

# Explore the Earth's wealth



*The superpowers of the new critical raw materials* is a communication campaign organised by SCRREEN, a European project which has received funding from the Horizon 2020 under Grant Agreement n°730227.



**Magnesium, tantalum, silicon:** various industries are crazy about these metals used to build cars, solar panels and computers. As demand booms, the reserves are declining. Since 2011, the European Commission has been committed to publish regularly a list of the most critical raw materials - there are 27 materials listed today. On the global scale, there is a tough competition between the consumer countries who are dependent on a handful of producing countries. For example, China supplies 95% of **rare earth elements** - a group of 17 critical raw materials. 90% of **beryllium**, a key component of rockets and satellites, is extracted in the USA. Faced with export restrictions introduced by some countries (China, Argentina, Indonesia...), Europe calls for the respect of international trade rules concerning the free circulation of resources. Europe encourages dialogue but can lodge a complaint with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as was the case in 2012 against China.

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