



Critical Raw Materials Extraction in Environmentally Protected Areas

 CIRAN Newsletter

July - December 2025



 www.ciranproject.eu
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July - December 2025

Message from the CIRAN Consortium



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the final edition of the **CIRAN – “Sustainable Mining in Environmentally Protected Areas” EU-funded project** Newsletter.

As we **conclude this three-year journey**, we reflect with gratitude on the collective efforts that have shaped CIRAN's contributions to responsible mining in Europe. From the outset, we recognised that reconciling mineral extraction with nature conservation would require more than technical solutions; it would demand **genuine collaboration, inclusive dialogue, and a willingness to challenge conventional approaches**.

CIRAN's success is built upon the **invaluable support of external experts** from across disciplines and backgrounds —scientists, policymakers, industry representatives— and, most importantly, **local communities** living in and around environmentally protected areas in Europe. Their insights, expertise, and honest engagement have been paramount to everything we have achieved.

This spirit of collaboration will continue through our Community of Practice (join [here](#)), which will remain **active beyond the project's funded period**, ensuring that the conversations started will continue to evolve and inform future decisions.

The CIRAN **educational resources** —including the MOOC, the roleplay game, and other materials— will provide the foundation for informed future discussions on responsible mining. These tools will **empower meaningful multistakeholder engagement** on the complex challenges at the intersection of resource security and environmental stewardship. The **two Policy Briefs presented in European institutions** offer actionable recommendations to address this fundamental question. We hope these recommendations will contribute to shaping governance frameworks that honour both Europe's strategic needs and its commitment to biodiversity and social justice.

As CIRAN draws to a close, we extend **our deepest gratitude** to everyone who has joined us on this journey. The work continues with trust that **the foundations laid together will support responsible, just, and circular approaches to mining and value-chain security across Europe**.

With gratitude and best wishes for the time ahead,
The CIRAN Project Team





🏆 "Resources and responsibility: A youth perspective" - Stavros (Greece)



🏆 "Fighting for Earth" - Jana & Maksim (North Macedonia)



🏆 "The Era of Lithium" - Renat (Ukraine/Spain)

🎬 Congratulations to all CIRAN Video Contest winners!

Watch all videos on YouTube:

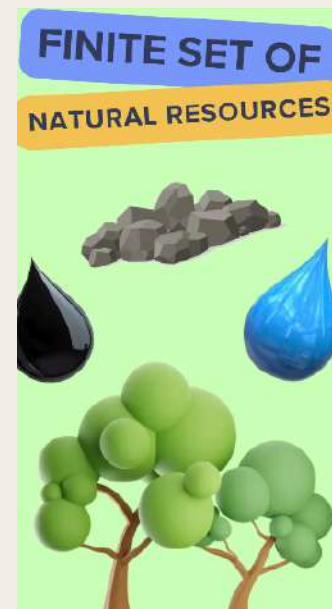
📺 @CIRANProjectEU
([Video Contest Playlist](#))



🏆 "The Natural Resources' Problem" - Ismini & Niki (Greece)

🏆 "Reimagining our future: A world without resource conflicts"

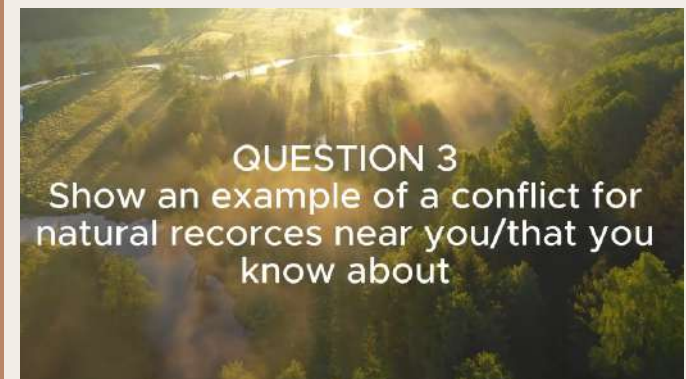
- Bisera (North Macedonia)



🏆 "Value Balance" - Mariarita (Finland)



🏆 "Conflicts over resources" - Scarlett (Belgium)



🏆 "Are planet resources infinite?" - Thanos, Aris & Michaela (Greece)





Details on the WRF25 website



NEW RESOURCE STRATEGIES FOR A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

GENEVA | 2-3 SEPTEMBER
ONLINE | 4-5 SEPTEMBER



CONFERENCE SESSION

3 Sept 2025, 11-12h CET
In-person

Critical Raw Materials' Act implementation: challenges and EU strategic autonomy

Panel discussion moderated by Vitor Correia (INTRAW, CIRAN coordinator)




🌍 Participation in International Events - CIRAN News

Sept 2025

- World Resources Forum 📍 Geneva
- 11th Meggen Raw Material Days 📍 Altenhundem
- SLO Responsible Mineral Exploration Conference 📍 Tallinn
- Oct 2025 - MINEX Europe 2025 Forum 📍 Lisbon

☀ Project highlight!



**Minerals for Strategic Autonomy and
Regional Development Boosting Critical
Raw Materials Act Implementation**

European Parliament, Brussels - 13 October 2025, 15:00-17:00h CET

PANEL DISCUSSION

**Community Development Agreements: A New
Social Contract for Critical Raw Materials
Development**



MEP Hildegard Bentele



Antonella Valmorbida,
ALDA Europe



Jean-Pierre Kuchelida,
ACOM France



Päivi Ekdahl,
RC Lapland



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🗓 October 2025 - CIRAN at the European Parliament 📍 Brussels

- Overview of project results to expert audience
- Launch of Policy Brief on CDA's & high-level Panel Discussion
- Final in-person Consortium Meeting



📄 Summary of CIRAN results & Panel Discussion from
“Resources - External Events” & Policy Briefs online

★ Project highlight!



