

COBALT Newsletter May 2014



cobalt

awareness . learning . dialogue

Contributing to Building of Awareness, Learning and Transfer of knowledge on sustainable use of raw materials

Dear colleague,

COBALT (<http://www.cobalt-fp7.eu/>), a project funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for research, provides a platform for dialogue addressing key challenges on the route towards more sustainable management of raw materials, including issues of raw materials supply and use. In this respect it brings together a multitude of actors from industry and business (including SME and larger businesses), civil society, geological surveys, policy making (EU, national and regional level) and academia to stimulate a joint debate on sustainable raw materials management.

If you want to get in touch with us or you are interested to learn more about upcoming COBALT activities and events, please contact us: cobalt@cobalt-fp7.eu

With best regards,

The COBALT team

This COBALT Newsletter informs about the following topics and activities on sustainable raw materials management in Europe:

- **"Urban Mines, Consumer Behaviour and Producer Responsibility in a Circular Economy", Second COBALT EU Civil Society-Industry Dialogue Brussels, 6 June 2014**
- **"Sustainable raw materials management and circular economy in the Iberian Peninsula: the role of industry and consumers in optimizing the raw materials value chain", First COBALT Regional Civil Society-Industry Dialogue Madrid, 12 June, 2014**
- **Upcoming COBALT EU and Regional Dialogues**
- **A stakeholder perspective on sustainable raw materials management: COBALT working paper series has been launched**
- **COBALT Policy Brief No. 1: Open and respectful stakeholder dialogue for sustainable raw materials management in Europe**
- **COBALT Policy Brief No. 2: Ecodesign and new business models for a circular economy**

- **Other news**

- European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials: Raw Material Commitments in the EU
- Raw Materials University Day in Madrid: employment and career opportunities
- COBALT at the second symposium on urban mining in Italy
- The European Green Week: A Glance on sessions related to sustainable raw materials management
- First InnoMatnet competition on the use of Sustainable Materials in building industry

"Urban Mines, Consumer Behaviour and Producer Responsibility in a Circular Economy", Second COBALT EU Civil Society-Industry Dialogue Brussels, 6 June 2014

The [Second European Civil Society-Industry Dialogue on the topic of "Urban Mines, Consumer Behaviour and Producer Responsibility in a Circular Economy"](#) will take place in Brussels on June 6, 2014 (venue: Hotel Bloom Brussels, back-to-back with the European Green Week (3-5 June on "Circular Economy, Resource efficiency and Waste"))

The event will bring together key civil society and industry stakeholders, together with policy-makers and researchers to foster debate, networking and exchange about the topic on EU level.

This Dialogue will feature presentations from industry and civil society, as well as case studies on innovative approaches to reducing material use and promoting a circular economy. The dialogue will also provide ample opportunity for participants to exchange perspectives and to begin investigating possible pathways for collaboration.

For more information about this event or about registration, please send an email to MGheoldus@bio.deloitte.fr

"Sustainable raw materials management and circular economy in the Iberian Peninsula: the role of industry and consumers in optimizing the raw materials value chain", First COBALT Regional Civil Society-Industry Dialogue Madrid, 12 June, 2014

The [First Regional Dialogue on "Sustainable raw materials management and circular economy in the Iberian Peninsula: the role of industry and consumers in optimizing the raw materials value chain"](#) of the COBALT project will take place in Madrid on June 12, 2014 (venue: NH Eurobuilding). The aim of the Dialogue is to bring key regional civil society and industry stakeholders, together with policy-makers and researchers, in order to foster debate, networking and exchange on sustainable management of raw materials in the Iberian Peninsula. It will look at the different stages of the (particularly metallic and scarce) raw materials value chain (extraction, manufacture, use and end-of-life) and the role of different stakeholders in driving sustainability across this value chain.

Compared to the 1st EU Dialogue and the 2nd EU Dialogue which had a broader European scope, this Regional Dialogue will more closely address topics of particular relevance to Spain and Portugal. In this respect, the event features high level key notes and best practice case studies by different national representatives as well as stakeholder groups.

The event will be held in English..

We very much hope that you will bring your perspective to this unique forum, building foundations for resilient and innovative new partnerships and a more nuanced understanding of other stakeholder needs, faculties and approaches during the course of the Dialogue. Please contact epalacios@typsa.es to confirm your registration by June 2nd, in order to secure your spot in this limited high level workshop.

Upcoming COBALT EU and Regional Dialogues

2nd Regional Civil Society-Industry Dialogue in September/October 2014 in Copenhagen

3rd Regional Civil Society-Industry Dialogue in November/December 2014 in Bukarest

Throughout the COBALT project, three European and three regional-level dialogues will be organised in order to foster debate and exchange between key stakeholders, particularly those from industry and civil society. EU-level dialogues will address key broad themes of relevance to raw material use – besides ecodesign and new business models, urban mining and producer responsibility, as well as new technologies and community engagement during materials extraction. The second Regional Dialogue is planned to take place in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Regional dialogues, which will take place in Spain, Denmark and Romania, will shed light on relevant issues of regional importance.

More information on these forthcoming events will be available soon and also posted on the COBALT project homepage (www.cobalt-fp7.eu).

A stakeholder perspective on sustainable raw materials management: COBALT working paper series has been launched

In the wake of the COBALT opening conference, which set the scene for the multi-stakeholder dialogue, the COBALT team conducted a series of telephone interviews with participants to map the diverse and manifold perspectives on sustainable raw materials management. The results provided some interesting first insights on (1) where are the spots and potential unexplored areas for stakeholder collaboration, (2) what are most pressing - conflicting as well as commonly agreed - topics on sustainable raw materials management, and (3) how COBALT and its activities can contribute to broaden the perspective on sustainable raw materials management. Please go to the [COBALT website](#) to download the report. More working papers on topics that the COBALT project deals with will follow in the next months, so please check the website for updates.

