



KAIIVOSVASTUU

# Success through dialogue

– Annual report of the Network for Sustainable Mining 5/2014-5/2015

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Tuula Sjöstedt / Sitra  
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# Greetings from the first chairman and vice-chairmen

*"It has been an honour and a pleasure to have been the first chairpersons of the Network for Sustainable Mining."*

During its first year of operation, the Network for Sustainable Mining has introduced new dimensions to the cooperation between the mining industry and its stakeholders, and created more opportunities for dialogue. Mutual trust has become stronger, and we have achieved tangible and promising results – together.

The network was established with the support from Sitra, and is now gaining independence. All participants of the network have been highly motivated and have participated actively in discussions and activities, offering their own views and experiences for all to use.

It can be said, then, that the first steps of the network have been positive. Members of the core group and working groups have found the dialogue beneficial, which has allowed the preparatory work to proceed as planned.

The aim of our discussions has been to allow everyone to share their views and to be heard. We have also accepted the fact that we will not always agree on everything. Together, we have decided to only make decisions on matters if we can reach a compromise accepted by all. In fact, consensus and listening have been key elements in the work of the network, and they have provided a solid base for establishing the activities.

Discussions within the network have been immensely versatile. The network's activities have promoted the accumulation of competences, the understanding of views of others and the building of trust and dialogue through visits to a reindeer separation, the Stock Exchange Building, a mine and a nature conservation area, and through listening to presentations on investing, tourism, mining legislation, zoning, mining activities, sustainability standards, and the role of the media.

It has been an honour and a pleasure to have been the first chairpersons of the Network for Sustainable Mining.

Helsinki, 15 May 2015

**Sylvie Fraboulet-Jussila**  
Chairman 5/2014 – 1/2015  
Vice-Chairman 1–6/2015



**Eero Yrjö-Koskinen**  
Vice-Chairman 5/2014 – 1/2015



Greetings from the new Chairman:

# Above and beyond the legal requirements

The Network for Sustainable Mining has been in operation for just over a year now. The mining industry and its stakeholders have met many times. Seminars and workshops have been held. When I became involved in the network at the beginning of this year, I realised that I had found a community willing to discuss even the more difficult issues. For someone like me, with a background in state administration and the modern management style of short, constructed and purposeful meetings, the long and winding sessions within the network have been a refreshing experience. Consensus and listening have been characteristic of the network's activities so far.

This year, the competent women and men of Sitra who launched the network and its activities, will move on to other projects. The network will continue to operate in collaboration with the Finnish Mining Association (FinnMin). This is a natural step along the path the network has been following. After all, the aim of the network is to develop sustainability criteria for the mining industry that mining companies in Finland can follow in the future.

Mining practices can be responsible and performed in a way that takes into consideration the needs of other livelihoods, people and the nature. It is possible to avoid conflicts by considering the needs and views of various stakeholders. Open interaction builds trust and understanding between the mining industry and other operators. It is often possible to do better than what is required by law. It is possible to develop a sustainable operating model based on voluntary measures. There are good examples of this in Finland and around the world. It is also achievable in the mining industry.

**Hannele Pokka**

Chairman as of January 2015



*"Open interaction builds trust and understanding between the mining industry and other operators."*

# What is the Network for Sustainable Mining?

The mining industry is on a growth path, which is important to Finland. Growth also increases the significance of sustainability.

In October 2012, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy (MEE), together with the Ministry of the Environment, launched a process for bringing together representatives of the extractive industry and its stakeholders and inviting them to sit at a round table with officials to discuss ways of making Finland a leader in the sustainable extractive industry. In order to achieve this target, those discussions were turned into an action plan published in April 2013, entitled *Making Finland a leader in the sustainable extractive industry*.

In early 2013, Sitra began preparing a new focus area to promote more sustainable mining activities. The objective was to establish a Network for Sustainable Mining, based on self-regulation and tasked with resolving any conflicts of interest that may arise between mining companies, the environmental sector and the surrounding community, and with reducing such conflicts in the long term. The action plan prepared by the MEE was closely followed by Sitra during its own preparation work. The focus area was designed to comply with tasks 5 and 6 of the action plan. These tasks focus on building stakeholder interaction and cooperation and on the implementation of a social responsibility programme in mining companies.

The preparatory phase included commissioning background surveys, charting international responsibility tools and

holding discussions with the mining industry and the stakeholders affected by mining.

