



In this factsheet:

Critical Raw Materials Act  
(CRMA)



## Critical and strategic raw materials

### The European Act

The CRMA establishes a list of 34 critical raw materials and sets targets to increase the EU contribution of these critical materials (10% for the extraction; 40% for the processing and 15% for the recycling). To achieve these targets, the regulation called for a quick and simplified permit procedure and for risk analysis of possible dependencies.

It also requests national exploration campaigns, higher investment in research, innovation and skills; and protection of the environment by promoting the circularity and sustainability of critical raw materials.

On the global stage, the regulation identified measures to diversify imports of critical raw materials ensuring that not more than 65% of the Union's consumption of each strategic raw material comes from a single third country.





## Objectives

### Permitting (section 2 : articles 8 to 10)

For the permit-granting process, Member states are required to establish one stop shop and online procedure. For Strategic Projects as defined by CRMA, the permit granting process shall not exceed 27 months for Strategic Projects involving extraction as in the case of geothermal minerals. Synergies with permitting procedures for geothermal must be found.

### Sustainability and measures on circularity (chapter 5)

Provisions are about Environmental CO2 footprint and information on CRM, the promotion of CRMs circular economy – increase waste collection, recycling and use of secondary RMs. There is also a focus on extractive waste and use its potential for CRMs, by the development of standards for CRM value chain operations.



## National exploration campaigns

Article 18 depicts the provisions for the national exploration programme on CRMs.

They include the following measures from Member States:

- (a) mineral mapping at a suitable scale;
- (b) geochemical campaigns, including to establish the chemical compositions of soils, sediments, rocks;
- (c) geoscientific surveys, such as geophysical surveys;
- (d) processing of the data gathered through general exploration, including through the development of predictive maps;
- (e) reprocessing of existing geoscientific survey data to check for unidentified mineral occurrences containing critical raw materials and carrier minerals of critical raw materials.

Drilling campaigns are vital to identifying new subterranean mineral and renewable resources. Without these, it is unlikely that any new resources will be found.



## Geothermal minerals

Geothermal can help satisfy the European needs for energy and strategic critical raw materials. Geothermal plants may optimize the production of both energy and metals/materials according to the market demands, exploiting geological formations. By exploiting mineral production, geothermal plants will also become more economically competitive, create new market and supply chain opportunities, and reduce their impact with a circular economy approach.

Geothermal plants will also contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint of CRMs production compared to standard extraction methods (like hard rock and evaporation pond mining) which are significantly more harmful to the environment and CO<sub>2</sub> intensive than geothermal minerals.

Geothermal minerals include Lithium, Potassium, Silica, ...

