

Tool 1.2: Regional Approaches

This tool provides an overview of SLO approaches used across Europe. The Regional Approaches template is compiled from over 47 illustrative examples of exploration, mining, closure and post-closure projects across Europe. While there is no universally accepted definition of SLO, there is unanimous agreement that what it takes to achieve and maintain SLO is dependent on a given context. It will never look exactly the same in two places. This said, the following observed patterns and trends across Europe are worth noting:

- Many exploration and newly proposed mine development projects are situated within previous mining areas, so heritage and the potential re-opening of mines are major issues.
- Newly proposed extractives activities frequently take place in rural locations that tend to be economically disadvantaged, with ageing populations and fewer competing industries. The more economically disadvantaged an area is, the more open to mining a population appears to be; the exception being people who rely on, and are culturally entwined with, subsistence livelihoods. In these cases, local communities tend not to view mining as a positive future.
- With respect to indigenous rights and SLO, there are international (ILO 169, FPIC, Duty to Consult), national (reindeer herding rights, land use rights), and local factors (community identity) that need to be considered. The situation is complex. For example, using northern Sweden as an example, there are Sami villages that currently have mining nearby and those that do not. For those that do, there is a division between the villages and Sami parliament on how to 'handle' the mining question as the Sami parliament wants the legislation to change before any new mines open while villages negotiate private agreements with companies.
- There is a potential for government learning from past environmental accidents. A number of examples point to mining legislation being updated often in conjunction with voluntary guidance to ensure more responsible industry behaviour.
- Certain commodities can be catalysts for problems, in part because some NGOs are opposed to them by mandate, and in part because communities perceive the risk for potential health and environmental problems as too high. Even in the case of uranium, however, this does not necessarily mean the end of a project.
- While mining regions tend to be more similar than different, a notable difference is the way in which government is structured (in terms of mining). In some countries, mining is extremely centralised; in others, there are shared responsibilities at the national and regional levels; and there are also examples where mining competence is completely decentralised. A country's legal system is a strong indicator of its history, especially in terms of the government's attitude toward the importance of mining, which can in part be assessed based on whether responsibilities were delegated to the regions (perhaps indicating the national government felt mining was not an important competency). The structure of government not only has an impact on the history of mining in the region but will also play a significant role in the ability/interest in government to play an active role in mediating the process as a whole, and in particular, disputes between communities and companies.

The full Illustrative Examples Report is available here <https://mireu.eu/slo>.

Country	Project	Examples of SLO Actions	Drivers of SLO			Stakeholders
			Legal and Procedural Fairness	Engagement	Benefit Sharing	
Austria	Erzberg	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness & Engagement: Some irregular minor conflicts (emissions such as noise and dust) are solved on an informal basis, mostly with the municipality as intermediary.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: The mine is an attractive touristic hotspot (50.000 visitors per year) and it works as a location for sports events such as the motocross race, Erzberg Rodeo. Films and documentaries are filmed regularly at Erzberg.</p>	x	x	x	Local authorities, mining university, tourist associations, company, local communities
Finland	Rompas-Rajapalot	<p>Engagement: Public events, systematic long-term stakeholder engagement.</p>	x	x		Local and regional authorities, municipality, community, NGOs, landowners, reindeer herders
	Sakatti	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: After an environmental NGO and local activist presented their opposition on the project, the company changed its plans and opted for an underground mine instead of an open-pit. However, the project is located in Natura 2000 area which has provoked criticism.</p> <p>Engagement: Closed circuit drilling developed for sensitive areas. Systematic long-term stakeholder engagement and many public events.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: Sustainable mining contract between the companies, local stakeholders and the municipality.</p>	x	x	x	Authorities, company, reindeer herders, community, NGOs and environmental activists

