

EUROGEO SURVEYS AT THE PDAC 2023 CONVENTION

Brussels, 20 March 2023

The annual Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention is the premier event of the world's mineral exploration and mining industry. PDAC focuses on driving a sustainable, competitive and responsible exploration and mining sector, bringing together mining executives, geologists, government officials, investors, analysts, and students from around the globe. The 91st PDAC took place at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from March 5th-8th, 2023. The 23,819 attendees and 1,100+ exhibitors took part in exhibits, events, and programming.

EuroGeoSurveys booth at PDAC 2023

EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) was present in the European Commission's booth, promoting EGS Member Surveys, Expert Groups and Projects (namely [GSEU](#), [PanAfGeo](#), [SCREEN2](#), [MDNP2](#), and [AfricaMaVal](#)), as well as the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources ([ETP SMR](#)). The European Commission booth also hosted European Commission initiatives and representatives such as the European Raw Materials Alliance and EIT Raw Materials, projects from Horizon Europe (the EU research programme for research and innovation) and EU member states.



During the event, EGS engaged in discussions with the mining sector community to promote sustainable mining practices and the future of the industry. Its members were well represented at a number of events, including the Nordic Mining Day with contributions from GTK, NGU and SGU, and EGS made a presentation focused on the GSEU project activities around critical raw materials during the EU Business and Networking Breakfast.

Additionally, EGS highlighted the strategic importance of raw materials for the EU industry, particularly in achieving the ambitious objectives of the European Green Deal and REPowerEU. EGS's presence at PDAC 2023 demonstrates its commitment to promoting sustainable mining practices and the EU's raw materials strategy.

The EU presence at PDAC this year comes at a moment when the EU has published its proposed Critical Raw Materials Act. The Act was announced in September last year by President von der Leyen in her State of the Union speech and aims to ensure a secure, sustainable and responsible raw materials supply to the EU.

Given the ambitious European Green Deal objectives, the path towards resiliency set by the REPowerEU and the strategic importance of raw materials for the EU industry, the European Commission is deploying a comprehensive strategy boosting research and innovation, establishing international partnerships with third countries and channeling investment opportunities through industrial alliances. Access to raw materials is a strategic goal for the EU given its ambition for the twin green and digital transition. Ensuring the supply of sustainable raw materials, in particular of critical raw materials necessary for clean technologies, digital, space and defense applications, by diversifying supply from both primary and secondary sources, is therefore one of the prerequisites to make this transition happen.

Background message from EU:

The shift to the climate-neutral economy will increase the global demand for non-energy raw materials more than ever. This demand exceeds what recycling can offer and we need to secure a primary supply from both EU and non-EU countries. Given the growing strategic importance of raw materials for the EU manufacturing industry, the Commission is taking actions under the EU Raw Materials Initiative (RMI) for a secure, sustainable, responsible and affordable supply.

Raw materials, in particular critical raw materials, keep European industrial value chains competitive for sectors such as automotive, machinery, electrical engineering, ICT, and defence. Raw materials' availability is a prerequisite for the transition to a climate-neutral economy with e-mobility and renewable energy. The EU is currently preparing an updated assessment of critical raw materials for the EU and will publish it this year.

For more information, visit:

EGS: www.eurogeosurveys.org

EGDI: www.europe-geology.eu

GSEU: <https://www.geologicalservice.eu/>

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