THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP
ON
RAW MATERIALS

Call for Commitments

GUIDELINES
2015
Table of Contents

1 PURPOSE OF THE CALL ........................................................................................................3
  1.1 Challenges related to raw materials..............................................................................3
  1.2 Role of the EIP SIP on Raw Materials ........................................................................3
2 THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN RMC .............................................................................3
3 BASIC REQUIREMENTS ....................................................................................................4
4 CONDITIONS OF THE CALL ............................................................................................4
  4.1 Scope .............................................................................................................................4
  4.2 Partners ........................................................................................................................5
  4.3 Financial aspects and resources ....................................................................................5
  4.4 Other considerations ....................................................................................................6
5 PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF RMCS .................................................................6
6 IMPLEMENTATION ...........................................................................................................7

Acronyms

EIP European Innovation Partnership
SIP Strategic Implementation Plan
RMC Raw Material Commitment
1 PURPOSE OF THE CALL

1.1 Challenges related to raw materials

The EU is highly dependent on raw materials that are crucial for a strong European industrial base, an essential building block of the EU's growth and competitiveness. However, Europe is confronted with a number of challenges along the entire raw materials value chain, from sustainable exploration, extraction, processing, recycling and after mining activities to secure a sustainable access to non-energy non-agricultural raw materials used for industrial purposes, including Critical Raw Materials.

1.2 Role of the EIP SIP on Raw Materials

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials aims at addressing these challenges. The long term vision is to boost the innovation capacity of the EU raw materials-related sectors, turning them into a stronger sustainable pillar of the EU economy and a more attractive industry increasing benefits for society.

In the medium term, by 2020, the EIP proposes through its Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) a set of concrete technological and non-technological innovation actions along the primary and secondary materials value chain to achieve the EIP targets: creating a pan-European raw materials knowledge base, developing innovative sustainable technological solutions to access raw materials, establishing a production-friendly legal framework and economically attractive environment across the EU and establishing proactive international cooperation strategy.

In order to be successful, the EIP needs to involve as many partners as possible, across the European Union and the entire raw materials value chain that will carry out actions contributing to the objectives of the EIP. Therefore, the European Commission is launching regularly Calls for Commitments to mobilise authorities, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders. A Commitment (referred to as Raw Material Commitment – RMC) is an undertaking by the partners jointly committing to co-operate and take actions that will contribute to achieving the objectives of the SIP in the different action areas. It is not of a legally binding nature. The first call led to the recognition of 80 Raw Materials Commitments.

2 THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN RMC

The recognition by the EIP High Level Steering Group gives the RMC as a whole, as well as to its individual partners, several direct or indirect advantages. Being an RMC can assist in:

- raising the awareness of the commitment, not only within the EIP community but also more broadly;
- giving a quality assurance to the commitment at the European level;
- guaranteeing accordance with the EIP (as specified in the SIP) and with the EU raw materials policy framework that the EIP is based on;
- potentially facilitating access to finance from various sources.

NB: No direct EU funding will be awarded to endorsed RMCs. However, the EIP plays an important role in bringing together stakeholders that may have easier
access to financing together than taken alone when applying for EU Horizon 2020 funding, as well as other EU funding sources such as LIFE funding, Cohesion funding, European Investment Bank loans, etc.

- giving opportunities to join forces with related commitments;
- having access to the work of operational groups;
- giving visibility and access to contacts outside the EU through opportunities to participate in EU raw materials diplomacy activities.

3 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The partners commit to carry out activities within the period 2016-2020 (or beyond 2020 where appropriate). Only the commitments on-going beyond the closing date of this Call for Commitments are eligible.

They commit to report annually to the European Commission on the progress of activities for the purpose of monitoring the SIP implementation and developing the EU policies on raw materials and innovation. Based on this reporting, the European Commission prepares an Annual Monitoring Report. No reporting to the European Commission, for 2 subsequent years, will automatically lead to the removal of the Raw Materials Commitment from the database.

The partners should communicate to the European Commission any change in the RMC coordinator.

4 CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

In order to obtain recognition as an RMC under the EIP, a commitment must be submitted using the special submission form by the date when the call closes. Furthermore, the commitment should meet all eligibility conditions set out in these guidelines (see below). The evaluation will also assess whether the commitment is likely to make a contribution to meeting the objectives, the targets and action areas of the EIP.

If it does, it will be recorded as an RMC under the EIP. If it does not, the partners can still of course carry out their planned activities without recognition as an RMC under the EIP. The recognition as an RMC is, in any case, not a pre-condition for EU funding for raw materials-related projects.

