

JULY 2024 | VOL. 3

# RAW4RES NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER ON THE PROGRESS AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF THE  
RAW4RES PROJECT

## ENHANCING RESPONSIBLE MINING POLICIES AND RAW MATERIALS RESILIENCE IN EU REGIONS

Dear readers,

Welcome to the 3rd edition of our newsletter! We are pleased to share the achievements of our project, RAW4RES, and updates on our upcoming activities. The partnership has successfully implemented key activities and delivered on milestones, working tirelessly to engage stakeholders and support policy makers in improving the design of policy instruments related to strengthening the resilience of CRMs and raw materials related value chains, responsible domestic mining and the development of secondary markets for the project's participating regions.

In this issue, we will provide a snapshot of our recent achievements, and exciting prospects for the future.



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## INTERREGIONAL EVENTS

### Virtual Session on Public Engagement in the Raw Materials sector

On February 29, 2024, **Municipality of Kozani (KOZANI/EL)** successfully organized a virtual session to underscore the importance of overcoming public opposition to mining initiatives, often resulting in project delays or even cancellations, through increased public engagement and participation in decision-making process

The primary objective of this session was to identify best practices for public engagement and participation in the raw materials sector across partnership territories. The ultimate goal was to provide recommendations for integrating these practices into territorial policies, thereby enhancing public engagement and involvement. Survey results from the session revealed a moderate level of public involvement across all partner territories.

Among the 14 identified cases of good practices, various forms of engagement were identified, with approximately 60% falling into three main categories: open dialogue, educational campaigns/workshops, and community-oriented initiatives.

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All insights gathered from these activities have been compiled into a Good Practice Handbook by KOZANI which is currently reviewed by the partnership and soon will be uploaded on our [website](#). Stay tuned!

### Virtual Meeting on Risk Mitigation Measures for Reducing Dependencies on Critical Raw Materials and Industrial Metals

Stakeholders and partners identified CRMs and metals of strategic importance, sectors and economic activities most vulnerable to potential supply disruptions and CRM supply challenges and risks for their territories/businesses.



Discussing their results during the virtual session, organized by **Frederikshavn Municipality (FHN/DK)** on July 9, 2024, revealed mutual interests, emphasizing that green energy relies on a steady CRM supply. During the session partners addressed key supply risks by brainstorming mitigation measures. Tune in [here!](#)

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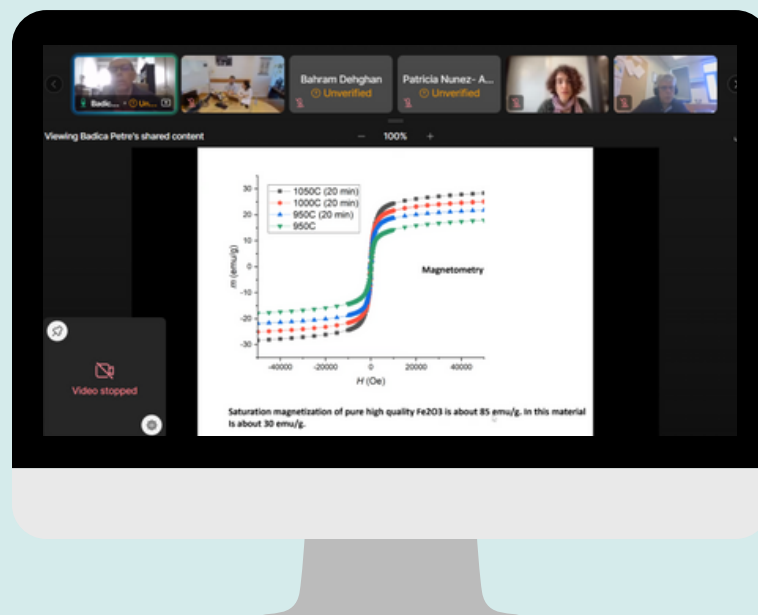
FHN will deliver a report analysing the territorial evidence collected, juxtaposing it with the mitigation strategies, elaborating on how the policy instruments addressed can integrate emergency funding and risk management provisions to address potential disruptions, and modify criteria in future calls for business support to promote supply diversification in project territories. Stay updated for more information by visiting our [website](#) !

