



re-sourcing

# Platform Steering Committee: Setup and Management

**RE-SOURCING deliverable 2.2**

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## Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
1 Introduction to RE-SOURCING.....	3
2 Purpose of the platform steering committee .....	4
3 Selection Process.....	5
4 Roles of Members and their Contribution to Project Actions.....	6
5 Procedures for Involvement.....	7
6 Anticipated Timeline of Involvement.....	8

## Figures

Figure 1: RE-SOURCING project events shown by sector-relevance .....	9
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## Tables

Table 1: Current Members of the RE-SOURCING Platform Steering Committee .....	4
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## Executive Summary

The RE-SOURCING Platform Steering Committee constitutes of high-level experts and stakeholders to support advocacy and agenda setting for Responsible Sourcing (RS) in the Renewable Energy, Mobility and Electronics & Electrical Equipment sectors. The main tasks of the PSC will be co-developing sector specific roadmaps and fostering their uptake and dissemination to stakeholders along global mineral value chains. Furthermore, it will support the RE-SOURCING project by providing insights on sector specific challenges, facilitating outreach to stakeholders through their existing networks and advising on the drafting of a global definition of RS. The members of the PSC were selected to represent a broad range of interests and expertise, influence and equal representation in terms of value-chain relevance, geographical coverage as well as sphere of influence and capability to widely disseminate results. The selection process was guided by the project coordinator – Vienna University for Economics and Business (WU) – in close collaboration with the project's sector leads –Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL), Oeko Institute and Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen (SOMO). To ensure an ongoing and efficient exchange between the RE-SOURCING Consortium and the PSC, its members are expected to participate in three physical meetings and at least two online conferences throughout the duration of the project. In addition, bilateral telephone and email communication will be utilised to gather insights and advice as necessary.

This document defines all aspects related to the collaboration of the RE-SOURCING project and its Platform Steering Committee and, thus, provides guidance on the PSC's purpose, setup, tasks and responsibilities.

# 1 Introduction to RE-SOURCING

Responsible Sourcing (RS), whilst being commonly referred to by different stakeholder who work on and affected by the Sustainable Development Agenda, both amongst EU and non-EU stakeholders, its concept and implementation remains vague. For the implementation of RS practices, guidance and collaboration is required at a number of levels: firms to learn from other firms; sectors to share experience with other sectors; and for international agendas to integrate their strategies and share common objectives and the means to achieve them. These three levels are further intersected by mineral global value chains, where activities in one chain supply inputs to a number of firms across sectors. The source of these minerals, often global in nature, also implies that both, developing and developed countries, are involved in the international agenda setting process that informs RS practices. RE-SOURCING, considering these complexities, employs a holistic approach that integrates

- firms and industry;
- three key EU sectors (renewable energy, mobility, electric and electronic equipment);
- EU and other important actors (political, economic, financial, social & environmental);
- mineral Global Value Chains of traditional minerals (e.g. copper), conflict minerals (3TG) and green tech minerals (e.g. Lithium); and
- international agenda setting processes.

RE-SOURCING is a four-year project (November 2019 – October 2023), with 11 partners from different European countries, that is coordinated by the Vienna University of Economics and Business. The project consortium will be working together to develop the RE-SOURCING Platform to strengthen the responsible sourcing agenda among EU and international stakeholders.

The RE-SOURCING project actions will

- facilitate the development of a globally accepted definition of RS;
- develop ideas for incentives facilitating responsible business conduct in the EU, supporting RS initiatives;
- enable exchange of stakeholders for information and promotion of RS;
- foster the emergence of RS in international political fora; and
- support the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

RE-SOURCING will deliver

- for EU and international business stakeholders:
  - increased capacity of decision-makers for implementing responsible business conduct;
  - better understanding and awareness on RS in three sectors of automotive, electric and electronic equipment, and renewable energy; and
  - facilitated implementation of lasting and stable sectoral framework conditions for RS.
- for EU policy makers:
  - increased capacity for RS policy design and implementation;
  - innovative ideas on policy recommendations for stimulating RS in the private sector; and
  - better understanding and awareness on RS in three sectors of automotive, electric and electronic equipment, and renewable energy.
- for Civil Society:

- integration of sustainable development and environmental agenda into the RS discourse;
- an established global level playing field of RS in international political fora and business agendas; and
- better understanding and awareness on RS in three sectors of automotive, electric and electronic equipment, and renewable energy.

## 2 Purpose of the platform steering committee

The Platform Steering Committee (PSC) is a board of experts (representatives from sector initiatives, business associations, international organisations etc.) with a strong role on Agenda setting & Advocacy for Responsible Sourcing. The PSC plays a fundamental role for fostering the agenda of responsible sourcing in the three RE-SOURCING sectors (Renewable Energy, Mobility and Electrics and Electronic Equipment). Their contributions will

- 1) guide the topic development through input of expert knowledge on sector- and GVC specific challenges,
- 2) support the wider uptake of RE-SOURCING Sector roadmaps and RS practices,
- 3) contribute to the dissemination of various project results,
- 4) facilitate stakeholder outreach through their networks within the respective sectors, and
- 5) contribute to a plan for the post-project lifetime of the RE-SOURCING platform (i.e. how can the Platform stay online and relevant to ensure the continuous support of stakeholders in the uptake of responsible sourcing, even after the official end of the RE-SOURCING project end).

