



# PRO-SLO PhD school – CALL FOR APPLICATION OF STUDENTS

1

Open from 15/10/2024 to 15/12/2024



Coordinating partner opening the Call: University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG – RGNF)





## Content

<b>1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Purpose and broader context .....	3
1.2. Institutions involved .....	3
<b>2. PRO-SLO SCHOOL PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1. Purpose of the Call - Requirements for application .....	4
2.2. Organization and structure .....	4
2.3. Learning goals and outcomes .....	6
<b>3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.4. Obligations of the Student .....	8
3.5. Rights of the Students .....	9
TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT COSTS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS .....	9
<b>TERMINATION .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4. ANNEX – PREVIEW OF APPLICATION FORM .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## 1. Description of the school

### 1.1. Purpose and broader context

The PRO-SLO PhD school is designed to address the significant gap in the raw materials sector's approach to Social Licence to Operate (SLO). It is a specialized PhD education program that equips future leaders with the skills to handle SLO challenges effectively. The PRO-SLO PhD school's purpose is to foster a deep understanding of societal, ethical, and environmental issues related to development of raw materials, thereby contributing to more sustainable and socially responsible practices in the industry.

This school will be implemented online (programme materials will be available on an online platform) and onsite (different locations each year where students will be assigned with "real-life" case studies). The PhD education programme will be based on innovative learning methodologies, challenge-based assessments, synchronous and asynchronous learning modules, case study in a peer group and other.

The PRO-SLO PhD school is embedded in a broader context where the raw materials industry faces significant public opposition and a negative image due to past environmental issues and current ethical concerns. This context underscores the need for a new generation of leaders who are well-versed in managing these issues and improving the industry's societal impact.

### 1.2. Institutions involved

Entities involved in development, organisation and implementation of the PRO-SLO PhD school are: eight high education institutions experienced in the delivery of EIT educational programs (AGH University of Science and Technology, Luleå University of Technology (LTU), Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL), National Technical University of Athens – NTUA, Technische Universitaet Graz (Graz University of Technology), Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF), Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, UPM (Technical University of Madrid) and University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF)); mining companies which will point out the real challenges and provide case studies (HELLAS GOLD S.A. and Adriatic Metals), and one RTO organisation (Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (MEERI)) with project-related knowledge and solutions for the sustainable development.



## 2. PRO-SLO school programme

### 2.1. Purpose of the Call - Requirements for application

4

The purpose of this Call is to **introduce students to the purpose of PRO-SLO PhD school, structure of the school and most importantly recruit them for participation.**

All the students applying to be considered as participants in the 2025 PRO-SLO PhD school must comply with the following requirements:

- **submit a complete registration form with the attachments required by this Call,**
- **meet the eligibility conditions for becoming a school participant**
- **be committed to successfully complete the full school programme within the year 2025 (online + on-site component)**

The call for participation in 2025 school will be open for students` applications **from 15/10/2024 to 15/12/2024.**

### 2.2. Organization and structure

The structure of the PRO-SLO PhD school consists of:

- 1) **Online part** (duration: 5 working days, scheduled from **3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**)
- 2) **Interval period for online teamwork** (duration: 2 months, scheduled for February and March 2025)
- 3) **On-site part** (duration: 5 working days: **7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 2025** + 2 days for traveling).

Elaboration on the school structure:

- 1) During the implementation of “online week” students will learn about the basic SLO principles through short courses divided in different thematic areas. Lessons together with online meetings/consultations with lecturers, should not take more than 3 hours per day in total. In this innovative learning setting, students will form thematic study groups where each of the group will be assigned with specific task/project to undertake and complete before the on-site component of the school. The online part of the school is devoted at developing the same knowledge base level for all students for the thematic areas relevant to SLO.





All learning material will be uploaded on online platform, which students can have an authorised access.