The Network for Sustainable Mining was established in May 2014 in Tytyri, Lohja, at a meeting of 15 invited representatives of the mining industry and its key stakeholders. In the organising meeting, *Sylvie Fraboulet-Jussila* of Sitra was elected the network's chairman and *Eero Yrjö-Koskinen*, Executive Director of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, was elected vice-chairman. The meeting also approved a Statement of Intent for the network.

Prior to establishing the network, there was a launching phase during which representatives of the mining industry, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, the Finnish Metalworkers' Union and the Regional Council of Lapland prepared, with support from Sitra, a Statement of Intent and discussed the composition of the network.

The Network for Sustainable Mining is now up and running, and its main objectives include strengthening cooperation in the industry with its stakeholders and working together to develop tools for more sustainable mining in Finland.

## **Needs of others matter in responsible mining**

The stakeholders of the mining industry include local resi-

dents, industry workers, environmentalists, the Sámi people, other industries (such as tourism, reindeer herding, forestry and agriculture, and metal refinery), investors, and local decision-makers (municipalities and regions).

Mining practices can be responsible and performed in a way that takes into consideration the needs of other livelihoods, people and the nature. If attention is paid to the needs and views of stakeholder groups, fewer conflicts will arise. Open interaction builds trust and understanding between the mining industry and its stakeholders. Both parties' efforts to advance corporate social responsibility deserve attention. So far, the most challenging discussions have been those regarding mining activities close to significant nature and tourism destinations.

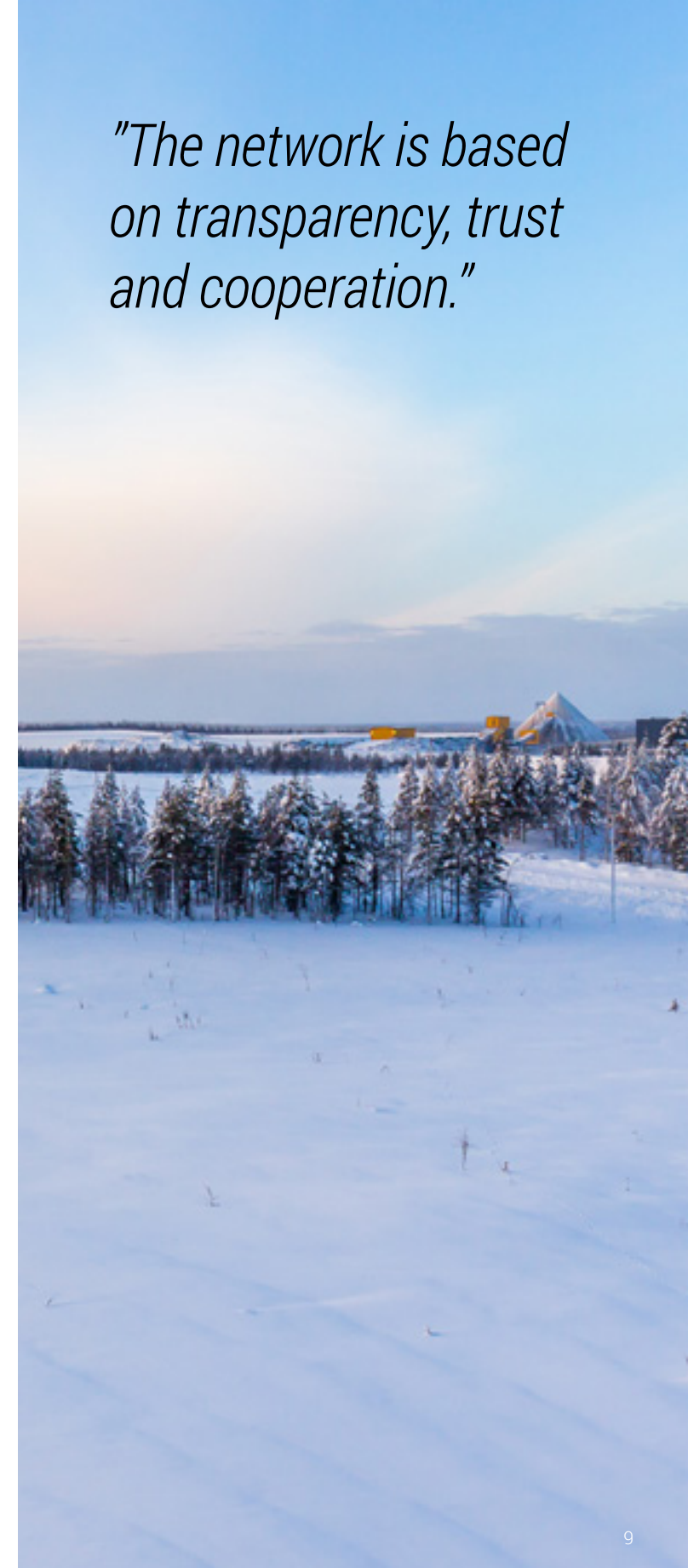
It is often possible to do better than what is required by law. Several lines of business have shown that a more sustainable operating model can be developed through voluntary measures. The mining industry can do it too, but it will require compromises and open, respectful discussions. One of the objectives of the network is to strengthen the mining sector's voluntary self-regulation mechanisms.