In order to best achieve the abovementioned purpose, the PSC represents a diverse group of stakeholders.

Table 1: Current Members of the RE-SOURCING Platform Steering Committee

Members of the RE-SOURCING Platform Steering Committee	
<b>Renewable Energy Sector</b>	
Roland Roesch	International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
1 representative (tbd)	Business & Human Rights Resources Centre
Raffaele Rossi	SolarPower Europe
<b>Mobility Sector</b>	
Guy Ethier	Umicore (representing the Global Battery Alliance)
Stefan Crets & Heike Schulze	CSR Europe / Drive Sustainability
Yoann Le Petit	Transport & Environment
<b>Electronics and Electrical Equipment Sector</b>	
Anneke van Woudenberg	Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID)
Bart Devos	Responsible Business Alliance
<b>Cross-cutting / sector-independent Committee Members</b>	
Tobias Persson	The Swedish Agency for Growth Policy Analysis

The selection of members was informed by a mapping of interests and expertise, influence and equal representation in terms of value-chain relevance, geographical coverage as well as sphere of influence and capability to widely disseminate results. This would support the project in ensuring a wider outreach and representative community for a global stakeholder platform and the three sectors, respectively.

It should be noted that PSC members are not limited to giving input to their assigned sector. In case a member has expertise that is relevant for other or all sectors, the member will be encouraged to contribute to these sectors.

### 3 Selection Process

The project coordinator (WU) in collaboration with partners coordinating the elaboration of Sector Roadmaps - Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL) for Renewable Energy, Oeko Institut for Mobility and Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen (SOMO) for Electronics and Electrical Equipment - developed the concept of the PSC. The selection approach for members of the PSC consisted of several steps: Starting with the collection of Letters of Interest during the project proposal phase (Feb 2019), and, since then has been a continuous process until the Validation Webinar in March 2020. During the project inception phase (Nov 2019 until March 2020), the task-leader WU, together with the WP Leaders nominated and assigned the role of a Platform Steering Committee member to organisations that play a fundamental role for facilitating the agenda of RS.

During the inception phase, the project consortium decided that the members of the PSC play a vital role in the roadmap process by providing expertise and stakeholder outreach of the three sectors. Therefore, WU has conducted extensive background research on relevant organisations in the Mobility, Renewable Energy and Electronics sectors. Additionally, organisations with expertise on the topic of Responsible Sourcing and other major industry players leading the debate of RS in a specific sector or focus area have been identified (these include industry initiatives such as the Global Battery Alliance, DRIVE Sustainability etc.). This research was informed by the pool of organisations and experts in the initial RE-SOURCING Expert Crowd (i.e. key stakeholders in the three sectors and desired future subscribers to the RE-SOURCING Platform). The coordinator initiated a validation process with RE-SOURCING sector leads (MUL, Oeko and SOMO) to get further suggestions on potential PSC members. The sector leads provided valuable input and suggested members due to their extensive network of stakeholders in the respective sectors.

The first criteria for selection was relevance or expertise in specific focus areas within the three sectors. Examples would include organisations with a focus on batteries for the mobility sector (e.g. Global Battery Alliance); human rights in mineral value chains in the Electronics sector (e.g. Business and Human Rights Resource Centre - BHRRC). Secondly, the PSC should contain representatives from different steps of the value chain to ensure identification of the challenges in the value chains of the three sectors. Such a distribution will further ensure the effective uptake and dissemination of the sectoral roadmaps by actors along the value chains. The next selection criteria is identified mineral value chains that are most relevant to the three sectors. These are Traditional Minerals (e.g. Aluminium and Copper), Conflict Minerals (3TGs) and Green Technology Minerals (e.g. Lithium and Nickel). The next criteria looked at geographical coverage: RE-SOURCING has foremost a European focus but the project also contributes to a global approach for RS. Therefore, the PSC needed to

contain international organisations engaging in global agenda setting processes in addition to the European ones. Having a large geographical coverage of stakeholders allows identifying and addressing regional challenges. The final criteria in selecting members for the PSC is about their sphere of influence (involvement in RS agenda setting processes or international fora as advisory bodies). These organisations need to carry enough weight to effectively disseminate and encourage the uptake of the sectoral roadmaps by other stakeholders within the sectors and along the value chains.

