

CIRAN – Participant Information Sheet

You have been invited to participate in a focus group for a research project called CIRAN, funded by the European Commission. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this activity. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. You can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without it affecting your status.

Information below summarise the main aspects of the activity you are going to participate in. If you have any concerns or complains, or if you don't find this information clear or sufficient, please do not hesitate to ask the facilitator of the Focus Group.

About the CIRAN Project

CIRAN is an EU-funded project to develop, test and validate processes to arrive at systemic policy-making, balancing environmental protection and societal needs for accessing critical raw materials (CRMs). For more information about CIRAN, please consult the project website at <https://ciranproject.eu/>.

About the Focus Group

(Date, time, location)

Aim of the activity: The goal of this focus group is to **understand different perspectives of local citizens** on minerals extraction in environmentally protected areas; and to **understand the social dimensions of the transitions that need to happen in the EU** at the Climate, Energy, Industrial, Economic and Social levels. The opinion of the European citizens is critical for these transitions to happen accordingly to the peoples' will and to assure that the outcomes of the transition will be publicly accountable.

Activity description: During the meeting that will last 2 hours, **participants will be invited to discuss** Europe's dependence on CRM imports, the balance between environmental protection and socio-economic resilience, personal experiences and concerns, environmental and community impacts, licensing processes, nature conservation and preferred communication methods to involve participants in decisions related to this type of projects. Data collected from this focus group will serve as a **basis for preparation of a public meeting**, a second activity that will take place in the months following this event, where the set of topics covered during the aforementioned Focus Group will be discussed and evaluated by a broader group of local citizens in a **Public Discussion**. Following that, the **data collected from both Focus Group and Public Discussion will be compared to those collected in other regions** involved in the research (in Portugal, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Italy), and a **final report** will be created based on the comparison. All opinions that will be expressed during events will be **treated anonymously**, as this is a research initiative.

About data handling and confidentiality

All the personal information that we collect during the course of the activity will be kept **strictly confidential**. You will not be able to be identified in any ensuing reports or publication. The recordings and notes taken during this activity will be used only for analysis and for illustration in reports and presentations. No other use will be made of them without your written permission, and no one outside the project will be allowed access to the original recordings and notes.

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