After the first calls in 2013 and 2015, it is planned to issue calls for commitments in 2017 and 2019.

4.1 Scope

The proposed commitments must address at least one of the 24 Action Areas identified in the SIP of the EIP on Raw Materials, and preferably one or more of the 95 specific

---

1 Commitment proposals will be asked to demonstrate their potential contribution in specific sections of the submission form.
Actions. The activities and expected results\(^2\) should be clearly and succinctly described in the submission (see submission form).\(^3\)

Only non-energy non-agricultural raw materials at the different stages of the value chain are in scope.

4.2 **Partners**

The partnership should reflect the nature of the activities to be carried out, ensuring that it has a comprehensive structure of qualifications and responsibilities and that each partner has a clear role within the partnership. Participation of the private sector and small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) is strongly encouraged.

Minimum requirements for the commitments are:

- a coordinator (main contact) plus at least two partners. Each of the three partners must be established in a different EU Member State\(^4\);
- for non-technology policy actions which target the national level only: a coordinator (main contact) from an EU Member State.

Participation by entities with their centre of activity in non-EU countries is allowed if it provides added-value, but is not a requirement.

If the identity of additional partners is not yet known, the appropriate profiles of partners should be indicated in the commitment proposal.

The consortium of the RMC may be modified within the duration of the Commitment, provided that it respects the above-mentioned requirements.

4.3 **Financial aspects and resources**\(^5\)

The Commitments must provide:

- A total indicative budget covering the whole activity period\(^6\);
- The total funding secured;
- If relevant, any existing contribution from the EU budget.

The modification of activities and related financial aspects, due to unforeseen circumstances, within the duration of the Commitment, is allowed.

---

\(^2\) E.g. bringing new products, processes, services, technologies, business models or ideas to the market, or bringing wider societal benefits through innovation.

\(^3\) If a commitment has a long duration, the description of activities may focus on the first years.

\(^4\) For European umbrella organisations (e.g. European associations), each national member organisation or company represented, which will take an active part in the commitment, is counted separately for the purpose of meeting this condition.

\(^5\) This data will not be published and will be dealt with in a strictly confidential manner

\(^6\) The indicative budget of the commitment proposal is not binding in the context of any future request for EU funding.
4.4 Other considerations

All the information provided by the Raw Materials Commitments, that will be recognised, will be published on the EIP website. Therefore, commitments are eligible only if they agree to publish the information which is indicated as public in the submission system.

However, commercial information, especially information about the financial aspects and resources - with the exception of duly approved public funding - will not be disclosed. The Commission shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property.

The submission may be made in any of the official languages of the EU, but in order to avoid translation delays as far as possible, the use of one of the three working languages of the European Commission, i.e. English, French or German is recommended.

Advocacy is encouraged but is not a requirement. It could involve for instance:

(1) motivating other relevant actors and stakeholders to be involved in the RMC;
(2) public communication including disclosure of relevant information about the RMC and its activities and results.

5 Procedure for recognition of RMCs

The deadline for submissions is 1 March 2016. Submissions must be sent electronically by using the form available on the website of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

The European Commission will review all submitted commitments and assess the extent to which they meet the conditions set out in these guidelines and are likely to make a significant contribution to meeting the objectives of the EIP.

Based on a proposal by the European Commission, the High Level Steering Group of the EIP will decide which commitments will be officially recognised as RMCs under the EIP. Confidentiality and absence of conflict of interests of the people involved in the evaluation and selection will be ensured.

For each submission, the coordinator will be informed whether or not the commitment has been officially recognised under the EIP.

---

7 For commitment proposals not receiving recognition as RMCs, information will only be disclosed by the Commission upon request and in accordance with applicable EU legislation on public access to documents.
10 Members of the High Level Steering Group or their Sherpas.
6 IMPLEMENTATION

Where appropriate, recommendations for improvement may be made by the services of the European Commission when informing the coordinators, both for the officially recognised commitments and for those that have not been officially recognised (but which may be re-submitted in response to a future call for commitments).

For commitments that are closely linked, the partners concerned may be recommended to co-operate (on a voluntary basis) during the implementation phase.

While the recognition by the High Level Steering Group of a proposed commitment as an official RMC under the EIP is an acknowledgment of the value of the proposal towards the objectives of the EIP, it does not involve any obligation on the European Commission or Member States to provide any funding in support of that commitment.