



# NEWSLETTER

TOWARDS A WORLD FORUM  
ON RAW MATERIALS

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**FORAM, a two-year project to advance the idea for a World Forum on Raw Materials, has been launched in Brussels during the first Raw Materials Week, organized by the European Commission, last November.**

FORAM is the largest collaborative effort for raw materials strategy cooperation on a global level so far. Centered on an EU-based platform of international experts and stakeholders, it will enhance international cooperation on raw materials policies, making the complex maze of raw materials' related initiatives more effective. The project engages a selected audience in a dialogue on the opportunities, needs and challenges in raw materials management at the global scale.

The initiative is led by the Swiss based World Resources Forum Association (WRFA) and supported by 11 additional leading organizations (EuroGeoSurveys, European Federation of Geologists,

United Nations University, Leiden University, University Kassel, Clausthal University of Technology, ESM/Matsearch, Gondwana Empreendimentos e Consultorias, Servicio Geológico Colombiano, MinPol GmbH and La Palma Research Centre for Future Studies SL).

In addition, more than 20 international organisations are involved as Advisory Board members and 40 organizations as Linked Third Parties, for a total number of over 70 key influencers. These will work closely for the next two years to enhance international cooperation and increase the understanding of all aspects of raw materials investment and trade.

In order to better understand the context in which FORAM is rooted, its implications and the potential benefits such an influential project might bring, we interviewed the partners of the project.



## HOW THE WORK IS ORGANISED

The coordination and the organisation of a European project such as FORAM is somewhat complex. Within the project the work has been subdivided into Work Packages (WP) through which specific duties are assigned to different teams. The teams are coordinated by a Project Leader together with a smaller number of participants, the Core Team.

The project operates through 6 WPs:

- Work Package 1 - Inception & Baseline;
- Work Package 2 - Structure & Dialogue;
- Work Package 3 - Strategic Planning;
- Work Package 4 - Roadmap & Pilot;
- Work Package 5 - Communication and Outreach;
- Work Package 6 - Project Management.

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More information can be found on: [www.foramproject.net](http://www.foramproject.net) [https://twitter.com/FORAM\\_project](https://twitter.com/FORAM_project) <https://www.facebook.com/foramproject>

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### Interview with Mathias Schluep, FORAM Project Leader

Mathias Schluep has studied Environmental Engineering and received his PhD in Natural Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (Switzerland). He has worked in the academic and private sector in the fields of development cooperation, environmental research, sustainability and general business consultancy at national and international levels for several years. He joined the World Resources Forum in 2014 as a program director and is leading program activities in sectors related to recycling and mining.

#### How does FORAM address the objective of developing an EU-based platform of international key experts and stakeholders that would advance the idea of a World Forum on Raw Materials?

As the first step to achieve this objective, FORAM has setup a very strong consortium composed of established and well known institutions and associations from the EU (EGS, EFG), international networks (WRFA, UNU), expert institutes highly regarded for their work for and with industry (UL, MatSearch, TUC, UNI KASSEL, MinPol and LPRC) as well as representatives from less industrialized countries (GDW and SGC). This consortium will cooperate closely with a selection of twelve Geological Surveys acting as Linked Third Parties. The consortium and the Linked Third Parties will carry out the work with the direct involvement of – and in close cooperation with – a broad and fully legitimate Advisory Board composed of the relevant organisations and key world players, covering all continents, representing both the private and public sector, and encompassing the whole raw materials value chain. The cooperation between the FORAM consortium and Advisory Board members will create the largest and most complete ever EU-based platform of international bodies who will work together, share their mixed and exclusive experiences and discuss strategies towards fair, unrestricted and sustainable access to raw materials worldwide.

As the next step, FORAM will analyse, evaluate and exploit the results of other existing national and international projects, initiatives and policy documents. In parallel, it will make an analysis of the most relevant institutions and organizations and will try to setup and consolidate a network of stakeholders from G20 countries and of third countries active in mining and other raw materials sector into a Stakeholder Network. The project will in particular engage these stakeholders in a close and structured dialogue and partnership to share experiences and search for solutions to overcome existing obstacle and difficulties in worldwide access to raw materials.

