



First IRTC conference

Raw materials for a sustainable future

Lille, France, February 15-17, 2023

About the Conference

As part of the IRTC-Training program, the first IRTC conference will take place in February 2023. This conference brings together international leading experts, practitioners, and participants to share different perspectives and engage in in-depth discussions on raw materials and raw material risks for, among others, the renewable & digital transition. Therefore, the conference targets industry, academia and policy-making concerned with raw materials for a sustainable future.

Conference structure

Keynote Conversations

In a series of keynote conversations, international criticality experts will exchange perspectives on relevant topics and open the floor in-depth moderated discussions with the audience.

Talks by Practitioners and Researchers

Practitioners and researchers in the field of critical raw materials are invited to contribute to the shape and content of the conference program, either by the means of a 15-min presentation in one of the 8 thematic sessions or with a poster presentation in the main hall exhibition. All sessions will contain a discussion part with the presenters. In addition, Chairs and participants will select a winner for the best poster.

Are you as practitioner or researcher in the field, interested to share your case on critical raw materials and to contribute to the conference program? We welcome you to submit an abstract proposal before October 19, 2022!



Participants

Participants are invited to join the two-and-a-half-day conference to meet colleagues, keynote speakers and conference Chairs, to engage in discussions in the sessions and to join the networking activities. On-site participation will be limited to around 150 people to encourage meaningful discussions and networking. Online participation in the sessions will be possible. Participant registrations open at September 30, 2022.

Programme

Wednesday, February 15, afternoon – workshops:

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| 12:30 | Arrival lunch buffet <i>Pre-workshop refreshment</i> | | | |
| 14:00 | IRTC-Training workshop Organisers: <i>IRTC Education Expert Committee</i> | REIA workshop Organiser: <i>Nabeel Mancheri</i> | Battery workshop Organiser: <i>Naeem Adibi</i> | UNECE workshop Organisers: <i>Harikrishnan Tulsidas Charlotte Griffiths Slavko Solar</i> |
| 15:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i> | | | |
| 16:00 | IRTC-Training workshop | REIA workshop | Battery workshop | UNECE workshop |
| 17:30 | Conference registration and welcome reception <i>Arrival, check-in, meet & greet</i> | | | |
| 18:30 | Apéro-dinner <i>Dinner, drinks & networking</i> | | | |

Thursday, February 16:

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| 08:00 | Conference registration |
| 09:00 | Conference opening by Bernd Schäfer, CEO EIT RawMaterials |
| 09:15 | Keynote conversation: Criticality Roderick Eggert, Peter Buchholz and Kotaro Shimizu; moderated by Luis Tercero |



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| 10:00 | <p>Session 1: Criticality: stakeholder perspectives</p> <p>Chaired by Luisa Moreno, Magnus Ericsson and Roland Gauss</p> | <p>Session 2: Criticality methods</p> <p>Chaired by Gian Andrea Blengini, Christoph Helbig and Philip Nuss</p> |
| 11:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:30 | <p>Session 1: Criticality: stakeholder perspectives</p> <p>Chaired by Luisa Moreno, Magnus Ericsson and Roland Gauss</p> | <p>Session 2: Criticality methods</p> <p>Chaired by Gian Andrea Blengini, Christoph Helbig and Philip Nuss</p> |
| 12:30 | Lunch + poster session <i>Standing lunch, networking & poster exhibition</i> | |
| 14:00 | <p>Keynote conversation: Supplying critical raw materials</p> <p>Karen Hanghøj, Gavin Mudd and <i>tbc</i></p> <p>moderated by Dieuwertje Schrijvers</p> | |
| 14:45 | <p>Session 3: Sourcing and trade</p> <p>Chaired by Paul Lusty, Nedal Nassar and Carlos Peiter</p> | <p>Session 4: ESG and regulation</p> <p>Chaired by René Kleijn, Carolin Friedrich <i>and tbc</i></p> |
| 15:45 | Coffee Break | |
| 16:15 | <p>Session 3: Sourcing and trade</p> <p>Chaired by Paul Lusty, Nedal Nassar and Carlos Peiter</p> | <p>Session 4: ESG and regulation</p> <p>Chaired by René Kleijn, Carolin Friedrich <i>and tbc</i></p> |
| 17:15 | Poster session | |
| 18:30 | Dinner <i>Common conference dinner</i> | |