## **The network is based on transparency, trust and cooperation**

The Network for Sustainable Mining provides a neutral forum for the mining industry to interact with its stakeholders. With the focus on self-regulation, the network does not emphasise the role of authorities, but instead focuses on fostering cooperation between industry and society. It provides a platform for sharing information and experiences, and advances the building and introduction of more responsible practices. Concrete tools are created through cooperation.

The network is committed to cooperation within the framework of jointly agreed objectives and procedures. At the initial phase, Sitra has hosted the network, supported its development, gathered research data and peer experiences, arranged training and assisted the network in developing effective tools for Finland based on all this.

*"The network is based on transparency, trust and cooperation."*



# Statement of Intent

We commit to working together within the Network for Sustainable Mining.

## The aims of the Network are to:

- develop an open, balanced and continuous dialogue and co-operation between the mining industry and its stakeholders, and;
- promote the development of more responsible, sustainable and predictable mining practices in Finland.

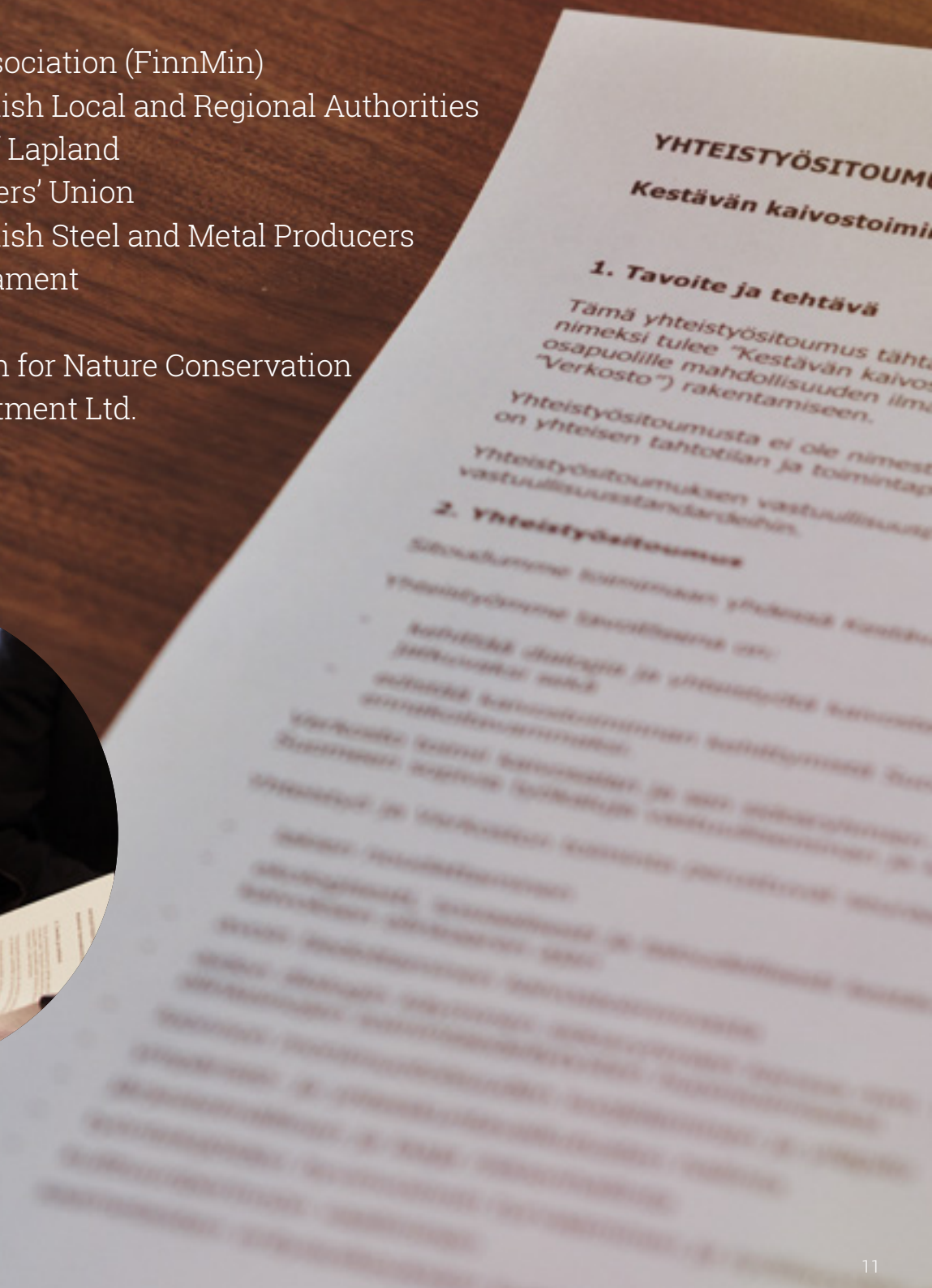
The Network serves as a forum for discussion and co-operation between the mining industry and its stakeholders. It develops and customizes various tools for application in the Finnish operating environment, in order to enable more responsible and sustainable mining practices.

