

Case 6: Mineral Planning for Lead and Zinc in Ireland



This good practice case responds to Good Practice Stream Topics:

D) Assessment and extent of integration between minerals and land use policies

E) Assessment of transparency in land use planning processes

G) Assessment of integration of social aspects and civil society involvement

Permitting

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Part 1: Case Overview

1.1 Executive summary

Ireland was one of the largest producers of lead and zinc in the world. It is also the home of Europe largest lead and zinc mine, the Boliden Tara Mine, located in Navan, County Meath. Lead and zinc production was concentrated in three mines, Lisheen in County Tipperary, Galmoy in County Kilkenny and Tara in County Meath. The Lisheen and Galmoy mines have now closed, while Tara mine has been active for over forty years. At the time of preparing the case study, an application to re-open the Galmoy mine was being considered. This case study regards the life-cycle of lead and zinc mines from exploration to closure and remediation.

Irish mines are often located in rural areas and there is no right to carry out drilling for exploration activities in urbanised areas. There is currently one operating lead and zinc mine in Ireland along with other mines where other resources are extracted. To date, no mining project was ever refused planning permission in Ireland, although some associated infrastructure was refused planning permission to environmental considerations.

Licensing and permitting for exploration and development is broadly split amongst three authorities, each dealing with one or more aspects. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment assess permits for exploration and State Mining Leases; planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála assess the planning application and finally the Environmental Protection Agency looks after the Integrated Pollution Control Licence.

The Irish case study identifies three strands of good practice: policy integration; permitting and licensing; and public participation and transparency.

1.2 Overview of Key Good Practice Aspects and suggestions

Good Practice Aspect 1: Permitting and Licensing Integration

- **Element 1: Independent Role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** The EPA is a completely independent agency responsible for environmental protection and in the case of mine for Integrated Pollution Control. Its independence allows to reduce potential societal pressures and ensures that environmental and ecological impacts remain the overarching considerations of the permitting process.
- **Element 2: Distinct independent permitting for specific technical aspects:** Three separate permits are required to develop a mine, so each aspect is assessed by the most qualified/ appropriate body with relevant expertise in the subject.
- **Element 3: Compulsory 'Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management' Plans:** Having compulsory plans for closure, restoration and aftercare gives companies, the competent authorities and the public, a clear blueprint for the closure of a mine. It includes dynamic bonds paid to the State which can only be used for rehabilitation of the mine site post operations.

Good Practice Aspect 2: Policy Integration

- **Element 1: Central government support:** The Government of Ireland, its departments and agencies are supportive of the mineral exploration and extraction. This is evidenced in the National Planning Framework 2040 which includes National Policy Objective 23 which provides direct support to the extractive industry.
- **Element 2: Correct balance of policy relevant to development pressure:** Currently, there are very few mines in Ireland and applications for such are far and few. It is therefore considered that existing policy is sufficient to deal with the existing levels of activity.
- **Element 3: Hierarchy of policy is reflected throughout all levels of planning,** allowing for

cohesion between all scales of spatial planning: The top-bottom approach applied in spatial planning in Ireland ensures a streamlined approach where issues of national interests (i.e. mining) are translated to all levels of the planning system.

- **Element 4: Land use conflict resolution:** addressed on a case-by-case basis, allowing for flexibility and a range of options to be explored. The lack of spatial designations for mineral resources allows flexibility in the determination of appropriate yet unforeseen uses at application stage.

Good Practice Aspect 3: Public Participation and Transparency

- **Element 1: Public Engagement beyond statutory obligation:** Public engagement should not be limited to statutory engagement as part of the planning process. Keeping an open-door policy with the public or other interested parties (e.g. engaging with local social or sporting activities) helps building a good reputation and supports good relationships.
- **Element 2: Formal and informal communications channels:** Using a variety of tools (both formal and informal, traditional and social media) to communicate with the public helps reach a larger public and is more inclusive.
- **Element 3: Corporate Social Responsibility:** Mining companies get to choose how they contribute to community and local life which fosters good relationships between parties.
- **Element 4: Statutory Planning Consultation Requirements in the Planning Process:** Statutory public consultation in plan-making and decision-making, Integrated Pollution Control Licensing and prospective and mining licensing ensure that all parties are equal and allows for fairer decisions to be made in forward-planning and decision-making. This promotes a more transparent process.

1.3 Mineral resource groups



Metals: Zinc and Lead (Zn and Pb).