By closely working in a multi-stakeholder process, FORAM will contribute to consolidating the efforts towards a more joint and coherent approach towards raw materials policies and investments worldwide and to supports the EU International Cooperation Strategy on Raw Materials. This will foster sharing of experiences with a view to increasing understanding of all aspects of raw materials and to explore and work towards synergies with relevant EU Member States initiatives. Through this cooperation, common needs, threads and challenges will be identified and recommendations for improved raw materials governance will be developed and promoted.

### Interview with Federico Magalini, leader of Work Package 1 Inception & Baseline

Federico Magalini a Mechanical Engineer, holds a PhD in Management, Economics and industrial Engineering from Politecnico di Milano University. As Associate Program Officer since 2005 at UNU-ViE SCYCLE, Dr. Magalini has been working on different studies for the European Commission and key stakeholders in the context of the recast of the WEEE Directive; he is currently focusing on capacity building projects in developing countries as project manager of E-waste Academy – Managers Edition.



#### To what extent is it possible to reach a multi-stakeholder consensus on the need to significantly reduce dependence on critical raw materials?

One of the key objectives of FORAM is to develop a platform where experts and stakeholders can enhance the cooperation on raw material policies and investments. The way modern supply chain, for many materials, is structured will call for the involvement of a variety of players active along various steps of the production, consumption and recovery chain. There are of course trade-offs and sometimes conflicting objectives and strategies and for this reason the platform will be the central place where discussions can take place. One of the initial activities foreseen during the FORAM project is the mapping of existing organizations, players, initiatives in order to create a solid foundation for the development of the platform itself: this will allow not only the consolidation of existing excellences and expertise, but also data and figures that will enable an objective debate on future strategies.

Such an activity will comprise three distinct steps:

- The first one is the identification of a set of criteria to be used in the mapping of existing initiatives and players. Such mapping will also

serve as a basis to bridge knowledge between players involved in primary or secondary material steps of the material life-cycle.

- The second is the development of series of indicators to help in the prioritization and assessment of roles.
- The last step is the compilation of the mapping and the gathering of data, including information on overall resources and their geological distribution, the geo-political aspects and implications, the potential for use, recycling or substitution from industry and, finally, the societal impact of their use.

The creation of a comprehensive dataset is the first, fundamental step to discuss the challenges related to the reduction of dependence from critical raw materials and the basis to create consensus among stakeholders active in various stages of the life-cycle. Whether the consensus will be easy or hard to reach will also depend on the willingness of stakeholders or organizations to align the efforts, eventually reaching compromises, and develop a common strategy for the future.



### Interview with Woody Hunter, leader of Work Package 2 Structure & Dialogue

Woody Hunter is the Policy Officer at EuroGeoSurveys (EGS). He monitors and reports on EU developments, liaises with EU Institutions/policy makers, networks with stakeholders, represents EGS at conferences as well as other events and assists EGS in fulfilling their strategic ambitions. Aside from that he acts as a coordinator for the Minerals4EU Foundation and is involved in various H2020 funded projects such as ProSUM and FORAM. Prior to EGS Woody worked for the UK Permanent Representation to the EU and primarily in the private sector in the United States.

#### Could the continuity of critical raw materials supply be ensured by improving the dialogue and coordination of the stakeholders involved?

This is a question to which it is very difficult to answer, as critical raw materials supply depends on too many variables, such as substitution or technology changes, which cannot be simply controlled through stakeholders' coordination. However, stakeholders dialogue and coordination is indeed a key variable, which needs to be addressed.

For this reason, a specific Work Package (WP2) of the FORAM project has as main objectives to establish an effective interactive dialogue with stakeholders, sharing experiences and consulting them about their needs, priorities and preferences for better coordination of relevant raw material agendas, initiatives and actions. The ultimate scope is that the dialogue among the stakeholders will lead towards the search for solutions to overcome the existing difficulties and obstacles in worldwide access to raw materials.