2) In the interval period, between online and on-site components, for a duration of approximately two months, online mentorship meetings will take place between lecturers and participants. During this period, the students (trainees) will work in teams on the assigned tasks/projects from the online part and prepare their relevant presentations to be given during the on-site week. The online mentorship meetings will be conducted on a weekly to bi-weekly basis.3) The on-site part of the PRO-SLO PhD school will be implemented in Vareš, Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the premises of Adriatic Metals BH d.o.o. company.. Adriatic Metals, the mine owner, will provide students with practical knowledge and support in dealing with the "real-life" SLO challenges in the Raw Materials industry. Students will again be grouped in teams and each team will receive a specific Case- Study, in which, under the supervision of a mentor, they will develop a methodology to obtain SLO. In there, they will also receive crucial support from the industry mentors (from Adriatic Metals). Onsite part is organized for students to fully develop their "SLO skills" also using the knowledge and the skills received in the previous online parts of the school.

5

This PhD school will **be beginner level**, meaning no previous knowledge and experience on the topic of SLO is needed. No **participation fees are needed from the students**.

**Learning hours and preparation workload is the workload:**

- 1) Online participation – 15 teaching + 15 preparation for the courses (30 hours in total)
- 2) Interval period, Mentoring and team work for project preparation – 40 learning hours in total
- 3) On – site participation – 40 learning hours in total

In total 110 learning hours will be achieved, and students will gain 4 ECTS after school completion.



## 2.3. Learning goals and outcomes

The PRO-SLO PhD school aims to create PhD students who are proficient in managing SLO processes and can act as ambassadors for the raw materials industry. The expected outcomes include improved public perception of the industry, enhanced industry practices, and contributions to sustainable development.

6

### Learning goals

At the end of PRO-SLO Summer school, the student will know and understand:

- the concept, principles and business case for a SLO in the RM industry, and the risks involved in ignoring the importance of a social license;
- the nature and dynamics of the stakeholder network, the role of social capital, and how to interact with communities to establish a legitimate SLO.

### Learning outcomes

At the end of PRO-SLO Summer school, the student will be able to:

- debate the social implications of contentious practices in the RM industry;
- explain the principles of a SLO;
- evaluate the social obligations of individuals and businesses in the RM supply chain;
- ensure good relations with the community and society during business projects in the RM sector;
- apply the concepts and principles of a SLO in a business case in RM sector;
- develop a plan for a RM business to maintain its SLO.

By equipping future leaders with these competencies, the PRO-SLO PhD school will contribute to better community engagement, more transparent and ethical practices, and overall improvements in the raw materials sector's social licence to operate.





### 3. Eligibility criteria

To participate in the PRO-SLO PhD school, the student must meet the following requirements for which the proof has to be submitted during the application process:

7

- **Student must be enrolled in a PhD study programme** (evidence: *Scan of an official confirmation of your enrolment in a PhD study programme*)
- **Student should explain their motivation to participate in the PRO-SLO PhD study programme** (evidence: **Motivation video in duration of 1 minute** as part of the registration process:  
*Obligatory parts of the video:*
  1. *student should explain their educational background, where they currently study (university/city) and the topic of their PhD*
  2. *the main reason you are applying for this school*
  3. *what are their expected learning outcomes and how will they apply them**All motivation videos should be sent to kristina.koret@rgn.unizg.hr*)
- **Student should send their CV** (in any form, uploaded in the registration form)
- **Student should have a minimum B2 English language proficiency level** (even though the certificate is not required, it is necessary for the student to have at least B2 level because the whole course is administered in English)
- Student should send *Scan of their passport and visa (non-EU citizens) or ID (EU citizens)*<sup>1</sup>

The evaluation based on the eligibility criteria is carried out immediately upon receiving the application of the potential participants. The student will be informed about the eligibility of his/her application **within the period of open call**.

