

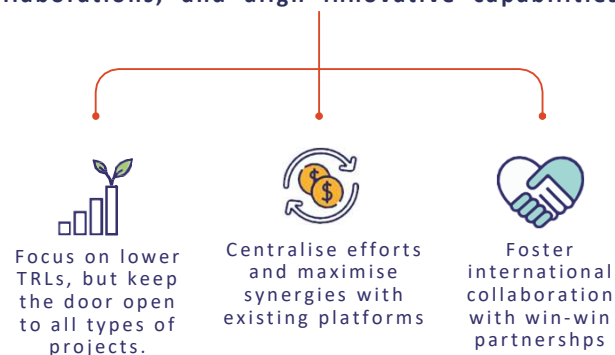
Raw Materials Partnership Workshop: Defining Thematic Scope and Joint Activities



Introduction

DG GROW and ERA-MIN 3 convened a workshop to gather inputs to define the thematic scope for the first call of the Raw Materials (RM) co-funded partnership and refine joint activities.

Diverse stakeholders, including Research Funding Organisations (RFOs), geological surveys (GS), industrial representatives, and institutional stakeholders worked together to address systemic challenges, foster transnational collaborations, and align innovative capabilities with industry needs:



Main Conclusions

Thematic Scope

A consensus to allow for “à la carte” participation for RFOs to cover the whole spectrum of TRLs, but focusing a bit more on earlier research to maximise synergies with other funding programmes (EIT Raw Materials and Horizon Europe), seemed to be the best approach. By stakeholder group the main conclusions were:

- RFOs underlined the importance of projects spanning lower Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), while industrial stakeholders advocated for **practical alignment with market demands**.
- Geological surveys highlighted technical innovations, including **advanced methods in resource exploration, harmonisation of geological data, and water and energy efficiency in mineral processing**.
- Institutional stakeholders called for better support for **low TRLs**, exploration topics, and mechanisms to address social licence to operate (e.g., tackling NIMBY/BANANA issues^a).

Participants prioritised the SRIA Core Theme 1: “**Responsible supply of raw materials**”, and also emphasised the importance of **recycling technologies, societal performance improvements, and policy integration**. Harmonising standards and promoting ESG (Environmental, Societal and Governance) principles in supply chains were identified as pivotal.

Joint Activities

Proposed activities included **capacity building** (e.g., collaboration with PhD networks, summer schools, and mobility schemes like PROMETIA, EPMA summer school, etc.), creating **knowledge hubs** for data sharing (specifically in areas such as life cycle assessment and risk analysis or integrations with GSEU^b) and organising **matchmaking events** to foster collaborations.

Stakeholders emphasised the need for **centralised platforms** in the partnership to avoid overlap, promote data sharing, and sustain collaboration through enhanced **visualisation and mapping exercises**.

International collaboration was strongly encouraged, particularly linking European research with global networks. And although collaboration with third countries was highly sought after, **developing sustainable partnership models** that cater for the different needs of each region was highlighted.

In general, participants proposed maintaining and building upon the successful approaches used in ERA-MIN while learning from past experiences. They emphasised the importance of centralising efforts and maximising synergies with existing platforms and networks to ensure coherence and avoid duplication.