Improving the dialogue and coordination of stakeholders involved in FORAM will be a step in the right direction towards ensuring the continuity of critical raw materials supply. Stakeholders along the raw materials value chain will be working towards a better cooperation which will lead to a more joint and coherent approach towards raw materials policies and investments. As a result of this cooperation the project will offer substantial support to strengthen the EU's position in the global raw materials arena which will in turn contribute to international agreements, as well as assess impacts, risks, and opportunities. It will also build a strong knowledge base in support of adaptation measures and policies, thus strengthening the capacity to influence raw materials supply on a global scale.

A key challenge of WP2 lies in correctly clustering the stakeholders since the very beginning. This will allow to organise them into targeted interest groups of influencers and/or experts, facilitating the identification of the common perspectives, deficiencies, gaps, emerging threats, trends and needs. Their findings will generate further exchanges among the chairpersons of each cluster, leading to unique reports and position papers which governments and relevant institutions, such as G20, OECD and WTO, will be able to use to formulate common policies to the benefits of all



### Interview with Vitor Correia, leader of Work Package 3 Strategic Planning

Vitor Correia is the President of the European Federation of Geologists, a professional organisation that represents professional geologists from 25 European countries. He is the coordinator of the project INTRAW, which aims to launch in 2017 the European Observatory of Raw Materials.

Vitor founded and managed several companies working in geosciences, and he has over 25 years of experience in strategic management, innovation and organizational effectiveness. He began his career as a mining geologist and he worked in mineral exploration, geological engineering and environmental geology in Europe, Africa and South America. Vitor holds a BSc in Geology and a MBA, both from the University of Lisbon. He is registered as a Eurogeologist.

#### What is the best way of helping stakeholders outside academia and industry to understand the society's need of extracting primary resources in addition to secondary resources?

We need (meaning the industry and developed societies need) mineral raw materials. Recycling doesn't cope with the growing need of materials, and the European industry is facing increasing risks of disruption of its mineral raw materials' supply chains. Such disruption will have an extraordinary impact, destroying jobs and provoking a social catastrophe in Europe. But we cannot say this.

Today, there is a paradox that affects science dissemination: when a supply risk, or any other risk, is announced, it rapidly becomes normalized by media and, therefore, loses importance and fails to engage citizens. This may have terrible consequences, like a generalized public distrust on experts, as it happens in these days of "alternative facts". Consequently, to make the general public aware of the importance of extracting mineral raw materials (mining) we need to avoid messages that convey distress or alarm.

In my opinion, to pass the message on the importance of mining in an effective way, we need 3 things:

- 1) A holistic approach, highlighting causes and effects in a simple, but structured way, supported by data from credible, indisputable sources;
- 2) We also need the collaboration of other stakeholders. We need the corroboration of the importance of mining by industry leaders, materials' scientists, regional governments and economists (to mention a few), to make the message more significant;
- 3) And we need testimonies. Testimonies from industry leaders, explaining where the mineral raw materials they are using are coming from, and from industry workers, highlighting the social importance of industry jobs. We also need testimonies from regional and city governments, and from populations from regions where mining is active, telling their experiences on the impact of mining in their lives.

I trust FORAM can make an important contribution towards this aim. By engaging a large group of stakeholders, FORAM can create the dynamic needed to make others, aside from geoscientists, aware of the importance of mining, and available to help us delivering effective messages to the general public.

### Interview with Bas de Leeuw leader of Work Package 4 Roadmap & Pilot

Bas de Leeuw is Managing Director of the World Resources Forum. He is economist from the Rotterdam Erasmus University. Before joining the WRF in 2011 he was Executive Director of the Donella Meadows Institute, based in Vermont, USA. Bas has been a diplomat for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) from 1997 to 2009. Based in UN Environment's Economy Division, Paris, France, he has set up and managed a number of new UN initiatives, such as the Sustainable Consumption Program, the Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the International Life Cycle Panel, and the International Resource Panel.



