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Connecting matters

Upscaling deep buried geochemical exploration techniques into European business -

## UpDeep project

Final seminar  
Online: <https://ilonait.adobeconnect.com/gtk/>  
26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, 12:00-16:00 EET

This activity has received funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, under the Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation





## UpDeep team




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● UpDeep partner offices  
★ Field sites


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Upscaling deep buried geochemical exploration techniques into European business -


## UpDeep project

**Moderator**

 **Maarit Middleton**  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland





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## Instructions to listeners

- Speaker cameras are turned off to avoid overloading the network
- Your microphones are switched off
- At the end of every presentation 5 minutes has been reserved for asking questions from the speaker
- Ask questions or comment by typing to the Chat window
- The moderator (Maarit Middleton, Vesa Nykänen) will follow the Chat and choose a couple of questions for the speaker to answer
- In the end of the seminar a longer slot of questions and comments is reserved
- Send the remaining questions and comments directly to the speaker and the UpDeep team by email



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## Program

- 12:00 Welcoming words / **Saku Vuori**, GTK
- 12:05-12:15 Introduction to UpDeep project / **Vesa Nykänen**, GTK
- 12:20-12:35 Surface geochemical consulting / **Jens Rönnqvist**, Scandinavian Geopool
- 12:40-12:55 UpDeep Standard reference material bank / **Pertti Sarala**, GTK
- 13:00-13:15 Streamlined surface geochemical sampling protocol / **Jérémie Melleton**, BRGM
- 13:20-13:50 Statistical data analysis of surface geochemical data including case studies from Finland, Greenland and France / **Peter Filzmoser**, Vienna University of Technology



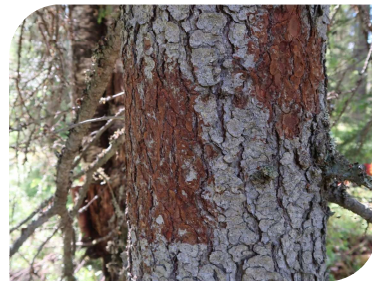
## Program

- 14:30-14:50 GEM - web tool for geochemical data collection, management and analysis / **Maarit Middleton**, GTK
- 14:55-15:15 Surface geochemistry in exploration / **Nick Cook**, Mawson Resources
- 15:20-15:30 UpDeep project from the perspective of the EIT Raw Materials / **Olli Salmi**, Baltic Sea Co-Location Centre
- 15:40-16:00 Questions and closing words, **Vesa Nykänen**, GTK



## Program

- 14:00-14:30 Break



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## Welcoming words



**Saku Vuori**  
Director, Science and Innovations  
GTK  
Espoo, Finland

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## Questions?



**Saku Vuori**  
Director, Science and Innovations  
GTK  
Espoo, Finland  
saku.vuori@gtk.fi

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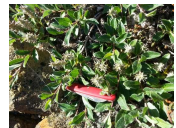
## Need and motivation for UpDeep

- Demand for **geochemical exploration techniques**
  - on poorly exposed terrains
  - sites with thick sediment covers
  - detecting deeply seated mineralisation
- Applicable to **environmentally sensitive regions**
- Reasonable processing times for **land access permitting**
- surface geochemical sampling techniques and analytical applications have been developed and applied in mineral exploration world-wide:
  - **partial leaches of soil horizons**
  - **biogeochemical exploration**



## Background of the UpDeep project

- In Europe, many exploration companies are applying but acceptance varies
- UpDeep feasibility study: breakthrough would require solid scientific evidence and evidence that they would help in discovering a real deposit
- surface geochemical consulting business is global but no dedicated European service provider for data collection and interpretation is available



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## Introduction to UpDeep project



**Vesa Nykänen**  
Research Professor, Geoinformatics  
Information solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland

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## UpDeep project partners and expertise



Exploration, geoscience and geochemistry



LTU BUSINESS AB



Feasibility analysis, marketing, business



Mineral exploration services



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN  
Vienna | Austria

Statistical, compositional data analysis



Data management and software



## Goals of the UpDeep project

- Create surface geochemical exploration consulting service business to Europe aiming at deep exploration
- Promote the geochemical deep exploration concept using selective and weak leaches of soil horizons and plant tissue
- Facilitate the use of surface geochemistry in exploration companies
- Provide geochemical methods for green field exploration
- Facilitate ore discoveries at depth



### Outcomes

Surface geochemical consulting service

Streamlined sampling and sample preparation protocols

Protocol for standard reference material bank

UpDeep Web Tool for exploration data management and analysis

UpDeep Online Statistics Tool

## UpDeep project facts

UpDeep	
Type of project	Upscaling
Thematic area	Exploration and raw materials resources assessment
Lead organisation's name:	Geological Survey of Finland
Coordinator's name:	Vesa Nykänen
Contact email:	vesa.nykanen@gtk.fi
Project duration:	1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2017 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2020
Project budget:	2 milj. €



## Dissemination and exploitation

- 2 research articles published, 4 submitted
- 14 presentations in conferences
- Training and marketing materials for courses and workshops
  - Short course at FEM 2019, Levi, Finland
  - Booth and short course at PDAC2020, Toronto, Canada
- Ph.D. candidate Dominika Miksova  
Vienna University of Technology  
“Combining absolute and relative information in compositional surface geochemical data analysis for mineral exploration”





## Knowledge transfer and international co-operation

- Education of young applied geochemists and data analysts within the UpDeep team

David Heberlein, Heberlein Geoconsulting



Clemens Reimann, NGU



Colin Dunn, Colin Dunn consulting



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## Questions?



Vesa Nykänen  
Research Professor, Geoinformatics  
Information solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
vesa.nykanen@gtk.fi

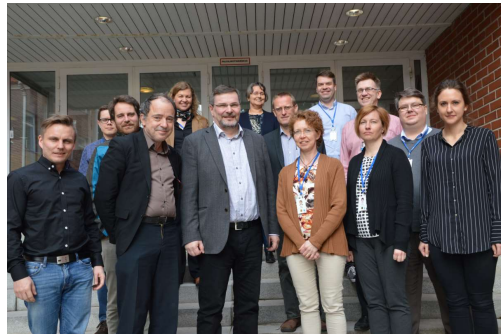
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## UpDeep team

- Business
  - Jens Rönnqvist,  
jens.ronnvist@geopool.com
- Project management
  - Vesa Nykänen,  
vesa.nykanen@gtk.fi
- Science
  - Maarit Middleton,  
maarit.middleton@gtk.fi

<http://projects.gtk.fi/updeep>



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## Surface geochemical consulting

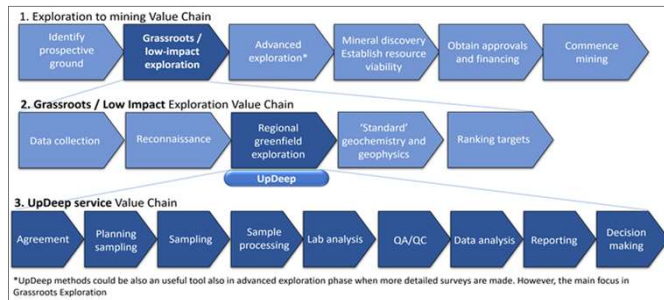


Jens Rönnqvist  
Business development manager, geologist  
Ab Scandinavian GeoPool Ltd  
Kokkola, Finland

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## Value chain



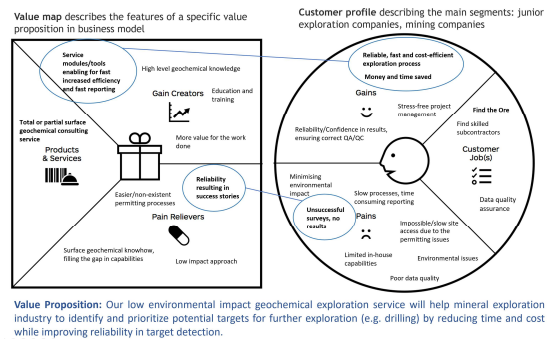
## Low impact

- No heavy machinery is required
- Social license
  - It is much easier to start a project with very low impact methods
- Traceability of projects in good standing
  - Something that will become more important in future
  - Can increase the value of the mineral resource
- Permitting is easier than for most other methods



## Value proposition

- Low impact
- Reliability
- Cost efficiency
- Quick process



## Reliability

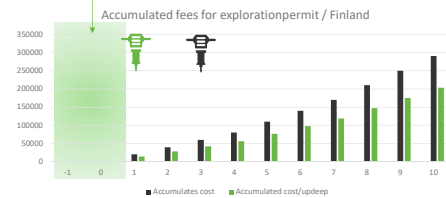
- Well developed QA/QC protocol
- Surface geochemical standard reference sample bank.
- A new layer of information that is not available in most projects. There is a large scope to improve interpretation when combining to other data sources.
- Increasing the confidence in prioritization and identifying drilling targets.
- Enhancing success in exploration and decreases expert drill sites can be carefully selected.
- Documentation
- Sophisticated statistical analysis
- Online statistical tool



## Cost efficiency / quick process

- Sampling method is fairly quick.
- Surveys can be done before exploration permit (in some jurisdictions)
- Optimized sampling grid reduces costs
- Overall costs are lower than many geophysical surveys
- Digital data flow from sampling design to field data collection and data analysis. → Minimum time spent on data management

Example:  
The exploration permit was reduced with 30% due to use of UpDeep methods



## GeoPool perspective

- Work flow
  - Planning
  - Sampling
  - QAQC
  - Interpretation
- Network:
  - Other experts, geochemist, statistician, laboratories, exploration companies, research institutes

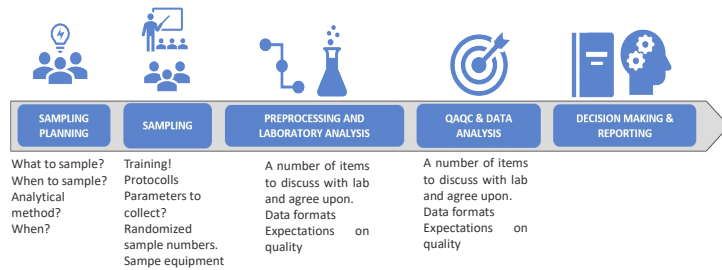


Webtool  
Reports  
Case studies



## Service

- Full package or individual parts



## Things to think of if you would like to conduct a surface geochemical survey

- Start planning in beginning of year
- Be aware of the QAQC protocol, it has an impact on the budget
- Communicate with the laboratory
- Sampling in early summer for plant tissue
- Train the field crew
- Weather can have impact on soil sampling (heavy rain)
- Expect results in the end of summer
- Use the knowledge available from the UpDeep project
- Contact: jens.ronnqvist@geopool.fi





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## Questions?



