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NEWSLETTER



Effective land-use planning in Europe? MinLand project has the answer. An interview with the project coordinator

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Which 5 keywords can summarize the MINLAND project?

Land Use, Mineral Raw Materials, Mining, Prospecting, Policy

How does MINLAND address the problem of land-use competition in regards to safeguarding access to areas with valuable resources for mineral exploration and exploitation, in the EU?

MinLand is approaching the land use issues for prospecting mineral exploration and mining by gathering information regarding policies, practices and legislation into a database. This is done in combination with what we might call a stress tests of the studied land-use and mining permitting systems processes applied by doing specific case studies of prospecting mineral exploration and mining. The case studies we further elaborate upon in workshops where the participants, a mixture of land-use authorities planners, mining authorities, industry, NGOs, are all taking part in formulating a good practice recommendation. All as a result of bringing together different expertise and stakeholders. Connections, discussing coupling between the different various area aspects of land-use competition and planning, challenges, and competition and solutions are elaborated by sharing information both on a local-to-national level to a pan-throughout European level.

Further, the cases are also analysed from an academic point of view to complement the workshops. An overriding issue is in order to find out whether the systems actual procedures allow a functional land use aspect approach of mining.

This connects to very specific needs for mining; Who/what is the important aspects to avoid sterilisation of land so that mining can be done. How should mineral land use be done; and if so safeguarding of mineral resources. There are very specific needs for mining. Due to the length of the mining project from start until the commencement of extraction, not unusual of lasting in average 15 years, any unnecessary stops in this process may make it unfeasible for the industry to sustain the project. Minland is about finding out where and how in Europe, how in Europe, an effective land-use planning and permitting process should work in mining. We understand also that an important issue is the different legislations within Europe which sometimes might cause specific needs for certain MS leading to needs for good practice recommendations not only on a European level but also on a regional/country level.

Why is MINLAND necessary?

"Minland is necessarily needed because of the growing need and demand for mineral raw materials within Europe". For example, regarding metals we today Europe produces today just a small part of the minerals and metals what we consume. Therefore, projects that allow us to enhance facilitating extraction of mineral raw materials are important in terms of so that we can increase our production, building wealth and jobs, and taking our responsibility in the world by minimising the ecological footprint through by shortening transports and taking care minding offer our part of the waste produced globally. Europe today has the capacity and know-how to mine in an environmentally sound, efficient and safe way including remediation of mining areas and recycling/re-use of wastes.

What are the important dates and events to note in our agenda's?

Important events in MinLand is our local workshops, happening in fall of 2018, and the MinLand European Network Workshops, in Brussels, November 26 2018, and in November 2019.

How does the work of the different WPs come together?

MinLand is so constructed structured that we have two data WPs, legislation and policies in WP2, case studies from ten European countries in WP3, then analysis of coherence of land-use policies planning and mining policies in WP4 and WP5, including values and stakeholder interactions in relation to the land-use process and also permitting aspects. In WP6 and WP7 the local workshops are performed and analysed. We use a specific methodology for the local workshops, called Peer-Learning, leading to Good Practice elements. The European Network (WP7) is used for consultations through questionnaires and two workshops in Brussels. One important piece is of course being the dissemination WP 8. As in all H2020 CSA projects we also have an administrative WP and an ethics WP.

Anything else that we should mention/address?

At the end, MinLand is aiming at producing Good Practice examples for mining. Of course, we understand that we need to take into consideration that systems current procedures are different within Europe when formulating the Good Practices.



MINLAND CASE STUDIES

NORWAY

The case study deals with land use management of mineral resources in Nordland County in Northern Norway, an historical mining region and the second most important county in Norway in terms of extractive industry. It includes 8 national parks and reindeer herding activity. In the region have been classified mineral resources that are adapted to county/national land use management tools to better forecast and mediate potential land use conflicts, safeguarding mineral resources.

IRELAND

This case study regards the life-cycle of lead and zinc mines from exploration to closure and remediation. Key success factors and problems in Policy Integration, Permitting and Licensing Integration, Public Participation and Transparency are analyzed. Key good practice elements concern: Policy Integration and Formulation, Central Government Support to Local Authorities, Independent Role of the Environmental Protection Agency, Permitting and Licensing considering all aspects and possible impacts of the mining activities and Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP), Transparency with the public including Public engagement, Statutory Public Consultation in Planning, Corporate Social Responsibility.