Our admission procedures mentioned above are open to individuals of all genders. Gender balance and mainstreaming are integral part of this school; thus, the selection procedure will reflect our commitment to non-discrimination, providing equal opportunities for all. We also value geographic inclusion, striving to attract and support students from diverse regional backgrounds, this is why the specific region of PhD study programme is not outlined in the criteria. The PRO-SLO PhD school is designed to foster a supportive environment for international, intersectoral, and cross-organizational collaborations, as SLO issues and challenges do not have geographic, sectoral, cultural and other boundaries. The school provides resources and support tailored to the needs of

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<sup>1</sup> DISCLAIMER following General Data Protection Regulation: PRO-SLO project is funded by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology. Personal data provided by the participants of this PhD school shall be used only for the providing the services of this project and to report on the PRO-SLO project implementation, where all personal information are hidden behind a code. We handle your personal data according to the generally applicable legal provisions of the Republic of Croatia and at the European Union level while also endeavouring to prevent unjustified handling or misuse. More information about privacy policy on our webpage.



students of all genders, including mentoring, networking opportunities, and professional development. The school supports and encourages student-led initiatives and research to prepare them for tackling “real-life” challenges.

### 3.4. Obligations of the Student

- 1) The Student agrees **to fully participate in all components of the PhD school** in line with the PRO-SLO programme requirements, including attending online sessions, completing all assignments, and being present for the entire duration of the onsite component.
- 2) The Student agrees to complete all required assignments, assessments, and activities and **presenting the results of the projects undertaken**, as specified by the school provider.
- 3) It is mandatory for the student to **have valid health insurance** that covers all potential medical costs, including but not limited to, emergency treatment, hospitalization, medication, and any other medical services, during their entire stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 4) The Student agrees to **make their own travel arrangements** for the onsite component and to submit all travel receipts (for airfare, bus, or train tickets; in exceptional situations road tolls and gasoline) to UNIZG-RGNF at the latest one month after the school implementation.
  - The receipts must be issued to:

University of Zagreb  
FACULTY OF MINING GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM ENGINEERING  
Pierottijeva 6, p.p. 390, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia  
VAT number: HR99534693762

- 5) The Student will evaluate the experience of participating in PRO-SLO PhD summer/winter school 2025 edition. The evaluation will be carried out on a form designed by UNIZG – RGNF. The deadline for the delivery of the evaluation form is 5 (calendar) days after the last day of the on-site school component.

All activities need to be completed by the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 the latest.





### 3.5. Rights of the Students

#### Travel reimbursement costs and other organisational details

UNIZG-RGNF will arrange and pay for the accommodation for the onsite component of the PRO-SLO PhD school according to the defined dates and for the entire duration of the school.

9

Students` travel expenses will be reimbursed by UNIZG-RGNF based on the distance. Travel distances will be based on the travel distance per Student and must be calculated using the distance calculator supported by the **European Commission: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>**. The distance of a one-way travel must be used to calculate the amount of the grant that will support the round trip.

- For Students located within 99 km of the workshop venue: Reimbursement will be up to a **maximum of 50 EUR**.
- For Students located between 100 and 499 km away: Reimbursement will be up to a **maximum of 200 EUR**.
- For Students located between 500 and 999 km away: Reimbursement will be up to a **maximum of 300 EUR**.
- For Students located more than 1000 km away: Reimbursement will be up to a **maximum of 400 EUR**.

Travel expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of valid travel receipts. If the travel expenses are less than the specified amount, **the Student will be reimbursed for the actual amount spent**. If the travel expenses exceed the specified amount, the reimbursement will be capped at the maximum amount as outlined above.

The amounts listed in 4.2 will be reimbursed to Student only for the travel from their place of residence/study to the location of on-site PRO-SLO PhD school implementation, and vice versa, not for other round trips and stops during Student`s travel. Manner of payment will be following the official reimbursement procedure by UNIZG-RGNF, however, reimbursement cannot be provided to Student in advance (before submission of all valid travel receipts). UNIZG-RGNF is responsible for keeping proofs of Student`s trip and reporting to EIT regarding the costs.

The active participation at PRO-SLO PhD school is free of any fees. The school has received funding by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of European Union under the Horizon 2020.