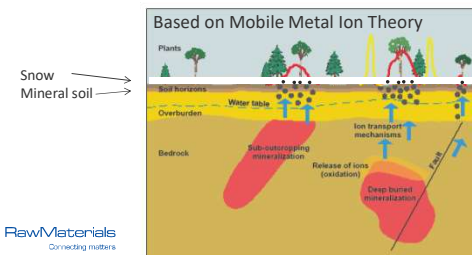
Jens Rönnqvist  
 Business development manager, geologist  
 Ab Scandinavian GeoPool Ltd  
 Kokkola, Finland  
[jens.ronnqvist@geopool.fi](mailto:jens.ronnqvist@geopool.fi)

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## Surface geochemical exploration methods

- Surface geochemical methods:
  - Direct geochemical signal from subcropping or buried mineralization in the bedrock through the transported cover
  - Environment-friendly, low impact sampling methods
  - Easy and quick sampling
  - Wide range of commercial analytical methods for different sample materials with relative low cost



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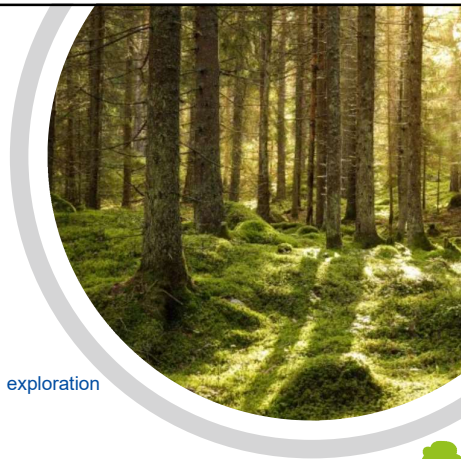
## UpDeep Standard reference material bank

for the top soil and plant geochemistry  
 in mineral exploration



Pertti Sarala  
 Research Professor, Geochemical exploration  
 Mineral Economy Solutions, GTK  
 Rovaniemi, Finland

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## Background

- Soil weak leach and biogeochemical SRMs specific to European environments are not available
- CRMs are very expensive and the availability of the elements is very limited => Need for creating European SRM sample bank for surface geochemistry
- SRMs are a cost efficient way of monitoring laboratory accuracy especially in small projects
- The UpDeep reference sample materials include both mineral soil and biogeochemical materials for the purpose of mineral exploration in the glaciated terrain
- An idea is to demonstrate:
  - Practical sampling procedures
  - Immediate sample pre-processing
  - Analytical test procedure for producing surface geochemical SRMs



## Soil sampling

- Sampling was carried out in northern Finland, at the Mäkärä target site (12th-13th June, 2017) in northern Sodankylä
  - Active mineral exploration targets for Au-REE (quartz-hematite vein + deeply weathered bedrock)
  - Sampling on top of known mineralization (glacial till cover 1-3 m)
- Total amount of subsamples was:
  - 64 Ah-horizon samples (total weight of the natural moist samples was c. 8 kg)
  - 164 B-horizon samples + other half to storage (total weight of the natural moist samples was c. 15.5 kg)



## Plant Sampling for the UpDeep SRM bank

- Sampling on two Au prospects in northern Finland (Tiira, Mäkärä)
  - Norway spruce foliage and bark, Scots pine bark, common juniper foliage

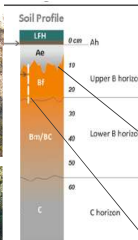
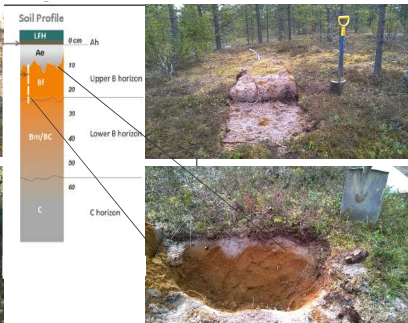


## Soil sampling

Ah horizon sampling

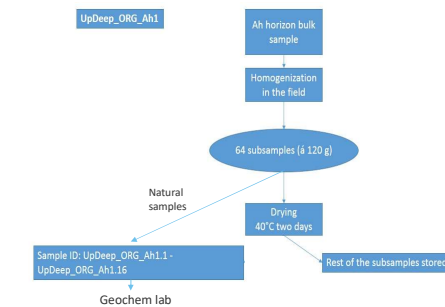


B horizon sampling



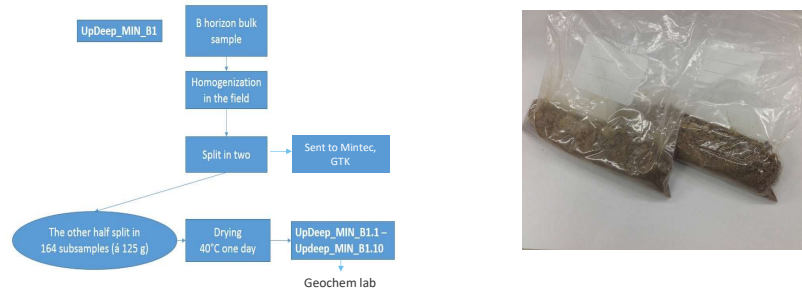
## Sample processing – soils – Ah horizon

- Sample homogenization and packing into ziplock plastic bags in the field



## Sample processing – soils – B-horizon

- Sample homogenization and packing into ziplock plastic bags in the field



## UpDeep SRM bank materials – soil samples for weak leach



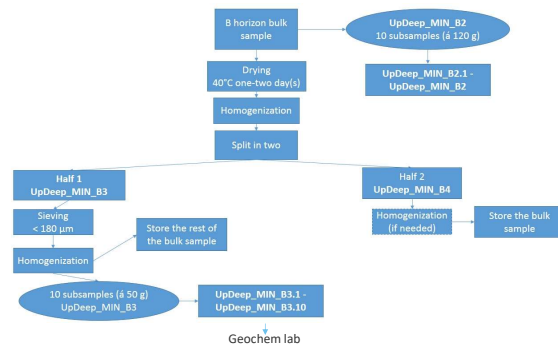
dried, unsieved organic Ah horizon (UpDeep\_ORG\_Ah1) and mineral soil materials (UpDeep\_MIN\_B1)



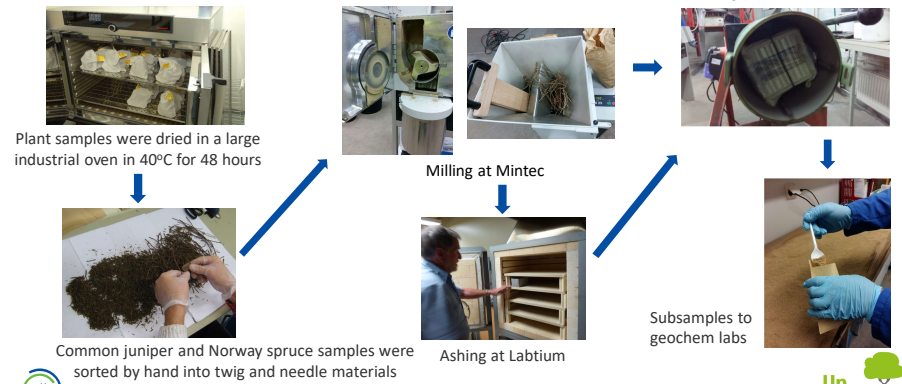
dried, sieved mineral soil materials (UpDeep\_MIN\_B3)

## Sample processing – soils – B-horizon

- Sample pre-processing in the laboratory (Mintec)



## UpDeep biogeochemical SRM bank

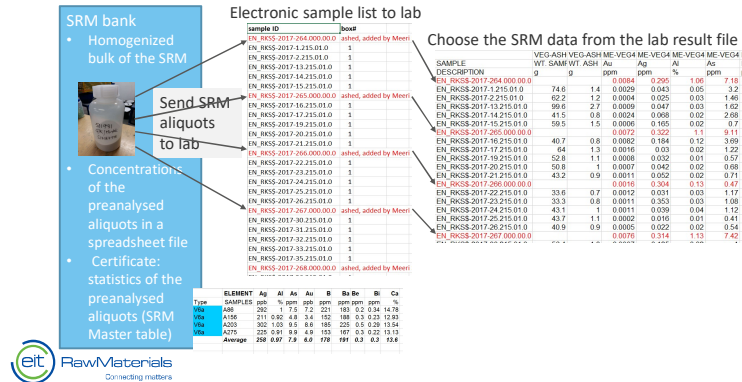






## Purpose of the UpDeep SRM bank

- External monitoring of laboratory accuracy, also laboratory precision and trends