Part 2: Case description

2.1 Case description

The case regards the life-cycle of three zinc and lead mines in Ireland, at different stages, from exploration to rehabilitation. These mines are:

Galmoy: closed

Tara mine: currently active

Lisheen: closed

The sections hereafter include information extracted from a review of the planning process for the three abovementioned mines.

2.1.1 Types of Consents Required for Mineral Exploration and Development

Exploration: In order to 'search' for minerals, a company must obtain a prospecting licence for exploration from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The company will then undertake modelling to determine whether the resource available would be suitable to be converted to a reserve with a view to develop a potential mine. Exploration adjacent to any mine generally continues under the terms of the prospecting licence.

Development: Only licence holders can be considered for the development of mining facilities within the license area. The development of lead/zinc mines in Ireland is subject to three separate procedures:

- A state mining lease for minerals in State Ownership from the Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment (CCAEC) is required to develop a mine.
- Planning permission in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, from the planning authority and/or An Bord Pleanála for the development of the surface and sub-surface mining infrastructure.
- An Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) licence is required from the Environmental Protection Agency. A condition of the IPPC process is for companies to submit a Closure and Remediation Management Plan (CRAMP).

2.1.2 The Development Process

A planning application is made to the local planning authority and permission is either granted,

partly granted both with conditions and reasons, or refused with reasons. If refused, the developer may take on board the reasons for refusal and amend the development proposal and resubmit the proposal to the Local Authority. Following the decision of the planning authority, the decision may be appealed to An Bord Pleanála, the independent national planning board. Appeals against the decision or conditions attached by the Planning Authority may be made by the developer or any person or body. Appeals were made in all three cases, with first and third-party appeals. The Board may decide to hold an oral hearing where all interested parties may present further evidence supporting or opposing the determination. The application is assessed by a planning inspector who makes recommendations on whether to grant (with conditions and reasons) or refuse (with reasons) planning permission. Planning permission is accompanied by a planning conditions, development contributions and sometimes special contributions. Development must be carried out in accordance with the conditions and can lead to enforcement if these are not respected. Contributions are financial impositions for the use or the construction of public infrastructure (roads, public transports, etc.). The extension to Tara mine in 2016-2017 was the subject of an oral hearing.

2.1.3 Timeframe from application to decision

After lodging a planning application, the Planning Authority must issue a notification of a decision or seek additional information within 8 weeks of the date received. Anyone wishing to make an observation must do so within 5 weeks of date application received. If additional information is sought, a decision will be issued within 4 weeks of receipt of that information (in most circumstances). One must provide further information within 6 months of request unless the applicant seeks and is granted additional time. If the additional information is deemed significant, the Planning Authority may require the development be re-advertised to the public. An appeal must be lodged within 28 days of date of notification. If no appeal is made, a final decision will be issued one month and 3 days after the appeal period expires. Third parties generally may only appeal if they had made an observation (there are exceptional circumstances) and first parties may appeal a condition. Once an appeal has been made, there is a statutory objective to process appeals within 18 weeks, but this is not mandatory. The Board may also seek revisions from the applicant during the appeal process. In summary, the planning process for a mine would take on average around 15 months. However, it may either be shorter or longer.

2.1.4 Evolution over Time: Extension of Mines

Planning permission for a period of 10 to 12 years was granted to the mines to cover the period of exploitation. However, during the exploitation period, a continuous programme of exploration was undertaken, and further resources were identified. The exploration permitting process is a separate process which lies with the Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment (CCA), who issues mineral exploration licenses.

Planning permission was then sought to extend the area and period of exploitation, which was usually granted subject to conditions. Development and extension of the mines and other associated development, such as tailings facilities were the subject of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with the relevant European Directives. However, two mines, Lisheen and Galmoy went through the planning process prior to the implementation of the Directives. However, some of their extensions and infrastructure were permitted according to those regimes as these were developed after the directives were transposed. Lisheen was active for 17 years, Galmoy was active for 15 years and Tara Mines has been active since 1977.

Rehabilitation of the mine site was considered at application stage and therefore was subjected to the planning process. Both the Galmoy and Lisheen mines have been successfully rehabilitated, with new uses planned or considered for the sites. Planning permission was sought in both cases to change the use of the former mine sites once the rehabilitation process was completed. Prior to seeking to reopen the mine in 2018, planning permission to use the Galmoy site as a bioenergy facility was granted in 2012. The Lisheen mine site has been rehabilitated and put on the market as a fully serviced industrial site due to its high quality infrastructure (roads, water, power etc.). Although not determined by the planning system, there are discussions considering the potential development of a bio-refinery on the site.

