

# GLOBAL OUTLOOK ON ASSESSMENTS OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

Focus on socio-economic, environmental and technical implications

In-Person, 25 April 2023 13:45 – 14:30.

Lunchtime Lecture as part of UNECE Resource Management Week 2023,  
Tempus Room, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.



**PROFESSOR GIAN  
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#### About the Speaker

Gian Andrea Blengini is an Associate Professor at the Politecnico di Torino, where he leads the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research group and lectures on LCA and Resources & Environmental Sustainability.

Gian Andrea has been a senior researcher at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in the Land Resources Unit for 8 years, with a role of team coordinator in projects and activities, including the support of EU raw materials policies, with focus on critical raw materials and monitoring of Circular Economy, and targeting to the EU Raw Materials Knowledge Base, including Life Cycle Inventory data availability, coherence and quality.

#### About the Lecture

Criticality assessment of raw materials is the procedure of demonstrating possible supply risks and their sensitivity of contribution to national and regional economies. The methodologies behind criticality assessments vary at country or regional levels, and even at global levels.

Additionally, criticality studies depend on a wide range of indicators to underline the various challenges in terms of technological factors, geology and geopolitical, as well as social and environmental considerations. These essential factors are embedded in the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC). UNFC classifies raw materials projects with regards to the degree of confidence in the product estimates, in addition to environmental-socio-economic viability of the project and the technical maturity.

The lecture will aim to suggest connecting points from EU's criticality assessments on the three axes of the UNFC. Building on the EU's experience in performing periodic criticality assessments and updating the EU list of Critical Raw Materials every three years, the lunch time lecture will provide a brief overview of what critical materials are, why they are so important in the context of the European Green Deal and more generally for the energy and digital transitions, who is assessing criticality in the international framework, how and for what purposes. The discussion will touch on possible causes of critical materials supply crises and possible mitigation countermeasures, including the role of circular economy strategies.

The lecture targets all who are looking to expand their knowledge on critical raw materials and the methodology behind their identification. The lecture will propose actions from the overlapping areas between the criticality indicators and UNFC factors.

Sandwiches will be available from 13.00 hours outside the Tempus Room. The event is in English only.

Registration is free and  
includes access to UNECE  
Resource Management  
Week 2023



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