Minerals for Strategic Autonomy and Regional Development: Boosting the REsourceEU Plan



European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels
12 November 2025, 14:00-17:00h CET

Presentation of CIRAN key findings and overview of Community Development Agreements

Followed by the

PANEL DISCUSSION

Creating conditions for dialogue: Social Contracts and regional development in minerals policy

Hosted by Dr. Malika Moussaid-Hilton
Aleff Group - WP6 Leader



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Visit our website



🗣️ CIRAN at the European Economic and Social Committee

- November 2025 📍 Brussels
- Presented social and economic breakthroughs from CIRAN
- Shared the Policy Brief on "Community Development Agreements"
- High-level Panel Discussion - OECD, DG REGIO, EP, EESC



PROJECT RESOURCES

Podcast Seasons 1 & 2

- Listen to ALL 16 Episodes from Seasons 1 & 2
- With fantastic guest speakers!
- On our website -  CIRAN Resources
- On YouTube  (@CIRANProjectEU) &  PodBean ([CIRAN Podcast Playlist](#))



Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

MINING, CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS,
LAND USE, AND PERMITTING IN
COMPLEX TIMES: AN INTRODUCTION



FREE ACCESS



www.ciranproject.eu/mooc/




Start learning with the CIRAN MOOC today!

Available on CIRAN's YouTube → [MOOC Playlist](#)

- Lecture 1 - "The need for Raw Materials"
- Lecture 2 - "Availability of geological data"
- Lecture 3 - "Land Use"
- Lecture 4 - "Classification of mineral resources"
- Lectures 5 & 6 - "Learning from a Swedish Case Study"
- Lecture 7 - "Sakatti: An EU strategic extractive project"
- Lecture 8 - "Neves Corvo: Innovation & social investment"
- Lecture 9 - "Innovative mining technologies"

Available online even after the project-funded period!

Free, open, at your own schedule and pace 

 From 2026, all CIRAN resources (incl. materials from project results) remain open, accessible, and downloadable from our project website, YouTube & Zenodo channels

Check out and download all project results, publications, and education & outreach materials!

Visit www.ciranproject.eu/resources

Materials from CIRAN Forum & Community of Practice discussions - On the [Forum page](#)

"Cosa succederebbe se...?"
Scenario 2
Innovazione insulare

E se l'estrazione mineraria domestica diventasse l'unica opzione per la sicurezza delle risorse?

Decisione:
L'estrazione mineraria domestica può diventare l'unica opzione per la sicurezza delle risorse nella nostra comunità / regione, o in Europa?

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Questo caso studio affronta un futuro in cui le politiche protettivistiche rendono necessaria l'attività mineraria nelle aree protette dal punto di vista ambientale.

I membri della comunità devono discutere i compromessi tra l'indipendenza delle risorse e la conservazione ambientale, concentrandosi sugli impatti sociali ed ecologici dell'estrazione domestica delle risorse.

Le reazioni delle comunità locali a questo scenario potrebbero variare in base a diversi fattori, tra cui – ma non solo:

- La loro percezione dell'importanza della tutela ambientale rispetto allo sviluppo del mercato e alla crescita economica,
- Il potenziale tecnologico e innovativo della regione (che implica un maggiore utilizzo di materie prime antiche),
- Nonché le dinamiche sociali e steriche legate all'estrazione mineraria
- E ad altre opportunità occupazionali connesse al settore.

"What if...?" Scenarios role-play game in English and Italian

"What if...?" Character Card

Environmental Scientist

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Background:
A leading environmental scientist specializing in ecosystems and biodiversity.

Role:
Advocate for environmental preservation in the local/regional branch of a European/international NGO.

Personality Traits:

- Logical
- Detail-oriented
- Passionate about conservation

Viewpoint:
Opposes extraction in or near the protected area, citing the potential damage to local wildlife and ecosystems. Believes the area is too valuable to sacrifice for short-term economic gains.

Visit www.ciranproject.eu/results

CIRAN "Case Studies" Factsheets from WP2 findings

CIRAN Deliverables and Posters, by Work Package

CIRAN WP2 Case Study Selection Series
Mine of Barruocapardo, Spain

The CIRAN project is a multi-part project that aims to address the challenges of sustainable resource management in the extractive sector. This case study focuses on the Mine of Barruocapardo, Spain, which is a significant source of minerals for the local economy. The project aims to explore the potential for sustainable resource management in the extractive sector, taking into account the social, economic, and environmental impacts of mining activities.

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CIRAN WP2 Case Study Selection Series
Monte Tondo, Italy

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- + WP1 - Coordination and Management
- + WP2 - Capturing and Assessing good-practice
- + WP3 - Nexus of Societal Vulnerabilities
- + WP4 - Performance Appraisals
- + WP5 - Inclusion and Knowledge co-creation
- + WP6 - Towards efficient policymaking

Factsheets from CIRAN Deliverables

CIRAN

Introduction

Methods and Data

Results

Conclusions

Sensitivity maps of potential conflicts over natural resources usage

Introduction

Methods and Data

Results

Conclusions

CIRAN

CIRAN scenarios for 2035

Why Future Scenarios?

What was analysed?

Results

Conclusions

CIRAN

D6.1 Baseline Report on missing segments and supply chain vulnerabilities

Introduction

Methods and Data

Results

Conclusions

The CIRAN project ends, but our CoP remains active! Join us & continue the conversation

Sustainable Management in the Extractive Sector: Navigating Challenges and Forging New Paths





Thank you very much for following us
throughout this journey!

*With best wishes, from the
CIRAN Consortium*

Happy Holiday

*Cheers to a festive season filled with cherished
memories and a great start to the New Year 2026!*



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