



Enhancing European society awareness of raw materials - aRAWness

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Abstract

The society awareness of raw materials and circular economy varies across Europe, due to diverse framework conditions in the member states and regions of the European Union. For instance the degree of open-mindedness for new technologies and innovations in raw materials differs in European regions depending on respective economic path dependencies on the one hand and contemporary political measures to increase the society awareness for raw materials, here focusing on the circular economy, on the other hand. Hence, a continuous European exchange and transfer of information and knowledge with regard to good practices and future challenges in enhancing European society awareness for raw materials is necessary and intended by the aRAWness project. Moreover, fostering an European alignment by orchestrated measures, e.g. from regional, political as well as further public and private actors, is aspired to allow the initiation of a European network of regions on the medium-term, addressing actors of the circular economy. aRAWness is a one-year project, coordinated by the RWTH Aachen University (Germany) where Geological Survey of Slovenia is one of six project partners. The project is financed by the EIT RawMaterials. EIT RawMaterials was designated as an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) by the EIT Governing Board on 09 December 2014. EIT RawMaterials will be the strongest consortium ever created in the world in the raw materials field. Novel service offerings will be implemented to empower the EIT Raw Materials community and other stakeholders. EIT Raw Materials will generate significant impact on European competitiveness and employment. This will be realised through the introduction of innovative and sustainable products, processes and services and well-educated people that will deliver increased economic, environmental and social sustainability to European society. As an overall output, aRAWness will carry out a series of workshops (with a broad audience ranging from raw materials specialists to actors from a wider public) in three different European regions (CLC West, East and South) as well as on a European level (Brussels, Belgium) to discuss regional challenges and to derive solutions for enhancing European society awareness of raw materials. Here first guidelines will be derived by the consortium that will be made available for the EIT community and further interested partners. aRAWness is aspired to be a starting point for future networking and monitoring activities across Europe with a focus on society awareness of the circular economy.

Key words: aRAWness.