2.1.5 Public participation

Public consultation forms part of the prospecting licence procedure whereby the Minister must publish in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity his/her intention to renew/grant such licenses. Any person or body has 21 days to submit their objection.

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, any person or body may make a submission on a planning application once it has been submitted to a planning authority. To that effect, the developer must erect site notices and place an ad in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity. The developer may also opt to undertake separate public consultation and use other means of notification, but these are not mandatory. Once a planning application is lodged, any other person or body (Third Parties) may comment for or against the development on the application during a five-week period from the date of submission. In all cases, submissions were received from private citizens, prescribed bodies or private companies. Following the decision of the Planning Authority, any third party may make an appeal to An Bord Pleanála against the decision or any conditions attached to the grant of planning permission. The developer may decide to appeal the conditions of the grant or if the determination is against the development. An Bord Pleanála may decide to hold an oral hearing providing all parties with an opportunity to present their case and evidence.

2.1.6 Public Engagement in practice

A review of all cases has shown that all developments, and subsequent extensions, were subject to third party submissions. Many of these generally regarded the preservation of residential amenities and potential environmental impacts.

Tara Mine has been active in Navan since 1977 and is the town's biggest employer, with approximately 700 staff. In recent years, there has been some opposition to the development of a new tailing facility due to local concerns for possible environmental impacts, impacts on residential amenities and risks to human health. However, the local population appears generally supportive of the mining operations. During the planning process for the extension of the mine in 2016, Boliden engaged with the local population and organised public meetings and met with local politicians. A small number of residents opposed the development of the facilities. A review of submissions shows that in general people made submissions asking to consider the impacts and risks as perceived to be associated with the tailing facilities and the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) which may result from the operation of the mine. In other words, concerns generally regards the environmental impacts which may be generated by the tailing facilities and the risks of water pollution. The number of HGVs is also an issue for residential amenities as these can result in dust, vibration and noise. Similar concerns were raised for the other two mines. The newly proposed Galmoy mine resulted in two submissions, neither of which came from individual citizens. One of them came from an environmental NGO and the second one from another business.

2.1.7 The Role of AA and EIA in the Consenting Process

Appropriate assessment (AA) in accordance with the Habitats Directive is undertaken by the Minister for CCAE when determining whether a prospecting license should be granted or renewed. AA also forms part of the planning process if an area subject to a natural designation is located in the vicinity.

Planning applications for the development of mines must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and undergo environmental impact assessment by the Local Authority. An AA may also be required if the development covers part of a Nature 2000 site. The former forms also part of the IPC process, under the jurisdiction of the EPA.

2.1.8 Level of expertise regarding geology and mining involved throughout the process

Much of the mining and geology expertise lies within the DCCAE, the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency. The former delivers the mining exploration licenses and the mining lease/ licence, whereas the latter issues the IPC licence. The planning authority and An Bord Pleanála may require specific expertise on certain EIA topics, such as hydrogeology or water

when undertaking EIA and AA. If such expertise is required, they may use external experts on an ad-hoc basis.

2.2 Responsible institutions

A number of institutions play a key role in the development of lead and zinc mining in Ireland. These are:

- The **Minister (the Department) of Communications, Climate Action and Environment**, who grants and renew prospecting and state mining licenses. It can also provide support to local authorities during the assessment of planning application for mines.
- The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** which is in charge of assessing applications for Integrated Pollution Prevention Control licenses and is completely independent from all other parties.
- The **Minister (the Department) for Planning, Housing and Local Government (HPLG)** who sets out the national policy for spatial planning in Ireland. The name of this policy is National Planning Framework 2040. All plans prepared by Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities must have regard to that policy.
- The local **Planning Authorities** are the principal institutions responsible for the assessment of planning applications for the development of mines. They undertake the assessment of environmental impacts and of effects on Natura 2000 sites. They also prepare their own Development Plans which set out the targets, objectives, policies and zoning for their area.
- **An Bord Pleanála**, the national independent appeals board, which makes a decision on the planning applications when a first or third party has been made on a decision by the Planning Authority to either grant or refuse planning permission.

In addition, Geological Survey Ireland may provide scientific and/or technical advice.

