

A **subsidised sector** which is geographically- and commodity-focused, with the acceptance that there will be no-go areas that are heavily populated, protected, or of natural or cultural importance;

Societal acceptability and inclusion should be a focus from the outset;

Exploration and exploitation should be combined with **resource recovery of legacy sites and recycling**, linked to a circular economy;

High-tech, innovative approaches should be prioritised to **reduce impact and increase efficiency**;

Linking mineral extraction to downstream operations in the EU as part of a broader strategic framework.

Priorities for Action

- Formalise **social performance practices** in EU mineral exploration
- Develop a **value proposition** for de-risking social factors in exploration projects from a social risk perspective
- Develop **guidelines and regulations** on reporting social risk
- Develop a draft EU policy recommendation for a **responsible mining directive** to drive the social element.
- Explore the **financial instruments** available for a new business model
- Instigate **cultural change** in mining companies through interdisciplinary teamwork to support/improve stakeholder engagement
- **Education, education, education**

	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5
What needs to change?	EC develops and enforces rigorous, binding legislation for all mineral exploration activities.	There is increased investment for exploration in the EU.	Exploration companies are 'encouraged' to implement social programmes and requirements.	Improved public trust and awareness. All exploration companies achieve and maintain SLO.	Socio-economic shared value created through collaborative planning anchored by long-term community visioning.
Steps to bring about change (what next?)	EU exploration/mining Directive; Common reporting standards; Consensus on 'best practice'; Best practice guidance.	EU Guidelines; Clear national legislation; Efficient, clear EU permit system for exploration; Geo-data is available and harmonised in the EU; High-Tec innovation R & D; Reduced social risk; Increased public awareness; Marketing campaign; Skilled workforce (resource geology, mining engineering) Tax incentives for CRM exploration.	Demonstrate that this is relatively easy to do; Involve ESG in exploration projects at the very start of the project.	Collaborative partnerships; Mining companies' ESG practices must improve; Open conversation between the mining sector, government and society.	Find points of intersection; Long-term community process visioning Collaborative partnerships.
How will you know change has happened?	Transposed into national legislation; Publication of EU guidelines on reporting of exploration activities; Outlines of consultation are published.	Increase in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit applications/concessions; Amount of money invested; Jobs created; People reached; Diplomas; Decrease in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social conflicts; Environmental impact. 	Publications, case studies, workshops, conferences; Evidence of collaboration between exploration companies and ESG experts.	Mining companies' reputation improves in the EU. ESG Risk in project valuations reduced	Number of collaborative partnerships; Existence of community-owned plans; Cluster Development.
Key audiences & stakeholders	Exploration/mining companies; EU member states task group; research groups; CRIRSCO committees.	EU; National Assemblies; NGOs; Schools; H2020 Projects; Geological surveys and ministries; Colleges and universities.	Exploration and mining companies; consultants; EU member states.	Academics; EU; Civil society; Mining companies; NGOs; Media; Institutes and investors; Trade unions; Community; Cross-sectoral companies; Government; Development agencies.	