The SNAP-SEE Newsletter August 2013

Introduction

Aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel) are essential for residential, social and commercial infrastructure development. Europe currently needs some 3 billion tonnes of aggregates a year (6 t/c) and could reach 3.5-4 billion tonnes before 2030, driven mainly by economic growth in (Central and) South-Eastern Europe (SEE). Growing demand needs to be addressed by aggregates supply planning concepts.

SNAP-SEE project description

“The Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe (SNAP-SEE) project has been funded by the EU South East Europe (SEE) Transnational Cooperation Programme. It focuses on developing and disseminating tools for aggregates management and planning in SEE and builds on the results of the Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management (SARMa) project, a preceding SEE Transnational Cooperation-funded project.

SNAP SEE has 27 partners from 13 SEE countries and Turkey and has University of Leoben (MUL), Austria, as lead partner. SNAP-SEE is a 2 year project that will end in September of 2014. Project outputs will include a SNAP-SEE Vision for a transition to integrated, comprehensive sustainable primary and secondary aggregates planning in SEE and an Aggregates Planning Scheme that embodies the principles, approaches and action necessary to achieve the goals of the Vision.”

Günter Tiess, University of Leoben, the Lead Partner

More information about the project on: http://snapsee.eu
Meetings

Kick-off Steering Committee meeting

Kick-off Steering Committee meeting of the SNAP-SEE project and Training for project partners on SARM and SSM was organised during 24. – 26. 10. 2012, at the Montanuniversität Leoben (MUL/University of Leoben) Austria. The following partners/experts participated:

- Lead partner, Montanuniversität Leoben: Günter Tiess, Deborah Shields, Irene Leischner, Karin Rehatschek, Alexander Kriz, Jim O’Brien
- Technical University of Crete (GR): Kostas Komnitsas, Stelios Mavrigiannakis
- National Center for Sustainable Development: Kiki Hatzilazaridou
- Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary: Zoltán Horváth, Zsuzsanna Plank
- Emilia-Romagna Region: Paolo Severi, Christian Marasmi, Massimo Romagnoli, Stefano Furin, Pietro Domenico de Cosmo, Gian Andrea Blengini
- Autonomous province of Trento: Alessandro Moltrer, Michele Tarolli
- National institute for Research of Romania: Octavian Coltoi, Gabriela -Silviana Marica
- Ministry of Environment of Slovak Republic: Rudolf Gasparovič, Maria Gaziova
- Geological survey of Slovenia: Gorazd Žibret, Tina Benda, Vida Pavlica
- Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegosnian Canton: Ivana Suša
- Croatian Geological Survey: Slobodan Miko, Željko Dedić, Boris Kruk
- Partner 12, GSM: Slobodan Radusinović, Darko Bozović, Božica Jovanović
- Geological Survey of Montenegro: Vladimir Simić, Dragana Životić, Nevena Andrić
- Regional Government of Styria: Josef Mitterwallner
- Bulgarian Association of Aggregate Producers: Nadya Lazarova
- Hungarian Mining Association: Cseh Zoltán
- “10% partner” – Croatian Environmental Agency: Andreja Steinberger
- “10% partner” – Ministry of Economy of Montenegro: Radosav Ćović
- “10% partner” – Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro: Dragan Asanovic
- Observer – Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (AUT): Robert Holnsteiner
- Alianta d.o.o. (SLO): Urška Dolinar, Anita Pokorn
- Baustoff-Recycling Verbandes (AUT): Tristan Tallafus

Kick-off meeting agenda was presented by the coordinator dr. Günter Tiess (MUL), afterwards self introductions of all partners were facilitated by Urška Dolinar (Alianta), and supported by presentation showing project participants. The meeting continued with the presentation of the SNAP-SEE project in general and presentation of separate work packages and activities, including comments and suggestions from all participants. Project purpose, goals, linkages, project and information flows were presented. Partners agreed it will be useful to share good practices of the national/regional aggregates planning as part of the project. The work of SNAP-SEE is divided into 6 Work Packages (WP) of which 4 are thematic. The thematic WPs are closely interlinked, with interim outputs from WPs 3, 4, and 5 supporting subsequent actions in all other WPs.

