



9th Greek Raw Materials Community Dialogue

November 20, 2024

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Towards the dynamic implementation
of the Critical Raw Materials Act

Wednesday 20 November 2024
📍 Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens

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RIS Hub Greece

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The [EIT RawMaterials RIS Hub Greece](#) is excited to announce the 9th edition of the Greek Raw Materials Community Dialogue, a flagship event inspired and supported by the [EIT RawMaterials](#).

The 9th Greek Raw Materials Community Dialogue is addressed to all stakeholders involved in the sustainable development of the raw materials sector in Greece, underlining the critical role of policymakers, producers, and manufacturers.

This year, the Greek Raw Materials Community Dialogue will take place on **20 November 2024** at the **Royal Olympic Hotel, Athens, Greece**, addressing the topic **"Towards the dynamic implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Act"**.

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The Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), the cornerstone of the EU's strategy to enhance raw materials capacities, stands as a strategic response to the escalating global demand for Critical Raw Materials essential for the EU's green and digital transitions. The CRM Act guides the EU towards effectively managing the challenges faced by global Critical and Strategic Raw Materials markets by pursuing diversification of resources, improving domestic production, and enhancing recycling capabilities.

Aiming to highlight the Act's importance for the Greek raw materials sector, the event will be organised along five sessions and a poster session:

- **Session 1: Initiatives for the sustainability and resilience of the Raw Materials sector**
- **Session 2: The need to innovate and the conditions to implement – Bridging the gap**
- **Session 3: Funding opportunities in the Raw Materials sector**
- **Session 4: Strengthening the public acceptance of the Raw Materials industry**
- **Poster Session: Education and innovation meet the industry**

9th Greek Raw Materials Community Dialogue - Agenda

9:00 – 9:40	Registration, Coffee and Networking
9:40 – 10:00	Welcome - Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ioannis Paspaliaris - Professor Emeritus, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA & Director, EIT RawMaterials RIS Hub Greece▪ Yannis Maniatis - Professor, MEP, Vice President of the S&D Group, Foreign Affairs, Security & Defence, International Energy Security and Cooperation, f.Minister for Environment, Energy & Climate Change▪ Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy Representative (<i>to be confirmed</i>)▪ Ioannis Chatjigeorgiou - Professor, Rector, NTUA
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote Presentation <p><i>From Vision to Action: EIT RawMaterials and the CRM Act</i></p> <p>Didier Zimmermann - Director of Business Development and Fundraising, EIT RawMaterials</p>
10:30 – 11:45	Session 1: Initiatives for the sustainability and resilience of the Raw Materials sector <p>Under the recently published CRMA, the European Commission intends to ensure that raw material supplies are not only secure, but also obtained through sustainable practices, ultimately contributing to the EU's twin transition and long-term prosperity. This session aims to emphasize the main pillars of the CRMA, including the <i>Development of the CRM value chain in the EU</i>, <i>Boosting the diversification of supply and partnering in a mutually beneficial manner in support of global production</i>, and <i>Fostering sustainable sourcing and promoting circularity</i>. Risks and challenges encountered in the implementation of the CRMA will be analysed. Key aspects to be explored include the investment potential and the impact of the Greek raw materials industry on strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of the EU raw material supply chains.</p> <p>Moderator: Ioannis Paspaliaris - Professor Emeritus, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA & Director, EIT RawMaterials RIS Hub Greece</p>



Driving Growth: Greece's Strategic Role in the CRMA and Sustainable Raw Materials Supply Chains

Christos Balaskas - Vice President, Commercial, Growth and External Relations, Eldorado Gold Corporation

Prinos CO₂ Storage Project

Paschalia Kiomourtzi - Subsurface Lead on Prinos Asset (offshore Greece), Energean PLC

Molaoi Zinc Project

Georgios Vlahos - Mining Engineer, Hellenic Minerals S.A., Rockfire Resources plc

National Steps towards the Implementation of the CRM Act

Eleftherios Vasileiadis & Peter Tzeferis - Secretariat General for Energy and Mineral Raw Materials, Hellenic Ministry of the Environment and Energy

The CRMA, what next ...?

Mark Rachovides - President Emeritus, Euromines

11:45 – 12:15

Coffee Break – Poster Session

12:15 – 13:30

Session 2: The need to innovate and the conditions to implement – Bridging the gap

Innovation in the area of Critical and Strategic Raw Materials is of paramount importance for the EU due to the increasing demand for these resources, the geopolitical risks related to their supply, and their essential role in high-tech industries, renewable energy, and defence. However, the successful implementation of innovations requires a supportive ecosystem, including sufficient funding, appropriate regulatory frameworks, skilled scientific and technical workforce and collaboration between academia, industry, and governments. The objective of this session is to highlight the challenges related to bridging the gap between the development of technological innovation and its transfer and full-scale application. The session will focus on the innovation dynamics of the Greek raw materials sector, pathways for innovation commercialisation and creation and support of business opportunities.

