Raw Materials Partnership (RAMP) Launched in Stockholm to Boost Research and Innovation on Critical Raw Materials

EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) and the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP SMR) participated in a three-day event held on 23-25 June and organised by the Swedish Innovation Agency (Vinnova). The event was comprised a final conference on “Raw materials for the sustainable development and the circular economy” to showcase the achievements of the ERA-MIN3 programme (2022-2026), representing a pan-European network of R&I funding organisations promoting research and innovative solutions to sustainable raw material extraction, circular industrial systems and strategic recycling.

As stated by Dina Carrilho, ERA-MIN Coordinator from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), the future of European competitiveness depends on its ability to connect research, innovation, industry and policy across the entire raw materials’ value chain. ERA-MIN has had a key role in building strategic international partnerships in these fields.

Her point was further endorsed by Doroteja Zlobec from the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI), who stressed that Europe’s future mineral sovereignty will depend on its ability to operate in coordinated global ecosystems, not isolated action. The fragmentation of R&I efforts should be avoided as it represents an inefficient use of public funds. Mineral sovereignty depends on the integration across ecosystems, not operating in silos, Zlobec emphasised.

Susanne Gylesjö, President of ETP SMR, highlighted the importance of ERA-MIN as a trusted partner for European cooperation and cross-border learning. ERA-MIN enabled national agencies to benchmark their activities with European counterparts by providing a network for dialogue that connected key actors in the raw materials value chain.

EGS participated in the first roundtable discussion of the conference that focused on future cooperation and impact in the field of raw materials. Eero Yrjö-Koskinen, Principal Adviser at EGS, pointed out the need for proper stakeholder consultation and involvement to enhance the sustainable production of critical raw materials in Europe and beyond. Social acceptance is key if the EU wants to achieve its objectives in the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials (CRM) Act.

Dina Carrilho (FCT), Susanne Gylesjö (ETP SMR) and Daniel Cios (DG GROW, European Commission).

Tobias Kampmann (Vinnova, RAMP), Christian Hagelüken (formerly Umicore), Alexander Cypzirsch (EGARoh-Connect), Didier Zimmerman (EIT RawMaterials) and Eero Yrjö-Koskinen (EGS)

The ERA-MIN final conference was followed by a kick-off meeting for its successor, a new European Partnership programme named RAMP (Raw Materials Partnership for the Green and Digital Transition, 2025-2036), which went through its work plan, timelines, key milestones and interdependencies. In addition, it looked at the implementation steps for its future calls for tender, communication activities, and international cooperation.

The purpose of the RAMP Partnership is to strengthen international collaboration on critical raw materials research by financing transnational innovation projects across the entire value chain from primary use to reuse and recycling.

Speaking on behalf of Vinnova as the new Coordinator of RAMP, Tobias Kampmann pointed out that virtually every goal of ERA-MIN eventually became EU policy, but the systemic change required the shock of the 2022 supply chain crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the 2024 Critical Raw Materials Act, to gain political traction. This lesson should be kept in mind when implementing RAMP.

Tobias Kampmann, Programme Manager at Vinnova and RAMP Coordinator.

Susanne Gylesjö from ETP SMR echoed this message by saying that we already have the trusted relationship but need to translate it to regulatory policy. We should be more deliberate in including policy in the RAMP agenda.

As partners in RAMP, EGS will help strengthen European cooperation on critical raw materials research through its geological expertise and extensive network of Geological Survey Organisations, while ETP SMR will lead activities on strategic communication and outreach, promote collaboration across the European raw materials community, and contribute to policy support through the future review and update of the RAMP Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

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