The Kick-Off-Meeting in Leoben was very fruitful and successful and thus, a good starting point for the project. Ice breaker dinner contributed to this success.... Günter Tiess, University of Leoben
Geological Survey of Slovenia is the leader of SNAP-SEE project’s work package 2 entitled Communication and dissemination. Since one of the main goals of the project is to connect different stakeholders that are involved in aggregates supply, good information sources and ways of communication between involved parties are of great importance. A SNAP-SEE website was established for this purpose in December 2012 and will be updated regularly. Communication plan will assure steady and interrupted information flow among partners.

There is an interactive map of Southeast Europe on top of the website’s homepage. With the click on a specific country, you can get all the information needed about the next SNAP-SEE stakeholder event in it. Under ABOUT tab you can find all the 27 SNAP-SEE partners contacts. There is also a calendar with all the relevant events, conferences, national holidays etc, that will take place in the next few years about aggregates supply and related topics under the EVENTS tab. Interesting news about aggregates supply as well as photos and results from past national and regional stakeholders consultations can be found under NEWS tab. All promotional material about SNAP-SEE project in different partner languages is available to download and print under PRESS tab.

There you can choose from leaflets, posters and similar. All the outputs from SNAP-SEE project that you will be able to use for improvement of your future aggregates supply planning will be also available under the PRESS tab when ready. The project's website is well visited since it records about 2,300 clicks per month. If you would like us to add your company's contact to our stakeholders list on the website, please contact the communication manager (CONTACT tab). This could be a great way to promote your company. You are very welcome to visit our website http://snapsee.eu as frequently as possible since it is constantly being updated. A Facebook profile was also created about the SNAP-SEE project, where anyone can add information about relevant topics and all the important news about the project and aggregates supply are constantly being added to the wall.

Join us at http://facebook.com/SnapSee. To expand your LinkedIn contacts network you are welcome to find "SNAP-SEE project" profile and connect. Beside all aforementioned activities and information sources, promotional packages were also prepared, and will be distributed among stakeholders in different SNAP-SEE events. Leaflets and posters containing basic information about the project are also ready to be distributed.

Tina Benda, Geological Survey of Slovenia
When relevant decisions are being taken that affect different members of the public, or future 30 years are planned, it is important to involve the stakeholders into the decision making process. To increase awareness about the importance of early involvement of stakeholders, as well as increase knowledge of organisations involved in aggregates planning of how to do that, is the task of work package 3 in the SNAP-SEE project.

Target groups are twofold: first part of the activities is targeted at partner organisations that play the key role in planning the aggregates supply in the respective countries or regions of the South East Europe (SEE) – national and regional ministries in charge of mining/aggregates planning and environment, municipalities, geological surveys, universities, institutes and NGOs.

The second target groups are stakeholders that are affected by aggregates planning in SEE, since a series of stakeholder consultations will be implemented in the scope of the project. At the project beginning the activities are mostly oriented towards the partner organisations. A serious of trainings was implemented by more experienced partners to assure a solid and similar basis of knowledge of all participating organisations. Trainings covered the topics of SARM (Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management) and SSM (Sustainable Supply Mix), as well as findings and recommendations from the preceding SARMa project (the materials produced can be found at the website www.sarmaproject.eu on data and methods, green public procurement etc.

Once the key topics of aggregates planning were covered, partner organisations also participated in a specific training devoted to involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes (more details in a separate article). The training focused on benefits of stakeholder involvement, topics that should be discussed with the public and process of planning the involvement.

**List of the planned consultations with stakeholders in countries of South East Europe between July and November 2013.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Foreseen date of the consultations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Leoben</td>
<td>22nd or 23rd October or 6th or 7th November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>1st November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Budapest</td>
<td>Second part of October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ferrara</td>
<td>18th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Bucharest</td>
<td>17th October 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Nový Smokovec, High Tatras Mountains</td>
<td>24th and 25th October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ljubljana</td>
<td>September or October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Zadar</td>
<td>4th week of October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montenegro</td>
<td>Podgorica</td>
<td>3rd or 4th week in September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>Belgrade</td>
<td>30th October</td>
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The useful instructions, approaches and methods for involvement of stakeholders into aggregates planning will be included in the final project output, the Aggregates Planning Toolbox, in the Handbook on Capacity Building and Stakeholder Involvement in Aggregates Planning. The draft version of the Handbook was prepared and will be tested in the consultations in partner countries.
Organisations involved in planning of future supply of aggregates are the final beneficiaries of WP3 activities. In a year from now, they will be invited to participate in the consultation process (two events will be organised per country/region), where the benefits and gaps of the current approach to aggregates planning will be identified.

