

PRO-SLO PhD School 2026 edition

within the 23014 - PRO-SLO PhD Winter/Summer School Project

CALL FOR APPLICATION OF STUDENTS

Open from 04/11/2025 to 15/12/2025



Coordinating partner opening the Call:

School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)

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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 (RM) 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.

The PhD 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 RM 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 2nd PRO-SLO PhD school are eight high education institutions experienced in the delivery of EIT educational programs: **AGH University of Science and Technology (AGH)**, **Luleå University of Technology (LTU)**, **Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL)**, **National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)**, **Technische Universität Graz (TUG)**, **Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (TUBAF)**, **Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (UPM)** and **University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF)**.

A mining company (**HELLAS GOLD S.A.**) will point out the real challenges and provide case studies, and one RTO organisation (**Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, MEERI**) will provide project-related knowledge and solutions for the sustainable development.

2. PRO-SLO school programme

2.1. Purpose of the Call - Requirements for application

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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 2026 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 criteria** for becoming a school participant
- Be committed to successfully complete the full school programme within the year 2026 (BOTH online and onsite components)

The call for participation in the 2026 school edition will be open from 04/11/2025 to 15/12/2025.

2.2. Organization and structure

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

- 1) **Online Part A:** Scheduled from the 9th to 13th February 2026
- 2) **Online Part B:** From 23rd of February to the 27th of March 2026
- 3) **On-site part:** Scheduled from the 19th to 24th of April 2026 (allow 1 more day for traveling)

Elaboration on the School structure:

- 1) During the implementation of the Online Part A, students will learn about the basic SLO principles through short courses divided in different thematic areas. Courses should take about 3-5 hours per each day. Part A of the PhD 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 an online platform in which students can have an authorised access.

2) In Part B, for a duration of approximately 5 weeks, online mentorship meetings will take place between lecturers/mentors and students. **Students will work in teams on specific tasks/projects and prepare their presentations to be given on the 26th of March.** Online mentorship meetings will be conducted on a weekly to bi-weekly basis.

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3) The onsite part of the PRO-SLO PhD school will be implemented in Kassandra Mines, Chalkidiki, at the premises of Hellas Gold SA. Hellas Gold, the mine owner, will provide students with practical knowledge and support in dealing with the real SLO challenges in the Raw Materials industry. Students will 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. Industry mentors will also provide guidance. The onsite part will help the students to fully develop their SLO skills considering the knowledge and the skills received in Part A and Part B.

The PRO-SLO PhD school will **be beginner level**, meaning no previous knowledge and experience on the topic of SLO is needed. No **participation fees are foreseen for any part of the school.**

Learning hours and preparation workload:

- 1) Online Part A (i.e. Lectures and preparatory work): **40 hours in total**
- 2) Online Part B (i.e. Mentoring and team work): **40 hours in total**
- 3) Onsite Part C: **45 learning hours in total**

In total, 125 learning hours will be achieved, and students will gain 5 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 RM industry. The expected outcomes include improved public perception of the RM industry, enhanced industry practices, and contributions to sustainable development.

Learning goals

At the end of PRO-SLO PhD school, the students will know and understand:

- Concept, principles and business case for a SLO in the RM industry, and the risks involved in ignoring the importance of a social license.
- Nature and dynamics of the stakeholder network, the role of social capital, and how to interact with communities to gain and maintain SLO.

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Learning outcomes

At the end of PRO-SLO PhD school, students will be able to:

- Fully understand 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 for the whole life cycle of RM projects
- 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 proof has to be submitted during the application process:

- **Student must be enrolled in a PhD study programme that could include STEM, Engineering, Raw Materials, Social Sciences, Economy and others** (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 (1 min duration)** where:
 1. Student should explain their educational background, where they currently study (university/city) and the topic of their PhD
 2. Main reason for applying
 3. Expected learning outcomes and how will they apply them
- **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)**¹

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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 **in due time**.

