

THE COUNCIL OF MINING AND METALLURGY EUROPEAN REGIONS

WHAT IS COMMER?

The Council of Mining and Metallurgy European Regions (CoMMER) was envisaged as the main institutional output of the MIREU¹ project, a continued meeting point for regional stakeholders with an interest in mining, metallurgy, raw materials and sustainability.

In order to maximise the impact of any future activities, COMMER will be embedded as a Task Force in ERRIN, a well-established Brussels-based platform of more than 125 regional stakeholder organisations from 22 European countries, most of whom are represented by their Brussels offices.

Aligned in its missions, ERRIN and subsequently COMMER, focuses solely on research and innovation policy and funding programmes, as well as project development. ERRIN's members are mainly regional authorities, universities, research organisations, chambers of commerce, and clusters.

¹ MIREU is a European Union project funded by the HORIZON 2020 programme. It aims to foster cooperation between mining and metallurgy regions across Europe along the entire value chain of raw materials and metallurgy including remediation and valorisation of material and immaterial heritage.

ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

HOW WILL COMMER BE SET UP?

Operationally, COMMER will be supported by **ERRIN** and will be organised as a Task Force. During the initial stages, this task force will be able to **continue utilising the available communication channels and resources of the MIREU project**, such as the website, the social media channels, and the newsletter, as well as benefit from the large communication resources and institutional contacts of the ERRIN Network.

WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF COMMER?

Participation in the COMMER Task Force will be open to all ERRIN Members as well as MIREU partner regions for 24 months after the closure of the MIREU Project. By the end of 2022, the COMMER Task Force will either continue as a stand-alone entity or participating regions will be required to join the ERRIN Network.

If a regional stakeholder is not yet a member of the ERRIN Network and has not participated in the MIREU Project, they are still welcome to join this Task Force, however, this would require joining ERRIN as a full or associate member. More details on how to become an ERRIN member can be found [here](#)².

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE COMMER TASK FORCE

Policy Tracking

The COMMER Task Force will look to keep its members up to date with the latest policy developments in the field of raw materials. This may come in the form of meetings with EU officials or information sessions run in Brussels or through webinars.

European Funding

The COMMER Task Force will be ideally placed to follow European Funding news and identify relevant opportunities for its members in research programmes, such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+.

² More information on how to join ERRIN: <https://errin.eu/become-member>

Cooperation with similar initiatives

The COMMER Task Force will look to link up with a number of key initiatives in the field of raw materials, paying particular attention to the S3P **Mining industries and global value chain thematic partnership**, as well as **EIT Raw Materials KIC** and **European Raw Materials Alliance**.

Strengthen cross-border relationships

The COMMER Task Force will provide a platform for regional stakeholders to strengthen relationships with other partners, while encouraging the exchange of knowledge, ideas and examples of best practice in the sector. Mutual learning will be a key aspect of the Task Force.

Increasing project opportunities

The COMMER Task Force will support regional collaboration and project development in the field of raw materials by providing networking opportunities for Task Force members to share project ideas, best practices, and personal contacts.



WHAT NEXT FOR COMMER?

As an ERRIN Task Force, COMMER will have an Annual Work Plan and an agenda focused on **project making, policy shaping, partnering, and profiling**, which will be developed in close collaboration with members, in line with the bottom-up approach of the ERRIN Network.

PRIORITIES OF THE COMMER TASK FORCE?

- **EU Funding – Horizon Europe & Erasmus+:**
 - Support for research and innovation on new exploration, mining and processing technologies, mine closure, substitution and recycling
- **EU Policy:**
 - Sustainability and the European Green Deal
- **Clusters & S3:**
 - S3P/clusters, interregional collaboration, networking regions by clusters
- **Cultural Heritage:**
 - Revitalisation in terms of site development and mine resumption
- **Circular Economy:**
 - Closed loop systems in raw materials, industrial symbiosis

Recent developments at EU level, such as the COVID-19 recovery plan and a latest foresight study on the secure supply of critical raw materials (CRM) will feed into the priorities above.

THE NEXT PRACTICAL STEPS WILL BE

- 01/2021: Webinar with ERRIN members to present the COMMER Task Force
- 02-03/2021: Webinar series with Regional Stakeholders
- 04/2021: First meeting of the COMMER Task Force

CONTACTS

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LINKING UP WITH OTHER INITIATIVES?

EUROPEAN POLICY LANDSCAPE

The EU economy is resource-intensive and strongly depends on the availability of raw materials, particularly of critical raw materials (CRM). It is important to note that metals and minerals are of paramount importance to help Europe meet its **energy and climate targets under the European Green Deal** and build a sustainable **modern clean energy economy**. It is therefore crucial to foster a sustainable supply of CRM to guarantee operations of **new and existing industrial value and supply chains**.



Mines are place-based actors, thus regional ecosystems are the focal points in the development of sustainable raw material production. This is where the CoMMER Task Force and ERRIN, as a network of regions engaged in mining and metallurgy, will play an important role.



S3P-INDUSTRY THEMATIC PARTNERSHIP MINING INDUSTRIES AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN

One of the industrial modernisation thematic partnership is *Mining industries and global value chain thematic partnership* led by the North-Karelia, Business Joensuu from Finland. The focus area of this thematic partnership is Mining & Metallurgy and related industries.

Metals and minerals are the basis for most industrial production processes, and they provide both everyday products and novel solutions for modern infrastructure and technologies. The demand for raw materials has been growing, and is expected to grow further, due to globally increasing living standards and population. Therefore, from the EU perspective there exists a growing need to increase the level of self-sufficiency in raw material production, including **better recycling procedures**.

The aims of the partnership are to strengthen the regional and interregional innovation capacity, identify novel opportunities for joint demonstration between regions, spread the knowledge of expert organisations to support regional growth and act as regional collaboration platform **supporting CoMMER operations in Brussels** and integrating Mining & Metallurgy with regional policies.

The main objective of the modernisation of the mining industry is to become a more **sustainable, energy- and resource sufficient sector** that is globally competitive and that provides innovative solutions.

More information

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mining-industry>

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I believe that the regional and municipal commitment to highlight mining activities as a strategic brand industry, also in the future, plays a very important role in the question on where the mining is focusing and where is the potential.

Mika Riipi, County Governor of Lapland, Finland