2.3 Case stakeholders

Aside from the institutions stated in 2.2 above, there are four categories of stakeholders. These are:

A) The prescribed bodies: these are set out by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. They include a range of state agencies, bodies and departments and cover a number of interests, including archaeology, heritage, water, rail, etc. These are consulted with as part of the Environment Impact Assessment Process. They may either provide information, identify conflicts which may be arising and/or make recommendations for further information/survey to be collected and analysed. These are:

- The Arts Council
- Fáilte Ireland (the national tourism board)
- An Taisce (the national trust for Ireland)
- Waterways Ireland
- Adjoining planning authorities
- Regional Fisheries Board
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Córas Iompair Éireann, the national public transport provider
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- EPA
- Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Údarás na Gaeltacht, the regional state agency responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of Irish speaking regions.
- Minister for Rural and Community Development
- Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- The Heritage Council

- Health Service Executive
- Minister for CCAE
- Commission for Energy Regulations
- Irish Water

B) The Mining Companies: their role in the process of developing mine is evident, but perhaps less so in developing policy. Any body or person in Ireland is entitled to make a submission during the preparation of a plan (at any given level) or policy and during the preparation of its environmental assessment.

C) Individuals: any person in Ireland is entitled to make a submission during the preparation of a plan and its environment assessment and can appeal the decision and conditions attached to a positive decision.

D) The Non-Governmental Organisations that aim is to secure specific interests but which have the same role as the individuals.

2.4 Context

Environmental and Ecological Impacts

Environmental and ecological impacts are the overarching considerations for planning authorities due to European Directives. If those cannot be prevented or mitigated, economic (mining) interests will be deemed secondary and permission will be refused or licences will not be granted / renewed. This is also applicable to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Energy.

Ireland's Position in the Survey of Mining Companies 2017

Ireland came fourth in the Fraser Institute's 2017 Survey of Mining Companies. The survey rates the attractiveness of countries where mining is undertaken. It looks at a number of factors including but not limited to:

- Administrative and environmental regulations certainty
- Regulatory framework and legal system
- Environmental and ecological designations

- Infrastructure
- Socioeconomic factors and access to social infrastructure
- Political stability
- Quality of geological database

Etc. The survey also ranked Ireland as having the best Policy Perception Index in the world. The index is composed of survey responses to policy factors that affect investment decisions.



Part 3: Case Evaluation

3.1 Impact achieved

Local Employment Opportunities

Given their location in predominantly rural areas, mines bring employment and economic opportunities for local rural communities. Along with the new infrastructure which might be developed for mining activities, they generally result in employment and training opportunities, as well as spin-off economic activities in the local area (equipment hire, transports, etc.). During the economic recession (c.2008-2013), rural Ireland particularly suffered economically. Although, the Irish economy has now recovered, the benefits of the upturn has not necessarily been felt by rural Ireland. Large infrastructure projects such as mines, can bring substantial opportunities when and where there is limited Foreign Direct Investments and general interest.

Employment and economic opportunities are particularly important for local communities as they are the prime receivers of any impacts which may arise from the operation of the mine.

Contributions to the Exchequer

The development of a minerals resources results in contributions to the Exchequer in the form of taxes and royalties.

Contributions to Local Groups

Mining companies are generally supportive and contributing to local community life and can offer financial support to local community groups. Mining companies settled in Ireland are known to fund local activities and clubs and are very involved in local life. Boliden Tara Mine in Meath often sponsors local events including, sports, charity or tourism events.

