



TOWARDS A WORLD FORUM
ON RAW MATERIALS

NEWSLETTER

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FORAM 18 Pilot Event: testing the concept of a World Forum on Raw Materials

Written by: Anita Stein, European Federation for Geologists (EFG)

Back to back with the World Materials Forum (WMF), the Horizon 2020 funded FORAM project has gathered stakeholders from around the world on 27 June 2018 in Nancy (France) to test the concept of a World Forum on Raw Materials.

The conference started with an introduction by project officer **Jonas Hedberg** from the European Commission's Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), who presented his institution and basic facts about the H2020 funding programme. Jonas Hedberg also highlighted the work carried out by other EU projects in the field of international raw materials cooperation, citing especially the recently finished INTRAW project.

In his keynote speech, **Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy**, Member of the European Parliament (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe), endorsed the idea of creating a World Forum on Raw Materials which would facilitate international resource governance. An international coalition for the sustainable management of natural resources is essential according to Mr. Gerbrandy when looking at the fast-changing political world order, demographic growth, the consequences of climate change and the continuous steady growth of the global use of raw materials.

Project coordinator **Mathias Schluep** from the World Resources Forum (WRF) then introduced the main actions FORAM has taken since the project started in November 2016. A detailed description of the different actions can be found in the report of Jelena Vidovic in this Newsletter.

Jelena Vidovic from EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) presented in detail the stakeholder engagement activities conducted so far. She succeeded in actively engaging more than 180 persons. Further she introduced the three stakeholder workshops: (1) Knowledge Management, (2) Policies and Strategies and (3) International Cooperation.

A brief summary of the outcomes of the workshop:

General conclusion

All participants agreed unanimously on the need to establish a global platform for raw materials.

Knowledge Management

The need for databases, which are accessible and sustainable in the long run, was highlighted. In this respect, the participants recommended that the EU should set up an institute responsible for the collection and sharing of data gathered during EU-funded projects.

Policies and Strategies

This workshop emphasised on the importance of considering the UN Sustainable Development Goals within the Social License to Operate (SLO), shifting the concept towards a Sustainable Development License to Operate (SDLO).

International Cooperation

The workshop on international cooperation stressed the importance of involving industry and developing appropriate education and training. The establishment of transparent standards for the management of natural resources as well as the importance of communication was also highlighted.

Stefan Bringezu, Professor and Director at the Center for Environmental Systems Research Sustainable Resource Futures Group (CESR) at the University of Kassel, emphasised on the need for a standardised reporting protocol for all activities relating to mining, in order to ensure a higher transparency, in light of the growing conflicts with regard to resource exploration and extraction. He also recommended increasing research in the field of urban mining.

During the event's closing session, **Constantin Ciupagea**, from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), reminded the participants that, although the Commission provides an important support to Research and Innovation, the Raw Materials policy in Europe is not set by the EU, but by the Member States.

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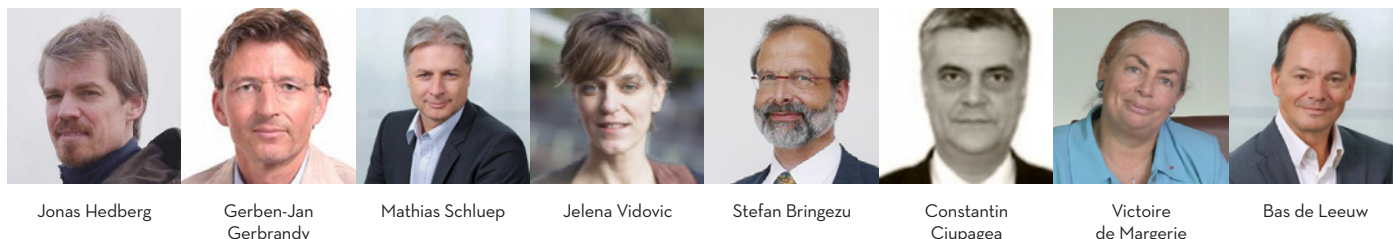
Editorial board: Nancy Savall and Jelena Vidovic

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He introduced the Raw Materials Knowledge Gateway (RMKG) which aims to link electronically data from different EU-funded projects in a single place and called upon the duty of research projects to convince industry of the importance of establishing dialogue and concentrating knowledge.

Victoire de Margerie, Vice Chairman of the World Materials Forum, stressed in her closing words the complementarity of the FORAM pilot event being organised in parallel with the World Materials Forum, since both aim at bringing together all kinds of stakeholders to discuss the future of materials, using them “smarter, less and longer”.

Moderator **Bas de Leeuw** and project coordinator Mathias Schlupe, both World Resources Forum (WRF), finally thanked the audience for the active participation in the event and emphasised again the need for a platform like FORAM to centralise the dialogue for a sustainable use of natural resources at a global level. The project consortium will now analyse the inputs received from stakeholders during the pilot event and present a roadmap and key recommendations for a structured approach by October 2018, when the project will officially end. The findings will be published on www.foramproject.net.



