The primary objective of the Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe - SNAP-SEE project is to develop a Toolbox for Aggregates Planning to support national/regional, primary and secondary aggregates planning in SEE countries.

UPCOMING SNAP-SEE EVENTS

The next stakeholders consultation will be held in Greece on 7th February 2014, organized by the Technical University of Crete and the National Center for Sustainable Development.

Stakeholders consultation in Serbia will take place on 21st February 2014, organized by the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology.

The next SNAP-SEE Meeting for project partners – the 4th Steering Committee Meeting will be organized by the Croatian Geological Survey and will take place between the 9th and the 11th April 2014 in Pula, Croatia.

More information about the SNAP-SEE project on: http://snapsee.eu
PART I: Introduction

1.1. Foreword

The goal of the SNAP-SEE project is to improve national and regional planning processes in SEE countries for the provision of primary and secondary aggregates (sand, gravel, crushed rocks; construction and demolition waste, mine waste, materials extracted from civil works). This Newsletter reports the activities undertaken by the 27 SNAP-SEE partners (representing 13 SEE countries and Turkey) in the latter half of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. SNAP-SEE has entered its second year with solid progress on all Work Packages. In addition, partners met in Bratislava, Slovakia, participated in other national and international meetings to share information about SNAP-SEE, and also began planning for future cooperation.

The WP 1 article describes the 4th SEE call, under which SNAP-SEE is funded, as well as European Commission Cohesion Policy for funding in the 2014-2020 period. The article on WP 2 reports website activity, project promotion and dissemination, and the first YouTube video on the project. The WP 3 article focuses on enhanced cooperation, information sharing, and capacity building amongst stakeholder organizations involved in or potentially impacted by aggregates planning and supply. Between June and December 2013 initial consultation workshops were implemented in 9 participating countries and consultation aims and lessons learned are presented. WP 4 addresses the data and analysis needed to support aggregates planning. Partners shared information on which data they currently use in planning. The WP 4 article discusses scope and types of data required and identifies the key analysis methods that should be utilized in the planning process. The purpose of WP 5 is to analyze the current primary and secondary aggregates planning approach in each partner country, prepare guidance on how to improve partner country planning and to create a Joint SNAP-SEE Vision for integrated aggregates planning.

A Multisectoral Analysis of the state of aggregates planning has been completed and the WP 5 article highlights some of its contents and recommendations. A scheme for aggregates planning in SEE is being developed in WP 6. This article discusses the status of and inputs to the draft scheme and also the potential challenges to and benefits of its use.

This Newsletter also contains an article on current and projected aggregates usage in the SEE region, pointing out the strong growth expected in coming 5-7 years. Enhanced planning for both primary and secondary aggregates will be needed if SEE countries are to meet increased demand in a sustainable manner. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and invite you to visit the project website to learn more about sustainable national aggregates planning (http://www.snapsee.eu).

Deborah Shields and Günter Tiess, Lead partner - University of Leoben
PART I: Introduction

1.2. Aggregates – strong growth prospects in SEE

Aggregates are the essential building component for modern society. A sustainable supply of Aggregates is essential to economic growth, and conversely aggregates consumption in tonnes/capita is an indicator of economic prosperity. Figure below shows the latest 2012 UEPG data for tonnes/capita of all its members across Europe. The average consumption of 5.2 tonnes/capita was nearly 30% down from the peak of over 7 tonnes/capita in 2007, a stark illustration of the impact of economic recession. In individual countries, the tonnes/capita figures relate closely to the national economic conditions, as well as to climatic conditions and building traditions.

Based on best estimates of production in the SEE countries, figure below shows the corresponding tonnes/capita by country in the region.
Excluding Austria and Italy (developed economies with GDP greater than €25k/capita), the other SEE countries (developing economies with GDP in the range €10k-€20k/capita) have an average consumption of only 3.5 tonnes/capita. Therefore consumption in those countries is likely to grow by 50% to at least the current European average in the next 5-7 years. This means total demand in that region will likely increase by 50% from about 280mt now to over 400mt by 2020. Hence the imperative for pro-active Aggregates Planning in the region, and that is precisely the objective of the SNAP-SEE Project.

