

9:30 AM Invited

How to Prepare Future Generations for the Challenges in the Raw Materials Sector: *Armida*

*Torreggiani*¹; Alberto Zanelli²; Alessandra Degli Esposti²; Eleonora Polo²; Paolo Dambruoso²; Renata Lapiska-Viola²; Kerstin Forsberg³; Emilia Benvenuti⁴; ¹National Research Council of Italy-CNR; ²ISOF-CNR; ³KTH - Royal Institute of Technology; ⁴National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

Accessible raw materials (RMs), such as rare-earth-elements, indium, neodymium, etc., are essential in technologies and allow the transition towards a low-carbon economy. But how can the RMs uses and importance be successfully introduced in secondary schools, where they are rarely part of education? Some learning paths for pupils from 10 to 18 years old were developed by an European project, Raw Matters Ambassadors @Schools (RM@Schools-<http://rmschools.isof.cnr.it/>) involving 18EU countries and funded by the European Institute for Innovation and Technology. Different educational approaches (such as learning by doing, peer-to-peer, gamification, etc.) are used to foster students' interest in circular economy and RM-related topics. The pathways are oriented toward a common goal: students are guided to become Young RM Ambassadors (science communicators) and create a “product” to be communicated outside of the class. By doing this, students develop 21st century learning skills such as creativity, critical thinking, awareness of responsibility and teamwork.