## Virtual Workshop on Valorizing Mining Waste and Revitalizing Closed Mines

On April 3, 2024, **Bucharest – Ilfov Regional Development Agency (ADRBI/RO)** hosted a virtual workshop on “Best Practices for Valorizing Mining Waste and Revitalizing Closed Mines.” Key discussions centered around topics such as regulations and legislative initiatives, financial support programs for mine revitalization, the economic and environmental advantages of Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) reprocessing, and the vital role of civil society in mine revitalization processes.

### Good Practices

Highlighting good practices from Romania, Dr Petre Bădică from the National Institute of Materials' Physics shared insights into the utilization of waste from metallurgy as secondary raw materials, focusing on the intricate process of complex characterization and subsequent processing to unlock new functionalities. Additionally, Engineer Andrei-Lucian Timiș from Politehnica University of Bucharest presented an innovative integrated solution for steel slag recycling, emphasizing a 'ZERO waste' approach for maximum sustainability. Lastly, the Agua Blanca case in the Extremadura Region of Spain emerged as a good practice example of green mining practices and community involvement.



### Results and Policy Recommendations from the Workshop

The workshop results, lessons learnt as well as policy recommendations (including: a comprehensive regulatory framework, public engagement & awareness, repurposing of closed mines, financial support mechanisms, R&D funding and cross-sector collaboration) have been encapsulated by ADRBI in a summary report that you can read [here](#).



## Site Visit in Lens, France: Ensuring Compliance with Sustainability Certifications and Green Investment Criteria

From July 2 to July 4, RAW4RES partners and their stakeholders gathered in Lens, France for both the semestral Steering Group Meeting and a two-day visit to business sites that have enhanced sustainability, traceability, and transparency through the adoption of sustainability certifications and have achieved compliance with green investment criteria, focusing on EU Taxonomy requirements. The site visits, successfully organized by **TEAM2 (FR)**, marked the first in-person reunion of the entire partnership since the KOM. TEAM2 will encapsulate lessons learnt in a summary report which will be available on our website soon. Stay tuned for updates! In the meantime, you can learn more about the site visits [here](#).

### Visit in TN Industrie



#### Day 1

The region of Hauts-de-France highlighted its approach to the circular economy, emphasizing also digital transition, and robotics for a sustainable future. Partners and stakeholders visited also

MECAWARE who showcased their technology for producing raw materials from end-of-life batteries and scraps. The partners then visited TN Industrie, where they observed the recycling of strategic materials and the recovery process for glycemic sensors, enhancing their understanding of urban mining practices. The day concluded with a site visit to LUMIVER, where partners gained insights into WEEE collection, treatment, and hazardous waste

#### Day 2

Partners visited Recytech, observing the process of zinc recovery from industrial waste. The final visit was to Envie, a French network focusing on the reuse of electronic devices and social inclusion.

### Visit in Recytech



## Steering Group Meetings (SGMs)

The [2nd SGM](#) of the RAW4RES project, organised by FHN, coordinated by the LP, took place in virtual format, on February 6, with the participation of all project partners. The meeting commenced with the welcoming address from the FHN representative, and a warm welcome video from the Mayor of Frederikshavn, Birgit S. Hansen, who, in her message, underlined the importance and innovative character of our project, RAW4RES.



**RAW4RES partners on the 3rd SGM of the project, organised by TEAM2, on July 4, in Lens, France.**

The [3rd SGM](#) of the RAW4RES project, organised by TEAM2, took place in Lens, on July 4. The meeting was organised in sessions, covering all aspects of the current and upcoming activities of the 4th Semester, foreseen by the RAW4RES Application Form. At the end of each session, active discussion took place, enabling participants to clarify issues, introduce considerations, set directions, and reach decisions by consensus.

## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

On March 12, 2024, **BSC Kranj** organized their [2nd Stakeholder Meeting](#) (SM). The participants included key stakeholders as the Public Utility Kranj, e-waste management scheme ZEOS, and FUNDECYT's "O4i" innovation office. The focus of the meeting centered on exploring policy measures and project proposals aimed at efficiently supporting the "Recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries and accumulators (WPBA + WIBA)".