Sokli	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Public hearings and events.</p> <p>Engagement: Government and regional authorities are supportive of the project because of employment potential and regional development policy.</p>	x			Local and regional authorities, municipality, community, NGOs, reindeer herders
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Spain	Barruecopardo Mine	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Local employment.</p> <p>Engagement: Open communication (also towards media), "open doors policy", respect towards locals' traditional way of life.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: Tree plantations and collaboration with universities. The company has also collaborated with the Territorial Environmental Service (regional administration) to minimize negative effects on ecosystems.</p>	x	x	x	Authorities (regional, provincial, local), environmental NGOs, labour unions, educational centers, media, industry
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Sweden	Aitik	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Mitigation hierarchy, communication, compensation for the remaining impact of habitat loss and red-listed species. Adapting the project as far as possible to minimize consequences.</p> <p>Engagement: Identify Sámi villages of concern for the project, learn about their situation and knowledge, establish contact—working plan, identify potential consequences/risks. If needed, plan for a consultation meeting and field trips. Create respect and understanding. Local presence, continuous monitoring of impacts. Impact Assessment made in cooperation with reindeer herders.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: Ecological compensation on Sarkanenä's old forest, long-term protection and improvement of conditions. Close collaboration with the County administration. Development projects with Sámi community; 'Renvarnaren' (an application developed to warn of reindeer on the road), GPS-project, re-establishment of lichen, educational programmes.</p>	x	x	x	Local authorities (county administration), company, land-owners, Sámi community
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Boliden Mine - Holmtjärn	<p>Engagement: Holmtjärn's gold mine was shut in 1967 and reclaimed in accordance with the standard at that time. The company has later made the decision to undertake new measures to minimize environmental effects of the project. All the waste rock will be transported to the concentrator in Boliden and residual metals at the site will be washed out of the soil and water. By using a water treatment plant, water will be purified to 99 percent.</p>	x	x		Company
Gillervattnet	<p>Benefit Sharing: Regarding the reclamation of mining sites, the company not only aims to restore the environment but to improve environmental conditions and promote biodiversity. They plan to monitor the site for 30 years thereby assuming long-term responsibility over the damaged area.</p>	x	x	x	Company
Kirunavaara	<p>Engagement: The company promotes early, proactive and continuous dialogue, as well as voluntary and business agreements with affected parties. They have introduced a human rights policy and carry out human rights trainings.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: To minimise negative impacts on local communities and reindeer herding, the company has entered into cooperation agreements with the three Sámi districts directly affected by the mine. Where applicable, the agreements are based on the principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as expressed in international law on the rights of indigenous peoples. The company helps to build communities with a good housing market, good schools, attractive public spaces and a broad range of cultural and outdoor pursuits. They arrange education for their personnel to deepen their understanding of local culture.</p>	x	x	x	Company, communities, local

UK	Cononish	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: After original planning application was rejected but the company cooperated with the planning authority to revise the application & get approval. ~£500 000 for local community projects and 50 – 60 jobs created with aim to hire majority locally.</p> <p>Engagement: Long-term landscape and ecological management plan in cooperation with stakeholders and extended aftercare period. Processing methods avoid use of cyanide and other chemicals.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: 7 – 8 apprenticeships provided and student placements/research projects also supported. Possibility of mine becoming tourist attraction post-closure.</p>	x	x	x	Authorities, company, local communities, Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
	Duntanlich	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Original objections withdrawn after agreement to conditions. Additional environmental studies to address issues raised, reducing visual impact and haulage. ~30 skilled jobs created.</p> <p>Engagement: Consultations with local communities, proposals on display in local village halls with experts on hand to answer questions. Reorientation of the project not to disturb Queen's View viewpoint.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: Engineering apprenticeship(s) created.</p>	x	x	x	Authorities, company, local communities, Scottish Natural Heritage
	Hemerdon	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Voluntary shutdown of processing at weekends to minimise disturbance following noise & vibration issues. 200 people employed, many from local area.</p> <p>Engagement: Newsletters, mail drops, Parish Council meetings and mine visits. Renamed the project to recognise local community. Voluntary ~£3 million liner in tailings dam to improve its safety. New permissive paths, bat shelters and >1 million trees</p>	x	x	x	Local authorities, companies, local communities

	planted by end of restoration. Use of local services/procurement. Benefit Sharing: Student projects and internships supported.				
Woodsmith	<p>Legal and Procedural Fairness: Initial planning application was withdrawn by the company to re-examine environmental impacts. Plans significantly modified to reduce environmental impact with all major infrastructure sunk below ground. Up to ~1 700 jobs created during construction with ~1 000 direct long-term jobs</p> <p>Engagement: Local employment initiatives and recruitment programmes, including job fairs, websites & social media and advertising of jobs in partnership with contractors and local employment services.</p> <p>Benefit Sharing: Sirius Minerals Foundation (an independent charity set up by Sirius in 2013 to leave a positive legacy from the Woodsmith Mine with a 0.5% revenue royalty. Foundation has awarded three separate rounds of funding since December 2017, with >£800 000 donated to 150 local projects supporting education and skills training, improving public spaces and facilities, health and wellbeing, vulnerable people and delivering environmental and community building initiatives. ~20 000 young people and ~80 schools visited to speak about opportunities related to the project and associated industries. Also offered graduate and undergraduate placements.</p>	x	x	x	Local authorities, companies, local communities, North York Moors National Park