On the basis of this analysis, guidance and a plan of activities will be prepared in cooperation with stakeholders to improve the planning scope in 11 participating countries.

The first series of stakeholder consultations takes place between June and November 2013. Two workshops were already very successfully implemented in June, in Livno (BA) and in Tirana (AL), while you can find the provisional plan of future workshops in the table below. Details will be published on www.snapsee.eu. More comprehensive report on the results of the consultations will be available in the next newsletter.

Urška Dolinar, ALIANTA

Work packages

Data and methodologies for primary and secondary aggregates within SNAP-SEE project

Successful planning for a resource-efficient management and supply of primary and secondary aggregates must be carried out in an integrated way, as the demand for aggregates to be used in the construction industry is unique and depends on the technical quality of products and end-uses, rather than on the origin of aggregates. In addition planning requires a wide variety of supporting information not limited to aggregate related parameters, i.e. population distribution, average region economic growth, infrastructure availability, etc. It is evident that a proper management strategy for the supply of primary and secondary aggregates would lead to an effective and efficient use of natural resources and the mitigation of the environmental impacts to the planet.

If such information is not available, the objectives of any resource management plan may be difficult or impossible to achieve, or plans may be unrealistic or even counter-productive. For example, recent, complete and reliable statistics on sources and quantities of conventional and unconventional aggregates, actual recycling rates, and the overall aggregates requirements for the construction industry are core to resource-efficient planning. However, such data are largely unavailable. This is also the case in most South East Europe (SEE) countries. In addition, in many countries of the SEE area, secondary aggregates are often not considered in planning for aggregates supply.

For successful planning, it is important to access recent, complete and reliable data on sources and quantities of unconventional aggregates, actual recycling rates, and the overall aggregates requirements for the construction industry.
Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that the full range of data needed to support effective and sustainable national/regional plans for primary and secondary aggregates can be identified and become available, e.g., resources, location, technical characteristics, demand forecasts, current supply streams and quantities.

Once the data needs have been identified, a data dictionary that includes types, definitions, sources, scope, level of analysis needed for raw data, recommendations on state-of-the-art strategies for data collection and storage, and reporting methods needs to be created. This is a very important step, since past experience has shown that the quality of data recorded is often low, different data are reported under the same heading for different countries, or even regions within the same country, or even different agencies within the same government structure. The next step is to determine the agency responsible for collecting and reducing (or checking the quality of) each data set, the time frame for such activity, the storage and retrieval procedures (i.e., annual, volumes, electronic, web, etc.), as well as procedures to amend erroneously recorded data for previous years.

Everybody agrees that good data collection, archiving strategy will definitely yield better results in the integrated planning for a resource-efficient management and supply of primary and secondary aggregates. WP4 within SNAP SEE aims to contribute significantly to this sector and develop easy to apply guidelines for the involved stakeholders.

Zach Agioutantis, Kostas Komnitsas, Technical University of Crete

The purpose of the WPS is to analyze the primary and secondary aggregates planning approach in each partner country, so as to prepare guidance on partner country planning and to the aggregates planning scheme, and to create a Joint SNAP-SEE Vision for integrated aggregates planning. There are two main activities:

1. Multi-sectoral, National/Regional Analysis (MSR) of planning approaches and plan text for primary and secondary aggregates, including information on data and methodologies, and identification of text for use in the Aggregates Planning Scheme.
2. The preparation of guidance on aggregates planning, and guidance on the Aggregates Planning Scheme preparation of the Joint Snap-SEE Vision for integrated sustainable aggregates planning.

The WP Leader is the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary but all Partners are participants in this survey. We use questionnaires regarding the state of the aggregates planning and a special document called National Aggregates Information Report (NAIR) prepared by the Partners.

Answers on question
"Does your country/region have Sustainable Aggregates Policy?"
0: No; 1: Partially; 2: Yes.
No data are available about Bulgaria and Turkey.

