

**Save the date**

**Workshop**

**Traceability of gold**

***May 2 and 3, 2023***

***Palais de Rumine, University of Lausanne***

## **Context**

The energy transition goes hand in hand with a growing demand for metals, leading to a depletion of deposits, which are becoming increasingly difficult and therefore expensive to exploit. In order to cope with this growing demand and pressure, which is leading to soaring prices, a strong increase in metal production is to be expected. Illegal mining in particular is booming, as it offers economic opportunities to precarious populations. However, this type of mining is also the least likely to comply with social and environmental standards, for reasons of cost and complexity, especially as the mining countries often face problems of governance and a lack of means to enforce them.

The traceability of raw materials and transparency in the supply chain are therefore major issues, which will become even more important in the years to come, both for the extraction countries and for the countries where the processing industries are located. In the former, it is essential that states be able to control the conditions of production so that operators can access a legal supply chain. In the latter case, it is a question of guarding against reputational risks. Public opinion is increasingly aware of the social and environmental impacts of mining, and there is a strong demand for guarantees regarding the origin of metals and the sustainability of their production.

## **Objectives**

The aim of the proposed international workshop is to contribute to the technical, economic, social, institutional and political reflection on the traceability of metals, and more particularly that of **gold**. Bringing together scientists from different disciplines and stakeholders in the gold value chain in Switzerland and abroad - industrialists, representatives of the political world, civil society and international institutions - it will allow the presentation and discussion of the various technical and institutional options available. The exchanges will be structured around the following 4 questions.

Session 1, Tuesday, May 2, morning

**Traceability and anti-counterfeiting tools**

What do we mean by traceability and authentication? What are the existing tools? What needs do they meet? How are they implemented?

With presentations from developers of traceability tools.

Session 2, Tuesday, May 2, afternoon

**Challenges of gold traceability - the point of view of mining countries**

What does gold traceability bring to the various stakeholders in producing countries? What are the technical, institutional and political obstacles to its implementation?

With presentations by speakers from governments, mining representatives, NGOs, and universities from Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ivory Coast and DRC and a local refinery from Colombia.

Session 3, Wednesday, May 3, morning

**Challenges of gold traceability - the Swiss point of view**

What does gold traceability bring to the various stakeholders in Switzerland? What are the expectations towards traceability tools? What are the technical, institutional and political obstacles to its implementation? Who pays for the cost of traceability?

The participants will be subdivided in workgroups who will afterwards share the outputs explored in a plenary session.

Session 4, Wednesday, May 3, afternoon

**Institutionalization of traceability tools, in general, in Switzerland and in producing countries**

What to do with traceability tools? Should they be institutionalized? What are the traceability issues specific to the ASM and LSM context?

Organized as panel discussion.

**Target audience**

This workshop is for anyone interested in transparency in the gold supply chain, especially through traceability tools. It is aimed at specialists as well as at people without specific knowledge. Students of University of Lausanne are encouraged to attend.

**Registration and information**

Registration fees: CHF 30.-/day for coffee breaks and aperitif dinner (free for UNIL students)

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