3.2 Good Practice Aspects: Elements and their transferability

GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 1: Effective and time-efficient permitting and licensing integration	
Key elements (of Good Practice Aspects)	Suggestions for Transferability (of Key Elements)
<p>Independent Role of the Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the assessment of the Integrated Pollution Prevention License. Its works independently in its assessment of environmental impacts regardless of whether planning permission has been granted for a mine. If environmental and ecological impacts cannot be prevented or mitigated, economic (mining) interests will be deemed secondary and permission will be refused, or licenses will not be granted/renewed.</p> <p>CONTEXTUAL FACTOR</p>	<p>An agency responsible for environmental protection that works independently of all other parties reduces potential political (or other) pressures and ensures that environmental and ecological impacts remain the overarching considerations for planning authorities. This ensures public confidence in the independence of the environmental assessments from the economic potential of any development and objective decision-making.</p>
<p>Permits assessed by the most qualified authority to ensure adequate assessment of all aspects</p> <p>Three separate permits ensure that the specific technical proposals are evaluated independently by experts in the relevant fields at a national and local level.</p> <p>Three different permits are required to develop a lead and zinc mine in Ireland: the State Mining License, the planning permission and the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control License. (1) A state mining lease for minerals in State Ownership from the Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment (CCAIE) is required to develop a mine, (2) Planning permission in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, from the planning authority and/or An Bord Pleanála for the development of the surface and sub-surface mining infrastructure, (3) An Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) licence is required from the Environmental Protection Agency. A condition of the IPPC process is for companies to submit a Closure and Remediation Management Plan (CRAMP).</p> <p></p> <p>SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>The three separate procedures for permitting ensure that the permission and licensing is done by the appropriate body with relevant expertise in the subject, it also allows for proper considerations of all aspects and possible impacts of the mining activities.</p>

GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 1:**Effective and time-efficient permitting and licensing integration****Key elements
(of Good Practice Aspects)****Compulsory 'Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management' Plans (CRAMP)**

These plans are a compulsory as part of the IPC licence process and updated annually. They allow for appropriate and timely considerations of the options for the mine site upon closure of the mine. As part of the process, mining Companies must legally ring-fence funds in consultation with the State (e.g. a bond) which can only be used in agreement with the State towards rehabilitation. CRAMP are very important documents which are reviewed every year and with the interested parties, including the planning authorities. They are a blueprint for the closure of a mine site and include solutions for affected communities and former employees.

**SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE****Suggestions for Transferability
(of Key Elements)**



Having plans for closure, restoration and aftercare management that are compulsory gives companies a clear blueprint for the closure of a mine site, what should be done and include solutions for affected communities and previous employees. Ring-fenced rehabilitation funds are a compulsory part of a license process which further provides a guarantee and funds for rehabilitation of the mine site post operations.

GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 2: Policy Integration	
Key elements (of Good Practice Aspects)	Suggestions for Transferability (of Key Elements)
<p>Central Government Support</p> <p>Government support through active policy choices encourages the entry of exploration companies to the Irish market and is reflected in the Fraser Institute rankings where Ireland regularly scores highly for policy perception and data availability. Minerals are now considered in the Government Climate Action Plan and the National Planning Framework 2040. The latter includes National Policy Objective 23 which provides direct support to the extractive industry. The presence of significant mining, exploration and geology expertise within government and the regulatory bodies adds to the confidence with which the government can support the industry.</p> <p>STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>Data availability can be a key driver of inward investment in the minerals industry which directly leads to a more visible presence and allows governments to vocally support the mining sector development. Expertise at a government level allows for informed decisions to be made about broad policy supports. Inclusion of minerals in national policies or strategies gives clear indication of government support.</p>
<p>Correct balance of policy relevant to the development pressure</p> <p>Given their location in predominantly rural areas, mines bring employment, economic opportunities and development pressures for local rural communities. Along with the new infrastructure which might be developed for mining activities, they generally result in employment and training opportunities, as well as spin-off economic activities in the local area (equipment hire, transports, etc.).</p> <p>Large infrastructure projects such as mines, can bring substantial opportunities when and where there is limited Foreign Direct Investments and general interest. Employment and economic opportunities are particularly important for local communities as they are the prime receivers of any impacts which may arise from the operation of the mine.</p> <p>CONTEXTUAL FACTOR</p>	<p>It should be recognised at a strategic level that the extraction of mineral resources is spatially confined to the presence of those resources and may not occur within the areas specifically zoned for industry or development. Policies which mandate development within planned areas can be flexible / can be altered to allow for the presence of mineral development in more rural centres.</p> <p>By not predetermining areas that are more or less suitable for mineral exploitation, new and future deposits are protected from being inadvertently sterilised.</p>


GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 2: Policy Integration

Key elements (of Good Practice Aspects)	Suggestions for Transferability (of Key Elements)
<p>Land use conflicts resolution</p> <p>No mines have been refused planning permission in Ireland in modern times however specific pieces of infrastructure have been amended or denied due to competing policy and legislative requirements, particularly environmental protection regulations. For instance, Tara Mines recently applied for a substantial expansion. While the principle of expanding the mining area and the provision of infrastructure were acceptable in economic, planning and ecological terms, not all infrastructure was deemed acceptable and some of it was refused as impacts on a Natura 2000 site could not be excluded. This would not prevent the company to proceed, but instead to reconsider how to proceed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>It is important that the protection against the sterilisation of resources ensures that potential resources are not sterilised accidentally or inadvertently due to a lack of knowledge. A fair and balanced approach, which considers sustainable development and proper planning principles, to seemingly competing policy requirements is vital to ensure trust in the development process.</p> <p>Decision -making on a case-by-case basis allows for tailored conflict resolution.</p>
<p>Hierarchy of Policy</p> <p>The importance of the raw materials industry is directly referenced in the National Planning Framework 2040, the strategic 20 year plan for the country. This feeds regional and local planning documents, specifically the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and County Development Plans which must take direction from the national spatial strategies.</p> <p>The importance of raw materials should be addressed at as broad a policy level as possible with more details added in at a decreasing spatial scale. This allows the overarching requirements of a society as a whole to be balanced with the local needs of individual communities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>Policies formed at national level must be considered at regional and local level (i.e. the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, ensures that lower level plans are compliant with higher level plans, in a hierarchy manner)</p>

GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 3: Public Participation and Transparency

Key elements (of Good Practice Aspects)	Suggestions for Transferability (of Key Elements)
<p>Public Engagement</p> <p>Mining companies have an open-door policy with local communities, where information which is not commercially sensitive is shared with the public. To communicate with communities, they use a variety of means, including local radio and papers to give updates to local communities. Transparency is a key ingredient to a successful mining company in Ireland. By communicating with local groups, mining operators promote transparency and trust ('This is what we are doing'). It also helps in the planning process, particularly when mines seek planning permission to extend their facilities.</p>  <p>SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>Mining and exploration companies should keep an open-door with the public and the planning authorities. For instance, organising public events, showing drill cores, making announcements on the radio or publish articles in the local papers can help the operation's integration with local groups.</p>
<p>Formal and Informal Communication channels</p> <p>Prospecting and mining companies keep the communities updated in relation to their activities in the local area. They might use the local newspaper, the radio, social media, etc. and will communicate either in English or Irish if necessary. This promotes confidence in the mining operation and good relationship between the local community and the company.</p>  <p>SUCCESS FACTOR</p>	<p>Using a variety of tools to communicate with the public helps reach a larger public and prevents exclusion for certain persons. It is recommended that both traditional and social media be used so that all categories of the population are reached, particularly as rural communities, where mines are often located, can have a higher share of older persons who may not be as attuned to social media.</p>

GOOD PRACTICE ASPECT 3: Public Participation and Transparency

Key elements (of Good Practice Aspects)	Suggestions for Transferability (of Key Elements)
<p>Corporate Social Responsibility</p> <p>Irish mining companies are very active with their Corporate Social Responsibility and as a result become very involved with the daily activities of local communities. To that effect, they provide funding towards social and community infrastructure (some of them imposed by the Planning Authorities) and sponsor events and local groups and club activities. It is important for mining companies to be seen to be involved with local groups as it helps them integrate with communities and gain trust.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUCCESS FACTOR / STRATEGIC CHOICE</p>	<p>Attaching conditions to consent, whether financial or infrastructural, ensures community gain. Providing support to communities outside of planning/consent parameters through Corporate Social Responsibility fosters good relationships between parties. It is not compulsory and up to mining companies to decide what sort of relationship they want with local communities.</p>
<p>Statutory Public Consultation Requirements in the planning process</p> <p>The planning system also allows for local concerns to be heard and addressed during the planning process. There are several opportunities from forward planning to development management where the public and other stakeholders can get involved and formulate their concerns on development proposals. Opportunities to get involved in forward planning arise at all levels of the planning hierarchy from national to local level. Public consultation in both forward planning and development management is rooted in planning legislation and is statutory.</p> <p>This is also applicable to decision-making, where any person or body can make a submission on a planning application, on a prospecting license application, a State mining lease application or an integrated pollution control application.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTEXTUAL FACTOR</p>	<p>Statutory public consultation in forward planning (plan-making) and development management (decision-making), IPC licensing and prospective and mining licensing ensures / guarantees the right of the public to have a say in plan or decision-making. It makes all parties equal and allows for fairer decisions to be made. All comments which are made on a plan or an application should be made publicly available, including how these have addressed as it promotes transparency in plan-making and decision-making.</p> <p>Public consultations should be included as statutory requirements for minerals developments to ensure that the public are included in the decision making process.</p>