

Management of Environmental Risks During and After mine closure



PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
 Research Fund for Coal &
 Steel (RFCS)
 Sub-Programme:
 Coal Research
 Funding Scheme:
 Research Project
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 UE-15-RFCR-CT-2015-00004
 Project Duration:
 48 Months (from 2015-12-15
 to 2019-12-14)
 Total Project Value:
 € 3.793.767
 EU Grant-Aid:
 € 2.276.259
 Funding to UniOvi:
 € 421.670

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The objective of the project is to design and provide technical guidance on the implementation of necessary investigations that should be undertaken in order to develop a mine closure plan. The aim is to minimise the environmental risks during mine closure and the post-closure periods in accordance with the general principle that the mine must take responsibility and minimize all risks that can be foreseen. In practical terms, MERIDA will provide a planning tool that allows the design of a logical, step-wise approach to mine closure that can be progressively refined during the post-closure period and allows to address all relevant environmental risks.

The objectives of MERIDA are:

1. to provide specific guidance on the issues that need to be considered when assessing the environmental impacts from coal mines at closure and post-closure stages, accounting for different operational (underground coal mining scenarios), geological and environmental settings found across Europe.
2. to identify the physical and chemical processes that affect environmental risks during mine closure and post-closure and establish monitoring and modelling methods that should be implemented in order to make reliable environmental impact predictions.
3. to establish an integrated risk assessment methodology considering the uncertainty inherent in the data collection and the limitations and assumptions inherent in environmental impact prediction tools.
4. to provide a practical methodology (written up as a technical guidance) that can be used for the evaluation of risk remediation measures in terms of their performance in risk reduction, practical implementation and cost.
5. to illustrate the benefits of implementing the project results at the partner coal mines and communicate the findings to the coal mining community across Europe.

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