

OIL SHALE NEWS

EUROPEAN UNION BALTIC SEA REGION PROJECT “MIN-NOVATION”

MIN-NOVATION is a European Union Baltic Sea Region project “Mining and Mineral Processing Innovation Network for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises in Waste Technologies”. Project partners are Poland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Estonia.

In Estonia, the project is focussed on utilising and analysing mainly oil shale waste rock and aggregate production, separation and deposition.

MIN-NOVATION aims to create a transnational network with regional networks as building blocks of effective multilateral cooperation. The activities carried out on the regional and transnational levels will secure better access to knowledge, state-of-the-art technologies and good practice to SMEs (small and medium enterprises) active in the mineral waste management & prevention sector. The project will address all the waste management challenges and opportunities which face the Baltic Sea Region mining industry, which should be understood as extending to all forms of extraction of natural non-renewable resources.

The goal of setting up the MIN-NOVATION regional networks (MRNs) is to bring together organizations which make up the key stakeholder groups in the mineral waste management sector and let them to analyze key challenges and opportunities facing that sector. Particular attention will be paid to issues of old mining waste landfills, current waste production and storage, waste handling procedures, entrepreneurship development and the legal framework for waste management.

The leading partner of the project is AGH University of Science and Technology. The department of Mining of Tallinn University of Technology is the leader of workpackage three. The main project activities will be: (in WP3) the organization of regional networks in 6 Baltic Sea regions, the organization of a transnational (Baltic) network which will provide transnational feedback to regional issues and which will also secure the participation of regional, national and international stakeholder organisations at key moments throughout the project; (in WP4) the development of guidelines for action, including on the transnational level and the working groups which will help to implement them; (in WP5) the completion of transnational pilot investments, including follow-up activities, and follow up on the guidelines. The main transnational outputs will be: (in WP3) SME database, a series of reports on the status of mine waste management in the Baltic Sea region;

(in WP4) compendium of technologies for waste management/prevention, Baltic guidelines and Declaration on Waste Management & Prevention; (in WP5) 4 pilot investments with follow-up activities.

In Estonia the pilot test will focus on oil shale waste rock crushing and seaving technology.

On April 11–14, 2011 the Department of Mining of Tallinn University of Technology hosted the EU project “MIN-NOVATION” Steering Committee and the meeting of the partners. The meeting included workshops and a technical tour in Estonian mining sites.

MIN-NOVATION project is part of R&D activity in the Department of Mining and is related to the studies “Conditions of sustainable mining”, GRANT 7499 - mi.ttu.ee/ETF7499; and „Backfilling and waste management in Estonian oil shale industry“, GRANT 8123 - mi.ttu.ee/ETF8123

Additional information

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<http://mi.ttu.ee/min-novation/>