Friday, February 17:

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| 08:00 | Conference registration | |
| 09:00 | Opening of day 2 by Constanze Veeh/Milan Grohol, DG GROW | |
| 09:15 | Keynote conversation: Changing demand and how to address it Tom Graedel, Toru Muta and <i>tbc</i> ; moderated by Alessa Hool | |
| 10:00 | Session 5: Changing demand Chaired by Akanksha Tyagi, Patrick Wäger and <i>tbc</i> | Session 6: Design for circularity Chaired by Tatiana Vakhitova, Komal Habib, and David Peck |
| 11:00 | Coffee Break | |
| 11:30 | Session 5: Changing demand Chaired by Akanksha Tyagi, Patrick Wäger and <i>tbc</i> | Session 6: Design for circularity Chaired by Tatiana Vakhitova, Komal Habib, and David Peck |
| 12:30 | Lunch & poster prize <i>Standing lunch, networking & announcement of poster award</i> | |
| 14:00 | Keynote conversation: Addressing criticality in policy and industry Anthony Ku, Patrick D'Hugues and Min-Ha Lee; moderated by Nabeel Mancheri | |
| 14:45 | Session 7: Industry case studies Chaired by Atsufumi Hirohata, Naeem Adibi and Orlando Rios | Session 8: Policy case studies Chaired by Peng Wang, Evi Petavratzi and <i>tbc</i> |
| 15:45 | Coffee Break | |
| 16:15 | Summary of the sessions | |
| 16:45 | Closing | |
| 17:00 | Farewell Apéritif <i>Drinks & goodbyes</i> | |



Session descriptions

Session 1: Criticality: stakeholder perspectives

Criticality means something different to a local government than to a multinational company, to a company that controls raw material sources than to a company that relies on supply by others, to a nation endowed with large and varied geological deposits than to one without such an endowment. This session explores different perspectives on criticality that arise from the position of the focal actors.

Session 2: Criticality methods

This session features existing and emerging methods for criticality determination. It explores the usefulness of indicators and the applicability of methodologies to different contexts.

Session 3: Sourcing and trade

This session explores the distribution of primary and secondary supply, its concentration and issues arising from concentrated supply. Furthermore, trade, trade restrictions and geopolitical issues are tied to global raw material sourcing and key considerations in this session.

Session 4: ESG and regulation

There is an obligation and increased societal and political pressure to better address environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues along value chains. Negative ESG impacts across materials' value chains can make them more critical – by increasing supply risks, or as a separate dimension of concern. This session explores ESG issues related to critical raw materials, including but not limited to reputational risks for companies, risk mitigation measures, regulatory measures, and the state and effectiveness of transparency initiatives.

Session 5: Changing demand

Technological change is a key driver for changing raw material demand, with megatrends such as electric mobility, digitalization and the energy transition expected to drive demand for critical raw materials in the coming decades. This session focuses on scenarios and the (possible) measures by companies and governments to meet this challenge in a responsible and timely manner, as well as competition for the available raw materials, not only between countries or companies in the emerging uses, but also between these and the current users of the critical raw materials.



Session 6: Design for circularity

Product designers play a key role in determining the current use of raw materials, the longevity of products and the future availability of secondary raw materials. This session highlights current challenges in design as they pertain to the reduced use or substitution of critical raw materials, conflicts between different design dimensions, and best practice examples for reconciling product function and reduced criticality at all scales (company to global) through design for recycling, reuse, remanufacturing, repair, and reduction.

Session 7: Addressing criticality: Industry case studies

This session features case studies from industries dealing with criticality: by risk screening, substitution efforts, fostering recycling, increasing transparency, transitioning to business models to improve resource sustainment, and/or other mitigation measures to reduce risks throughout the supply chain.

Session 8: Addressing criticality: Policy case studies

Policy plays a decisive role in incentivizing and supporting supply risk screening and management. How can they help to effectively mitigate risks for vulnerable industries? In this session, we expect international examples and experiences with policies that aim at favorable framework conditions for risk mitigation and resource conservation.

Timeline

July 31, 2022: First call for abstracts

August 31, 2022: Opening of abstract registration system

September 30, 2022: Opening of conference registration

October 19, 2022: Abstract submission deadline

November 30, 2022: Information on review results