**BSC Kranj - 2nd stakeholder meeting**

Stakeholders emphasized policy and practical measures to extend product lifespan through reuse strategies, including repair and reselling. They agreed on the importance of reducing usage rates with sharing economy models and Product-as-a-Service schemes. Effective implementation has been seen through Interreg and LIFE projects in Slovenia. The need to improve domestic recovery of critical raw materials from e-waste, currently outsourced, was highlighted as essential for environmental sustainability and economic growth.



**Bucharest - Ilfov Regional Development Agency - 2nd stakeholder meeting**

On April 3, 2024, **ADRBI** convened their [2nd SM](#), virtually, back to back with A3.2 Workshop. Various stakeholders attended (both these events) including the Valea Jiului Development Society, the National Research&Development Institute for Non-ferrous and Rare Metals, the National Institute for Materials Physics Romania, the Ilfov County Council, and the Institute of Geodynamics of the Romanian Academy. The primary objective of the gathering was updating the stakeholders on the progress made within the RAW4RES project since ADRBI's 1st stakeholder meeting.

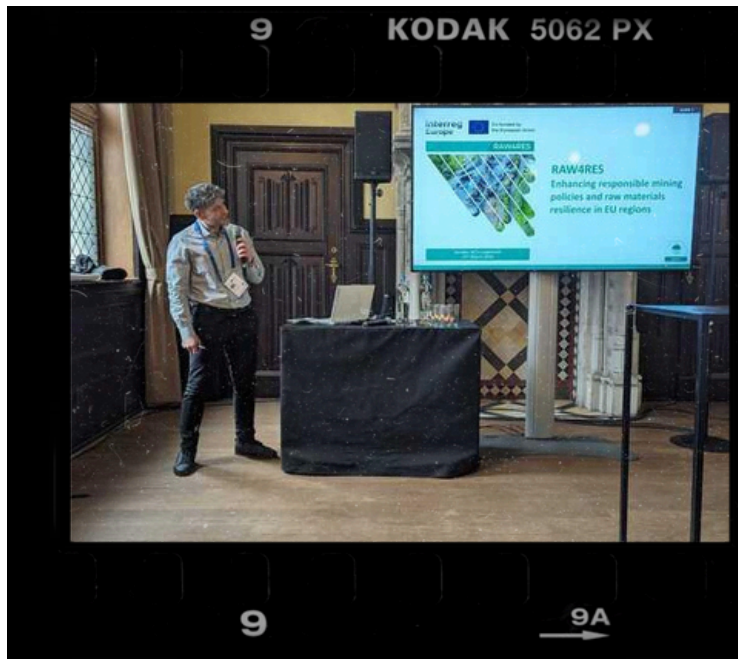
On April 16, 2024, **FHN** successfully conducted their [2nd SM](#), virtually. The event was a great success, with 23 registered stakeholders from across Denmark, including national research institutions and authorities, actively participating. Notably, the national authority on Critical Raw Materials (CRMs) delivered an interesting presentation on the current landscape of CRMs and other raw materials in Denmark. Additionally, a compelling presentation was given by Stena-Recycling, a local recycling company.