In parallel, the aggregates industry in the region must prepare to grow strongly and sustainably. That is precisely the mission of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association.

Already UEPG has national association members in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, with company members (the first stage of membership) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece and Slovenia. UEPG extends a warm hand of welcome to new members in all the other SNAP-SEE countries, and will be delighted to mentor and support the sustainable growth of the Aggregates Industry in the SEE Region.

Jim O’Brien, University of Leoben

The gala evening for all participants was held in the Hotel Matyšák and the cultural program was focused to testing of several Slovak wines of excellent quality.

The last day of the meeting was organized as a field trip into the largest active quarry in Bratislava, on the ruins of Devin castle, which is located at the confluence of the Morava and Danube Rivers (the castle is one of the oldest historically documented castles building in Slovakia, its history is dated back to prehistoric times), and on one of the most important paleontological sites in Slovakia - stratotype locality Sandberg, located in the former quarry of Neogene sands (there were found around 300 kinds of fossils of gastropods, mollusks, sponges, Foraminifera, but also larger marine and terrestrial animals). On the way back to Bratislava, we stopped to see the complex undertaking the recycling of construction waste. The excursion was completed by the city tour of the historic centre of Bratislava with a professional tour guide. I believe that all the participants of the meeting were satisfied and they will return to Slovakia in the future.

Vlasta Jánová, ENVIRO-SK
SNAP-SEE project is being implemented under the 4th call in the South East Europe (SEE) programme. SEE programme is a unique instrument which, in the framework of the Regional Policy’s Territorial Cooperation Objective, aims to improve integration and competitiveness in an area which is as complex as it is diverse.

In 2007 the European Commission approved the Transnational Co-operation Programme South-East Europe for the period 2007-2013. The South East Europe programme is the transnational programme which gathers the biggest number of participating countries: 16 in total. As 8 of these are EU Member States, 6 are candidate and potential candidate countries and 2 are countries participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy, this is a highly complex programme which presents challenges such as ensuring good mechanisms to contract partners who receive funding from different instruments: ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance) and potentially ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument).

The programme is supporting projects developed within four Priority Axes: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility, and Sustainable Growth Areas – in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg priorities, and is also contributing to the integration process of the non-EU member states. SNAP-SEE was approved under the priority Environment.

On 6th October 2011 the European Commission adopted a draft legislative package for the Cohesion Policy for the funding period 2014 - 2020. The European Commission has proposed that the present area of the South East Europe Programme Transnational Cooperation Programme will be covered in the next programming period 2014-2020 by two transnational programmes: Danube and South East Gateway (renamed later on Adriatic-Ionian). These two new programmes will support the development and implementation of two Macro Regional Strategies: Danube and Adriatic-Ionian Regions.

1.1 Adriatic-Ionian Programme 2014-2020

As mentioned above one of the new programmes will be Adriatic-Ionian Programme.

According to the Commission proposal the new transnational programme will cover fully or partially 4 EU countries (Greece, Italy and Slovenia, and Croatia) and 4 non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia), having the same geographical scope than the forthcoming EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region.

The general objective of the new Strategy is to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Region through growth and jobs creation, by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity,
while preserving the environment and ensuring a healthy and balanced marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Strategy is also expected to substantially contribute to the EU integration of the Western Balkan countries. 4 pillars have been identified, focusing on:

- Driving innovative maritime and marine growth
- Connecting the region (transport and energy)
- Preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment
- Increasing regional attractiveness (tourism)

Moreover, "Research, Innovation and SME development", as well as "Capacity Building" are two cross-cutting aspects involving every area.

All macro-regional stakeholders can benefit from the Strategy, including: local, regional and national administrations, universities, clusters, SMEs, organisations and associations, private partners, international investors, etc.

We can expect launching of the Adriatic-Ionian Programme and first call for proposals in the first half of 2015.

1.2 Danube Programme 2014-2020

Second new programme will be the Danube Programme.

