European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials

Application for a Raw Materials Commitment

**Optimizing the Minerals Policy Framework at EU and National Levels by 2020**

Acronym: OPTIMIN_2020

Links to the Strategic Implementation Plan:

- **II. Non-Technology Pillar**
  - **II.A Priority Area: Improving Europe's raw materials framework conditions**
    - **Action area n° II.1: Minerals Policy Framework**
      - 1) Benchmark analysis of existing national minerals policies
      - 2) Fitness check of cumulative effects of EU policies/legislation on NEEI
      - 3) Develop a permitting toolbox
      - 5) Regular exchange of best practices
      - 7) Develop EU guidance with regard to permitting procedures
      - 9) Application of the concept of mineral deposits of public importance
      - 12) Develop guidelines with EU reporting standards and national and EU mineral reporting schemes based on standard terminology

Objectives of the commitment:

Developing EU mineral resources is challenging due to reduced access to resources, public opposition, problematic permitting processes, inconsistent minerals policies, heterogeneous legislative frameworks, and a scarcity of reliable data. The objective of this commitment is to contribute to ensuring a stable and competitive supply of raw materials from EU sources to promote good governance and facilitate public acceptance. Sub-objectives are to enhance EU efforts to harmonize national mineral policies and plans, as well as permitting and reporting on primary and secondary minerals, based on best practice, so as to ease the access to primary and secondary resources, improve transnational permitting procedures, contribute to the definition of transnational standards for exchange of data and knowledge, and offer a more transparent and participative exchange of ideas with stakeholders.

Description of the activities:

The consortium members' past and current work responds to problems described above and in the SIP, in line with the objectives described in Action area II.1: Minerals Policy Framework. OPTIMIN
will contribute to implementation of the SIP by building on their knowledge and experience through a series of inter-related activities applicable to all land-based and marine, primary and secondary, non-energy mineral resources. The activities link Actions (II.1,1; II.1, 5; II.1, 7; II.9, 12) and also link to other Action areas (II.2,2; II.3,1). Activities will benefit from the multidisciplinary, multinational (43 partners) nature of the consortium.

(Act.1 - "Know") Minerals policies and also other relevant ones, primarily on waste management (including secondary raw materials) plus sustainable economic and social development and environmental preservation will be considered. Develop and utilize a set of criteria and indicators (C&I) of effective policies/legislation to examine whether minerals-relevant EU policies/legislation are achieving their stated goals, i.e., score and rank policies, identifying strengths, weaknesses, unintended consequences and gaps. Compare all mineral relevant EU and member state policies/legislation utilizing the C&I to identify areas in need of improvement and best practices. Survey industry including SME’s, and other stakeholders, to ascertain how they believe the minerals sector is impacted by EU and national/regional policies/legislation.

(Act.2 - "Share") Assess the current EU knowledge standard related to minerals data (reserves/resources, consumption, secondary raw materials) and recommend a new, harmonized approach that identifies gaps, and a minimum and optimum set of criteria for national reporting focused on providing data suitable not only for Public Authorities but also for all the stakeholders involved in the supply chain. Identify good practice/governance with respect to the utilization of mineral classification systems in order to harmonize national primary and secondary mineral resources inventories by international standards (e.g. PERC in EU and UNFC). Contribute to a pan-European knowledge standard on policy by updating and extending the results of Legal Basics of Mineral Policy in Europe (G.Tiess, 2011), which already includes descriptions and URLs to policies and legislation, by including current policies/legislation and also links to other policy areas. Develop a Framework Directive on data/policy based on the foregoing.

(Act.3 - "Participate") Extend the SNAP capacity building and stakeholder consultation experience and Handbook beyond aggregates to the general minerals community and its various stakeholders, including identifying capacity building materials, assisting in the organization of meetings, and facilitating the interactions of diverse stakeholders. Organize workshops and knowledge-sharing events, drawing on the results of the policy comparison, identified best practices, and ranking processes, and input from Member states, and stakeholders.

(Act. 4 - “Change”) Compare permitting procedures across EU, and develop a method to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of different approaches, including how they could be adapted to apply to mineral deposits of public importance. Determine what should be included in a permitting toolbox, in what format, and organized in what manner to ensure that it is applicable across different authorities and in nations with differing regulatory approaches to permitting, utilizing the SARMa/SNAP experience and methods, plus other approaches.

**Description of the expected impacts:**

The key, overarching impact of OPTIMIN will be to develop a framework that provides the means to make informed decisions with respect to minerals in a more homogeneous context for the whole EU. Prior to EU level decisions for raw materials and mining sector, more accurate and comprehensive studies can be prepared.