## UpDeep SRM bank offerings

- Samples shipped to customers
  - The current bank is small, but easily updated
  - New sample types added by request
- Expertise to prepare and sample for client specific SRM/PRM sample sets
- Expertise to produce SRM/PRM samples at GTK's Mintec laboratory
  - Drying, homogenization, milling, subsampling
  - Ashing and analysis requests to external laboratories and storage

Contacts:



jens.ronnqvist@geopool.fi



maarit.middleton@gtk.fi



## Purpose of the UpDeep SRM bank

### SRM data from the lab result file

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION	WT	SAMP	WT	ASH	Ag	As	Bi	Ba	Bi	Cu
EN_RKSS-2017-204.000.00.0	0	0	ppm	ppm	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
EN_RKSS-2017-205.000.00.0			0.0072	0.322	1.1	9.11	237	196.5		
EN_RKSS-2017-206.000.00.0			0.0016	0.304	0.13	0.47	290	341		
EN_RKSS-2017-207.000.00.0			0.0070	0.314	1.13	7.42	240	202		
EN_RKSS-2017-208.000.00.0			0.0045	0.291	0.13	0.46	296	335		
EN_RKSS-2017-209.000.00.0			0.0064	0.287	1.06	6.37	217	213		

### Concentrations of the preanalysed aliquots from the SRM bank

ELEMENT	Ag	As	Au	B	Ba	Bi	Cu
Type	SAMPLES	ppm	% ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	% ppm
Min	A88	202	1.75	7.2	221	183	0.5 0.34 14.78
Max	A156	211	0.82	4.8	152	183	0.5 0.27 13.94
Average	A203	202	1.03	6.5	185	225	0.5 0.29 13.54
Min	A279	225	0.91	4.9	153	187	0.5 0.22 13.15
Average	A258	258	0.97	7.8	178	199	0.5 0.3 13.8

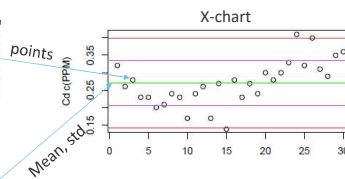


Table of

- SRM\_Mean(PPM)
- SRM\_SD(PPM)
- SRM\_RSD%
- ProjMean(PPM)
- ProjSD(PPM)
- ProjRSD%
- Bias%
- Precisions % 10 and 20%



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## Questions?



**Pertti Sarala**  
Research Professor, Geochemical exploration  
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## Streamlined surface geochemical sampling protocol



Jérémie Melleton  
Economic geologist  
France Geological Survey, BRGM  
Orléans, France

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## What to sample and where, how?

### • All information about:

- Targets (geology, geography, geophysics, former prospects, etc...)
- Anthropogenic activities (land uses, industrial activities, old aerial photographs, national database....)
- Ownerships



Geological map

Corine Land cover

Ownership

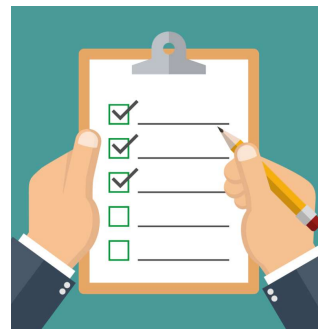
Aerial photographs

Example of available data to plan sampling campaign in the Vendée Sb district, France)



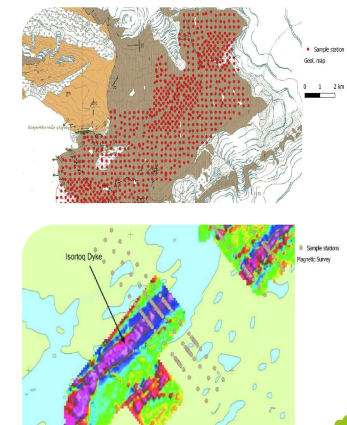
## Objectives

- Optimized sampling and sample preparation procedures
- Checklist for samplers



## What to sample and where, how?

- Random sampling – same distance
  - More regional
  - Broader signal
  - Low resolution
- Targeted sampling, higher density at target
  - Cost and time reducing
  - High resolution
  - Requires some prior knowledge







## Field preparation

### SOIL

- Dry samples as soon as possible
- Measure pH in the soil at the sample station or back in the camp
- Add weak acid/vinegar to the solution and remeasure pH – testing the buffer capacity
- If able, test resistivity for redox clarification
- Soil moisture measurement



On field soil pH analyse, Finland

## On field data acquisition

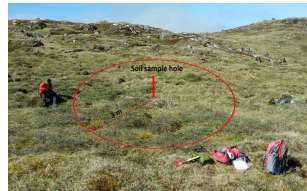
- **Field observations** (environment, possible sources of contamination) and **measurements** can be stored digitally or manually
  - Export the planned list of samples (sample IDs) from the UpDeep Web Tool (.csv)
  - Save data onto variable fields of the 'UpDeep standard log sheet' format (.csv) with any geodata collection software
  - Check that the format of your data is the same to 'UpDeep standard log sheet'
- upload to the UpDeep Web Tool



## QA-QC

### Field duplicate

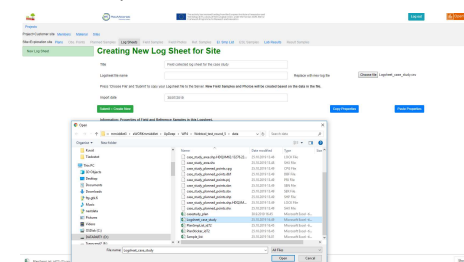
- Testing the combined effect of
  - Real geochemical variation
  - Sampling error
  - Sample preparation error
- 5-10 % of sample stations should be duplicates
- In case of lab duplicate, double the amount of the field duplicate.



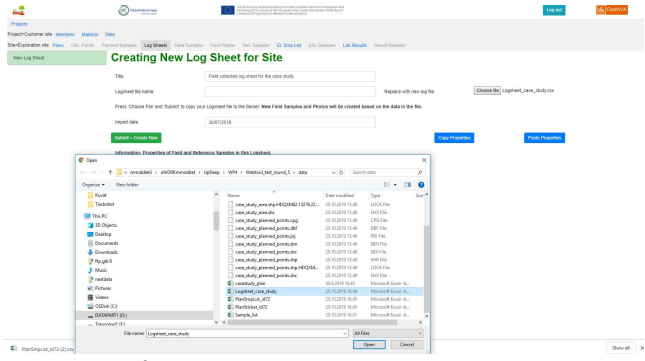
Sample + duplicate,  
Greenland

## On field data acquisition

- **Field observations** (environment, possible sources of contamination) and **measurements** can be stored digitally or manually




## On field data acquisition



→ upload to the UpDeep Web Tool

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## Statistical data analysis of surface geochemical data including case studies from Finland, Greenland and France



Peter Filzmoser, Professor  
Institute of Statistics and Mathematical Methods in Economics  
Vienna University of Technology, TUWien  
Vienna, Austria

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## Questions?



Jérémie Melleton  
Economic geologist  
France Geological Survey, BRGM  
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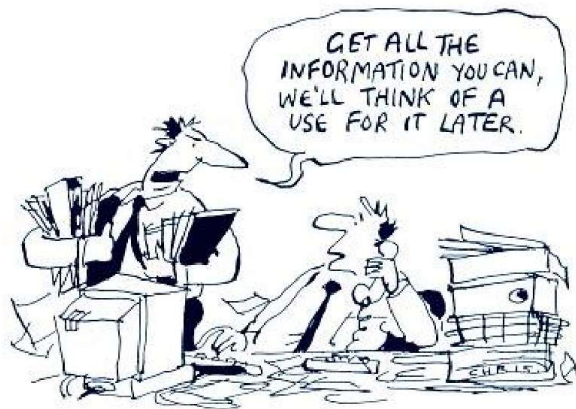
## Outline

- Data collection
- Data quality
- Representing information
- Preprocessing
- Analyzing data
- Conclusions

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## Sampling design

### Practical considerations

- Budget restrictions also limit the number of samples.
- Samples need to be placed on the expected target AND on the background.
- For surface geochemical sampling, it is not clear which sample media to consider! Ideally, the different sample media are present at all sample locations.

## Sampling design

### Geological considerations

- Pre-knowledge on expected target mineralizations available?
- Pre-study in the area? Geochemical data? Geophysics data?
- Orientation of the geological structure → line or grid sampling?

## Sampling design

### Statistical considerations

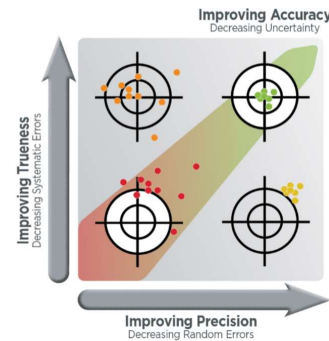
- Ideally, at least 3 samples placed on top of the mineralizations.
- At least 30 samples available – the more, the better.
- Line sampling might be cheaper than grid sampling.
- Line sampling: linear transects need to cross target; if possible use several linear transects (e.g. parallel).
- Geostatistical methods (variogram estimation, kriging) can be useful to place (additional) samples.

## Data quality

**QAQC:** Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Data uncertainty: Accuracy versus Precision

- Accuracy (trueness): systematic errors lead to a bias of the measurements
- Precision (repeatability): how good is the repeatability of the results



## Data quality

Main task: look at the data! (appropriately!)