The preparation of the new programme is conducted by the Programming Committee of representatives from all the Danube partner states. The Danube Programme will cover parts of 9 EU countries (Austria; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Germany (Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria); Hungary; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia) and 5 non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Serbia; Ukraine (not whole territory), having the same geographical scope than the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The Danube region is facing several challenges:

- environmental threats (water pollution, floods, climate change)
- untapped shipping potential and lack of road and rail transport connections
- insufficient energy connections
- uneven socio-economic development
- uncoordinated education, research and innovation systems
- shortcomings in safety and security.

Better coordination and cooperation between the countries and regions is needed to address these challenges.

(Source: http://www.southeast-europe.net/)

Anita Pokorn, Alianta
PART II: Project progress

2.2. WP2: Communication and dissemination activities

All activities in the work package 2 last from the beginning to the end of the project to ensure active and efficient communication within the project and between the project and general public.

The SNAP-SEE project and its progress are presented on the projects website (www.snapsee.eu), which is regularly updated, as well as on Facebook and LinkedIn. We are very pleased with website visits, where we got 1800 unique visitors and 3100 average hits / month during last 14 months. General project information, calendar of events, promotional materials and other documents, as well as galleries and official results can be found there. Upcoming major upgrade will include national subsection, where materials in national languages will be available.

The overall progress of this WP is ahead of schedule, and we are happy about that. Tasks, which are completed, include establishing and maintaining the project website, as well as preparation of communication plan, leaflets, posters, common promotional packages and graphical design and 1 newsletter. The second edition is in front of you, presenting the project progress and results of the first round of stakeholder consultations in each project partner’s country.

The final, third one will be prepared in July 2014 on the basis of partners agreements at the 4th meeting in Pula, Croatia.

SNAP-SEE partners endeavour to promote the project by number of dissemination activities. Table below is summarising up-to-date information about dissemination progress. These activities are monitored by dissemination activity reports.

Hiring a film crew in October 2013, the preparation of 2 short promotional videos begun, and we think they are going to be available in June 2014 at latest on YouTube. The first promotional YouTube video will contain recordings from project events, interviews from partners, and will present goals and activities of the SNAP-SEE project. Also, the production and uses of aggregates will be explained in simple and clear way to interested public. The second promotional video will be prepared in the begining of summer 2014 and we hope you will like both, learning more on aggregates planning in SEE at the same time.

Snježana Miletić, Gorazd Žibret,
Geological Survey of Slovenia

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<tr>
<th>SNAP-SEE dissemination activities indicators (up to 15th January 2014)</th>
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<td>Type of dissemination event</td>
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<td>Participation at the event where SNAP-SEE was actively promoted</td>
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<td>SNAP-SEE events organised</td>
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<td>Other dissemination events</td>
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PART II: Project progress

2.3. WP3: On the road towards sustainable aggregates planning in SEE – lessons learnt

One of the aims of the SNAP-SEE project is to enhance cooperation of involved stakeholder organisations in the process of planning of future supply with aggregates. Activities take place in 12 SEE countries. In the period between June and December 2013 the consultation workshops were implemented in 9 participating countries, while in Austria, Greece and Serbia they are being implemented in the first months of 2014. Some reports from the events are in this issue.

The aims of the first round of consultations were:

- to enable cooperation and discussion between different organizations involved in or affected by planning the future aggregates supply, including national and regional ministries in charge of mining, economy, environment, governmental agencies, municipalities, geological surveys, institutes, universities, industry representatives, non-governmental organizations, general public,
- to present the current situation in aggregates planning in the concerned countries or regions: organizations in change, current national legislation and EU guidelines and directives,
- to share recommendations and good practices in aggregates planning developed in the SARMa and SNAP-SEE projects, promoting the concepts SARM (Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management) and SSM (Sustainable Supply Mix) (the materials produced can be found at the website www.sarmaproject.eu),
- to collect opinion of participant on existing good approaches and challenges in current aggregates planning practices.