Minerals policy, legislation, regulation, permitting and national implementation in the EU will be harmonized based on a ‘best possible compromise’. Enhanced public reporting on primary and secondary resources will improve the transparency of information on raw materials and contribute to social learning. This, combined with stakeholder consultation, will increase access to mineral resources based on greater public acceptance of minerals production. This will allow prudent use of existing and future mineral deposits, as well as former mining sites to be re-opened if appropriate, which will reduce time and costs and reduce the EU’s mineral import dependency.
**Expected innovation outcomes:**
- New business models
- New ideas to the market
- Societal innovation

**Comments:**

**Name of the coordinating organisation:**
Montanuniversitaet Leoben (MUL, University of Leoben)

**Country:**
Austria

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
Leader and coordinator

**Other partners:**

**Name of partner:**
Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth

**Country:**
Austria

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**
Minerals Policy

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**Name of partner:**
Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia (LNEG)

**Country:**
Portugal

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**
Partner within larger consortium responsible for data

**Name of partner:**
Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary

**Country:**
Hungary

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**
research and innovation along the raw materials knowledge, method, revision of selected legislation, standardisation, professional consultations for Stakeholders, establishment of strategies, other

**Name of partner:**
Department of Earth Sciences, University of Gothenburg

**Country:**
Sweden

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
Minerals Policy

**Name of partner:**
Luleå University of Technology

**Country:**
Sweden

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
Minerals Policy

**Name of partner:**
University College London (UCL) Institute for Sustainable Resources (ISR)

**Country:**
United Kingdom

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
legal, political and economic dimensions of raw materials policy and regulation, including resource

**Name of partner:**
Viru Keemia Grupp AS

**Country:**
Estonia

**Entity profile:**
Private sector - large company

**Role within the**
commitment:
Minerals Policy

Name of partner:
MinPol KG - Agency for International Minerals Policy
Country:
Austria
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
Contribution to all aspects of mineral policies in the fields of mining, mining waste, minerals economy, mining and environmental engineering, geology and IT, supporting dissemination and promotion activities, secondary raw materials.

Name of partner:
VŠB - Technical University of Ostrava
Country:
Czech Republic
Entity profile:
Academia
Role within the commitment:
Mineral Deposits, Mineral Policy

Name of partner:
Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton
Country:
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Entity profile:
Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment:

Name of partner:
Alianta project consulting
Country:
Slovenia
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
stakeholder involvement into decision making processes application of good practices in minerals planning to national, regional and local policy levels capacity building

Name of partner:
Technical University Crete
Country: Greece
**Entity profile:** Academia
**Role within the commitment:** Mineral Policy Framework, Access to Mineral Potential in the EU

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**Name of partner:** National Center for Sustainable Development- Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (EKBAA-IGME)
Country: Greece
**Entity profile:** Governmental/public body
**Role within the commitment:** Action area II.1: Minerals Policy Framework, secondary raw materials

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**Name of partner:** GEK Terna Group of Companies
Country: Greece
**Entity profile:** Private sector - large company
**Role within the commitment:** Revision of Legislation, Standardisation, Applied Raw Material Management, Commercial Management, Research and Development

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**Name of partner:** ICMM Kosova
Country: Austria
**Entity profile:** Governmental/public body
**Role within the commitment:** Mining industry Kosova

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**Name of partner:** Ministry of Economic Kosova Canton
Country: Austria
**Entity profile:** Governmental/public body
**Role within the commitment:** Mineral Policy Framework, Access to Mineral Potential in the EU
Name of partner: Geological survey of Slovenia
Country: Slovenia
Entity profile: Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment: best practices; optimisation methods in C&D waste / recycling and secondary raw materials / aggregates supply chain (modelling, material flow analysis etc...); policy analysis on national and EU level; SWOT analysis and action plans; decision support systems for raw materials management and land use planning; promotion activities

Name of partner: Geological Institute of Romania
Country: Romania
Entity profile: Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment: Minerals Policy Framework; Access to Mineral Potential in the EU; Optimised raw materials flows along value chains, secondary raw materials

Name of partner: Bucharest University, Geology and Geophysics Faculty
Country: Romania
Entity profile: Academia
Role within the commitment: TOPICS ON: “Mineral Policy Framework” or/and “Access to Mineral Potential in the EU”. If, finally, will be of interest for Commitment, we can help on “European Union primary and secondary Raw Materials

Name of partner: SC MM GEORESEARCH SRL
Country: Romania
Entity profile: Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment: TOPICS: 1.Optimised raw materials flows along value chains, 2.Public awareness, acceptance and trust