The admission procedure is open to all. The selection procedure will reflect our commitment to gender balance and non-discrimination, providing equal opportunities for all. We also value geographic inclusion, that is attracting and supporting students from diverse regional backgrounds.

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 PhD School provides resources and support tailored to the needs of students of all genders, including mentoring, networking opportunities, and professional development.

3.4. Obligations of the Students

- 1) The Student agrees **to fully participate in all components of the PhD school, i.e. Part A, Part B and Part C**, in line with the PRO-SLO programme requirements. This means to attend online sessions, complete all assignments, and being present for the entire duration of the onsite (Part C) component.
- 2) The Student agrees to complete all required assignments, assessments, and activities and **present 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,

¹ DISCLAIMER following General Data Protection Regulation: PRO-SLO project is funded by the European Institute of Innovation & Technology. Personal data provided by the participants 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 Hellenic Republic and at the European Union level while also endeavouring to prevent unjustified handling or misuse. More information about privacy policy on the project's webpage.

medication, and any other medical services, during their entire stay in Greece (onsite component, Part C).

- 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 NTUA-SMME at one month after the school implementation, the latest. Receipts must be issued to the student's name and include place of departure and place of arrival. Please note that travel arrangements should refer exclusively to direct travel from the students' place of residence/study to the location of onsite 2nd PRO-SLO PhD School, and vice versa, not for other round trips during Student's travel.
- 5) The Student will evaluate the experience of participating in all components of the PRO-SLO PhD school 2026 edition. The evaluation will be carried out on a form designed by NTUA-SMME. The evaluation of Part A of the School will be conducted online after the completion of each School Day, whereas for Part B and Part C of the PRO SLO PhD School the deadline for the delivery of the evaluation form is the last day of the School respective component.

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All activities need to be completed by the end of July 2026 the latest.

3.5. Rights of the Students

Travel reimbursement costs and other organisational details

NTUA-SMME in cooperation with the Project Coordinator will arrange and pay for the accommodation and daily meals for the onsite component of the PhD school during the defined dates. Student travel expenses will be reimbursed 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.

More specifically:

- **For Students located within 99 km from the onsite 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 (boarding passes, tickets or toll 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 above will be reimbursed to the Student only for the travel from their place of residence/study to the location of the onsite part of the 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 NTUA-SMME, however, reimbursement cannot be provided to Student in advance (before submission of all valid travel receipts). NTUA-SMME is responsible for keeping proofs of Student's trip and reporting to EIT regarding the costs.

The 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 NTUA-SMME (christod@metal.ntua.gr, katadam@metal.ntua.gr). 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 application of the termination rules defined **in the contract** will apply.

Contact information

Name: Irene Christodoulou, School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, NTUA

Phone number: +30 6973 370233

Email address: christod@metal.ntua.gr

4. ANNEX – Preview of application form

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> ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other ☐ Prefer not to say
Date of birth:	<i>dd/mm/yyyy</i>
Country of citizenship:	<i>Please write about the country of citizenship</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?	☐ Social networks ☐ Programme website ☐ From a friend / other person ☐ 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 NTUA-SMME 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 / 2nd 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>

☐ 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 (NTUA-SMME) in case I graduate before starting or completing the course, in which case I lose the right to participate. <i>Obligatory to check</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> ☐ B2 (the minimum required) ☐ C1 ☐ C2
Attachments <i>Please provide the following attachments to the corresponding fields (name the files accordingly):</i> • Scan of an official confirmation of your enrolment in the PhD study programme* • CV in any form* • Scan of your passport and visa (non-EU citizens) or ID (EU citizens)* • Motivation video* (duration 1 minute)	<i>In the motivation video please explain (obligatory):</i> 1. Your educational background, where you currently study (university/city) and the topic of your PhD 2. Main reason you are applying for this school 3. What are your expected learning outcomes and how will you apply them