

Critical Raw Materials Extraction in Environmentally Protected Areas

@ciran-project-eu

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CIRAN Newsletter

January - June 2025



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CIRAN Newsletter

Dear Reader.

January-June 2025

Message from the CIRAN Consortium



Welcome to the latest edition of the CIRAN – "Sustainable Mining in Environmentally Protected Areas" EU-funded project Newsletter.

As we approach the conclusion of our third project year, **CIRAN has reached a pivotal moment** in its mission to advance responsible mining practices across Europe. Our growing body of work has highlighted the delicate balance between securing Critical Raw Materials (CRM) for the green and digital transition agendas and earning and sustaining public trust around mining operations, especially in or near protected natural zones.

Through community-led focus groups, public discussions, and policy dialogues, **CIRAN has engaged with stakeholders from Finland to Portugal to better understand** the conditions under which mining may gain social legitimacy. These efforts confirm a clear trend: European communities are open to mining, but only when it is built on **genuine participation, transparent governance, and a firm commitment** to local environmental and social justice.

Our findings suggest that **conventional top-down public consultation approaches fall short**. What communities demand instead are inclusive decision-making processes—governance frameworks that not only listen to but truly empower local voices. This insight is particularly urgent given that **over 85% of Europe's CRM deposits lie within or adjacent to naturally protected areas**, raising the stakes for innovative and democratic solutions.

In this edition of the Newsletter, we showcase the outcomes of CIRAN's recent engagement work and preview upcoming activities including our presence at the UN World Resources Forum and the European Parliament, where our policy recommendations will be presented. Over the past few months, the project has facilitated expert roundtables, contributed to CRM stakeholder platforms, supported regional mapping exercises, and released several new resources available on our website and across our communication channels. These initiatives underscore our commitment to fostering socially responsible, ecologically mindful, and strategically robust mining pathways for Europe's future. Thank you for following our journey. We hope you will enjoy this reading amid the summer season and will discover interesting opportunities to join us during the upcoming months. Together, we continue building the knowledge base, partnerships, and policy tools vital for a sustainable and socially responsible mining future.

Best regards, CIRAN Project Team





February 2025 - Consortium Meeting † Ljubljana, Slovenia

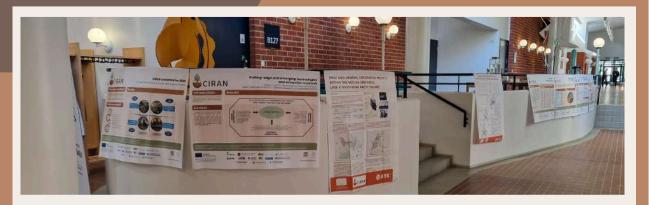
- External Experts' workshop on Social Contracts
- Visit to the Idrija UNESCO Global Geopark
- Participation at the IRTC 2025





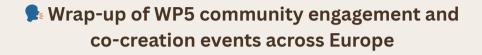
June 2025 - CIRAN Forum in 📍 Rovaniemi, Finland

- Presentation of CIRAN findings, focusing on nature protection, sustainable resource extraction, and community perspectives
- Peer-learning workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment & stakeholder and community engagement
- Cooperation with the University of Lapland and the OECD
- Participation in the OECD 2025 Conference of Mining Regions and Cities





























S Participation in International Events

- February 2025 IRTC 2025 📍 Ljubljana
- March 2025 UNECE Resource Management Week 📍 Geneva
- April 2025 EGU 2025 Annual General Assembly 📍 Vienna
- June 2025 "Europe's Lithium Paradox" documentary ¹/₂ Lisbon & OECD 2025 Conference ¹/₂ Rovaniemi







CIRAN Video Contest for young Europeans was a blast!

- Open until 31st May 2025 for young Europeans and their teachers, relatives, and friends
- In any European language, with transcription or subtitles
- Excellent videos received, produced by teenagers and young adults from across Europe
- Public Voting on CIRAN's social media in September - get ready to vote!

VIDEO CONTEST FOR 12-19 YEAR OLD TEENAGERS

www.ciranproject.eu

IN EUROPE



M SAVE THE DATES!

World Resources Forum 2025

📍 Geneva 📅 2-3 September

- Geneva's International Conference Centre (CICG)
- CIRAN to facilitate the partner-led session "Minerals Extraction Vs. Nature Protection – Resolving the dilemma between societal needs and expectations"

Panel Discussion in the European Parliament

Prussels 7 October 2025

- Panel discussion on geopolitical uncertainty, Critical Raw Materials Act, EU strategic autonomy, and new social contracts
- Hosted by **MEP Hildegard Bentele** (EPP) •
- Keep an eye on our Social media and website for the date announcement & updates!

Raw Materials Week 2025

- Brussels 7 17-21 November
- Le Plaza Hotel Brussels (Bld. Adolphe Max 118-126)
- Annual event that brings together key stakeholders to discuss raw materials policy and innovation in the EU



Backing the Critical Raw Materials Act and reinforcing the EU strategic autonomy

European Parliament, Brussels - Date TBA

PANEL DISCUSSION

Forging new social contracts: Aligning economic. societal, and environmental interests in Critical Raw Materials' development

How can Europe secure the Critical Raw Materials essential for its energy transition while maintaining public trust and environmental protection?

This session explores groundbreaking social contracts and governance approaches that could reshape the relationship between extractive projects and local communities across the European Union





