a far more robust European Circular Economy agenda and the inclusion of sustainable raw materials into the Just Transition agenda. In the same week, SCRREEN 2 kicked off a [communication campaign](#) to disseminate key messages and reach wider audiences and networks.

The hybrid event “4th Event on the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System” hosted on 18th November aimed at fostering the development of a United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), providing a toolkit for the integration of the sustainable management of resources, with a major emphasis on Europe. Such an initiative would be implemented by using the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) as a source of information for globally classifying and reporting natural resources, including minerals. The UNFC and UNRMS will lead to a stable framework for ensuring a steady and secure supply of raw materials as well as a continuous and sustainable social, environmental, and economic production, which are all needed for attaining SDGs goals and a smooth green and digital transition. UNFC is already strongly incorporated into the work and vision of EuroGeoSurveys through its network of expert groups and national geological surveys and in regard to the implementation of a Geological Service for Europe.

To increase sustainability in the raw materials sector, it is crucial to rely on an effective European raw materials strategy, with sound regulatory framework and guidelines for the secondary raw materials market, investments in primary raw materials extraction, domestic refining facilities recycling and research and innovation sector for a secure supply of secondary raw materials. As part of a long-term strategy, fostering alliances is part of the strategic approach needed for knowledge transfer and best practices sharing among the EU countries and Africa, Latin-America, Canada, and other regions.

In this context, EuroGeoSurveys joined a session about “Knowledge needs – EU-Africa focus’ session” on 18th November concerning the further implementation of a partnership between the EU and Africa. This is also one of the objectives of the PanAfGeo project phase II, coordinated by EuroGeoSurveys.

EuroGeoSurveys Secretariat

36-38, Rue Joseph II- 1000 Brussels, Belgium | Tel +32 2 888 75 53

Contact: Erika Maugeri

Email: erika.maugeri@eurogeosurveys.org

About EuroGeoSurveys

The Geological Surveys of Europe or EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) is a not-for-profit organization representing 38 National Geological Surveys and some regional surveys in Europe. Its members are public sector institutions carrying out operations and research in the field of geosciences. These organizations have a long tradition, in many cases, more than 100 years, in collecting data, preparing information, and conducting research focused on their national subsurface. For more information on EGS visit: <https://www.eurogeosurveys.org/>.

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