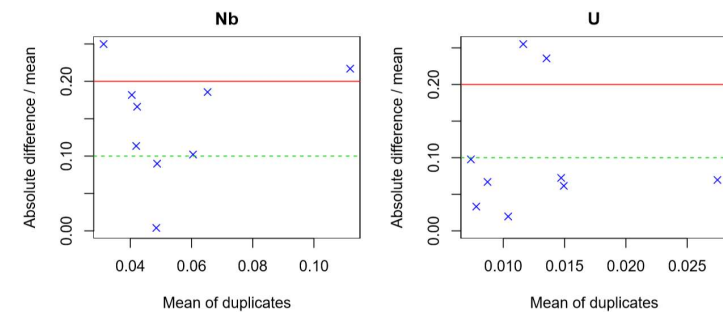
- QAQC 0: **Data overview:** tables with statistical information; plot revealing data distribution
- QAQC 1: **Process quality:** Does the analysis sequence show (temporal) patterns?
- QAQC 2: **Accuracy:** concentration of reference samples versus analysis sequence
- QAQC 3: **Laboratory contamination:** compare routine and blank samples
- QAQC 4: **Field precision:** compare routine samples with field duplicates
- QAQC 5: **Analytical precision:** compare routine samples with laboratory duplicates

## Data quality

- For a QAQC analysis, use
  - Routine samples: samples that are collected to investigate occurrence of mineralization
  - Field duplicates: collected at same sampling sites to monitor uncertainty
  - Laboratory duplicate: monitor laboratory precision
  - Blank samples: monitor laboratory contamination
  - Reference materials: monitor laboratory accuracy, precision and trends

## Data quality

GEUS data: Example for QAQC 5 (Laboratory precision)



## Data preprocessing

**Detection limit (DL) problems:** values below a lower or above an upper DL

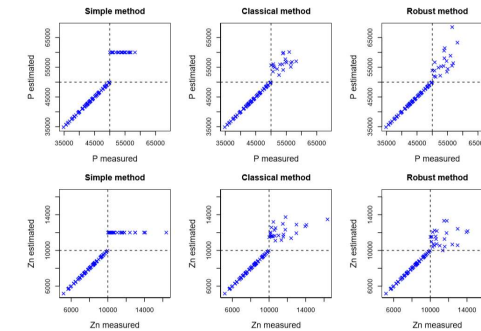
UpDeep: Development of a method for estimating values >DL

*Traditional procedure:* Set value >DL equal to *constant*×DL, e.g. 1.2×DL.

*UpDeep:* Incorporate whole “composition” in a regression framework to estimate values >DL.

## Data preprocessing

- UpDeep: develop method to estimate values above an upper detection limit (DL)  
Regression of censored variable of CoDa transformed remaining elements. Comparison of non-robust least-squares and robust regression.



## Data preprocessing

Geochemical data are **compositional data**!

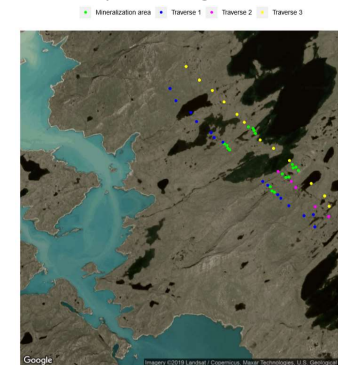
This means that the relevant information is contained in relative rather than in absolute values.

**Absolute information:** element concentrations

**Relative information:** the building blocks for a CoDa (Compositional Data Analysis) are log-ratios of the concentrations of pairs of elements (of the same sample material).

## Correlation analysis

- UpDeep: south of Greenland; 3 parallel transects, length 12 km Soil samples, and samples from *Salix Glauca* and *Empetrum Nigrum*



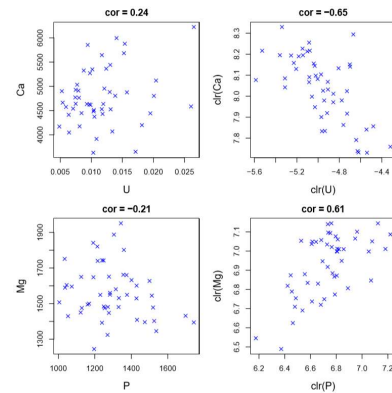
Mineralized area with known deposits of Fe, Ti, V (proxy Sc)



## Correlation analysis

GEUS data: Regular samples of *Empetrum nigrum*

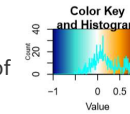
Compare correlations for original data and clr-transformed data:



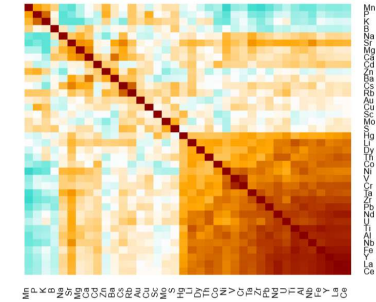
## Correlation analysis

GEUS data: Regular samples of *Empetrum nigrum*

Compare all correlations in correlation heatmap: log-transformed data



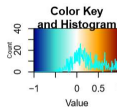
Correlation log-transformed



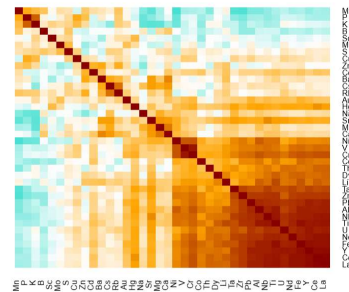
## Correlation analysis

GEUS data: Regular samples of *Empetrum nigrum*

Compare all correlations in correlation heatmap: original data



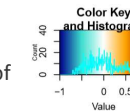
Correlation original



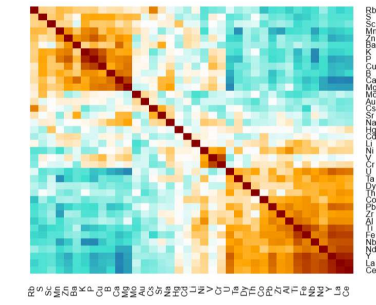
## Correlation analysis

GEUS data: Regular samples of *Empetrum nigrum*

Compare all correlations in correlation heatmap: clr-transformed data

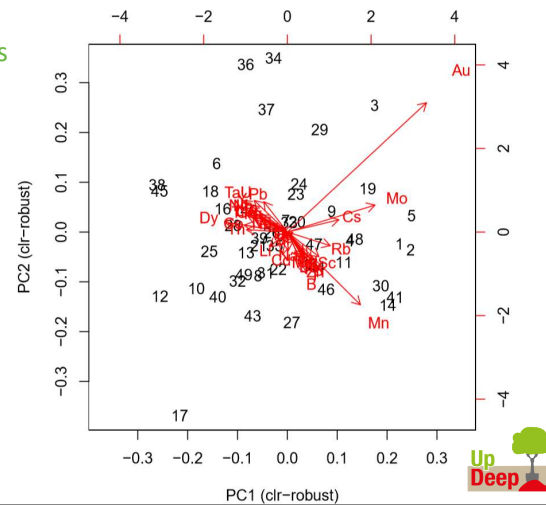


Correlation clr



## Principal component analysis

- **GEUS data:** Robust PCA (clr) of *Empetrum nigrum*



## Identification of mineralization

Development of a statistical method to identify mineralization:

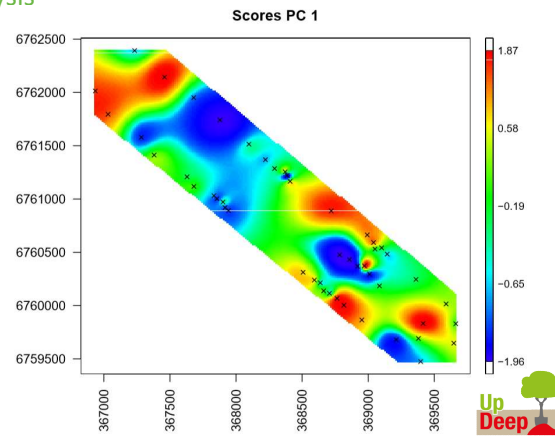
- Univariate case (measurements on a linear transect)
- Bivariate case (measurements on a grid in the plane)

**Idea:** Consider log-ratios of element pairs, e.g.  $\log(\text{As}/\text{V})$ . Why? One of the elements could be “stable”, the other varying at mineralized zones. Log-ratios could help to reduce uncertainties of measurements.

**Interest** is in log-ratios with strong local changes. Develop a method that automatically detects log-ratios with high spatial curvature.

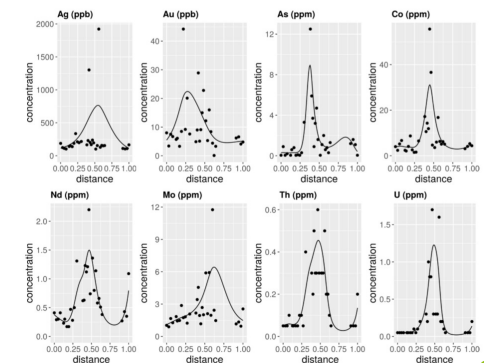
## Principal component analysis

- **GEUS data:** Robust PCA (clr) of *Empetrum nigrum*



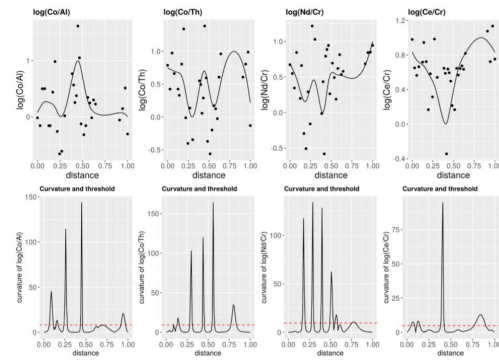
## Identification of mineralization

**Idea:** consider pairwise element log-ratios, but from GAM fits (univariate!)



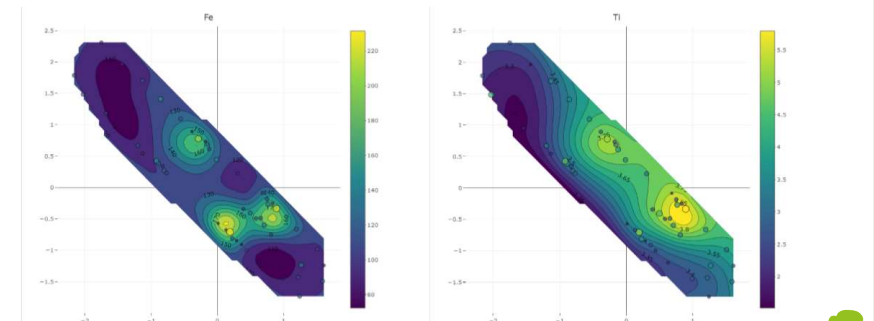
## Identification of mineralization

Based on smooth log-ratios, compute a measure of **curvature**.



