

Mining and mineral exploration: Public participation at an early stage in Finland, Germany and Spain

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ABSTRACT (USE 'HEADING 1' STYLE)

Ludger will present the project INFACT on innovative exploration technologies that started in 2017, and will focus on the integrated part of stakeholder process which has taken place Europe-wide and at three reference sites in South of Spain, East of Germany and In North of Finland.

The process of stakeholder involvement aimed at informing and engaging with public about the research on mineral exploration and the data acquisition campaign with helicopter and ground geophysics. The main elements consisted of public hearings and workshops, meetings with mayors and representatives from the area, interviews with local stakeholders, and public events like "adventure day raw material research" as integrated part of the flight campaign in summer 2018.

Results show that this intense information and feedback process led to high acceptance and positive attitude in the reference regions, and a huge interest among the population for upcoming research activities. In 2019, as part of another data acquisition campaign with drones and ground work, the researchers will conduct a new dialogue with the stakeholders and interact with locals.

The author will show "lessons learned" when engaging with society and discuss how important information, active involvement and an intensive feedback is at an early stage of mineral exploration and mining. This presentation will contribute to the discussion about social licence to operate and early implementation.

INFACT, a research project on exploration and mining, got a 5.6 Mio Euros funding for three years from the European Union (www.infactproject.eu). It will develop innovative exploration technologies and processes which are less invasive than classical methods, using new sensors attached to helicopters and drones, as well as ground work. One important issue is gaining and maintaining acceptance of all research activities around exploration, public and decision makers.

www.infactproject.eu

SLO, community acceptance, stakeholder engagement, public participation, mineral exploration