**Frederikshavn Municipality - 2nd Stakeholder Meeting**

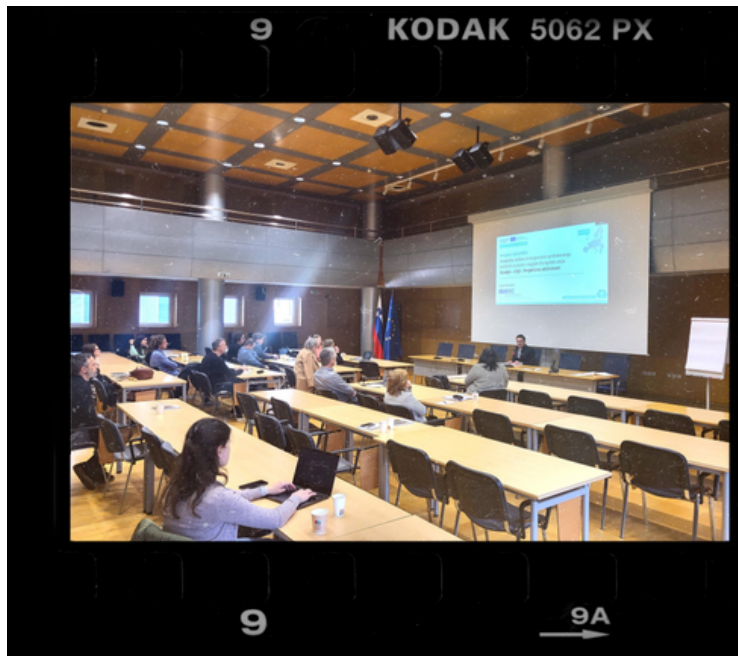


## 3RD PARTY EVENTS



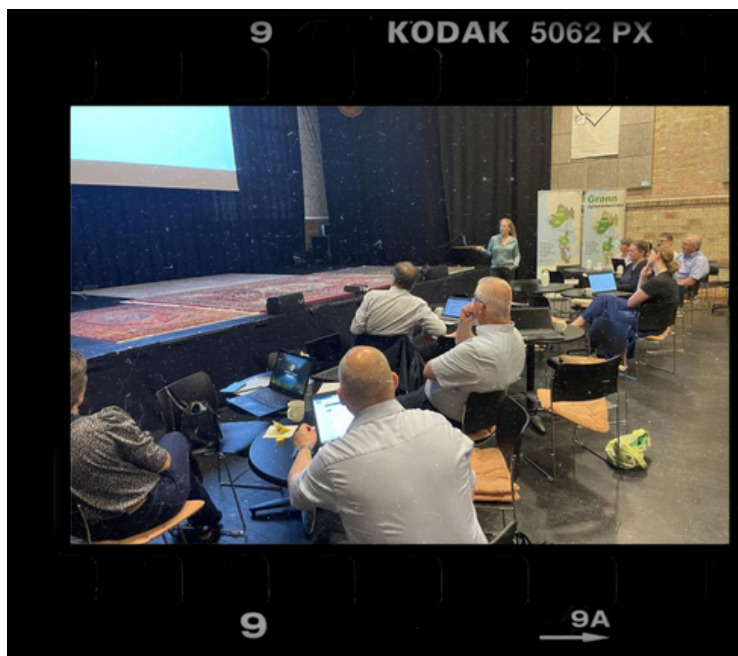
### RAW4RES in Interreg Europe Let's Cooperate event

RAW4RES project was prominently featured at the Interreg Europe Let's Cooperate event in Antwerp, held on March 21, 2024, during a session dedicated to Green Economy & SME Competitiveness. **PROMEA**, serving as the advisory partner of the RAW4RES project, delivered an insightful presentation highlighting the challenges addressed by RAW4RES and outlining the strategies devised by the partnership to tackle these challenges through policy enhancements and/or modifications. Find out more [here](#).



### RAW4RES at the Public Consultation Event on the implementation of the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act

The RAW4RES project, presented by **BSC** on March 29, 2024, gathered attention from Slovenian ministries, public research bodies, and NGOs involved in strategic planning for Critical Raw Materials mining and recycling. During the event, an open exchange of recommendations commenced, focusing on policy measures that could effectively bolster research and business growth in mining and recycling. Emphasis was placed on adopting green technologies, embracing circular economy models, and fostering community engagement practices. Tune in [here](#).



### Interreg Projects exchange insights: RAW4RES meets Green Jutland Corridor

Partners of the Interreg Öresund - Kattegat - Skagerrak project "Green Jutland Corridor" (Grøn Jyllandskorridor) gathered on May 15, 2024 in Frederikshavn, to exchange insights with **FHN** on how to best showcase the Jutland Corridor's many potentials. Jutland's Corridor is a transport network that connects South Norway, West Sweden, and Jutland (Denmark) with the European Continent. During this meeting FHN highlighted that ensuring sustainable access to critical raw materials is paramount for Europe's green transition and the retention of European jobs. Find out more [here](#).