The MSR will be shared with stakeholders during Stakeholder Consultations and it serves as background for each partner’s National/regional guidance document and for the SEE Vision as well.
NAIR is providing basic background information about the primary and secondary aggregates industry for each country are very useful on Stakeholder Consultations and in MSA. The NAIR could be completed for aggregates resources, infrastructure, environmental, economic, trading, social and partly legal-regulatory points of view voluntary depending on different aspects of a country. According to answers of questionnaire, the state of planning in SEE countries is completely inhomogeneous. Most of the countries have Land Use Planning Policy (expect Romania and Bosnia Herzegovina), but only four countries (Austria, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) have Sustainable Aggregate Policy. The administration is inhomogeneous as well. Some counties (Italy and Austria) have both one-stop-shop and parallel assessment models. Parallel assessment is frequent in SEE countries.

Zoltán Horváth, Katalin Sári,
Geological and Geophysical institute of Hungary

**Meetings**

**SNAP-SEE meeting in Budapest**

The second SNAP-SEE meeting was held between 13th and 15th of February in Budapest, in headquarter of the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary (MFGI). The main purpose of this meeting was the capacity building and discussion of the progress of work packages.

During the meeting the participants held and listened presentations on the project and the work packages. The advantages, obstacles and supporting factors of sustainable aggregates planning were studied in teamwork which promoted the communication. Each team consisted of 6-8 randomly selected participants, coming from different countries, from different research institutes, geological surveys, ministries, companies, professional associations or universities.

The partners answered a short questionnaire on the mineral resource management, aggregates planning, land use planning, environmental policy and the aggregates permitting process of their country. The answers were preliminary results for WP5. The above mentioned factors are not uniform in SEE countries as can be seen on the following diagrams.

### Minerals Policy

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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Montenegro</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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**Does the country have minerals policy?**

0=no, 1=partially/in progress, 2=yes; No data on Bulgaria and Turkey.

### Sustainable Aggregates Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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</table>

**Does the country have sustainable aggregates policy?**

0=no, 1=partially/in progress, 2=yes; No data on Bulgaria and Turkey.
On the meeting Alessandra Pala who coordinates the SEE projects in the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) held a presentation, and Jim O’Brien, the Past President of the European Aggregates Association (UEPG) also took part. The project meeting was successful because of the large number of participants and the participation of high qualified experts. The participants managed to discuss the next steps and tasks until the following meeting in Montenegro.

The third meeting for SNAP-SEE project partners took place in Budva, Montenegro, during 15th - 17th May 2013. The host of the event was Geological Survey of Montenegro. The meeting was attended by Past-President Jim O’Brien on behalf of UEPG and the University of Leoben, with almost 40 attendees from 12 SEE countries present. The focus of the meeting was the preparation for the national or regional stakeholder consultation meetings, which are now being organised in Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia between June and October 2013.

The goal of each meeting is to develop 20-year national or regional Aggregates Plans. The Aggregates Industry will be actively participating in these important meetings, represented by UEPG national associations where these exist. The meetings will also be a stimulus to develop national aggregates associations where these do not yet exist, to hopefully become future UEPG members. The SNAP-SEE project is therefore now becoming a strong driving force in creating a vibrant and sustainable aggregates industry in South-Eastern Europe, and in turn a strong UEPG representation in the region.
The SNAP-SEE Project, financed by the European Commission, is focussed on Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South-Eastern Europe, and is led by the University of Leoben. The project has now moved into the key stakeholder consultation phase, with the first meetings being held in Tirana, Albania, on June 12, and in Livno, Bosnia-Herzegovina on June 20. Past-President, Jim O’Brien, made a keynote presentation at both meetings, promoting the development of national 20-year aggregates plans.

The meeting in Tirana was led by Ledi Moisiu of the Geological Survey of Albania. The meeting included 40 representatives from the Ministries of Mining and Environment, the roads and waste authorities, the aggregates industry as well as NGOs, all of which made presentations. There followed a lively debate, which led to a much greater understanding of the importance of the aggregates industry to economic growth.

The meeting in Livno, led by Ivana Susa of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, was equally well attended, with a similar range of presentations from national ministries, authorities, the aggregates industry and NGOs.

It was followed by an excellent discussion forum, which created much better understanding of the need for planning for a sustainable national aggregates industry.

