



Project title: PRO-SLO PhD < School-building PROfessional SLO Competence



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Duration of the project: 1.10.2023. – 30.09.2026.

Project leader: Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria

Consortium:

AGH University of Science and Technology
Euro Lithium Balkan D.o.o.
HELLAS GOLD S.A.
Luleå University of Technology (LTU)
Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (MEERI)
Montanuniversität Leoben
National Technical University of Athens - NTUA
Technische Universitaet Graz (Graz University of Technology)
Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF)
Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, UPM (Technical University of Madrid)
University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF)

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Project description

The PRO SLO project aims to deliver two editions of a tailored PhD school to equip young researchers with the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle the multiple challenges of SLO (Social Licence to Operate) in several case studies. The concept of SLO has no unique meaning as Raw Materials projects and communities (stakeholders) differ from case to case. In addition, it is a known fact that the Raw Materials industry projects mostly suffer from negative public image or scepticism at its mildest. Thus, thorough research on the very SLO concept and a holistic approach are needed to gain credibility and trust in the eyes of the engaging stakeholders. Through the developed PhD education programme, the young professionals will research different aspects of SLO to tackle real industry challenges on the spot and facilitate the implementation of RM projects in the future. The PhD school will incorporate

innovative teaching/learning methods, supplemented with field excursions, behavioural experiments and challenge-based assessments to ensure participant competence. Participants will be supported by mentors from the industry.

The project consortium is composed of eight high education institutions experienced in the delivery of EIT educational programs (AGH University of Science and Technology, Luleå University of Technology (LTU), Montanuniversität Leoben, National Technical University of Athens – NTUA, Technische Universitaet Graz (Graz University of Technology), Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF), Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, UPM (Technical University of Madrid) and University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF)); two industry partners which will point out the real challenges and provide case studies (Euro Lithium Balkan D.o.o. and HELLAS GOLD S.A.), and one RTO organisation (Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (MEERI)) with project-related knowledge and solutions for the sustainable development.

Project objectives and scopes

The main project objective is to implement two PhD school editions – both combining online and on-site training – to instruct young professionals to become facilitators on SLO issues in their organisations and in the industry. The PhD education programme will be based on innovative learning methodologies, challenge-based assessments, behavioural experiments, and on-site visits; to approach the complexity of SLO from multiple aspects: social, economic, environmental, etc. An annual scientific conference will be organised in the middle of the second PRO-SLO school with mentors and keynote speakers from the industry ensuring additional expertise and knowledge exchange. The developed educational course will also be available on an online platform.

The role of UNIZG-RGNF – Mobility Scheme development

UNIZG-RGNF leads Work package 5 – PhD school implementation and 6 – EIT Labelling procedure. The main activities of WP5 include preparation, organisation and successful implementation of the two editions of PhD school. The first PRO-SLO school programme will be implemented in the 2nd project year in Croatia/Serbia, and the second edition will be implemented in the 3rd project year in Greece. Both school editions will be deployed in 3 stages:

- a first one-week online component where the theoretical basis will be taught,
- an interval period where the students will deepen their understanding of the contents learned,
- physical component with site visits to be organized by the academic partners in cooperation with the Industrial partners.

The main objectives of WP6 are to align the PhD school programme with the EIT labelling quality assurance procedures. The quality assurance procedure includes a maximum number of EIT labelled quality elements: (1) compulsory elements; (2) alignment with EIT Overarching Learning Outcomes (OLO), (3) alignment with EIT learning environment and facilities, (4) results and (5) stakeholders experience. UNIZG-RGNF will also participate in all other work packages (WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP4).