Jonas Hedberg

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

Mathias Schlupe

Jelena Vidovic

Stefan Bringezu

Constantin Ciupagea

Victoire de Margerie

Bas de Leeuw

Stakeholders consultations - main outcomes

Written by: Jelena Vidovic, EuroGeoSurveys (EGS)

One of the major objectives of the FORAM project was to map relevant stakeholders and start a dialogue with them. These stakeholders revolve around the need for fair and unrestricted access to raw materials and for a joint and coherent approach towards raw materials supply, policy and investment. The dialogue made it possible to share experiences about their needs, threats, priorities and preferences, with the aim to facilitate raw materials trade and better coordination of relevant raw material initiatives and actions.

FORAM Stakeholders Panel is an extensive network of contacts representing major raw materials communities from all over the world. It has relevant coverage related to the entire raw material value chain, with predominance in exploration, mining and processing of primary raw materials. The FORAM stakeholders can be divided in five groups, addressing the most important issues in the raw materials sector today: (1) Innovation, Security of Supply and Growth, (2) Resource Efficiency, Environmental and Social Aspects, (3) Policies, Legal and Financial Frameworks, (4) International Cooperation and Outreach and (5) Research, Capacity Building and Education.

Main outcomes from the stakeholders dialogues:

- Need for harmonisation of the various raw materials data systems.
- Collect information and develop technologies for extracting secondary raw materials. Now, the focus of most of the existing data systems is on primary raw materials.
- There is a global interest to share data and knowledge and to enhance the international cooperation on governance of the raw materials.

- Policies are available in most areas of Europe. There is a need for appropriate regulatory and financial frameworks to implement these policies.
- Legislations and financial frameworks should help achieve a “closed loop recycling” and circular economy.
- Implementation of responsible sourcing in the whole value chain is needed. Companies need to be incentivised when they practice or maintain these values.
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals should be integrated in the mining sector to overcome negative reputation.

According to FORAM Stakeholders, the World Forum on Raw Materials could:

- be an inventory of country databases and initiatives on raw materials;
- be a sharing platform of best practices and innovations;
- foster data harmonization;
- stimulate the development of circular economy;
- foster dialogue between science and society or science and politics;
- establish a working group with the main task to develop a data format for reporting raw materials extraction and provisions for both primary and secondary raw materials.

The outcomes from the dialogues and the ideas about the tasks of a World Forum on Raw Materials determined the format and content of the Pilot Event on 27 June 2018 in Nancy (France), where FORAM stakeholders met to further elaborate the operation of a World Forum on Raw Materials (see report on page 1 of this Newsletter).

Interview with Mathias Schlupe, Project coordinator FORAM, from the World Resources Forum (WRF)

FORAM has accomplished a lot during the last few years. What is the most important contribution of World Forum on Raw Materials to the dialogue for sustainable use of natural resources at a global level? How can this be continued in the future?

"I believe that the first key achievement was to identify the global key stakeholders in the first place. This builds the basis for a fruitful dialogue. Without having the participation of the key stakeholders a balanced dialogue would not be possible. The second key achievement was to understand their needs in a structured way and group them into discussion topics. This is also crucial in order to start a dialogue and identify common goals (of a dialogue). Based on the experience of the FORAM pilot event we had in Nancy I'm very positive that this dialogue will find a continuation imbedded in one of our existing formats (e.g. with the WRF conference or activities of other FORAM partners). Discussions to that are ongoing."

What are the 2 main challenges for the near future?

"Although we achieved a broad stakeholder participation in our project the challenge remains to develop a more balanced representation through all world regions (e.g. China must be better involved). I also think that in the mid-term or long run FORAM will need a stronger commitment and mandate to continue with the dialogue from key institutions, such as the EC, UN, OECD, or others."



Interview with Bas de Leeuw, FORAM Leader Work Package 4: Roadmap & Pilot, from the World Resources Forum (WRF)

Looking back at the starting situation and what FORAM has realised after almost 2 years, what do you think are the 2 biggest gains/successes?

"The FORAM project has been a true pleasure to work on. It is wonderful to see people connect who are working in similar areas and share the same passions, but somehow never met. I was pleased to see how many stakeholders brought the issues of resource efficiency and social aspects into the debate. Of course, in my personal history of UN Environment, Club of Rome and World Resources Forum, resource efficiency and sustainability has always played an important role for me. Through FORAM I have discovered that the concerns are widely shared, with governments, the industry and society at large. Apparently the "social license to operate" has got the momentum it deserves, and there is indeed a lot to do. Seeing how many people are interested in FORAM and what issues they have brought forward I consider as the main successes of the project and it guides us towards the future, when FORAM will officially be over, but the work goes on."

What is needed to continue the success of FORAM?

"Some projects are over at the day of the last report to the funder. I am pleased to see that the core people who have worked together over the last two years in the FORAM project have really found each other and I am confident that we will continue to make a difference. Already international cooperation on raw materials worldwide has improved, just by working together and communicating about our activities. We are talking together with the team and with the most interested stakeholders to see how we can harvest what we produced and go on. Be it, for the time being without official work packages, deliverables, and financial reporting sheets. We will dearly miss these and we will certainly miss the pleasant and professional communications with the EC project officers. However, we have now found each other and we will keep working on improving the international cooperation of initiatives on raw materials worldwide. The FORAM project was born as an initiative of the European Commission, I am sure they will keep following and supporting us, in whatever future setting will be deemed appropriate. The most important factors for continuing the success of FORAM are a shared sense of urgency and the will to get things done. And these we have witnessed with all concerned."





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