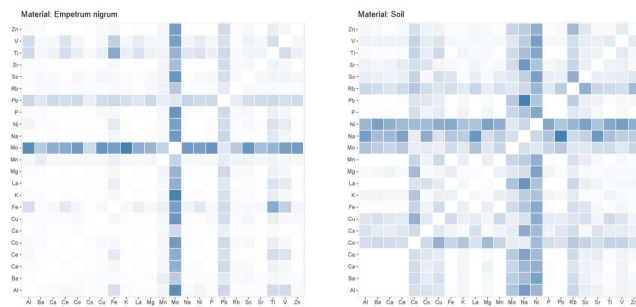
## Identification of mineralization

GEUS data can be treated as 2D grid data: GAM fits for Fe (left) and Ti (right)



## Identification of mineralization

Color intensity corresponds to interestingness of log-ratio pair (GEUS data).



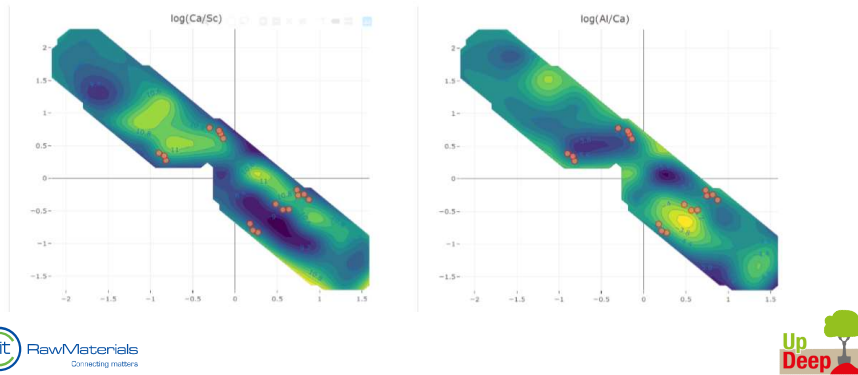
## Identification of mineralization

Table of top-15 ranked log-ratios for each available material for GEUS data

Media	Salix glauca		Empetrum nigrum		Soil	
	log-ratio	c-value	log-ratio	c-value	log-ratio	c-value
1	V/Zn	31	Al/Co	36.75	P/Zn	29.29
2	Co/Zn	29.32	La/Ti	35.35	Cs/P	26.35
3	Al/Ca	29.04	Ce/Sr	33.73	Co/Mo	26.02
4	Cs/Rb	25.89	Ca/Ce	32.74	Fe/Pb	24.10
5	Fe/La	24.27	Ce/Co	32.66	Ca/Na	23.86
6	Ca/Sc	23.93	Ce/K	31.09	Ba/V	23.53
7	Co/V	23.15	Ca/La	29.96	Fe/Rb	22.41
8	Na/Zn	22.49	Al/La	29.9	Fe/Sc	21.77
9	La/Sr	21.96	Ca/Ti	29.78	Fe/Ti	21.55
10	Al/Sc	21.5	Co/La	27.89	Al/Pb	21.46
11	Na/V	21.16	Ce/Na	26.66	Ce/Mg	20.96
12	Ce/Fe	20.74	Al/Sc	26.32	Mg/Pb	20.90
13	Co/Na	19.88	Al/Ca	25.93	Pb/Sc	20.65
14	Ca/K	19.83	Ce/Zn	25.92	Mo/Na	20.60
15	Ba/Mn	19.5	La/Mg	25.42	Sr/Zn	20.46

## Identification of mineralization

Two highly ranked log-ratios (material *Salix glauca*)



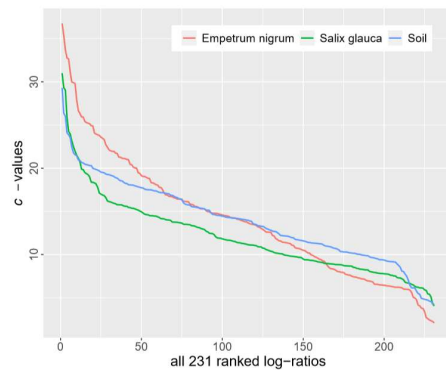
## Conclusions

**UpDeep project:** What we have learned from a statistical point of view:

- Sampling design: rather difficult to guide from a pure statistical viewpoint
- Data collection: needs to be well structured and planned (GEM web tool)
- QAQC: the more we care, the more promising the statistical results
- Data preprocessing: statistics can help to improve data quality (censored data)
- Data analysis: geochemical data are **compositional data**!
- Identify mineralization: the methods based on pairwise log-ratios seem to be promising

## Identification of mineralization

Curvature measure allows to compare sample materials:



## Methodological papers

- D. Mikšová, C. Rieser, and P. Filzmoser (2019). Identification of mineralization in geochemistry along a transect based on the spatial curvature of log-ratios. *arXiv* 1912.02867.
- D. Mikšová, C. Rieser, P. Filzmoser, S.M. Thaarup, and J. Melleton (2020). A method to identify geochemical mineralization on linear transect. *Austrian Journal of Statistics*. To appear.
- D. Mikšová, P. Filzmoser, and M. Middleton (2020). Imputation of values above an upper detection limit in compositional data. *Computers and Geosciences*. To appear.
- D. Mikšová, C. Rieser, P. Filzmoser, M. Middleton, and R. Sutinen (2020). Identification of mineralization in geochemistry for grid sampling using general additive models. Submitted for publication.





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**Questions?**

 **Peter Filzmoser**  
Professor, Head, Computational Statistics  
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UpDeep final online seminar


**30 minute break**

Seminar continues at 14:30 EET (Finland time)

While waiting go and see the UpDeep Online Statistics  
Tool for global surface geochemical data sharing  
<http://gtkdata.gtk.fi/updeep/>

This activity has received funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union, under the Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation



UpDeep final online seminar

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## Program

- 14:30-14:50 GEM - web tool for geochemical data collection, management and analysis / **Maarit Middleton**, GTK
- 14:55-15:15 Surface geochemistry in exploration / **Nick Cook**, Mawson Resources
- 15:20-15:30 UpDeep project from the perspective of the EIT Raw Materials / **Olli Salmi**, Baltic Sea Co-Location Centre
- 15:40-15:50 Questions and closing words, **Vesa Nykänen**, GTK



Upscaling deep buried geochemical exploration techniques into European business -

## UpDeep project

Moderator



**Vesa Nykänen**  
Research Professor, Geoinformatics  
Information solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland

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## GEM web tool for geochemical data collection, management and analysis



**Maarit Middleton**  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland

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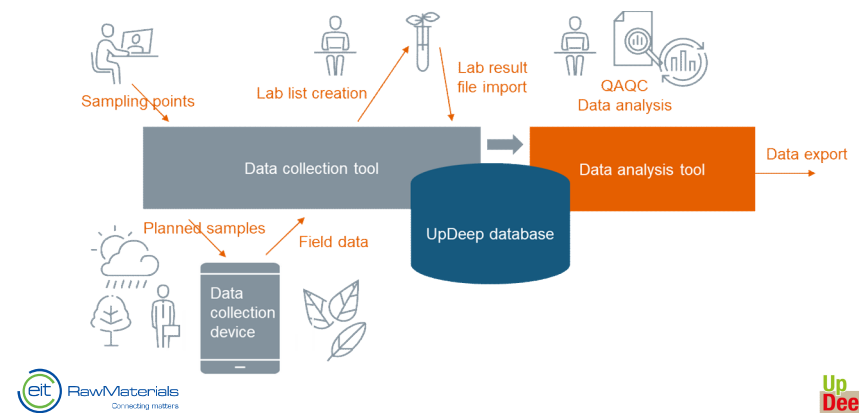


## GEM web tool

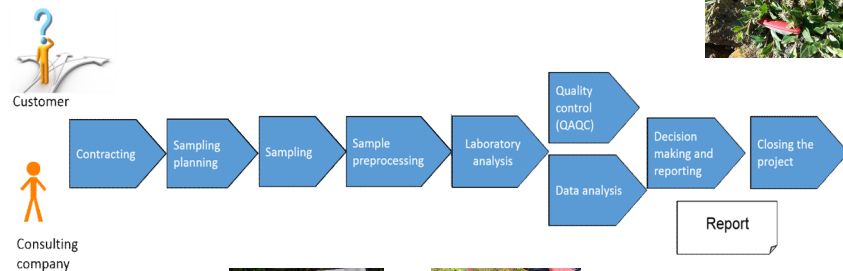
- Made to facilitate communication between an exploration geologist, a geochemical consultant and a field crew
- All information and data in digital format stored in a database
  - No files floating in emails nor on hard drives
  - Progress can be followed by the customer
- GEM web tool is installed on the consultant's server
  - Project members are given personal user names and passwords
- Can be accessed with all common browsers
  - No installations required
- Specific for soils and plants, NOT another GIS software



## System components



## Steps of a surface geochemical survey



## Field data collection

- Field observations and measurements can be stored digitally or manually
- Before field work
  - Export the planned list of samples (sample IDs) from the GEM web tool (.csv)
  - Save data onto variable fields of the 'GEM standard log sheet' format (.csv) with any geodata collection software
- After field work
  - Check that the format of your data is the same to 'GEM standard log sheet'
  - upload to the GEM web tool