The consultations have proved to be very fruitful, bringing together a relevant number of representatives of practically all target groups. In a positive atmosphere the participants have learnt new things, shared their opinions and expressed that they were very satisfied with having a chance for cooperation in such events.

Lessons learnt from the implemented consultations are:

- organisations affected are interested in participation at consultations discussing the aggregates planning process,
- they have learnt new information about the current state of planning and relevant legislation,
- there are several proposals about improvements in the planning process,
- there is a lack of fruitful cooperation between institutions in charge and the affected stakeholders,
- procedures should be simplified and shortened,
- aggregates should be considered to a better extent at planning the future development of the regions,
- cooperation between authorities in charge of aggregates and in charge of environmental issues could be improved.

On the basis of collected information and desk-based analysis of current state of planning (presented in the following articles), the project partner organisations will prepare an outline for the second step of the consultation process. For 12 countries a suggested guidance will be prepared on possible improvements.
2.4. WP4: Data and methodologies for primary and secondary aggregates

The availability of reliable historic data sets both accurate and without any time gaps is an important input to any successful planning exercise at any level. Planning authorities at all levels should have access to the permitted reserves, annual capacity to produce and actual annual supply of primary and secondary aggregates (where available in the aggregate supply mix) in order to be in a position to successfully manage the current needs of the construction industry and to plan for future large scale civil infrastructure works like road and bridge construction, planning and expansion of harbor facilities, etc.

Information necessary in the data collection scheme for primary aggregates should include typical characteristics of primary and secondary aggregates such as origin, composition, mechanical properties, etc. More important, however, is the so-called “permitted reserves”, i.e. reserves for which all the stages towards obtaining an exploitation permit have been completed, i.e. they can be easily be produced. Non-permitted resources take considerable time to mature to permitted resources and, therefore, can only be considered as potentially available to be included in the supply stream. In addition, the pathways to drive secondary or recycled aggregates back to the supply stream are different. The majority of the countries in the SEE have not exploited this potential yet.

Apart from the technical characteristics and the spatial availability of aggregates successful planning should consider other indices such as the rate of population growth, the economic potential in the region, etc. This type of data will be needed to run demand forecast models, life cycle assessment models, material flow analysis scenarios and also consider social data paradigms. Analysis results should be used in combination with available resources and their spatial distribution as well as land use planning in order to allow authorities to make informed decisions regarding the sustainable planning for aggregates. This can lead to an effective and efficient use of natural resources and the mitigation of the environmental impacts to the region and neighboring regions. Figure below shows a typical example of material flow between neighboring regions.

The output of work package 4 will provide the framework and methodology to help achieve effective resource management plans including both primary and secondary aggregates. It is important to specifically address data collection issues that will clearly identify the responsible authorities for particular data items, storage, availability and retrieval procedures and considerations.

Zach Agioutantis, Kostas Komnitsas, Technical University of Crete
1. Introduction

Multisectoral analysis regarding aggregates is a method for revealing the status of the aggregates in the legal-regulatory system that is to say in the planning. We are looking for that where and how aggregates are mentioned in legal documents representing different sectors which could have impact on aggregates supply. These sectors are:

- mining/minerals management
- environment, including water management and nature conservation
- green public procurement
- waste management
- recycling
- land use

These sectors are covered by regulations and policies, such as sustainable development policy, minerals policy, land use planning policy, waste management policy, recycling policy and environmental policy. Land use planning is a key because it responsible for balancing between the activity of waste management, recycling, nature conservations, transport and other activities. Waste management and recycling are usually treated together in a common policy. Primary aggregates belong to minerals management while secondary aggregates are touched by recycling or waste management policies. The collective management of both would establish the sustainable aggregates supply.

2. Analysis and results

This paper is based on a questionnaire filled by 14 countries and regions: Albania, Austria, Herzegosnian Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Emilia-Romagna Region and Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy), Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey. Many of them have Sustainable Development, Minerals, Land Use Planning, Waste Management and Environmental Policy. Only 5 countries/regions have Recycling Policy separate from Waste Management and 7 countries/regions have some kind of Aggregates Planning Policy.

