"Being better informed means making better decisions"

The Mineral Intelligence Capacity Analysis project, in short 'MICA' has a total project length of 26 months and is currently in month 18 (May 2017). Its aim is to develop a Raw Materials Intelligence Capacity Platform (RMICP). Up-to-date, MICA has delivered a systematic inventory that mapped 90 stakeholder groups according to the three criteria legitimacy, power and urgency, and an empirical appraisal of raw material intelligence needs of prior stakeholders through surveys, a stakeholder workshop and interviews that resulted in (see D2.2 report, p. 9) a redesign and finalization of the MICA ontology initially elaborated on Experts' views only at the kick-off meeting.

The ontology represents the domain of questions an end user may have about mineral resources and raw materials and it supports a Dynamic Decision Graph (DDG). This is a significant deliverable, which enables the end user of the RMICP to navigate across the ontology, and to search for and discover the most appropriate method(s) and tool(s) to use for answering a question. These methods and tools are described using pre-elaborated factsheets stored in a specific database (a RDF Triple Store). The ontology currently covers 7 domains, from primary and secondary resources, industrial processing and transformation, economics (incl. CRM), policy and legal framework, sustainability of raw materials, to international reporting (see D6.0).

MICA has also delivered a draft data inventory on raw materials of approximately 180 meta-data records (see D3.1). These metadata records link to the MICA ontology through the template (see D3.1, p. 13 for details). The inventory was preceded by the definition of a meta-data structure based on ISO 19115, and the development of a meta-data template to record information on identified datasets relevant to MICA. The template and records are linked to the MICA Online Platform. In addition to this deliverable, a further new outcome is being produced: An online data portal that is essential to assist with the development of records and communicates with the MICA Online Platform.

Further deliveries of MICA are factsheets of methods for raw materials intelligence, which are essential to put data (described in the previous paragraph) into context within the RMICP (see D4.1). A need for four factsheets was identified to describe methods on how to address geological and anthropogenic (urban) stocks; society's metabolism and its environmental impacts; economic aspects of the use of resources; future use of resources. All but the last, which is due at a later point, were delivered (see D4.1, pp. 12). In addition, more than 100 factsheets on identified topics have been elaborated so far.

MICA also delivered a discussion and summary of raw material intelligence tools and methods, including for an assessment of the EU Raw Material Initiative, which provides a general framework for a mineral policy, but lacks a systematic Raw Material Intelligence in the EU (see D5.1, p.11). Furthermore, a foresight logframe was elaborated (D5.3) which is based on a review of international foresight case studies. The result, a foresight case studies inventory is structured into three classifications: quantitative, macro-environmental, and a methods-combination- and suitability matrix (D5.3, p. 4).

MICA also has a graphical identity (see D7.1) and teasers and promotion materials have been produced (D7.2). A communication strategy and dissemination plan were also elaborated (D7.3), including the use of social media (D7.4).

Links www.mica-project.eu

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