Moderator: Maria Taxiarchou - Professor, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA

Accelerating Innovation: How the EIT RM Toolbox Fast-Tracks Market Readiness

Didier Zimmermann - Director of Business Development and Fundraising, EIT RawMaterials

The Challenge of Innovating being a Greek Small-Medium Enterprise (SME): Opportunities and Obstacles. The Case Study of MONOLITHOS Catalysts & Recycling Ltd.

Iakovos Yakoumis - Founder & Managing Partner, MONOLITHOS Catalysts and Recycling Ltd.

Digging into the Future: Accelerating Mining's Digital Transformation from Pit to Processing

Stefanos Kokkorikos - Co-founder & Managing Partner, CORE Group

Hyperspectral Imaging from Exploration to Mineral Classification

Georgios Tsimiklis - Researcher & Scientific Project Manager, I-SENSE Group, Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (ICCS)

How to Cross a Valley

Eftymios Balomenos - Assistant Professor, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA



13:30 – 14:30

Lunch and Networking

14:30 – 15:30

Session 3: Funding opportunities in the Raw Materials sector

The EU raw materials industry offers significant investment potential, making it an attractive opportunity for stakeholders interested in future-secured ventures driven by the growing demand for sustainable and resilient supply chains. In parallel, realizing these funding opportunities requires addressing key challenges, including regulatory barriers, technological gaps, and the need for transparent practices. The session will highlight the need to secure financial support and increase investments to mobilise business cases on sustainable mining, metallurgical and recycling practices of Critical and Strategic Raw Materials. By delving into the industry's current landscape and future scenarios, the session will provide important insights related to the economic growth of the raw materials sector, ensuring the EU's long-term stability and prosperity.

Moderator: Antonis Politis - Senior Business Development Manager, EIT RawMaterials

(Title to be announced)

Access to Finance, EIT RawMaterials Representative *(to be confirmed)*

Investing in Responsible Mining, Challenges & Opportunities in Greece

Athanasios Kefalas - Chairman, IMERYS Greece S.A.

Modern Tools and Funding Opportunities for the Raw Materials Sector

Thomas Tosiadou - Senior Manager, PLANET S.A.

What do Lenders Expect when Financing a Mine?

Ronen Lazarovitch - Partner, Bracewell (UK) LLP

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break – Poster Session

16:00 – 17:30

Session 4: Strengthening the public acceptance of the Raw Materials industry

Wider Society Learning, Innovative and Engaging HEI Education, Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement all play a pivotal role in securing a social license to operate (SLO) and enhancing the public acceptance of the raw materials sector. The CRMA recognizes this need by establishing a skills partnership and a Raw Materials Academy to provide ongoing education and equip the young graduates and workforce with the necessary skills. By promoting transparency and informed dialogue with the stakeholders, these educational efforts build community trust and facilitate the permitting procedures, which often present significant challenges for the industry. This session aims to discuss the link between education, transparent practices, and community engagement and demonstrate how educational programs can collectively contribute to a more positive public perception and effective regulatory processes in the raw materials sector.

Moderator: Mariaelena Murphy - Education Researcher & Portfolio Manager, Resources Innovation Center, Montanuniversität Leoben

Social License to Operate. From Whom? For Whom?

Konstantinos Yazitzoglou - President, Greek Mining Enterprises Association & Managing Director, GEOHELLAS S.A.

Empowering Sustainable Mining: Building Public Trust through Transparent Practices and Community Engagement

Mathieu Vallart - Sustainability Director, Eldorado Gold Corporation



The Importance of Sustainability in the Supply Chain and the Impact of CSRD Reporting

George Mavraganis - Strategic Planning & Sustainability Director, Copper Segment of ElvalHalcor S.A.

Increasing the Accessibility of Information can Significantly Improve Public Acceptance of the Raw Material Industry

Kristiina Jokelainen - Founder, SmartNorth Ltd & Coordinator at Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership on Mining

(Title to be announced)

Fabio Ferri - Education Manager, EIT RawMaterials

The Growing Need for Innovative Educational Programmes in the Raw Materials Sector

Katerina Adam, Professor Emeritus, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA & Educational Advisor, EIT RawMaterials RIS Hub Greece

17:30 – 17:45

Closing Remarks

17:45 – 18:45

Poster Session: Education and innovation meet the industry

This session aims to bring together a diverse array of innovative projects funded by the European Commission, EIT RawMaterials, and other national sources to showcase and discuss their contributions to the raw materials sector. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the key pillars of the CRM Act, present achievements, exchange innovative ideas, and discuss best practices. The session will serve as a platform for fostering collaboration and networking between start-uppers, innovators, and key players in the raw materials industry, encouraging new partnerships and initiatives that align with the goals of supply diversification, sustainability, resilience, and technological advancement. By highlighting the synergy of education, innovation, and industry needs, this poster session will emphasize the importance of continuous learning and innovative approaches in the dynamic development and sustainability of the raw materials sector.

19:00 – 21:00

Cocktail

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