## QAQC in the GEM web tool

- provides means for selecting elements relevant for statistical analysis
- A near-complete procedure is available in the UpDeep web tool
 

QAQC0

→

QAQC1

→

QAQC2

→

QAQC3

→

QAQC4

→

QAQC5

Data overview

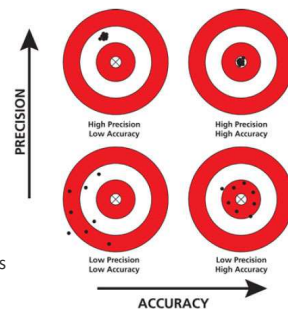
Process quality

Lab accuracy, precision

Lab contamination

Lab precision

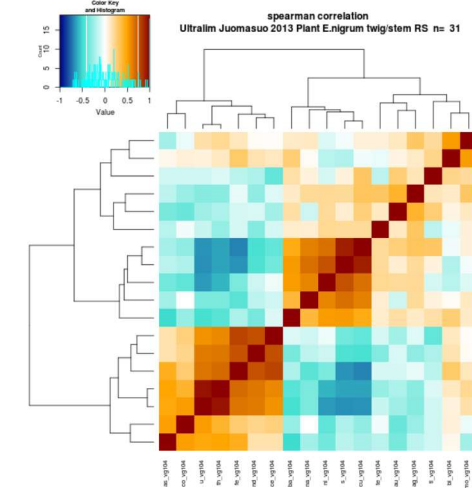
Field precision
- QAQC graphs and measures produced automatically
  - Running the QAQC procedure in the UpDeep Web Tool takes < 30 s
  - Interpretation takes app. 1 hour (64 elements)
  - Interpretation of quality can be stored in the QAQC.csv file and stored in the UpDeep database to keep note for future use



## Purpose of surface geochemical data interpretation at target scale

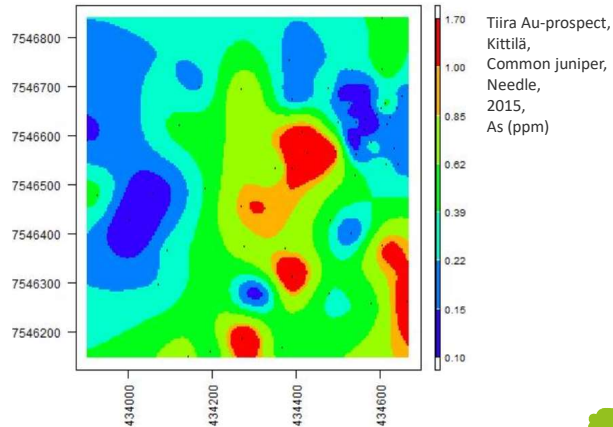
- Find spatial patterns and association of elements vectoring towards a possible underlying mineralization
- recognition of the significant anomalies** from the false or non-significant anomalies
  - avoid false positive targets, i.e. non-significant mineralizations
  - avoid false negative targets i.e. missing significant mineralizations





## Grid plots

- Dot maps and IDW interpolated maps
- Absolute concentrations with percentile stretching
- Log(abs)
- clr
- Response ratios
- Files can be exported as pdfs



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## Questions?

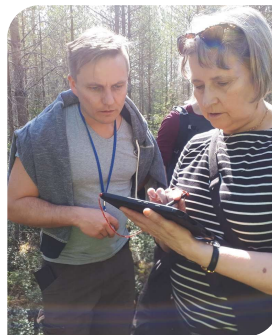


Maarit Middleton  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental solutions, GTK  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
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## Development of GEM web tool

- **Specifications** by Scandinavian GeoPool, GTK, TUWien, VTT
- Coding of the **data collection** part from scratch by VTT
- **Data analysis** part is based on R-codes by Vienna University of Technology and GTK, sitting on OpenVA platform
- Future functionalities
  - Expand the usability of wider range of sampling material
  - Bring in the more advanced multi-variate compositional data analysis techniques
  - Interactivity between maps and diagrams



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## Surface geochemistry in exploration: some thoughts on practical approaches



Nick Cook  
President Exploration  
Mawson resources Ltd.  
Brisbane, Australia

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"Not Europe" ..... !!



Reality for Mawson.....



Reality for Mawson.....



### Goals of the UpDeep project

- Create surface geochemical exploration consulting service business to Europe aiming at deep exploration
- Promote the geochemical deep exploration concept using selective and weak leaches of soil horizons and plant tissue
- Facilitate the use of surface geochemistry in exploration companies
- Provide geochemical methods for green field exploration
- Facilitate ore discoveries at depth

**Goal for Mawson: drill lower risk targets with minimal impact**

#### Outcomes

Surface geochemical consulting service

Streamlined sampling and sample preparation protocols

Protocol for standard reference material bank

UpDeep Web Tool for exploration data management and analysis

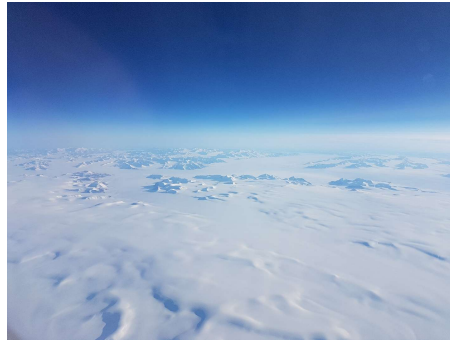
UpDeep Online Statistics Tool



## Some considerations...

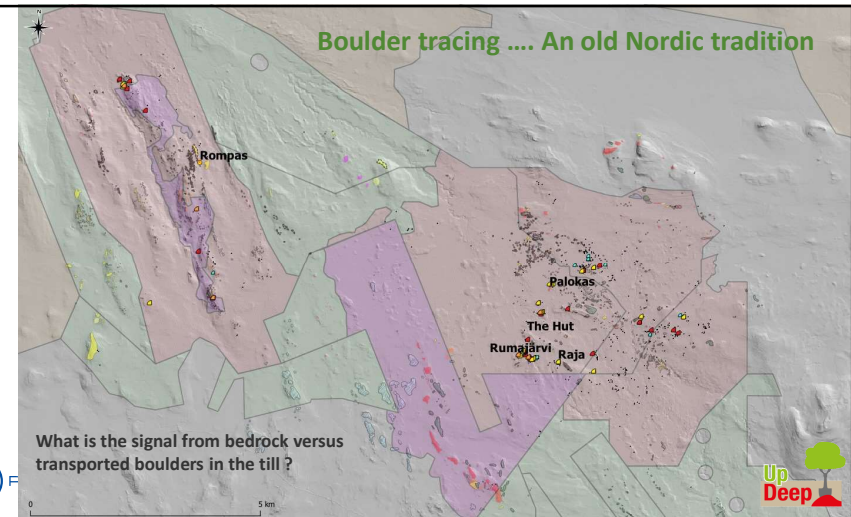


“Weathering” – chemical dispersion



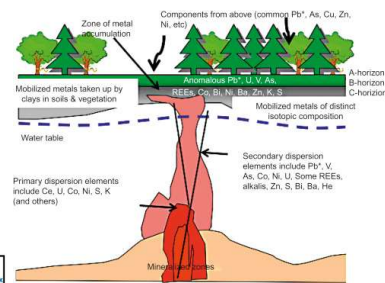
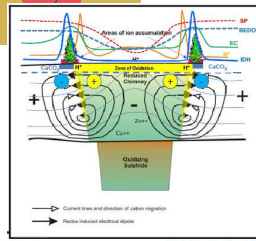
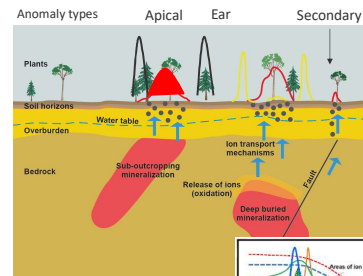
Effect of glaciation - Physical dispersion

## Boulder tracing .... An old Nordic tradition



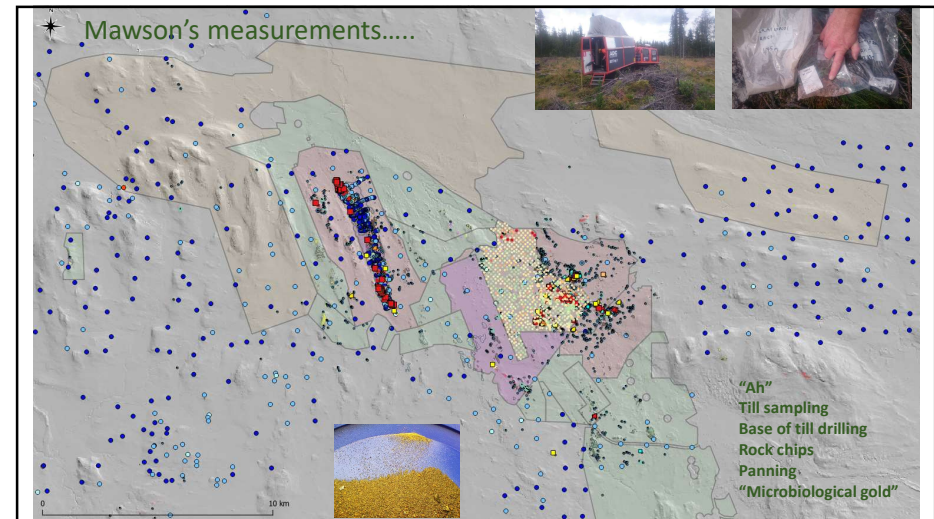
What is the signal from bedrock versus transported boulders in the till ?

