

FP7 FINAL CALL FACT SHEETS ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – RAW MATERIALS

Why this priority? – Facts & figures

Raw materials are essential for the sound functioning of the EU's economy and the competitiveness of European industry. Sectors such as the construction, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, machinery and equipment industry, which provide a total value added of €1,324 billion and employment for some 30 million people, all depend on access to raw materials. A sustainable supply of raw materials to the EU – for its industry and society as a whole – is therefore strategically important. Research and innovation can make key contributions in addressing this challenge.

Since 2010, FP7 has been contributing to finding solutions to the challenge of raw materials, mainly in the Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production (NMP) and Environment Themes. As part of the separate Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS), R&D on ore agglomeration and iron making is also supported.

How much money do we plan to invest in 2013?

Approximate budget of €75 million

- NMP Work Programme €25 million
 - to develop new materials to replace critical metals, in cooperation with Japan;
 - to make breakthroughs in mineral extraction and processing in extreme environments; and
 - to create a network providing information on raw materials sources to different stakeholders.
- Environment Work Programme €50 million
 - to improve recycling and turn waste into resources;
 - to recover valuable raw materials from industrial waste;
 - for eco-innovative solutions making a more efficient use of resources;
 - to assess the environmental impacts of the exploitation of deep sea raw material resources and to raise awareness.

In addition to these contributions, the Commission has proposed a [European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials](#). This is a coherent and innovative approach combining supply-side and demand-side measures to tackle the entire value chain of raw materials, including primary and secondary (recycled) raw materials, both on land and on the seabed.

What results do we expect in which area?

Many benefits for industry and society are expected from the funded projects:

- Decreasing the EU's dependency on imported resources;
- Facilitating the development of several key enabling technologies in Europe, which depend on critical raw materials (e.g. batteries and electric cars);
- Creating jobs in Europe;
- Strengthening the leadership of the European mining sector and their technology providers;
- Developing competitive solutions with minimal environmental impacts.
- Achieving a more green economy and fostering more sustainable consumption and production patterns.