In the next step, the coordinator and sector leads first prioritised and then contacted all potential candidates for the Platform Steering Committee. Through already established contacts or first initial contact, WU or sector leads sent out a standardised email invitation outlining the rationale of the project, the benefits for collaboration as well as the expected contribution of the PSC. Through bilateral follow-up telephone conference calls, the RE-SOURCING consortium was able to acquire interest and commitment for collaboration by a total of eight Members and organisations.

## 4 Roles of Members and their Contribution to Project Actions

The members of the PSC are expected to support the RE-SOURCING project by taking on three main roles over its 4-year implementation.

- **Roadmap implementation and wider dissemination:** Most importantly, the members will advise the project on the operationalisation and continuing implementation of the three sectoral roadmaps. This includes fostering uptake and dissemination of the roadmaps during and beyond the project's lifetime. As the PSC members are expected to have an active network of sectoral and RS stakeholders they have the possibility to effectively raise awareness of the roadmaps and communicate the advantages tied to their uptake.
- **Contribution to the Roadmap building process:** Road-mapping is a process in the RE-SOURCING project to develop a vision for Responsible Sourcing in the three sectors, supported by recommendations for actions to achieve this vision and involving all relevant stakeholders, i.e. European and international decision makers, business along the raw material value chains, CSOs and academia.
- **Post project engagement for a progressive RS Agenda:** To enable stakeholders to access the sectoral roadmaps after the end of the project and keeping the RS agenda active and progressing, the consortium and PSC members need to explore different options to keep the RE-SOURCING platform accessible. In addition, the PSC will play a role in developing a plan to keep the stakeholder network active.
- **Input for a global concept and definition of RS:** The PSC will provide input for drafting this definition and foster its dissemination to European and international stakeholders. The RE-SOURCING project aims at creating a globally accepted definition of Responsible Sourcing. This definition will be informed by the various outputs generated throughout the project, as it needs to be inclusive of different issues and realities from a variety of sectors and steps along the value chain.



It should be noted that the PSC has no decision making power in the project. Its involvement will rather focus on consulting the project consortium on various topics and issues, and, jointly with other stakeholders support the road-mapping process.

## 5 Procedures for Involvement

The communication, collaboration and engagement between the RE-SOURCING consortium and the PSC will be facilitated through three physical meetings (back2back to project events) and online involvement through webinars, interviews and conference calls. Furthermore, the sector specific PSC members will be invited to participate in the roadmap workshop for their specific sector.

The three physical events are the Validation Workshop in Darmstadt in March 2020<sup>1</sup>, and two back2back meetings at the 1<sup>st</sup> Roadmap Workshop in Leoben, Austria, in December 2020, and at the closing conference in Brussels in November 2023, respectively. These meetings have to purpose to provide general feedback on the project strategic orientation and the RE-SOURCING Platform.

Additionally, PSC members will be expected to participate in one of the Roadmap Workshop in Brussels, which will be held in January 2021 (RES), November 2021 (MS) and July 2022 (EEES). However, participation at more than one workshop is welcome by the consortium. The involvement of PSC Members is to support the drafting and design of three sectoral roadmaps. The roadmap workshops will involve previously identified relevant stakeholders and will generate content in the key areas of the roadmap. Reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs of PSC members at these events can be provided. Detailed information on reimbursements and expected participation and tasks will be sent out before every meeting.

PSC members are further expected to participate in online exchange, in the form of webinars, interviews, conference calls and two digital conferences with the RE-SOURCING team. The first occasion for online exchange will be webinars or interviews to collect input on the state-of-play process and the creation of roadmap concept. These actions will serve to review existing European and global RS initiatives to define challenges and actors, to develop the structure of a draft roadmap, including a vision, milestones and outline required areas of action.

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<sup>1</sup> This meeting has been replaced by an online webinar format due to the COVID-19 epidemic travel restrictions and health safety measures put in place. The event took place on 11 March, 2020

## 6 Anticipated Timeline of Involvement

The figure below shows the timeline of events planned during the 4-year project running time. The events are separated by sector relevance (illustrated in Figure 2 below): one Roadmap Workshop and Flagship Lab per sector which are expected to be attended by the PSC members for the respective sector; the row for cross-cutting events shows events which are not sector specific and can be attended by any stakeholders relevant to RE-SOURCING. Participation of the PSC members at the Validation Workshop, the opening and closing conferences and two digital conferences is expected.

	2020				2021				2022				2023			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Cross-Cutting	MS1 Validation Workshop		Opening Conference Vienna			Digital Conference				Global Advocacy Forum Asia		Digital Conference	Global Advocacy Forum LA	Global Advocacy Forum SSA	Closing Conference (Brussels)	
Renewable Energy Sector				RES Roadmap Workshop (Brussels)	RES Flagship Lab (Leoben)											
Mobility Sector								MS Roadmap Workshop (Brussels)	MS Flagship Lab (Darmstadt)							
Electric and Electronic Equipment Sector											EEES Roadmap Workshop (Brussels)	EEES Flagship Lab (Amsterdam)				

Figure 1 RE-SOURCING project events shown by sector-relevance



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