## “Standard models” – thanks Pertti !



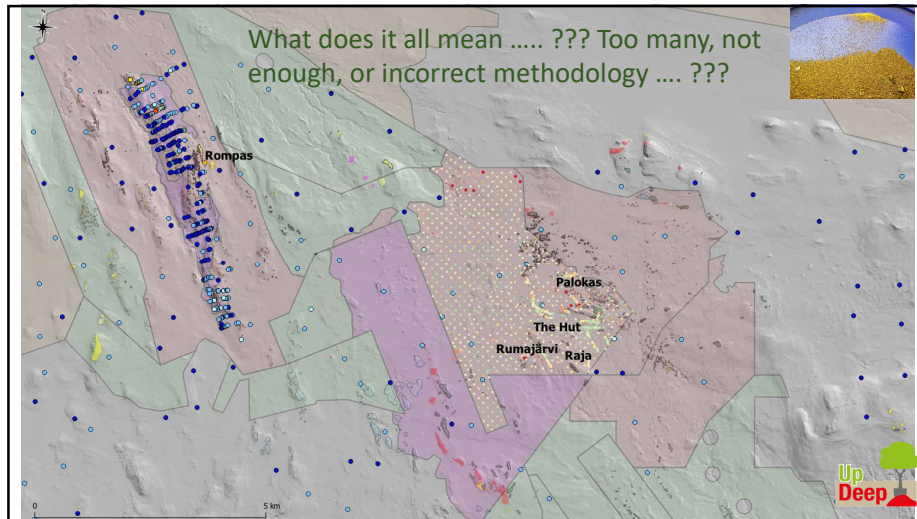
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/engineering/uranium-deposits>

## Mawson's measurements....

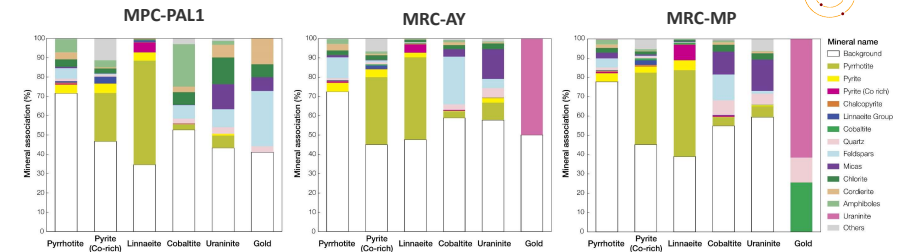


“Ah”  
Till sampling  
Base of till drilling  
Rock chips  
Panning  
“Microbiological gold”





## Mineral associations by ore-type

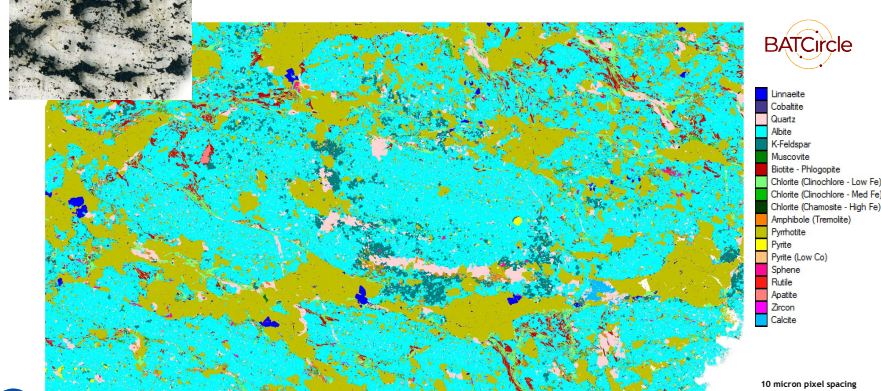


How should we use these data in understanding the “weak geochemical response” ??



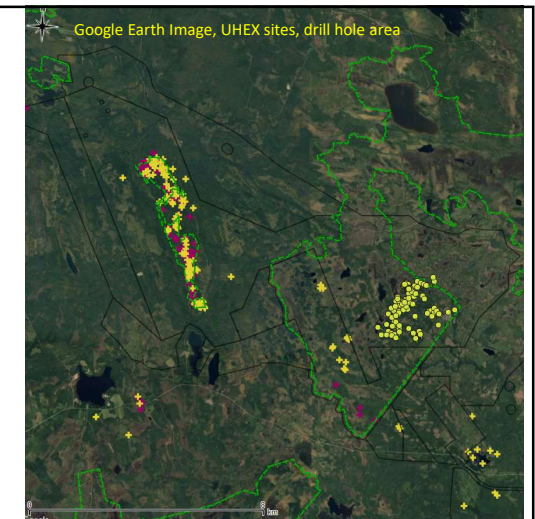
## A step to a rock ..... a mineral map

Optical scan of polished thin section



## A diversion to plants...

Note the location of the UHEX listed plants (in this case orchids that grow on alkaline ground conditions – “+” markers). Planned drill sites for one season as yellow dots

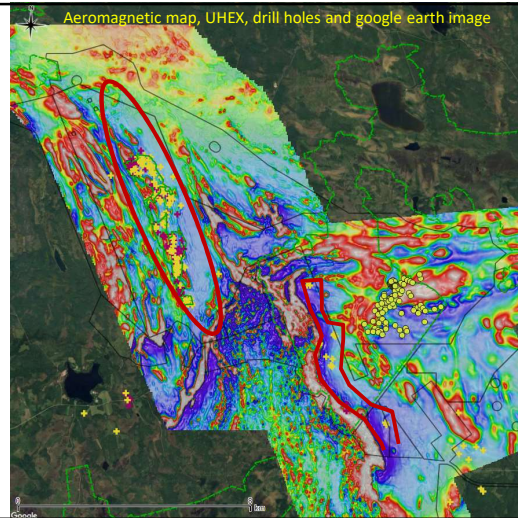


## A diversion to plants...

Airborne magnetic image over google earth.

Note that the lines of UHEX sites closely follow the trends in the magnetic data – this reflects the different rock types and shows where similar rocks may occur.

Note the distribution of orchids in the red outlines – parallel to the magnetic lines evident in the image



## Little bugs and metals ... microbial activity



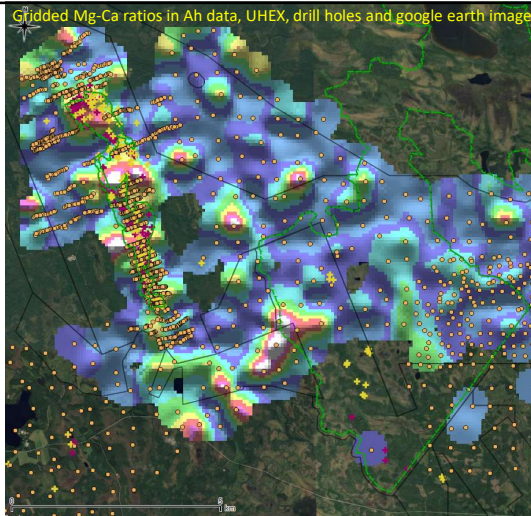
We know this can work  
on a large scale....



## A diversion to plants...

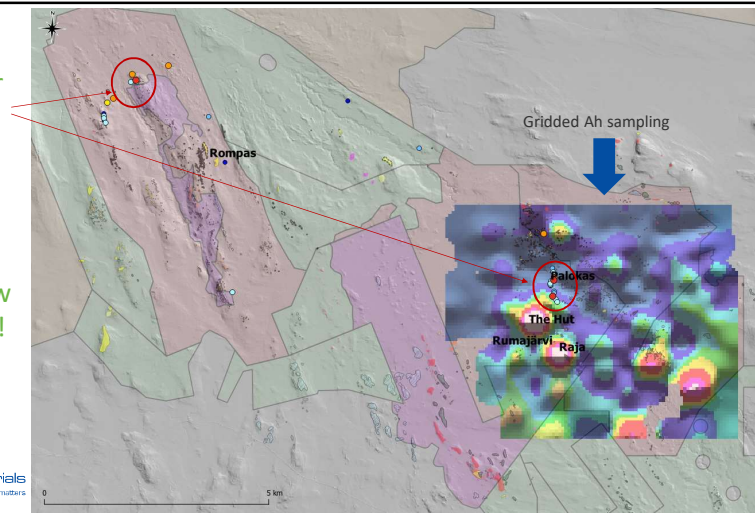
This image shows the distribution of Mg-Ca in near surface samples (Ah). The dots represent the sample sites and yellow-red-white are the highest areas. Note the strong trend at Rompas and the lack of any high values in Kairamaat.

The high Mg-Ca reflects dolomite in the bedrock and produces more alkaline conditions in the mires and soils.



## Microbial sampling for gold....

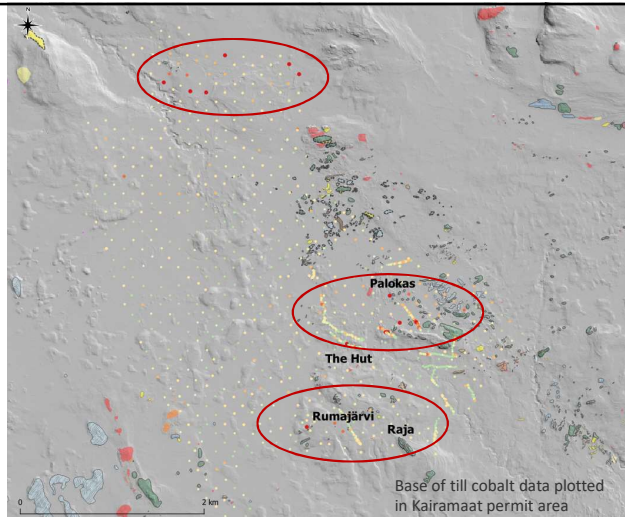
But, we knew  
it was there!