## The Network's co-operation activities and operations in general will be based on the following principles, to which we hereby commit:

- compliance with the law
- promoting mining practices that are responsible as well as ecologically, socially and economically sustainable throughout the life cycle of a mine
- transparent information on mining activities
- engagement in genuine dialogue with stakeholders, for example to settle any conflicts of interest in advance and take into account the operational needs of other economic activities
- protection and conservation of biodiversity;
- management of environmental and social impacts
- systematic and comprehensive risk management
- ensuring the well-being of employees and promoting employment
- protecting cultural heritage
- respecting the special rights of the Sámi people.

By 31 May 2015, the Statement of Intent had been signed by:

- the Finnish Mining Association (FinnMin)
- the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
- the Regional Council of Lapland
- the Finnish Metalworkers' Union
- the Association of Finnish Steel and Metal Producers
- the Finnish Sámi Parliament
- Sitra
- the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation
- Finnish Industry Investment Ltd.
- WWF Finland





# Mission

# Vision

# Goals

The Network for Sustainable Mining will serve as a forum for continuous discussion and cooperation between the mining industry and its stakeholders. It will develop and customise tools suitable for Finland in order to promote more responsible and more sustainable mining activities, and to utilise cross-sectoral synergies and prevent conflicts.

It is independent, representative, balanced, equal, constructive and professional. The operations of the network are transparent.

The objective is that all members of the network will be heard and understood, and they all have a say in the activities of the network. It will focus on advancing self-regulation within the mining industry.

The Network for Sustainable Mining advances the target of making Finland the leader in sustainable mining; a country where mining is successful because it takes into consideration the environmental values, the cultural and social operating environment and other industries. The network is valued and trusted.

**The goals of the Network for Sustainable Mining are to provide support for:**

- maintaining the development of an open, balanced and continuous dialogue and cooperation between the mining industry and its stakeholders
- developing mining in Finland as a responsible, sustainable and predictive industry that takes into consideration the overall economic benefits
- cooperation in developing concrete operating models, solutions and practices in order to improve mining processes
- developing ways of generating and distributing reliable information.

# Administration and practices

## How do we work together?

The operating principles of the network are based on the Statement of Intent signed by the members, the mission, vision and goals of the network, and the rules and regulations approved in January 2015.

The activities have been steered heavily by the motivation survey commissioned by Sitra and the network at the beginning of this first year of operation. The survey concentrated on the motives and objectives of the network's future members regarding cooperation.

One of the network's key operating principles is equality among all members. Another important principle is consensus in decision-making: decisions can only be made when all members of the network agree. Consensus is characteristic to all activities of the network. The mission, vision and goals of the network, along with the rules and regulations and the action plan, have all been prepared together. In addition, the new chairman and the new host organisation were elected unanimously.

## Who are involved?

During the first year of operation, the following parties have been involved in the network: Finnish mining and ore prospecting companies and their stakeholders including local residents, industry workers, environmentalists, the Sámi people, other industries (such as tourism, reindeer herding, forestry and agriculture, and metal refinery), investors and local decision-makers (municipalities and regions).

The current network consists of a strategic **core group** and operative **working groups**, which develop concrete tools for responsibility mechanisms. All groups consist of representatives of the industry as well as its stakeholders.

**The core group** is the "board" of the network. It defines the direction, objectives and extent of the activities. The core group has approved the rules of operations and will have to approve any changes made to them in the future. In addition, it closely monitors the progress of the working groups and is responsible for issuing any statements and preparing meetings.