POLAND

"Czatkowice" Limestone Mine (TAURON Group) -The case study address a good practice of smoothly and effective decision-making process in the field of obtaining a new mining licence. Local authorities and the local community played an important role in this process. The results from the case study suggest that with proper internal and external conditions, it is possible to conduct mining activities in very complicated environmental and spatial conditions.

SPAIN

The case study is located in the area of Ribera del Ebro (Navarra, north-east Spain), one of the European regions which have highest aggregates consumption and it is about a deep analysis of the resources and territory to produce a land use planning tool. The final results were a territorial zoning proposal, a mining and environmental planning map, and the definition of exploitation and restoration criteria and models. Key to success have been the collaboration of the authorities and institutions involved and the great availability of information (especially cartographic and accessory information) in the study area.

SWEDEN

- Fäbodjärn- County administrative board of Västerbotten (CAB)-its role in an early exploitation case of Au underground mine. Burocracy and procedures relative to mining developing and strategies for early stage mining permitting process.

-Boliden Area Operations (zinc, copper, lead, gold and silver) (Skellefteå field) is a good case in terms of social acceptability, showing the actions taken by the company for the territory and the community.

-Mertainen (Fe, Apatite mine) shows measures undertaken to compensate the activity of the mine on the nature, community and recreational activities. Compensation proposal is based on the idea that the company will help create new nature values, rather than simply protecting a particular area. The Mertainen project was used as a case in a pilot project to develop a methodology for calculating losses and gains

FINLAND

Kevitsa mine (Ni,Cu) is a good case for transparency and community acceptance in an area where reindeer herding is performed and for commitment to conform to strict environmental permitting requirements. The Finnish case is also showing a first development of inclusion of minerals into land use planning at regional level.

PORTUGAL

-Somincor Neves Corvo polymetallic (copper and zinc) underground mine in the south of Portugal, in Baixo Alentejo. The mine is located in Natura 2000 area within the Special Protected Areas (SPA) of Castro verde and the Site of Comunity Interest (SCI) Guadiana. Mining company developed Social programs; Environmental programs; Research, technical innovation and technology programs promoting nature conservation and biodiversity.

-Land use planning innovative methodology for mineral resources that the municipality can use if interested. It consists of classification into Potential Areas, Exploration Areas, reserve areas, Geological and Mining Heritage Areas, Consolidated Activity Areas, Complementary Exploitation Areas, areas under rehabilitation.

ITALY

The pilot area in Baiso municipality (Reggio Emilia Province) in the northern part of Italy is characterized by cretaceous clays where, in the past, were established quarry activities for the ceramic industry of Sassuolo district. Some of these quarries have been restored others are abandoned. The study of a mineral and landscape route will lead to the valorisation of the area thanks to the integration of land use and mining plan instrument

GREECE

The case highlight Mineral and land use planning procedures with emphasis on best practice example of aggregate resources' exploitation. By law, regional administrative level define Quarrying Areas (QAs) that are not affected by subsequent acts related to urban, spatial or forestry provisions, when these interest Natura 2000 area they need a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The system represents the basic institutional tool for the sustainable management of aggregates' production from primary sources in Greece.

Bauxite mines in Fokis, region of Sterea Ellada shows instead that in the new Regional plan, designation of mining zones is not envisaged, and the neighbouring of many competing land uses had significant impacts on land use planning policies in the Region of Continental Greece.



AUSTRIA

The Austrian Mineral Resources Plan (Österreichischer Rohstoffplan, AMRP) – a safeguarding tool for mineral resources and its implementation on different levels of governance. The case looks into how the Austrian Mineral Resources Plan (AMRP) - a policy instrument to safeguard mineral resources on the national level - is integrated as vertical policy and as land-use planning options in two Austrian Federal States (provinces).

HUNGARY

Tokaj wine region - Historic Cultural Landscape (UNESCO World Heritage). The case addressed the relations between preserving the cultural landscape and continuing the historical mining activity. The zone has possibility to incorporate sustainable mining activity and mineral resources are safeguarded in the region. Company has invested in transparency, active participation, environmental performance including a corporate tax.



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