Name of partner:
SC. Geo-Consulting Covalned SRL
Country:
Romania
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
Minerals Policy Framework; Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust; Optimised raw materials flows along value chains

Name of partner:
Society IPROMIN S.A.
Country:
Romania
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
Studies and research on resources exploitation

Name of partner:
Albanian Geological Survey
Country:
Albania
Entity profile:
Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment:
Sustainable Exploration and exploitation, Sustainable supply, Efficiency of deposits

Name of partner:
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology
Country:
Serbia
Entity profile:
Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment:
Action area n° II.2: Access to Mineral Potential in the EU

Name of partner:
Geoprofessional
Country:
Serbia
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
Action area n° II.2: Access to Mineral Potential in the EU
**Name of partner:**
Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary

**Country:**
Hungary

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**
research and innovation along the raw materials knowledge, method, revision of selected legislation, standardisation, professional consultations for Stakeholders, establishment of strategies, other

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**Name of partner:**
Emilia-Romagna Region, Soil and Coast protection and Land Reclamation Service

**Country:**
Italy

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**

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**Name of partner:**
Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

**Country:**
Slovakia

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**
geological research, geological investigation, aggregate management, natural resources management

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**Name of partner:**
İstanbul University

**Country:**
Turkey

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
Access to Aggregate Potential in the EU

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**Name of partner:**
ASEM Natural Stone Technology Resarch and Development Engineering Company

**Country:**
Turkey

**Entity profile:**
Private sector - SME

**Role within the commitment:**
Access to Aggregate Potential in the EU

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**Name of partner:**
Croatian Geological Survey

**Country:**
Croatia

**Entity profile:**
Academia

**Role within the commitment:**
Actively contribute within the capacity of HGI-CGS to support minerals planning, to improve its capacity and competence for addressing primary and/or secondary minerals planning, access to minerals and inclusion stakeholder participation in the development of minerals management plans and policies. Building capacity expertise on improvement and new applications of minerals, as well as evaluation of critical minerals.

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**Name of partner:**
Ecologists Without Borders Association

**Country:**
Slovenia

**Entity profile:**
NGOs

**Role within the commitment:**
Illegal C&DW dump sites as a source of secondary raw materials (fits under access to mineral potential & knowledge base); paneuropean data acquisition and evaluation, - partly public awareness/acceptance/trust, - partly Action area n° II.5: Optimised waste flows for increased recycling

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**Name of partner:**
Geological Survey of Montenegro

**Country:**
Montenegro

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body

**Role within the commitment:**

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**Name of partner:**
Ministry of Economy of Montenegro

**Country:**
Montenegro

**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment:
Minerals Policy Framework; Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust

Name of partner:
Hungarian Mining Association (HMA) Aggregates Division
Country:
Hungary
Entity profile:
NGOs
Role within the commitment:

Name of partner:
IGM Šljunčara Trstenik d.o.o.
Country:
Croatia
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust

Name of partner:
LEGACOOP - cooperatives association
Country:
Italy
Entity profile:
Other
Role within the commitment:

Name of partner:
M.E.I Business Consultancy shpk
Country:
Albania
Entity profile:
Private sector - large company
Role within the commitment:
1. Minerals Policy Framework; consultancy on the improvement of the national policy and regulations regarding with mining sector and specifically for raw materials; 2. Access to Mineral Potential in the EU; consultancy to GIS Department of national authorities regarding with the
establishment of the unified database standards for the exchange of information and having access to mineral potential in the EU; 3. Optimised raw materials flows along value chains; identification of general approaches regarding with production of raw materials, their manufacturing, distribution, use, disposal; consultancy on value added in order of maximising profit, improving the manufacturing technology and increasing the cooperation with end users within EU countries. Secondary raw materials.

**Name of partner:**
Universidad de Oviedo (UO)
**Country:**
Spain
**Entity profile:**
Academia
**Role within the commitment:**

**Name of partner:**
Geological Survey of Sweden
**Country:**
Sweden
**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body
**Role within the commitment:**

**Name of partner:**
AGH University of Science & Technology
**Country:**
Poland
**Entity profile:**
Academia
**Role within the commitment:**

**Name of partner:**
Geological Survey of Finland
**Country:**
Finland
**Entity profile:**
Governmental/public body
Role within the commitment:
Minerals Policy development, Assess the current EU knowledge, stakeholder consultations. Secondary raw materials.

Name of partner:
La Palma Research S.L
Country:
Spain
Entity profile:
Private sector - SME
Role within the commitment:
La Palma Research S.L. will this Commitment by its expertise in forward-looking studies.

Existing EU contribution:
No

Period to implement the commitment:
Saturday, 1 March, 2014 to Thursday, 31 December, 2020