

# 3/2016



## **Euromines** External Newsletter

November 2016

**Sustainability of  
Mineral Resources  
and the Environment**

## Editorial

We very much appreciate this year's conference under the Slovak Presidency of the European Union show-casing achievements and challenges of the extractive sector in managing its sites and the land in a sustainable way.

Protection of the environment remains one of the key issues for the sustainable management of any mine or quarry site. Advances in technology and management techniques continuously improve the industry's performance. However, working with the environment also means keeping these technologies and methods alive to local, often changing, environmental conditions. This requires continuous research, learning and adjustment to obtain the best possible results.

The extractive industry over the past two decades has come a long way toward making its sites cleaner and more sustainable. The contributions hereafter demonstrate a small but typical range of activities in the sector.

See you in Bratislava!

**Corina Hebestreit**



## EIT RawMaterials, a New European Initiative in Raw Materials

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The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has supported a Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC) on Raw Materials. This KIC, EIT RawMaterials is committed to increasing innovation capacity, competitiveness, and sustainable growth in Europe in the area of raw materials, and does so by strengthening collaboration across the entire value chain, from exploration to recycling.

EIT RawMaterials has the vision of turning the challenge of raw materials dependence into a strength for Europe. Its mission is to boost the competitiveness, growth, and attractiveness of the European raw materials sector via radical innovation and entrepreneurship.

EIT Raw Materials will integrate multiple disciplines, diversity, and complementarity along the three sides of the knowledge triangle (research, industry, and education), and across the whole raw materials value chain. The KIC consortium consists of more than a hundred partners from all parts of the value chain. The operational implementation takes place in six regional hubs jointly delivering Europe-wide coverage and providing a strong basis for global cooperation.

The three strategic objectives of EIT RawMaterials are, 1. **Securing raw materials supply**, 2. **Designing solutions**, 3. **Closing material loops**. To achieve these goals and secure an economically viable and sustainable raw materials supply, a range of options must be developed. Mining must be strengthened in Europe as well as in the Arctic and from the seabed. Raw materials supply from secondary sources must be increased through innovations in recycling, extraction from industrial residues, tailings, and urban and landfill mining. The involvement of EIT RawMaterials partners in the global system of trade and governance of raw materials must be reinforced. The activities carried out by EIT RawMaterials include **Matchmaking and Networking, Education, Validation and**



### **Acceleration**, and **Business creation and Support**.

These cover six main knowledge and innovation themes along the value chain:

1. Exploration and raw materials resource assessment
2. Mining in challenging environments
3. Increased resource efficiency in mineral and metallurgical processes
4. Recycling and material chain optimisation for End-of-Life products
5. Substitution of critical and toxic materials in products and for optimised performance
6. Design of products and services for the circular economy

EIT Raw Materials expects to generate significant impact on European competitiveness and employment. This will be realised through the introduction of innovative and sustainable products, processes and services, and through focus on education in raw materials related fields. Educational activities will span from graduate courses through life-long learning programmes to wider society learning. They will prioritise industry involvement and entrepreneurial skills leading to well-educated T-shaped professionals that will deliver increased economic, environmental, and social sustainability to European society.

2016 was EIT RawMaterials first operational year, where several activities started up. In 2017 there will already be more than 150 projects running covering all activity types and all themes.

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