#### The steps to set up a World Forum on Raw Materials are several and complex. How do they overlap each other and why specific time frames have been identified?

Key aspects of advancing the idea of a World Forum on Raw Materials include assessing its focus and its format. Will there be a need for just information gathering, or for a scientific platform? Should the platform offer policy dialogue, multi-stakeholder awareness raising and capacity building, or a mix of these? Should it be a network or become a formal institution?

These are all complex questions and will require several steps. These steps are for instance desk research, surveys, real life talks, and organizing various events with an inclusive organization process. Desk research will be carried out to assess definitions and characteristics of the current state of play. What are we talking about? What methodologies are used? How are information flows organized? Who is involved? Who sit on the fence and should be involved? What can initiatives contribute? How can we assess the impact of the various initiatives? Are there gaps? Are there lessons to be learnt from each other? Is there a need, is there a willingness

to see what other networks are doing? What should we take into account if we ask various stakeholders to exchange ideas or to work together? What are strong and what are weak points of the options we together will identify for moving on? How would a strategy look like, how could a specific roadmap look like? What's next, after we have finished our first deliberations and our first pilot event?

Some of these steps will be carried out simultaneously. This gives us the possibility to adapt our work to the insights gained. We will assess all questions with an open eye for all the good work that is already going on, and in close dialogue with existing networks. We do not intend to reinvent wheels. This will in the end enable us to offer valuable ideas for increasing efficiency and effectiveness for all concerned.

We have identified, together with the European Commission and our Consortium Partners, a tight schedule for this project. In our working program all steps have their specific time frames, their own interim and final outcomes, milestones and reports. This is essential for keeping the momentum for all internal and external partners and for staying focused on the outcome: advancing the idea for a World Forum on Raw Materials.



### Interview with Claudia Delfini, leader of Work Package 5 Communication and Outreach

Claudia Delfini is a communication specialist, holding a degree in sociology with specialisation in social planning and communication from the University of Roma "La Sapienza" and a post-graduated diploma in Public Communication and Journalism. Since 2004, as a member of the communication staff of ISPRA, she has been involved in several national and international projects concerning mineral resources (primary and secondary) natural disasters, nuclear energy, geological mapping, environmental data management, etc., as well as the International Year of Planet Earth. Currently she is Communication Manager of EuroGeoSurveys. Finally, Claudia is lecturer and consultant in corporate communications at the Training Company 'Lattanzio e Associati' inc.

#### How could the FORAM stakeholders contribute to foster common understanding about the development of mineral resources?

I am convinced that it is all about communication, education and fair access to resources.

Those three components have different importance in the different world economies. Especially in developing economies, the third component is key. By closely working with the relevant stakeholders in industry, European and international organisations, governments, academia and civil society, this project will contribute to consolidating

the efforts towards a more joint and coherent approach towards raw materials policies and investments worldwide. The project will create an environment for exchanging information that will also allow the individual stakeholders to increase their knowledge and understanding of the issues at stake.

At the same time, it will provide better access to international networks, including those of other stakeholder groups and regions, and thus to a more efficient and effective implementation of the respective activities. Moreover, international agencies, regulators and policy makers in this field can benefit of the increased transparency of the complex maze of stakeholders and actors. Research centres, universities and training centres will appreciate the improved access to the state-of-the-art knowledge about raw materials research, as well as international demands from governments and businesses for their research and capacity building efforts. And industry, in particular, including small and medium sized companies, will

increasingly benefit from a more accessible network from which they can tap the latest scientific results, the latest plans and agendas from policymakers and get a better feeling for current and upcoming priorities of civil society groups. Investors and other actors in the innovation chain will benefit from this enhanced cooperation as well, which will allow them a better long term investment planning.

The G20 countries have the biggest responsibilities, as they 'control' most of mineral resources exploitation (import/export) in developing countries. It is not enough to guarantee environmental compliance or to pay fair compensation to the authorities where resources are exploited. It should also be necessary to promote that the authorities benefitting of those revenues re-distribute them locally in a transparent and efficient manner. FORAM might help much from this point of view.

