

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

DIATI - Mapping of the controversies relative to the opening of new and reopening of old mines in Europe, with a special focus on the Italian case

Funded By	Dipartimento DIATI
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Context of the research activity	Mapping of the controversies relative to the opening of new and reopening of old mines in Europe, with a special focus on the Italian case, by using social sciences methods and especially the method of the cartography of controversies, as it has been developed within the field of Social Studies of Science and Technology.
Objectives	<p>The project consists of combining the new mapping of Italian, and possibly European (to be used in comparative terms) mining sites with a mapping of possible and ongoing socio-technical-environmental controversies relative to these sites. .</p> <p>Such second mapping is based on the method of cartography of controversies as it has been developed within the field of Social Studies of Science and Technology (Venturini and Munk 2012).</p> <p>Specifically, the research consists of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an analysis of the debate developed at Italian national level on the media and social media regarding the re/opening of mines; this analysis should reconstruct any controversy at a Italian national level through a cartography based mainly on data coming from documentary research carried out using digital methods; - a mapping of the probabilities of controversies and actual conflicts for the sites identified by the mapping of mining sites, following the parameters developed by the Finnish GTK, but revised on the basis of parameters specifically related to the cartography of controversies; - an ethnographic study of two cases of communities affected by the re/opening of mining sites, which allows us to reconsider the mapping of the controversies developed in the two previous phases, on the basis of data coming from qualitative field work. <p>Overall, the research should allow a revision and upgrade of the method of the cartography of controversies by integrating quantitative and digital data (usually used) with qualitative data coming from ethnographic fieldwork. Therefore, besides the results of the research specific to the case of the re/opening of Italian mines, the research will also develop a protocol, which can be used in other situations of intervention on the territory, aimed at opening democratic spaces for discussion and collective planning, rather</p>

than prevent or control controversies and conflict. Within this framework, the cartography of controversies can be seen as an integration to approaches to social issues related to socio-environmental interventions such as Social License to Operate in view of Social Acceptability, the Social Impact Assessment and the Social Life Cycle Assessment.

The research will also allow to setup the seeds for a laboratory for the cartography of controversies within the Department of Environment, Land and Infrastructure Engineering.

Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

Knowledge of, and experience with, social sciences' methods, both qualitative, especially ethnography, and quantitative, especially digital methods is a plus, however it is not necessary, as long as the candidate is willing to learn them. A good knowledge of Italian language is a requirement, given the research needs to deal with media and social media where Italian language is used, as well as with communities speaking Italian.