# WHAT ELSE IS NEXT?

Upcoming activities for July '24 - February '25

## **Identification of success factors for acquiring a 'social license to operate' (SLO)**

RSE will analyze partners' input and the results from a joint online mapping exercise to deliver tailored recommendations for managing public opposition to raw materials mining and realizing SLO (a 'social license to operate') success in each territory.

## **Workshop on business models and tools for enhancing consensus-building, stakeholder engagement, and social innovation.**

During the workshop, organised virtually by KOZANI (EL), partners & stakeholders will use business models that integrate social engagement considerations to respond to conflict situations between local communities, stakeholders, and businesses in raw materials value chains, based on hypothetical and real-life examples and specify which of them have the most implementation potential in each territory

## **2-day site visit on best available green technologies and practices for sustainable raw materials value chains in Slovenia (organized by BSC)**

Partners with own stakeholders will visit business sites which implement sustainable technologies and practices. Then, based on relevant best cases identified by BSC (SI) as workshop input, will exchange experiences on which yield the most potential to cover own territory's business needs, and develop a list that can be used as a reference document for guiding future calls on green and innovative exploration, exploitation, processing, and recycling technologies

## **Policy Briefs**

FUNDECYT (ES) will prepare 4 policy briefs, sharing the lessons learned from the completed activities and the stakeholder meetings conducted thus far, for intra-organisational and stakeholder policy learning purposes, as well as dissemination and impact multiplication

## **Joint development of funding criteria for raw materials businesses' social responsibility performance**

ADRBI (RO) will propose corporate social responsibility as funding criteria, based on selected relevant examples from the EU and international standards and will organise a virtual working session, in which partners will recommend changes on initial suggestions. FHN (DK) will provide guidelines on a) how businesses can successfully integrate the criteria as a voluntary commitment charter, and b) how partners can establish monitoring mechanisms to ensure adherence in new projects.

## **Joint peer-review visits on the integration of responsible, sustainable, and risk management measures in territorial business growth strategies**

Based on PROMEA's methodology thematically-advanced partners will visit less experienced host partners; each will organise a 2-day on-site meeting, to review their regional resilience strategies/plans for raw materials' exploration, exploitation, and circularity, meeting with local stakeholders, civil society, and businesses.



## PILOT ACTION

# Testing the development of open collaboration ecosystems to promote the domestic sourcing of Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)

In the following semesters **BSC** and **KOZANI** will test how the provision of targeted training and mentorship services to businesses (incl. SMEs) can significantly accelerate the formation of triple-helix ecosystems to promote CRMs recycling in the territories of Gorenjska (Slovenia) and Kozani (Greece).

The pilot action is based on Extremadura's public intervention to introduce circular economy in own region; FUNDECYT pilot tested the provision of consultation and training services to businesses in 2021, in order to:

- address innovation and knowledge gaps, as well as concerns regarding newly introduced concepts and business models, and
- there upon foster collaborations between regional actors, for the latter to harness circular economy funding opportunities by valorising the new knowledge acquired.

The training and mentorship aspect of the pilot action is based on three main pillars:

- presenting successful examples and elaborating on synergetic business models that can secure profitability, including green growth financial opportunities (i.e., Green Deal),
- different governance models and approaches regarding synergetic schemes, and
- technological and infrastructure considerations.

The best practice, initially developed during the IE 2014-2020 SYMBI project and recognised as such by EIT Raw Materials, will be updated by PROMEA by integrating EIT Raw Materials operative concept of 'triple-helix innovation' and the recommendations of ERMA regarding businesses' gaps when involved in circular value chains.





## THE PARTNERSHIP



Region of Central Greece - RSE  
**(Lead Partner)**  
**(EL)**



Municipality of Frederikshavn - FHN  
**(DK)**



BSC, Business Support Centre, Kranj, Ltd - BSC  
**(SI)**



Bucharest - Ilfov Regional Development Agency -  
ADR-BI  
**(RO)**



FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura -  
FUNDECYT  
**(ES)**



Municipality of Kozani - KOZANI  
**(EL)**



The Hellenic Society for the Promotion of Research and  
Development Methodologies - PROMEA **(Advisory Partner)**  
**(EL)**



TEAM2  
**(FR)**

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