## In 2014, members of the core group were:

- **Sylvie Fraboulet-Jussila**, Sitra, chairman until 16 January, vice-chairman on 16 January–10 June 2015
- **Eero Yrjö-Koskinen**, the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, vice-chairman until 16 January 2015
- **Jarkko Huovinen**, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
- **Jukka Jokela**, Anglo American Exploration
- **Kimmo Luukkonen**, Pyhäsalmi Mine Oy (FQM)
- **Mika Nykänen**, Association of Finnish Steel and Metal Producers
- **Klemetti Näkkäläjärvi**, Finnish Sámi Parliament
- **Leena Oiva**, WWF Finland
- **Anne Ollila**, Assoc. of Reindeer Herding Cooperatives
- **Mika Riipi**, Regional Council of Lapland
- **Eeva Ruokonen**, Talvivaara Mining Company Plc (until December 2014) / Finnish Mining Association
- **Ulla Syrjälä**, FQM Kevitsa Mining Oy
- **Tea Taivalkoski**, Finnish Hospitality Association MaRa

- **Pauli Takala**, Finnish Metalworkers' Union
- **Markku Tornberg**, pensioner (previously of the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, MTK)
- **Kimmo Viertola**, Finnish Industry Investment Ltd.

Some changes were made to the composition of the core group in early 2015. The following new members joined the group:

- **Hannele Pokka**, Ministry of the Environment, Chairman as of 16 January 2015
- **Kimmo Järvinen**, Association of Finnish Steel and Metal Producers
- **Jyrki Salmi**, Outokumpu Chrome Oy Kemi Mine
- **Tiina Sanila-Aikio**, Finnish Sámi Parliament
- **Tommi Siivonen**, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners, MTK.

With these changes, the following people stepped down from the core group: *Mika Nykänen, Klemetti Näkkäläjärvi, Eeva Ruokonen, Tea Taivalkoski, and Markku Tornberg*. Some of them carry on in the working groups.

Some core group and working group members also have deputy members. Thus the network has been able to draw on the competences of all stakeholder groups to the full extent. This has been particularly significant during the first year, with so much to do and such intensive cooperation.

In May 2014, **four working groups** were set up for the network; with one focusing on developing the activities and the other three focusing on developing sustainability tools for the mining industry. Representatives from all stakeholder groups were invited to join each working group. It was also possible to invite members for the working groups from stakeholder groups outside the network.

The following persons were elected as chairpersons for the working groups: **Ulla Syrjälä** of First Quantum Minerals' Kevitsa Mine (social responsibility), **Eero Yrjö-Koskinen** (prevention of adverse environmental effects), **Jukka Jokela** of Anglo American (local practices) and **Eeva Ruokonen** then of Talvivaara (developing the network's own



operations). **Jukka Jokela** stepped down in late 2014, and leadership of the working group was taken over by **Joanna Kunttonen-van't Riet** of Anglo American. Members of the working groups have been active and committed to the work and objectives of the working groups.

**The working group for local practices** had a goal of developing an operating model for open interaction in order to promote local cooperation within the Finnish mining industry. In practice, the group is collecting practical tools for good stakeholder cooperation, for companies to use at the local level.

**The environmental working group's** goal for 2014 was to prepare a proposal for a voluntary Finnish responsibility standard, based on systems such as the one used in Canada (*Towards Sustainable Mining, TSM*). In addition to the standard, the group is also developing a system for auditing, verification and open reporting, along with relevant training.

**The social responsibility working group's** goal is to develop a new model for reporting social responsibility issues within the Finnish mining industry.

**The working group for developing own practices** has had a goal of developing the rules and regulations for the network's activities and finding solutions for key issues related to the activities, such as form of organisation, funding and communication issues.



# The first year of operations

– What did we achieve?



For 2014, the network set itself the goals of commencing its work, defining its operating model, and signing the Statement of Intent as a signal of willingness to cooperate. Another goal was to enable open dialogue on the more difficult issues and establish working groups to address concrete themes. Our plan was also to establish operations during the first year and form a solid base for continued operation after the support from Sitra is no longer available.

For 2015, the goal was set at stabilising the operations: to find a position for the network in promoting the dialogue between the mining industry and its stakeholders. Our aim was to continue the active work done by the working groups on concrete themes, and find a new chairman and vice-chairman for the network. We also decided to start monitoring the effects of our operations in 2015.

During the first year of operation, the network's core group met seven times. In accordance with its operating principles, the network aims to arrange meetings in mining locations or places with significance in terms of the stakeholder groups involved. Only one meeting (27 November) was held in Helsinki, at the Stock Exchange Building, all other meetings were held outside the capital city: the constitutive meeting on 27 May in Lohja, and the second and third meetings on 13 August and 7 October in Rovaniemi. The fifth meeting was held on 16 January 2015 in the Nuuksio National Park, the sixth on 3 April in Canada and the seventh on 21–22 April at the Kemi Mine.

