



Social License to Operate - Responsible Mineral Exploration Conference

September 16, 2025 Hestia Hotel Europa, Tallinn, Estonia

Tuesday, September 16, 2025				
Time		Title	Speaker	Organization
9:30	10:00	Registration and coffee		
OPENING SESSION				
Chair: Erki Peegel (Geological Survey of Estonia)				
10:00	10:15	Opening by the representative of the Estonian government	TBA	TBA
10:15	10:30	Welcome to Estonia	Sirli Sipp Kulli	Geological Survey of Estonia
10:30	10:45	KEYNOTE: SLO-SLE & ESG setting the scene	Toni Eerola	Geological Survey of Finland

SESSION 1: Experiences in Europe, Estonia and the Nordics				
Chair: Juha Kaija (Geological Survey of Finland)				
10:45	11:00	KEYNOTE: Public Attitudes Toward Phosphorite Exploration and Mining in Estonia	Erki Peegel	Geological Survey of Estonia
11:00	11:15	Social licence to operate and international standards	Gregory Poelzer	Luleå University of Technology, Sweden
11:15	11:30	Does societal acceptance really matter?	Pamela Lesser	University of Lapland, Finland
11:30	11:45	From Past Experiences to Future Skills: Towards a Just and Sustainable Labour Market	Bogdana Androsjuk	University of Tartu, Estonia
11:45	12:00	Discussion		
12:00	13:00	Lunch break		

SESSION 2: Experiences in Finland				
Chair: Tony Eerola (Geological Survey of Finland)				
13:00	13:15	KEYNOTE: Factors leading to mining resistance	Leena Suopajärvi	University of Lapland, Finland
13:15	13:30	Searching for sustainability: Finnish environmental NGOs and mining plans	Tapani Veistola	The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, Finland
13:30	13:45	How the urgency can influence the acceptance of critical raw minerals mining and battery industry projects: Approaches from governance studies	Rauno Sairinen	University of Eastern Finland
13:45	14:00	Community benefit agreements in Nordic mining context	Juha M. Kotilainen	University of Eastern Finland
14:00	14:15	Social acceptance of Strategic and Critical minerals production in Europe	Jussi Lähde	Latitude 66 Cobalt, Finland
14:15	14:30	Discussion		
14:30	15:00	Coffee break		

SESSION 3: Poster session				
Chairs: Juha Kaija & Toni Eerola (Geological Survey of Finland)				
15:00	16:00	Poster pitch (1 min) and poster session		

SESSION 4: Case studies illustrating best practices				
Chair: Erki Peegel (Geological Survey of Estonia)				
16:00	16:15	KEYNOTE: Keeping the locals informed - Practices, experiences and blunders from Geological Survey of Finland's bedrock projects	Perttu Mikkola	Geological Survey of Finland
16:15	16:30	Community development agreements – a blueprint to reconcile minerals extraction and nature protection in Europe	Nike Luodes	Geological Survey of Finland
16:30	16:45	Social perceptions of mineral exploration: insights from the UNDERCOVER project	Sam Whittlesey	LGI Sustainable Innovation, Finland
16:45	17:00	Discussion & closure		
17:00	17:15	Leg stretch		

Movie viewing "Europe's Lithium Paradox"				
Chair: Toni Eerola (Geological Survey of Finland)				
17:15	18:15	Movie viewing: "Europe's Lithium Paradox" by SIM², KU Leuven Institute for Sustainable Metals and Minerals		
18:15	18:30	Discussion		

* The organizers reserve the right to make changes to the program. Current version: 1st of September 2025