

# MIN GUIDE - Policy Lab

Riikka.Aaltonen@tem.fi



Ministry of Economic Affairs  
and Employment of Finland



# WHY?

- **National minerals strategy was published 2010**
- **The continuing “mining boom” was a hot topic in the media**
- **Increasing international interest in exploration**
- **Several large new mines opened during previous years**
- **Promotion of new mine projects in the media**
  
- **“there will be mines everywhere”**
- **Several incidents in a major new mine during the ramp up**
- **The public and NGOs started to criticize the mining boom, exploration and mining business**
  
- **The Minister of Economic Affairs felt that the country needed a serious discussion on the issue**



# Major building blocks

- **Actions needed to improve the image and trust to the mining sector**
  - **Actions agreed on together with a large working group with participants from all sectors of the society**
  - **Solid, concrete actions with responsible parties pointed out, and not only the government**
- 
- **1) broad concensus on the content of the action plan**
  - **2) good commitment to the implementation on political level as well as from industry, academia and key NGOs**
  - **3) voluntary actions, beyond the legal framework**

# Designing the policy



- **Initiating organisation: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment**
- **Together with: Ministry of Environment, NGOs, academia, the industry, indigenous peoples, other industry sectors**
- **The grounds for the success was the participation and commitment of all relevant instances**
- **A major challenge: individual cases where infected conflicts with other livelihoods**
- **The key to success: every one participated with open cards and knew the goal that was set together – mining is accepted in Finland but with conditions**

# Implementation



- **Responsible parties concerning different actions were clearly stated in the paper, and agreed on – they owned the actions**
- **Steering group with power prioritised the implementation of the actions and followed up the implementation so things really moved on**
- **communication to all parties on the development**
- **Key to success – the momentum, strong will from all parties to make progress**

# Success and challenge



- **The network of sustainable mining**
- **Impartial instance with financial and human resources to be used to get all conflicting parties to start discussing with each other**
- **Agreement on content to voluntary reporting**
- **Agreement on the way of working in the group**
- **Agreement on the "good manners"**
  
- **The Sámi parliament and the tourism industry have either jumped off or been passive**
  
- **Keep on trying ...**

# Next steps



- **The easy actions have been completed**
- **Background information collected to some bigger issues, as research and education - research strategy**
- **The implementation or development of that is a matter for Ministry of Education**
  
- **The development of administrative burden, permitting is a complex issue, but shall be done during this government period – concerns not only mining!**
  
- **A new action plan is probably needed soon, since the society is changing rapidly and the challenges that the primary raw materials industry meets also change, and new stakeholder groups develop – and some old ones also would like to join in!**

A faint, light blue watermark of a lion's head is centered in the background. The lion is facing left, wearing a crown with three circular jewels. The watermark is semi-transparent and serves as a background element for the text.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**