The first meeting of the core group was held on 27 May 2014 at the Tytyri Mine Museum. At the meeting, a foundation was laid for uncomplicated cooperation, and **Tuija Talvitie**, Executive Director of the Crisis Management Initiative, gave an inspiring presentation on interaction as a basic human need, on a different definition of power in terms of cooperation, and on managing complexity. We also discussed the different motivation that drives various stakeholder groups to cooperation. At the meeting, we agreed on the rules for cooperation and dialogue, drafted the network's first action plan, established working groups, and signed the Statement of Intent.



At a seminar organised in August 2014 in Rovaniemi, the first public statement of the Network for Sustainable Mining was issued, regarding securing the environmental monitoring resources of the ELY Centres. As a result of the statement, the Finnish Government made a budgetary decision to amend the cuts aimed at the ELY Centres and reduced the cuts by a total of EUR 2.5 million.

At the seminar, **Rick Meyers** of the Mining Association of Canada gave a talk on their experiences regarding the implementation of a responsible mining standard in Canada, and **Alan Young** of the Boreal Initiative gave a talk on the work of our network's Canadian counterpart in providing guidance for using the standard. Other topics discussed at the seminar included the role and future of the network, along with reporting and the effects of mining. 80 experts in mining and its stakeholder groups participated in the seminar.

Participants expressed a desire for clear, coherent and concise data on mining industry reports to be published in Finnish, taking into consideration the local needs and current issues. There is a particular need for information regarding the environmental, social and economic effects of mining. The participants wished to see the network as an impartial forum for addressing any difficult aspects concerning the mining industry and its stakeholders, thus putting

## The first year of operation – What did we achieve?



a more personal touch on questions of responsibility within the industry. At the local level, they wanted to continue the dialogue, to keep the threshold low, and to continue searching for practical solutions.

In October 2014, the network participated in reindeer separation and learnt more about reindeer herding while meeting in Rovaniemi. Discussions with local reindeer herders and **Anne Ollila**, Executive Director of the Association of Reindeer Herding Cooperatives, gave members of the network an insight into the challenges faced by those working in the oldest industry in Northern Finland.

In November 2014, at the Stock Exchange Building in Helsinki, the focus was on funding and legislation with reference to the mining industry. An introduction to responsible investing was given by **Anna Hyske**, Head of Responsible Investing at Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company, and Justice **Kari Kuusiniemi** of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland talked about the legislative framework for mining activities. The network also discussed the conflicts of interests between the tourism and mining industries.

In January 2015, members of the network were able to enjoy

the natural environment of the Nuukio National Park while discussing nature conservation. The discussions were led by **Olli Turunen**, Coordinator of Neighbouring Regions' and International Development Projects at the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation. The network also discussed the role of land use planning in mining projects after introductions given by Senior Legal Officer **Ulla Hurmeranta** of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, and Planning Officer **Juha Kaarevirta** of the municipality of Sotkamo. In the meeting, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment **Hannele Pokka** was elected the new chairman, and **Sylvie Fraboulet-Jussila** of Sitra, the new vice chairman.

In March 2015, the network participated in PDAC 2015, the world's largest mining and mineral exploration convention in Canada. In addition to the convention, the members had discussions with the *Community of Interest Panel*, which is responsible for steering the implementation of the TSM system, and with representatives of indigenous peoples and nature conservation organisations, the Toronto Stock Exchange, and mining companies. In a meeting held during the trip, the network discussed the observations made at the convention and how they could be utilised in the develop-

ment of the network. Opportunities and challenges related to mining activities appear to be fairly similar both locally and globally.

In April 2015, the network met at the Kemi Mine, where the Vice President **Jyrki Salmi** gave the members a closer introduction to mining activities. After an introduction by **Juha Kekäläinen**, Manager of Environmental Affairs at Outokumpu's Tornio Steelworks, the members discussed the challenges created by the different operating methods of the media in Finland and Sweden. This discussion highlighted the importance of transparency, local cooperation, and communication.

## Working groups build practical tools

The network's working groups have been actively developing new type of responsibility reporting and a practical set of tools for stakeholder cooperation. They also started to prepare a Finnish responsibility standard during this first year. Important principles have been discussed, such as those regarding mining and ore prospecting activities in nature conservation areas.

