

Integration into Practice

The outcome will include learning material and education plans/programs as well as technical and administrative actions and optimization of arctic miner's clothing and personal protective equipment. The outcome from the project will have relevance also outside the Barents region; as in other mining communities in the circumpolar region. The outcome is aimed to promote well-being, work ability and health and prevent sick leave. Consequently, the outcome can lead to lower costs for the enterprises and society, and increase productivity and profitability in the mining industry in the Barents region.



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For further information:

<http://www.minehealth.eu>



MineHealth

Sustainability of miners' well-being, health and work ability in the Barents region – a common challenge

The goal of the MineHealth project is to provide long term sustainability of well-being, health and work ability among workers in the mining industry. This will be achieved by increased and updated knowledge on how to cope with the environment and to adopt preventive measures for working in the mining industry within the Barents region.



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Background

The Barents region has many natural resources that promote growth and development. New mines are opening in several locations, and old mines are expanded or reopened. Working as a miner is still associated with risk for reduced health with individual suffering and increased costs for the enterprises and society.

New topics and challenges are emerging in the mining industry in the region. Increased mining activity in the sparsely populated area is a challenge since it is hard to get enough skilled workers. Mines are increasingly recruiting females, raising gender related issues in the mining industry.



Aims of the Project

The overall objective is to provide long term sustainability of well-being, health and work ability among workers in the mining industry. This is achieved by increased and updated knowledge on how to cope with the environment and to adopt preventive measures for working in the mining industry within the Barents region.

Focus on the work in the Arctic Environment

The project focuses on the unique work environment of mining in the Barents region which is characterized by work in cold conditions. The exposures to be addressed are, besides cold, airborne dust, diesel exhaust, whole body and hand-arm vibration, ergonomics and physical strain.



Information will be collected through work environment measurements, clinical examinations, interviews, questionnaires and physiological measurements, clothing and ergonomic evaluations as well as from experimental laboratory studies.

Impact on workers, industry and society

The project will address the impact of the mining industry on the local societies, employment rate, income, the environment, young employees, indigenous people and consider gender issues.



The studies give possibilities to compare different mines, regions and countries and show the possibilities to implement a good socio-economic practice in the local community.

A challenge for the mining industry in northern regions is to attract skilled workers, who use safe working practices. One way to achieve safe working practices is to provide training material for continuous learning in occupational safety and health related to mining work.