

EIS Final Event Highlights Innovation and Collaboration for Responsible Mineral Exploration

Brussels, Belgium — 7 October 2025 — The Horizon Europe project **Exploration Information System (EIS)** successfully held its final event today at Comet Louise in Brussels, bringing together experts from geoscience, industry, policy, and innovation to showcase its groundbreaking digital tools and chart a path for sustainable mineral exploration in Europe.

Organised by **LGI Sustainable Innovation**, in close cooperation with the project coordinator **Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)** and all consortium partners, the event featured a full-day agenda of technical presentations, panel discussions, and networking sessions with policymakers, industry leaders, and regional stakeholders.

Keynote & Strategic Vision

The event opened with remarks from **Hafsa Munia (GTK)**, **Dimitrios Biliouris (HaDEA)**, and **Daniel Cios (DG GROW)**, underlining Europe's shared responsibility in building a resilient raw materials value chain. A keynote address by **Rolf Kuby**, Director General of Euromines, emphasized the importance of innovation, data-sharing, and collaboration.

From Concept to Open-Source Tools

During the technical session, leading experts, including **Vesa Nykänen (GTK)**, **Tobias Bauer (LTU)**, **Andreas Knobloch (Beak Consultants)**, and **Guillaume Bertrand (BRGM)** unveiled the EIS Toolkit and the **EIS QGIS Plugin** — accessible, open-source tools that combine spatial data, mineral-system modelling, and machine-learning to enable data-driven and environmentally responsible exploration across Europe.

Fostering Innovation Through Cluster Collaboration

Moderated by **Imad Audi (LGI)**, a cluster session connected EIS with other EU initiatives, including **SEMACRET**, **DEXPLORE**, **DeepBEAT**, and **UNDERCOVER**. Speakers stressed the value of shared workflows, common data infrastructure, and cross-sectoral cooperation for accelerating discovery.

Regional and Industry Perspectives

Two panel discussions addressed future pathways for mineral exploration:

- **Mining Regions in Europe**, moderated by **Vesa Nykänen (GTK)**, featured insights from **Luís Martins (S3P)**, **Katarina Nilsson (ETP-SMR)**, **Julie Hollis (EuroGeoSurveys)**, and **Saku Vuori (GTK)** on aligning regional strategies and strengthening data infrastructure.
 - **Sustainable Industry Exploration**, moderated by **Percy Clark (Quest Critical Metals)**, saw industry leaders like **Iana Bacquet (Talga)**, **Thomas Dittrich (Zinnwald Lithium)**, **Luís Martins (Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources)**, and **Laura Quijano (ISMC Iberia Mine)** discuss how research can translate into responsible commercial solutions.
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Building on a Legacy

In closing remarks, **Vesa Nykänen** and **Hafsa Munia (GTK)** reflected on the project's impact, highlighting the EIS Toolkit and QGIS Plugin as critical legacies. These open-source tools will remain freely available to researchers, industry, and policymakers — ensuring that EIS's contributions to Europe's sustainable exploration future continue well beyond the project's end.

About EIS

Exploration Information System (EIS) is a Horizon Europe project coordinated by **GTK**, dedicated to building new geomodels and cost-effective spatial data analysis tools to accelerate sustainable mineral exploration. By reducing ecological impacts and promoting open-access data and workflows, EIS supports Europe's transition to a resource-resilient future.

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