- Reconsider these data from BOT drilling – do physical or chemical processes dominate the signal ?

- How do we normalise the results?

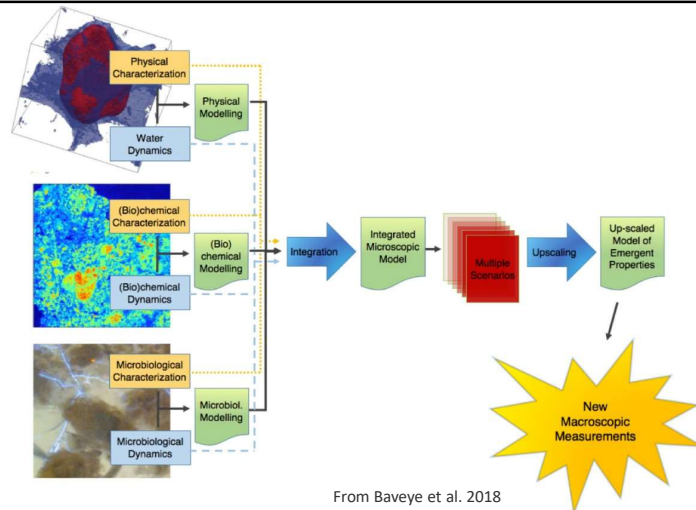


### What do I see as the next key aspects to understanding low level geochemical sampling?

- The most obvious is to continue to increase the signal to noise ratio
  - It is exciting to see UpDeep developing such methods
- More detailed use of rock weathering studies to determine and calibrate release of metals into the water column
- Understanding the localised geochemical and microbial controls in soils and around root structures of “the best trees for sampling”
  - What are the variables in the control of uptake of metals by the roots ?
- An efficient method to normalise anomalies on the basis of:
  - Plant species
  - Local pH
  - Bedrock control
  - Any others ?
- How are we going, and are we getting there ?




Do we have to go to this level NEXT?




Thanks to the UpDeep team, and my best wishes to all




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**Questions?**

 **Nick Cook**  
President Exploration  
Mawson resources Ltd.  
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UpDeep in the context of  
EIT RawMaterials

25 March 2020 | Olli Salmi and Patrick Nadoll


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a body of the European Union




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**UpDeep project from the  
perspective of the EIT Raw  
Materials**

 **Olli Salmi**  
Senior Scientist  
Baltic Sea Co-Location Centre, EIT Raw Materials  
Espoo, Finland

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**KEY FOCUS: LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAMMES**





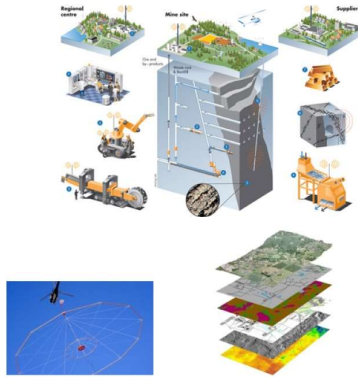
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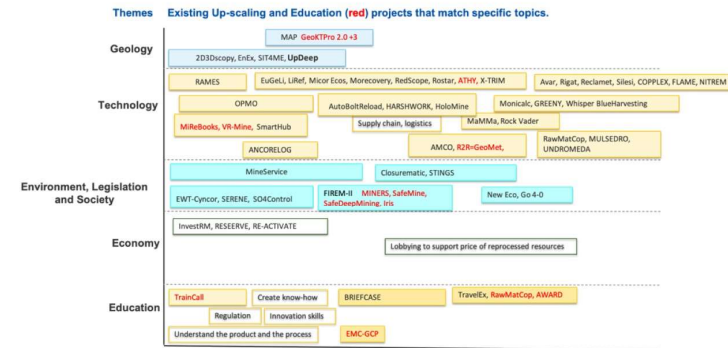


## SUSTAINABLE DISCOVERY AND SUPPLY

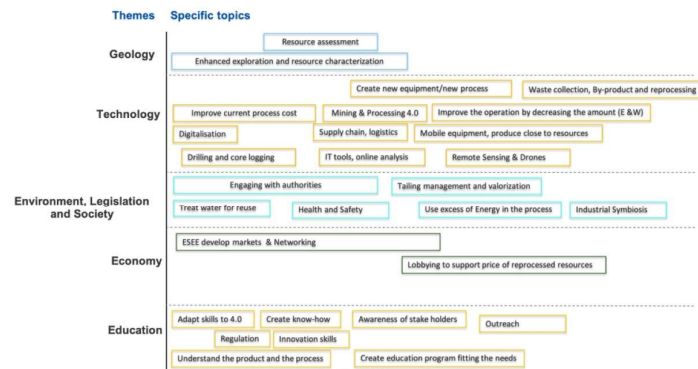
- **Challenge:** European Industries depend on raw, processed and advanced materials but these are not produced locally therefore the EU has a significant import dependency and is vulnerable to scarcity and supply shortage. Resources, both primary and secondary, exist in Europe but these are not fully exploited because of public concern over the sustainability of exploration, mining and processing operations.
- **Approach:** Provide technological innovation to develop exploration, mining and processing capabilities. Focus on exploration, mining and processing of primary and secondary raw materials, and on public acceptance.
- **Impact:** This Lighthouse will promote the benefits of a strong minerals and materials sector in modern society and a transition towards a green and circular economy.



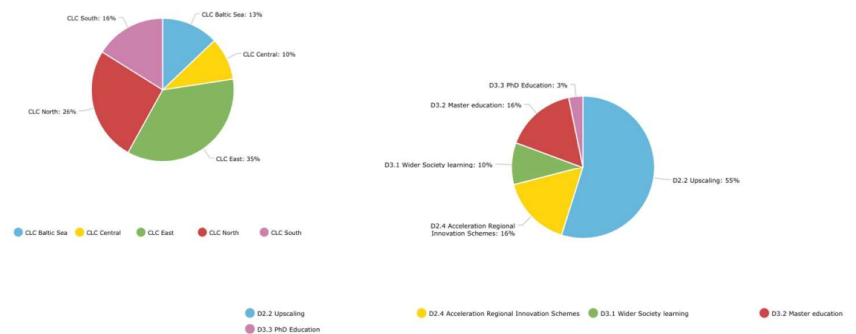
## Sustainable Discovery and Supply – Portfolio Analysis



## SUSTAINABLE DISCOVERY AND SUPPLY – PORTFOLIO THEMES & TOPICS

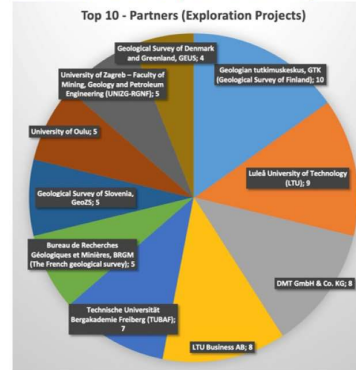


## LIGHTHOUSE PORTFOLIO – EXPLORATION PROJECTS



## LIGHTHOUSE PORTFOLIO – EXPLORATION PROJECTS (ONGOING)

Short Title	Title
200Denary	Resource Characterization: from 2D to 3D microscopy
ANDORELOG	ANDORELOG - Analytical Core Logging System
EC-Geo-Sustain	European MS in Geomatics for Sustainable Mineral Resource Management
ENEA	Enhanced exploration
ENGIE	Encouraging Oils to Study Geosciences and Engineering
EXPLORE	EXPLORE Masters programme in exploration
FARMIN	Field augmented reality in mineral exploration and mining
I-EDGAR-RS	Innovative Exploration Drilling and Data Acquisition Research School - I-EDGAR-RS
I-EDGAR-TC	Innovative Exploration Drilling and Data Acquisition Test Center
Irma-DO	Innovative geophysical logging tools for mineral exploration
inSPECTor	Integrated spectroscopy sensor system for laser-induced fluorescence and hyperspectral imaging
InvestRM	Invest RM: Multifactor model for investments in the raw material sector (EIT RIS activity related to action line II)
IRMSIST	Innovative targeting & processing of W-Sn-Ta-Li ores towards EU's self-supply
MAP	Mineral Resource Assessment Platform
Miniciv	Master in Arctic Mineral Resources
MinHeritage	Historical Mining – testing and learning from ancient materials and mining techs
MinExTarget	Enhanced Use of Heavy Mineral Chemistry in Exploration Targeting 2019/0111_140041
MULSEDRO	Multi-sensor drones for geology mapping
MultiDrone	Multi-Versatile Exploration Drone (MultiDrone)
OpenYouMine	A Master education project dedicated to mineral resources and sustainability
PARIED-X	Portable Analyzer combining Raman Spectroscopy and Diffraction of X-rays
RAMES	Raw Materials Exploration and Sustainability (RAMES)
RAMESSES-4-CE	RAMESSES - Raman spectroscopy integrated sensor system for the CE
REEBAUX	Prospects of REE recovery from bauxite and bauxite residue in the ESEE region (EIT RIS activity related to action line II)
RESEDRIVE	Mineral potential of the ESEE region (EIT RIS activity related to action line II)
RIS-CUBE	Zero-waste recovery of copper slag in the ESEE region
SITARE	Seismic Imaging Techniques for Mineral Exploration
TravelEx1	Underground resources travelling exhibition
TRISKI	Therapeutic Resonance for Exploration
UNEXUP	UNEXUP: Upgrading
UpDeep	Upgrading deep buried geochemical exploration techniques into European business



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UpDeep final online seminar

### Questions?



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[eitrawmaterials.eu](http://eitrawmaterials.eu)



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### Questions and comments

Moderator



Vesa Nykänen  
Research Professor, Geoinformatics  
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## Closing words



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## Thank you for your attention!

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