Conference: Call for Contributions

Ethical Engineering of Prospering Futures (EEPF26): Strategies for Sustainable Raw Materials Development

September 8 – 10, 2026

Hosted *by*: Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF)

A secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials is a key for economic stability, technological sovereignty, and ecological transformation. Without a reliable resource base, essential technologies such as electromobility, renewable energy, and digitalization cannot be realized. In light of geopolitical tensions, disrupted supply chains, and increasing resource scarcity, local responsible raw material production has become more relevant than ever.

At the same time, raw material projects often encounter public opposition - ranging from environmental concerns to local resistance, and questions of social justice and participation. These challenges not only complicate project implementation but also undermine trust between industry, policymakers, and society. Public acceptance has thus become a decisive success factor for sustainable raw material strategies.

This conference brings together researchers, industry and public service representatives, and other stakeholders for an open dialogue. We will explore how responsible resource extraction can align with societal values and community expectations. The goal is to develop shared perspectives and evidence-based strategies for socially responsible and publicly accepted resource extraction.

Key themes include (but are not restricted to):

- Social License to Operate – theoretical concepts and practical applications
- Acceptability and acceptance of raw material development and management
- Empirical approaches and methods for evidence-based institutional design
- Ethical sourcing and global supply chain responsibility
- Engaging indigenous communities in development and decision-making
- Education, transparency, and public engagement in resource projects
- Communication and conflict management in raw material projects
- Best-practice examples of successful stakeholder engagement
- Policy frameworks and governance for responsible resource extraction
- Regional development and benefit sharing

We invite submissions of **full papers, extended abstracts, and posters**. **Participation without a contribution** is also possible and welcome.

Keynotes

Michael Paul, Geschäftsführer Technisches Ressort Wismut GmbH, Germany
Kristina Sehlin MacNeil, Researcher and Deputy Director at Várdduo - Center for Sami Research, Umeå University, Sweden
Michael Tost, Chair of Mining, Engineering and Mineral Economics, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria

Location

Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg
Faculty for Business and Economics
Schlossplatzquartier
Schlossplatz 1
09599 Freiberg / Germany

The conference will take place in a **hybrid format**, with both on-site and online participation possible.

Organizers

Gari Walkowitz: Chair for Behavioral & Business Ethics (TUBAF)
Theresa Wand: Graduate and Research Academy (TUBAF)
Kristina Wopat: Graduate and Research Academy (TUBAF)

Application & Registration

Participants of the open session format are required to submit a paper or an extended abstract detailing their presentation subject.

Submissions are exclusively accepted as PDF documents by **May 31, 2026**.

We will inform you on the acceptance of your submission by **June 15, 2026**.

All participants (with or without contribution) **must register** for the conference via the following link:
https://tu-freiberg.de/en/registration-proslo-conference-2026
or via email: ProSloConference2026@tu-freiberg.de

All submitted contributions undergo a **peer review** process. Selected and accepted contributions will be published as extended abstracts in a **proceedings volume**.

Fees

Junior Researchers/Phd students:	150 €
Senior Researchers/Academics:	250 €
Industry and Public Service Representatives:	250 €
Online Participation (listen only):	80 €

Contact

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Updates and updated information on the conference, you can find here: https://tu-freiberg.de/proslo-conference-2026