In addition, the network's activities included analysing responsibility systems used in the mining industry, translating the TSM standard into Finnish and comparing it to Finnish legislation, conducting a survey on the Finns' attitudes toward the mining industry, charting mining-related research projects and best practices for cooperation, surveying the members' motivation factors and the network's organisation alternatives, and enhancing cooperation with both Canada and Sweden.

### Working group for local practices

The working group for local practices has been compiling good practices for stakeholder cooperation at local level. The SEAT toolbox developed by Anglo American was the starting point for this work. The set of good practices has been developed to suit everyone by collating information

(such as interviews, research and workshops) and by organising the individual tools in order to create a logical set of tools, including theory and examples.

The set of tools covers the entire life span of a mine, from ore prospecting to closing a mine. It encompasses the key areas of local-level cooperation (stakeholder group identification, economic and social impact, sharing the benefits, and management of stakeholder relations). Development of the tools continues.

### Environmental working group

The environmental working group's goal has been to prepare a proposal for the network of a voluntary responsibility standard suitable for Finland. The proposal will be based on the Canadian responsibility system *Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM)*, and complemented by applicable parts of the environmental section of the international responsibility system *IRMA (Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance)*, which is currently being prepared.

In 2014, the working group conducted a comparison of the existing mining standards and selected the IRMA and TSM as the basis for the Finnish standard. The group analysed the draft version of the environmental section of the IRMA and all of the protocols in the TSM system. In January 2015, a training session was organised on the basics of the TSM, the system was translated into Finnish in February, and during March and April, it was contrasted with Finnish legislation.

The working group also made a proposal for the water standard *Alliance for Water Stewardship* to be incorporated in the Finnish responsibility standard. In addition, the group discussed and drafted principles regarding ore prospecting and mining in nature conservation areas, and held discussions with the Canadian TSM stakeholder panel, TSM consultants, and the Mining Association of Canada (MAC) regarding the applied implementation of the TSM standard in Finland.

## The first year of operation – What did we achieve?

### Social responsibility working group

In order to develop a new type of social responsibility report for Finnish mines, the working group has identified and listed indicators of sustainable mining and translated them into English, which is the working language of many mines in Finland.

The planned systematic data collection was piloted in a few mines, and based on the results, the working group has prepared the first version of the Finnish social responsibility report. A map tool was also developed to be used in the reporting, enabling anyone to study the various aspects of land use. The reporting model also includes a simple introduction to mining activities and ore prospecting.

### Working group for developing the network's own practices

The working group for developing the network's own practices has prepared important policy documents in terms of the network's operations, prepared the election of leaders for the network and selecting the new support organisation. In addition, the group commissioned a mining survey of the initial situation. The network can use this document to monitor and evaluate the success of its operations in the future. A visual look was also created for the network, along with a website.

### Survey of research projects

As part of the background work for setting up the network, Sitra held discussions with mining companies and their stakeholders during 2012–2013. It became apparent that plenty of projects were under way, in fact the industry was crammed with projects. In spring 2014, to support the work of the network, Sitra conducted a survey of the research and development projects commenced during the 2010s.

The survey focused on research and educational institutions considered key to the mining industry in Finland. The purpose of the survey was to form an overall picture of the research undertaken in the industry and to recognise the key projects and results in terms of the development of the responsibility tools. [The survey of mining research projects](#) conducted by the Sitra team was published on 30 June 2014 after a one-month commenting period. The survey will be updated in summer 2015.

The survey showed that there is a large number of research projects with a wide range of themes. In all, the team charted more than 100 research projects. Of these, around 60% are technical in nature. The largest providers of funding were the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation (Tekes) and the EU.

The survey attracted a lot of interest among the stakeholders. The results were also published in the *Materia* magazine of the Finnish Association of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and utilised in the research strategy for the extractive industry prepared by the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and published on 21 April 2015.

## International cooperation

In 2013, to support the coming work of the network, Sitra mapped the responsibility systems used in the mining industry globally, by commissioning a preliminary survey on the mining responsibility systems and standards, and a short report on responsible mining in Australia. In spring 2014, Sitra and the network also commissioned a more detailed comparison of the responsibility tools used in the mining industry. Of the international responsibility tools, the most interesting ones turned out to be the Canadian [Towards Sustainable Mining](#) (TSM standard), the [Mining Footprint](#) (MFP tool) which is being developed by Fundación Chile, the [Enduring Value](#) used in Australia, and the [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance](#) (IRMA), which is being developed through international cooperation.