COBALT Policy Brief No. 1: Open and respectful stakeholder dialogue for sustainable raw materials management in Europe

The opening conference of the COBALT project, held on November 28-29, 2013 in Brussels, helped exploring different views and establishing an open, respectful multi-stakeholder dialogue. More than 80 participants from all over Europe attended the event and engaged into this dialogue on future options. The debate highlighted that

- sustainable raw materials management will require integration of different and differing priorities present in the discourse, such as
 - increasing recycling, substitution and more sustainably using domestic mineral resources
 - and reducing virgin material consumption within Europe,
- looming challenges, e.g. increasing resource scarcities and environmental degradation, will likely cause shifts in priorities in the future
- so that therefore an inclusive and respectful dialogue is needed to openly debate critical issues and to form new partnerships in order to take sustainable raw materials policy implementation forward.

A **policy brief**, which summarizes all presentations, group debates and discussion outcomes, and synthesis the results for policy relevant recommendations is now available for download under <http://www.cobalt-fp7.eu/download>

COBALT Policy Brief No. 2: Ecodesign and new business models for a circular economy

The first COBALT EU Dialogue, which was held on 27 February 2014 in Brussels, brought together a group of high-level stakeholders around the topic of “Ecodesign and new business models for a circular economy”. Drawing on presentations by keynote speakers, practical case studies and their own experience, participants reflected on the role of each stakeholder type in driving a circular economy, as well as on potential avenues for multi-stakeholder collaboration. Key messages emerging from the day’s presentations and discussions include:

- A successful transition to circular economy thinking can help boost environmental, economic and social welfare
- A transition to a circular economy needs to be approached via systemic change and innovation, with collaborative action by all key stakeholders serving as a key driver of this transition
- Successful multi-stakeholder collaboration for a circular economy can benefit from underlying factors such as: a cross-sector, iterative approach; clear problem definition and project-specific action; use of new technologies, a supportive legislative framework and others

A **policy brief**, which summarizes key elements and insights from the day’s presentations and discussions, and provides certain policy relevant recommendations, is now available for download under <http://www.cobalt-fp7.eu/download>

Other news

European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials: Raw Material Commitments in the EU

A milestone of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials was reached on 7 April 2014 with the announcement of the first set of [Raw Material Commitments](#) by over 800 companies, public agencies, research institutes, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders from all over Europe. These partners have all committed to contribute in one way or the other to fostering technological and non-technological innovation in Europe’s raw materials value chains. The call for commitments launched by the European Commission in October 2013 resulted in a total of 80 commitments that will shape innovation in Europe in the coming years for metallic, mineral and forest-based raw materials. (see the [full list of commitments](#))

Raw Materials University Day in Madrid: employment and career opportunities

"Raw Materials University Day" is a communication campaign launched by the European Commission in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials to educate students about the potential for interesting careers in the raw materials sector. The first of events have taken place at [Sapienza University of Rome \(IT\)](#) and [Technical University of Darmstadt \(DE\)](#).

The [Polytechnic University of Madrid \(ES\)](#) will host the next "Raw Materials University Day" in Madrid on 9 June, 2014. This information day will outline opportunities in the raw materials sector for current and prospective students:

- The attractiveness of the raw materials sector and the career opportunities for future graduates.
- How the raw materials sector's industries manage to be increasingly innovative and more sustainable in the future.

COBALT at the second symposium on urban mining in Italy

Andreas Endl presented the COBALT project and research undertaken on the involvement of stakeholders, policy design and implementation of national raw material and mineral strategies in three European Union Member States (GR, SE, FI) at the Second [Symposium on Urban mining in Bergamo](#), Italy (May 19-21, 2014). In this respect, the remit lies in explicating the policy regime in tailor-made national strategies (e.g. concrete instruments deployed and their coherence, stakeholder involvement etc.) and making a case for best practices with regard to different sustainable raw materials management approaches. A report about the research on national raw material and mineral strategies in EU Member States will be available in autumn this year.

The European Green Week: A Glance on sessions related to sustainable raw materials management

The [European Green Week "Circular Economy, Resource efficiency and Waste"](#), the largest annual conference on European environment policy, will take place from June 3-5, 2014 at The Egg Conference Centre, Rue Bara, in Brussels. The COBALT team will participate at various sessions at the Green week, and will bring in interesting facts and figures of the Green Week into the discussions at the 2nd COBALT EU Dialogue which takes place the day after the Green Week. A selection of sessions which are related to sustainable raw materials management are: Wednesday, 4 June: "Session 2.4 How do we get treasure from e-waste?", "1.4 Changing behaviour: people's green choices", "2.1 The entrepreneurial opportunities of the circular economy"; Thursday, 5 June: "6.1 New business models for sustainable lifestyles", "8.2 Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Europe".

First InnoMatnet competition on the use of Sustainable Materials in building industry

The InnoMatnet project launched a competition on the use of Sustainable Materials in building industry. It is open to practitioners (architects, engineers, material designers) based in Europe. Individuals or teams may present projects in the following topics: “Using Innovative Materials”, “Rediscovering Traditional Materials”, “Working with Recycled Materials”. See more at: <http://www.innomatnet.eu/#sthash.a7agWPb8.dpuf>

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