

Webinar: The Shine and the Shadows: What the Gold Boom Means for Producing Countries

Gold prices have reached historic highs in 2025. While gold is considered a safe haven for investors in uncertain times, the consequences in producing countries are far less shiny. Higher prices can bring increased revenues, yet they also fuel large-scale mining projects often associated with enormous energy and water consumption, toxic waste, and deforestation. At the same time, artisanal and small-scale mining is expanding, typically under precarious conditions and with severe mercury pollution affecting both people and the environment. Moreover, gold trading often operates in grey zones between informal economies, smuggling, and organized crime, and despite numerous reform efforts, the sector remains one of the most opaque in the global commodities landscape.

The webinar examines the political economy of gold and offers insights into the complex interactions between global demand and local realities. It explores how the dynamics of rising gold prices affect producing countries, what role international regulatory approaches and initiatives play and where their limits lie. In addition, it discusses ways to strengthen responsibility and transparency along supply chains and considers further-reaching reform proposals for the sector.

Registration: registration@oefse.at

After Registration the access code will be sent to you.

Organizers:



The Shine and the Shadows: What the Gold Boom Means for Producing Countries

02.12.2025, 3:00–5:00 PM CET

Webinar: Online via Zoom



Speakers:

Magdalena Pupp is Policy Advisor on Mineral Resources for the Austrian Ministry of Finance. She is responsible for the implementation of the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation in Austria.

Yvan Schulz is Senior Researcher and Programme Officer in SWISSAID's Raw Materials Unit. His work aims to improve the management and governance of natural resources, particularly in the gold sector.

Michael Tost is Professor for Sustainable Mining Technology at Montanuniversitaet Leoben.

David van Wyk is Lead Researcher at the Bench Marks Foundation in Johannesburg, an NGO that monitors the social and environmental impacts of mining and promotes corporate social accountability in Southern Africa

Moderation: Karin Küblböck, ÖFSE

The event will be recorded. By participating in this event, you consent to the publication of photographs and film footage that are produced by the organizers during the event.

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Programme

3:00 PM

Welcome and Introduction

Karin Küblböck, ÖFSE and Sr. Anneliese Herzig, DKA Austria

3:10 PM

The Shine and the Shadows: Understanding the Global Gold Sector

Yvan Schulz, Swissaid, Bern, Switzerland

3:30 PM

The Gold Boom: What Does It Mean for Producing Countries?

David van Wyk, Benchmarks Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

3:45 PM

Gold Extraction: A Geological Perspective

Michael Tost, Montanuniversitaet, Leoben, Austria

3:55 PM

Regulating Gold: Current Approaches and Challenges

Magdalena Pupp, Austrian Ministry of Finance

4:05 PM

Discussion and Q&A

Facilitation: Karin Küblböck, ÖFSE

5:00 PM

End of Webinar