Back in 2013, future members of the network had discus-

sions with Canadian and Chilean experts on the responsibility systems they use. These discussions were hosted by Sitra. In connection with this work, visits were arranged in October 2013 and March 2015 to the meeting of the Canadian stakeholder panel, which steers the use of the TSM standard, and a study trip to Chile in November 2013.

### Mining Footprint

Fundación Chile has been developing the MFP tool since 2012 in collaboration with the Chilean mining industry. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive framework of indicators for continuous monitoring of the sustainable development and effects of a mine; encompassing its impact on the waterways, air quality, land use and soil health, the diversity of the natural environment, society and the economy.

In collaboration with the Fundación Chile experts **Juan Ramon Candia** and **Angela Oblasser**, the network organised [a workshop on 14 May 2014](#) for a more detailed study of the MFP tool. The objective was to assess the applicability and feasibility of the tool for Finland and also to challenge the developers to assess the need for the tool and its technical elements. In total, some 30 people from the mining industry and its stakeholder groups and researchers and officials participated in the workshop. Based on the results of the workshop, the network decided that the MFP tool is not that well suited for Finland.

### Towards Sustainable Mining

MAC ([Mining Association of Canada](#)) has developed the TSM standard ([Towards Sustainable Mining](#)), which can be applied to measures aimed at developing more sustainable mining activities and strengthening stakeholder relations. Representatives of the network learnt about the TSM standard used in Canada and it was decided to be used as a basis for the model developed for Finland.

In January 2015, Sitra invited TSM experts **Stephanie Meyer** and **Jane Porter** of Stratos Inc. to Finland and organised TSM training for representatives of the Scandinavian mining industry and its stakeholders.

A key element of the TSM system is the steering body, the [Community of Interest Advisory Panel](#), [an independent team of advisers which represents several mining industry stakeholders](#). It is the Canadian equivalent of our network.

In order to learn more about the TSM system, the network travelled to Canada to meet its peer network and representatives of the local companies, nature conservation organisations and indigenous peoples. The timing of the study trip was planned to enable the representatives of the network to also participate in the world's largest mining and mineral exploration convention held annually in Toronto, [PDAC 2015](#). The event brings together tens of thousands of people from more than 100 countries to discuss key issues in mining including technology, nature conservation and indigenous peoples.



The network gave a presentation on its activities in the CSR event series of the PDAC 2015 convention. [In their presentation](#) the representatives of the network talked about the collaboration with stakeholder groups in order to improve the dialogue and cooperation in Finland and locally in Kittilä. In addition to the network and Sitra, Finnish PDAC 2015 convention and exhibition participants included [a fairly large number of operators](#), such as GTK, Invest in Finland, Tekes, Tukes, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy, and several mining companies.

## The first year of operation – What did we achieve?

The trip resulted in new information, views and insights into the way and direction in which the Network for Sustainable Mining should be developed. More importantly, it enhanced cooperation and mutual trust among the members of the network, and provided useful international contacts for future activities. The most important lessons were learnt about the clarity of objectives and the ability to show the results of your work.

Comments made by participants:

*"In Finland, we are well equipped to making this network functional and our mining industry more responsible. The rest of the world (at least Canada) are not that far ahead of us in these matters. Everyone seems to face similar challenges, and whatever we can generate and develop here in Finland can also act as an example for other northern areas."*

*"The trip was a success: we have excellent cooperative spirit. Discussions with the TSM COI panel showed that we have come a really long way in a short period. Maintaining trust is the key to success."*

*"The trip gave an insight into sustainable mining in Finland by enhancing the importance of transparency and keeping promises – we just need to apply all the knowledge and experiences to the conditions and needs in Finland."*

The work of the Network for Sustainable Mining has attracted international attention also outside the countries it has visited. Nordic mining nations Sweden and Norway have expressed an interest in the work carried out by the network in Finland for applying the TSM model to Nordic conditions. The COBALT project funded by the EU and aimed at bringing together representatives of the industry, civic society, research communities and authorities to discuss sustainable use of raw materials, has also been interested in the work of the network.

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## A look to the future

Before the end of 2015, the network aims to ensure a successful transfer and continuation of its operation under the Finnish Mining Association. Sitra will continue to support the network financially as of August 2015.

The independent network will continue developing and piloting tools and preparing for the implementation of the set of good practices, the environmental report, and the TSM responsibility standard. Cooperation regarding the Canadian TSM will continue, and the goal is to sign a licensing agreement allowing the use of the name TSM for a voluntary responsibility standard to be implemented in Finland. The discussions and dialogue will continue and improve as the practical tools are developed further.

During 2015, our aim is to publish Finland's first social responsibility report for the mining industry and keep piloting a set of reports with selected mines.



