HERawS Workshop: Critical Raw Materials for Europe's Green and Digital Transition

Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 9:00–13:00
Venue: Maison Irène et Frédéric Joliot Curie – 100 rue du Trône, 1050 Brussels
Audience: Policy makers, industry stakeholders, academics

HERawS is an Erasmus+ initiative driving strategic insight and capacity-building on Europe's shift from fossil fuels to critical raw materials, delivering cutting-edge research, policy-relevant analysis, and innovative educational tools to support informed decision-making in the green and digital transitions.

🕗 8:30 – 9:00 | Welcome Coffee & Networking

Informal welcome with refreshments. A chance to meet the HERawS team and partners.

🟢 9:00 – 10:00 | Session 1: Towards Sustainable Raw Materials for Europe's Green Transition

Opening Talk (9:00 – 9:05):

- ***Alexandre Nominé**, HERawS scientific coordinator, Associate Professor, University of Lorraine*

Keynote talk: "Best Practices for Responsible Mining" (9:05 – 09:30)

- ***Tijana Vulevic**, Associate Professor, University of Belgrade*

Cross Discussion (9:30 – 09:50) with:

- ***Michalis Christou**, Senior Expert at European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC) Critical Materials & Resilience of Supply Chains for Energy Transition technologies*

Open Q&A with the audience

🟢 10:00 – 11:00 | Session 2: Substitution of Critical Materials

Scientific Presentation "Data-Driven Discovery: Substitution Strategies for Critical Materials" (10:00 – 10:20):
Featuring recent results under the review by *Nature Communications*

- ***Janez Zavašnik**, Senior Researcher, Jožef Stefan Institute*

Interactive Demos (10:20 – 11:00)

Live demonstration of HERawS open-access software tools for material substitution and scenario analysis

- ***Huong Thuy Nguyen, John Lloyd Gildo**, GREENANO EMJM students*
- ***Guilain Leduc**, R&D specialist, University of Luxembourg*

11: 00 – 11:15 | Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:15 | Session 3: New Skills for Sustainable Raw Materials

Presentation "Training for the Transition: Building New Skills in Raw Materials and Sustainability" (11:15 – 11:30):

- ***Alexandre Nominé**, Associate Professor, University of Lorraine*

Roundtable Discussion (11:30 – 12:00):
With:

- ***Jan Eggert**, Head of Business Development, EIT Raw Materials*
- ***Claudio Goletti**, Professor, Tor Vergata University of Rome*
- ***Andrei Bunis**, Policy Officer – Skills for Competitiveness, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

Open Q&A with the audience

12:15 – 12:45 | Session 4: Engaging the Public

Talk & Dialogue "From Mines to Minds: Raising Public Awareness on Strategic Materials" (12:15 – 12:30):

- ***Tatiana Banderova**, HERawS and GREENANO project manager, Director of International Relations at Mines Nancy, University of Lorraine*

Art Intervention (12:30 – 12:40):

- ***Maria Andrade-Andrade**, artist involved in HERawS outreach activities*

12:40 – 13:00 | Closing Remarks

- ***Frédérique Vidal**, former Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, France, Director of Strategy and Scientific Impact at SKEMA Business School*

13:00 – 14:00 | Networking Buffet & Exhibition Viewing

REGISTER ONLINE

https://heraws.eu/heraws-educational-pack/

HERawS (Highlights on European Raw Materials Sustainability) is an Erasmus+ initiative driving strategic insight and capacity-building for Europe's transition from fossil fuels to critical raw materials. The project combines multidisciplinary research, policy-relevant analysis, and innovative educational tools to support informed decision-making in the green and digital transitions.

HERawS focuses on three key areas: assessing the potential of critical metals for green technologies, documenting the role of raw materials in transformation processes, and mapping the costs and risks of shifting to metal-intensive economies. It delivers training for researchers, SMEs, and policymakers, as well as public outreach tools such as expert podcasts and an interactive simulator for evaluating materials impact.

New Publication Alert: HERawS is featured in the latest IRIS strategic note, "La substitution des métaux critiques : un nouveau levier diplomatique ? / Critical Metals Substitution: A New Diplomatic Lever?", co-authored by Alexandre Nominé (HERawS PI) and partners.

Read the article (FR)

GREENANO (Nanomaterials for Green and Digital Transition) is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) program and EIT-Labelled initiative that trains a new generation of engineers and scientists equipped to tackle sustainability challenges in the energy and digital sectors. Coordinated by the University of Lorraine, GREENANO brings together leading European universities and industry partners to deliver a high-level, interdisciplinary curriculum.

The program addresses the full value chain of advanced materials, with a strong focus on nanomaterials for sustainable energy technologies, digital devices, and circular economy solutions. Students follow a unique mobility path across France, Italy, and Slovenia, gaining hands-on experience in cutting-edge labs, industry projects, and research environments.

GREENANO also promotes outreach and innovation through workshops, site visits, and the annual Academia Stands for Green Deal conference, fostering dialogue between students, researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders.