Social license to operate: a real tool or rhetoric?
Examining the mining industry in Finland, Australia, and Canada
Joint project of University of Eastern Finland and University of Jyväskylä

Mineral Resources and Material Substitution Academy Programme
Opening seminar on 21 April 2016

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UEF // University of Eastern Finland
Researchers of the project:

- **University of Eastern Finland**
  - professor **Rauno Sairinen** (environmental policy)
  - senior lecturer **Ismo Pölönen** (environmental law)
  - doctoral student **Heidi Tiainen** (environmental policy)
  - researcher **Jukka Sihvonen** (geography)
  - university researcher **Tuija Mononen** (geography).

- **University of Jyväskylä**
  - resp. leader professor **Tapio Litmanen**, sociology
  - doctoral student **Tuija Jartti**, sociology
The project investigates the societal and environmental preconditions for the “social licence to operate” and the use of this concept in mining activities.
Comparative country study in connection to analysis of regulation, institutions and protests

• comparing Finland, Australia & Canada and extra case Greenland
• some notice also to Sweden, Russia & Brazil (through other projects)
  – 1) examines country-specific policies for responsible and sustainable mining (environmental & social): how responsibility and social acceptability is understood and governed
  – 2) examines governance tools (public & private) for managing the impacts of mining and sharing the benefits at the local level
Regulatory analysis on mining governance in Finland: Legal research on the national mining law

- Evaluation of the new Mining Act from the perspective of land use planning, environmental protection and participatory rights
- Legal studies on the possibilities of the local actors to influence mining related decision-making and manage different land-use interests


- **Articles in process**: Case Study on Kuusamo Gold Mine (Capacities of Local Responses).
Analysis on local mining governance in Queensland and New South Wales in Australia

• Two week visit to Australia in Queensland and New South Wales in January 2015. Field research in New South Wales Hunter Valley region. Planned research visit 2017 spring (University of Queensland/ CSRM)

• Articles in process:
  – ”Kaivostoinnin laajentuminen ja sen hallinta monialaisella maaseutualueella – mahdollista vai mahdotonta?”
  – ”Expansion of mining and its local governance in a multi-sectoral rural area – a case Hunter Valley - New South Wales Australia”
  – Social Impact Management Plan as a tool for local mining governance and SLO
Analysis on mining governance in British Columbia & Nunavut, Canada

• Part of dissertation of Heidi Tiainen
• In September 2016: H. Tiainen will make research visit to the University of British Columbia, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research” (CEAR). (making interviews to key experts and study the local governance framework for mining).
• Articles in process (Sarah Olivier & Heidi Tiainen): “Tools of public policies on impact management in the mining industry: comparison of Nunavut and Greenland”.

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Analysis on mining governance in Greenland

- Theme: social sustainability in mining governance, the use of IBA & SIA
- Article submitted to Resources Policy: Heidi Tiainen: “Governance for social sustainability in mining in Greenland”
Mining attitudes in country comparison

• Public attitudes and values represent one of the main criteria for the social acceptance and social trust of mining activities
• Comparative analysis of social acceptance of mining in focus countries
• Examines the prerequisites of social acceptance and social license to operate in different societal and cultural settings
• By empirically analyzing and comparing the attitudinal factors affecting SLO in focus countries, contributions will be made to the theoretical development of SLO
Mining attitudes in country comparison

• Public attitudes and values represent one of the main criteria for the social acceptance and social trust of mining activities

• Earlier: Survey on Finns’ attitudes on mining: Conducted in 2012: Uusimaa, North Karelia, Kainuu and Lapland.
  
  – **Article** in Extractive Industries and Society: Litmanen, T., Jartti, T. & Rantala, E. Refining the preconditions of a social licence to operate (SLO): Reflections on citizens' attitudes towards mining in two Finnish regions.
  
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly or somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
<th>Strongly or somewhat agree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I accept mining conducted by foreign mining companies in Finland</td>
<td>53-61 %</td>
<td>12-17 %</td>
<td>22-35 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>The environmental legislation in Finland guarantees that mining doesn’t cause significant environmental and health hazards</td>
<td>36-59 %</td>
<td>17-28 %</td>
<td>24-42 %</td>
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Mining attitudes in country comparison

• A new national survey on Finns’ attitudes towards mining (August – December 2016)

• Participation into international comparisons of attitude studies
  – In cooperation: Australian CSIRO’s (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) project “Partnering for global impact: National citizen attitudes to mining research program”.
  – Attitudes on mining in different countries: internationally comparable data
Global research: Citizen attitudes to mining (overview of program and progress to date)

- Finland, 2016
- Brazil (pilot), 2015: N = 300
- Chile: N = 1598
- China: N = 5122
- Zambia (pilot): N = 300
- Australia: N = 5121
Social license and citizen attitudes research network
Future challenges

• How SLO and social acceptance of mining is understood in focus countries: attitudes, tensions, policies, regulative frameworks, governance tools

• What are the future challenges?

• Workshop with mining stakeholders and experts
Thank you!

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