## Termination

Should the Student wish to withdraw from the PhD school after the contract is signed, they must provide written notice to the UNIZG – RGNF (kristina.koret@rgn.unizg.hr). Student is able to withdraw without consequences from the school only in case of unforeseeable circumstances, such as serious medical emergencies or other force majeure events. Failure to provide the required written notice and supporting documents results in the act of **6.3. of the official Contract for participation in PhD school**. All other termination rules defined **in the contract** will apply.

10

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In Zagreb, October 2024



## 4. ANNEX – Preview of application form

11

PART 1 PERSONAL AND CONTACT DETAILS	
First name of the student:	<i>Please insert your first (and middle) name.</i>
Last name of the student:	<i>Please insert your last name(s).</i>
Gender of the student*:	<i>Please select ONE appropriate option.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> female <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> other <input type="checkbox"/> prefer not to say
Date of birth:	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
Country of citizenship:	<i>Drop down menu - Select</i>
Address and country of current residence:	<i>Please insert the address of your current residence (country, city, street and street number).</i>
Student's email:	<i>Please insert a valid e-mail address.</i>
Student's phone number:	<i>Please insert a valid phone number with a country number.</i>
IBAN / BIC/SWIFT**:	<i>Please indicate.</i>
How did you learn about the PRO-SLO PhD winter/summer school?	<input type="checkbox"/> social networks <input type="checkbox"/> programme website <input type="checkbox"/> from a friend / other person <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify): _____

\* Commission's activities on gender equality in Horizon Europe will be fully respected in the selection procedure.

\*\* The student must be the account holder or must have a valid legal authorization to use a bank account of a different account holder (in that case the evidence of that right must be submitted to the UNIZG-RGNF before payment).

The IBAN structure must comply with the one described at <https://www.iban.com/structure>.

PART 2 APPLICANT'S STUDY DETAILS AND ELIGIBILITY	
The name and address of the university where the student is currently enrolled:	<i>Please insert the full name of the university and its official address (country, city, street and street number).</i>
The name of the (PhD's) study programme currently attended by the student / year of study:	<i>Please insert the name of the study programme and the current year of study (e.g. PhD's study programme in Mining Engineering / 2<sup>nd</sup> year).</i>
The year of the first enrolment in the PhD's study programme:	<i>Please insert the year you enrolled in the PhD's study programme (for the first time).</i>



<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that one of eligibility criteria to participate in the programme is that the applicant is enrolled in a PhD study programme and has not graduated before completing this PhD course. Therefore, I confirm I am not a Bachelor or Master student. I understand I am obliged to inform PRO SLO team (UNIZG-RGNF) in case I graduate before starting or completing the course, in which case I lose the right to participation. <i>Obligatory to click</i>	
Academic awards and certificates received <i>Non-obligatory field</i>	<i>Please insert the name and date of the academic award received, if any.</i>
Articles/publications <i>Non-obligatory field</i>	<i>Please insert the full title of the publication (with a link to access the publication and/or DOI)</i>

PART 3 COURSE RELATED SKILLS, INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES	
English language proficiency (no certificate needed)	<i>Please select ONE level of your English language proficiency</i> <input type="checkbox"/> B2 (the minimum required) <input type="checkbox"/> C1 <input type="checkbox"/> C2
Motivation video (duration 1 minute) – send the video to info@proslo.eu	<i>In this short motivation video please explain (obligatory):</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. your educational background, where you currently study (university/city) and the topic of your PhD</li> <li>2. the main reason you are applying for this school</li> <li>3. what are your expected learning outcomes and how will you apply them</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attachments</b></p> <p><i>Please provide the following attachments to the corresponding fields (name the files accordingly):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Scan of an official confirmation of your enrolment in the PhD study programme*</i></li> <li>• <i>CV in any form*</i></li> <li>• <i>Scan of your passport and visa (non-EU citizens) or ID (EU citizens)*</i></li> </ul>	