



## **INTRAW, the EU Observatory for raw materials: fostering international cooperation and developing new opportunities**

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A secure supply of raw materials is a European priority that extends beyond country borders and national policies. Recent European initiatives have pioneered the development of an EU strategy on raw materials emphasizing the concept of the “added value chain”, which continues to pursue the three pillar strategy to: (1) ensure the fair and sustainable supply of raw materials from international markets, promoting international cooperation with developed and developing countries; (2) foster sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources, and (3) reduce consumption of primary raw materials by increasing resource efficiency and promoting recycling.

This contribution presents the Horizon 2020 funded project INTRAW, the objective of which is to establish the European Union’s International Observatory for Raw Materials.

The creation and maintenance of the European Union’s International Observatory for Raw Materials is designed to have a strong impact in two dimensions:

1. To narrow the existing gap in aspects of the raw materials knowledge infrastructure in the EU by providing a link with the same knowledge infrastructure in technologically advanced reference countries. This should contribute to the harmonization of mineral policies all over the EU, by providing data that enables evidence-based policies and appropriate, cost-effective management, planning and adaptation decisions by the public sector. This will benefit businesses, industry and society. The Observatory will also provide to policy makers in the EU and its Member States the data they need to facilitate discussion in multilateral forums.

2. To enable a better alignment of the R&I activities among the individual EU members and international cooperation countries AND between the European Union and international cooperation countries by boosting synergies with international research and innovation programmes. This way the EU’s role and scientific capabilities in the raw materials area will be reinforced in the mid-term, and the conditions for sustainable access and supply of raw materials in the EU will benefit from the international cooperation.

The authors will describe the key stages of the INTRAW project and explain how it aims to establish (and promote the continuation of) international cooperation at every stage of the raw materials value chain and to build a repository of information and analysis to support the development and strengthening of EU raw materials strategies. Key elements of the value chain upon which the project focuses are: industry and trade; education and outreach; and research and innovation. The roles of geoscientists in delivering the aims and objectives of INTRAW will be emphasised.