



Prepared on 21/03/2017 by Liz Cooper.

# Living Lab project summary – engaging more staff and students in conflict minerals approach

## Description of the paper

This paper describes a project undertaken by two MSc Science Communication students, Emma Dixon and Fanni Barocsi, on placement in the SRS Department as part of their course in Autumn 2016, who looked at how to raise awareness and potentially change purchasing behaviours regarding conflict minerals.

## Research question

**How can we better raise awareness of the issue of conflict minerals and engage staff and students in the ways outlined in the University's Conflict Minerals Policy?**

## Objectives

- How can we better raise awareness about conflict minerals generally among students and staff?
- How can we engage more students through teaching, projects and events?
- How can we engage more staff with small-scale purchasing responsibilities?

## Findings and recommendations

Emma and Fanni researched conflict minerals campaigns from other organisations, and assessed the context and stakeholders of the University of Edinburgh. They developed plans for an event to be held during Fairtrade Fortnight, focusing on what individuals and organisations can do about conflict minerals. They proposed new text for the SRS website to raise awareness among staff and students, and worked with our communications team to publish new web pages and devise a social media campaign. They researched academics at the University who might be able to include projects on conflict minerals and the University's policy approach in their teaching, which led to a discussion being held with SRS within one course. They also proposed how to include the topic of conflict minerals within existing online training offered at the University.