



Social skills: the cornerstone of the 21st Century mining sector. The International Network of Raw Materials Training Centers project (Intermin)

Jelena Vidovic (1), Vitor Correa (2), Luis Jorda (3), Manuel Regueiro (3), Boris Malyuk (4), and Philipp Hartlieb (5)

(1) EuroGeoSurveys, (2) European Federation of Geologists, (3) Instituto Geologico y Minero de España, (4) Geoinform Ukraine, (5) Montanuniversitaet Leoben

Since the first mining academies, born in the 18th century, to the present day, the skills needed to work as a graduated technician in the mineral resources sector have been mainly technical. With the new advances and discoveries, the learning outcomes of the universities and training centres in mining have been gradually modernized and adapted to the observed changes. We are talking about adapting skills to new advances and techniques and not really of new skills. However, the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century has turned out to be a revolution in terms of skills and capabilities. From the 80s onwards with the environmental concerns and in the 21st century with social aspects, new specialists and skills in the mining sector have had to be incorporated at times excessively rapidly. The International Network of Raw Materials Training Centres Project (Intermin) is collecting and analysing the current and future skills required in the mining sector and comparing them with the learning outcomes of the globally existing universities and postgraduate training centres. Intermin focuses on all skills related to the complete mineral resources sector cycle (from inception to closure, including the life cycle of the secondary materials), but emphasizes "new" social and environmental skills sometimes called soft skills. These emerging skills are the key to the mining sector of the future, since in the case of Europe, many mining projects, technically solved, are paralyzed by purely social and communication aspects. The skills related to the communication of technology to society and to raise awareness about the need of the mining sector, can be the cornerstone of mining in the coming years.