Both meetings involved multinational and local aggregates producers, and the discussions stimulated the desire to form national aggregates associations to have a stronger voice in ongoing consultations and also to seek the benefits of UEPG membership.
Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton (MGK10) has organized regional round table within the project "Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe", acronym SNAP-SEE. The round table took place in Livno, on the 20th of June 2013. This project is co-financed through Transnational Cooperation Programme for South East Europe. The project involves 27 partners from 13 SEE countries and Turkey. This project has total value of about EUR 1.7 million and will last for two years. The leading partner is Montanuniversität Leoben from Austria. The value of the project allocated to the MGK10 is EUR 70.000.

In her opening speech, Minister of MGK10 Mrs. Anka Papak-Dodig pointed out that “This project, co-financed by EU, has great importance to HB Canton and it is one of several projects implemented by this ministry. We expect to have even more similar projects in the near future” - said Minister Papak-Dodig.

Ivana Suša, from MGK10 emphasized that the aim of this project is to increase awareness about the need for sustainable planning of all stakeholders who were in any way involved in the exploitation of aggregates (public administration, companies, institutions, NGOs, etc.). The aim is also to create tools to support national and regional planning of primary and secondary aggregates in SEE.

Robert Kaselj from MGK10, presented the sector of aggregates in this county from economic perspective, review of reserves, market product prices and market shares of domestic operators. Boris Kruk from the Croatian Geological Survey presented an legal and regulatory overview of aggregates planning in Republic of Croatia. Željko Dedić, as well from the Croatian Geological Survey presented the practices in aggregates planning, elaborating example from Austria. Vladimir Simić from the Faculty of Mining and Geology from the University of Belgrade has elaborated the methodology of data collection, analysis of the demand for aggregates and issues of illegal excavations.

Special guest of the round table was Jim O’Brien, former president of the European Aggregates Association (UEPG). Jim O’Brien pointed out that “The process of obtaining concession rights in EU is time consuming and sometimes it takes up to ten years to obtain concession rights, which usually last from 5 to 10 years”. He has noticed that “The process of obtaining concession rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina is much shorter and the duration of the concession rights is much longer than in the EU”, but he also noticed that “Operators who operate in an illegal way, enter on this market too easily. ”It is important that the quarry operators work in a fair way with less dust and noise with more efficient transport. When the excavation is over, good quality restoration must be done”, said O’Brien.
After the theoretical part, the participants were actively engaged in the interactive part of the event. Using carousel method, participants were divided into three groups and were presented three different issues, on which they were supposed to give their comments and suggestions. Those three issues were:

– What are perceived problems in the current practices of aggregates management?

– What are the solutions – what could be done at the level of different administrations (local, regional, national) to overcome these problems?

– What could be done by other involved groups, especially the industry and the civil society, to overcome these problems and contribute to more efficient supply of aggregates; in what way they can be included?

Key problems, identified by the participants are: (1) there are no aggregates planning, (2) existence of corruption, bad or corrupt quality control, (3) laws governing this area are not harmonized (overlapping of jurisdiction between Federation of BiH and the cantons) (4) procedures for obtaining permissions and concession rights last too long.

Key solutions proposed by the participants are: (1) adopt mineral resources management plans, (2) strengthen the inspection, financial and mining control, control of operations and quality, (3) harmonize federal legislation with the legislation of the canton, (4) provide unitary process for getting approvals for research and exploration of mineral resources, (5) develop municipal and cantonal spatial plans, (6) solve and exterminate corruption, (7) harmonize concession fees between the cantons.

In regard to the third topic, participants have proposed following: (1) encourage the establishment of domestic association of operators, (2) contribute to the process of sanctioning illegal exploitation and forging documents, (3) more active participation of operators in regard to the adoption of relevant legislation, (4) better informing local community about the impact of exploitation of mineral resources to the environment, (5) facilitate the availability of information (at least for larger projects).

Round table has brought together numerous representatives from ministries of several cantons in F BiH, representatives of municipalities of Herzegbosnian Canton, operators, scientific community associated with the mining and geology, companies that obtain concession rights and others.

Key remarks of Jim O’Brien about this round table: „The 30 or so participants featured a very even balance between Ministry and the Industry. In that way, there was a very good airing of views and opinions from both sides... The discussion groups worked extremely well, leading to very frank and open discussions... I will retain very happy memories of the event and of the friendly people of Bosnia-Herzegovina“. (MGK10)

Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton
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