

OVERVIEW

CIRAN has sought to create recommendations to reconcile the increasing demand for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) with the need to protect natural areas in Europe with the active engagement of local communities and external experts. CIRAN has achieved this by developing and testing narratives, future scenarios, diverse national and regional regulatory frameworks, and policy recommendations that balance societal needs with environmental protection and community benefits.

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CIRAN

Critical Raw Materials Extraction in Environ- mentally Protected Areas

CONSORTIUM



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Planning | Environment | Economics



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PROMAN



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THE IMPORTANCE OF CIRAN

CRMs are vital for our modern-day European society, and key for the EU transition priorities towards green energy, e-mobility, and digitalisation.

These minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, and copper, are essential for manufacturing products used in this context for communication, medical treatment, clean energy sourcing, and electric mobility, among others.

While the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (2024) has put more pressure in achieving EU's strategic and minerals' autonomy, research findings from CIRAN has revealed a challenging landscape: 85% of EU CRM deposits are located within environmentally protected areas or within 5 km proximity to them, creating an apparent conflict between resource security and environmental preservation perspectives.

CIRAN GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CIRAN has aimed to **co-create policy solutions and recommendations** that respond to balancing environmental and societal needs.

The project has thoroughly researched the **interactions and effects of regulatory frameworks and EU, national, and regional policies** across sectors and countries, particularly in Work Packages 2 and 3.

It has thus generated good-practice Case Studies, outlined a fit-for-purpose assessment of regulatory frameworks, and co-developed future demand scenarios for 2035.

Furthermore, WP4 has explored emerging low-impact, low-visibility extraction methods to **reconcile technological breakthroughs with responsible sourcing**.

Finally, WP5 and WP6 have **incorporated social dynamics and collective decision-making** to test and evaluate effectiveness and local trust in policy measures.

LONG LASTING IMPACTS OF CIRAN AND ITS REPOSITORY OF PROJECT RESULTS



Systemic and integrated permitting procedures



Modern policy and social contract framework



Community of practice that remains active after the funding period

Download freely accessible CIRAN findings, Deliverables, and resources from:

CIRANs' webpage:
ciranproject.eu

CIRAN Zenodo Community:
zenodo.org/communities/ciran-euproject/records

CIRAN Podcast and MOOC also on YouTube:
CIRAN Project EU - YouTube

Join CIRAN's Community of Practice:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14134912/>