



IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE MINING IN THE EUROPEAN HIGH NORTH



Creation of sustainable mining

Sustainable Mining, local communities, and environmental regulation in the Kolarctic area (SUMILCERE) is an ENPI Kolarctic CBC project implemented in Northern Europe. It supports collaboration between the public and private sectors and aims to achieve sustainable development by introducing recommendations for social licensing and environmental regulation. During the project also the toolkit "Implementing sustainable mining in the European High North" will be developed for the use of industrial actors, decision-making authorities and local people.

Northern Europe is considered as the most significant mining region of the future. Mining has become one of the leading industries in the region, which also brings about challenges; people fear irreversible changes to and adverse effects on the diversity of nature, and they are concerned about the effects of mines on the vitality of other nature based livelihoods in the region.

The mining industry generates sought-after investments, promotes employment and sustains regional development. The general view is that it is important to invest in the development of mining that pursues balanced sustainability. It is also important to develop the regional operating environment to meet with smart regulation and governance the possibilities as well as threats created by the mining industry. Coordinating the whole social structure has also brought forth regulative issues – the different social impacts of regulation as well as its development needs in the process of maintaining sustainable development. Legislation and legal and administrative practices, like land use planning, environmental impact assessment, permit procedures as well as the self-regulation of mining companies must be developed.

These objectives will be achieved by comparing the existing regulatory framework and developing recommendations in terms of regulation and policy instruments for the sustainable management and use of natural resources in mining areas. This is done by improving the tools for interaction and co-operation with locals, and for social licensing in the management of mining projects. The tools aim to integrate as far as possible the

good governance of the companies with environmental regulation and decision making in each of the target areas. The project consists of three thematic research subprojects: Current practices of participation and the relationship between mining projects and local communities in developing suggestions for social licensing; the legal framework in improving policy instruments and regulation; the relation between international law and the right of the Sami people in mining projects to offer suggestions to optimize the realization of their values and interests. In work package four, the research outcomes will be combined and evaluated. The findings will be used to develop recommendations for improving the socio-economic development of territories and local communities in the implementation of new projects in the mining industry. This will be supported by enhancing the indicators of socio-economic development target areas and by drafting procedures and methodology for managing the social and environmental impacts of planned mining projects.



FACT BOX

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