Only 3 partners (Austria, Slovenia and the Autonomous Province of Trento) have Aggregates Planning Policies which consider both primary and secondary aggregates. In other 4 countries or regions (Albania, Croatia, Greece and Emilia-Romagna Region) there are Aggregates Policies considering primary aggregates only.
In other partner countries usually the Mining Act is the most important document regarding aggregates planning; however, it refers to primary aggregates only. The secondary aggregates (mostly the construction & demolition waste and in some cases the mining waste) are considered mainly by the Waste Management Policy of the country or region. These documents are not interconnected so the primary and secondary aggregates are managed separately. In several partner countries the Land Use Planning Policy could be a good basic for Aggregates Planning because it contains important information: e.g. designated aggregates or mining areas, protected areas of nature or culture.

Considering the countries not having aggregates planning policy, Slovakia, Greece and Turkey are on the right direction, they have all other policies that take preliminary steps in aggregates planning process. Albanian, Slovenian and Hungarian positions are also well developed with 5 policies.

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

PART II: Project progress

2.6. WP6: Aggregates planning scheme

The development of the Scheme for Aggregate Planning has continued during the second half of 2013 through the collection of several national diagrams i.e. from Austria, Croatia, Emilia-Romagna, Hungary, Parma, Slovenia and Trento as well as best practices provided by the SNAP-SEE partners and observers.

As mentioned during the last consortium meetings, the development of the SNAP-SEE Scheme will try to capitalize the experiences of countries that already have a mineral plan and a waste plan that deals specifically with potential secondary aggregates (e.g. Construction and Demolition Waste).

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, not many SEE countries have a comprehensive plan that includes both primary and secondary aggregates production forecasts and future demand estimations. Deborah Shields presented then some planning approaches and guiding principles from non-SEE countries, namely from United Kingdom and Canada, in particular the Ontario Aggregates Resources Act an the UK National Planning Policy. These documents merged and integrated with existing schemes into a SEE Vision for aggregates may be the starting point in order to provide an organic, homogeneous strategy in SEE region.
At the moment we are finalizing the collection of information in order to provide you a draft scheme to be discussed with national stakeholders. The work carried out during these months in WP4 and 5 depicted the actual data collection/analysis practices established in SEE countries as well as their key authorization procedures and the existing laws regulating aggregate production. Some elements of the future scheme are already emerged: developing an effective, sustainable planning for aggregates may not be an easy task where mineral and waste management are carried out by entirely separated public bodies.

In my opinion, then, our countries will face two different challenges when trying to apply the Scheme in the future. In the countries where an aggregate planning is well established, or has already be discussed in a draft form among principal stakeholders, the Scheme may be a source of inspiration in order to provide a convergence of existing mineral and waste plans towards an increased use of alternative aggregates, in particular focusing on sharply defining the "end-of-waste" threshold and secondary aggregates characterizations. In countries where an effective plans do not exist yet, the Scheme may be an opportunity to envision a set of legislative and technical documents focused on planning for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates through economic, social and other relevant local information, and by an assessment of all supply options including marine dredged, by-products and secondary sources.

Stefano Furin,
Emilia-Romagna Region
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.1. Stakeholder consultations in Albania - The importance of debate with all stakeholders

During the last two decades extension of the group of stakeholders for making decisions in different field of economic development with the civil society mostly represented by NGO, universities, research centers, independent technical experts and communities, reveals the importance of the consultations, discussion and debate forums with different groups of the society, especially for future planning development.

With the aim that this planning process for aggregates can be a core principle of sustainable development, integrated, transparent and real, comprehensive, strategic with a clear vision for the role of aggregates in society development, improvements in human well-being and to sustain those improvements over time, pragmatic and successful; this planning will ensure: long term sustainable supply of the chain needs of primary and secondary aggregates, rational exploitation of aggregate resources, fulfillment in time, quality and quantity of the growing aggregate demand, resource-efficient management, mitigation of the environmental impacts to the planet, and at the end a better understanding that resources belongs also to the other generations. Sustainability realised by planning shall have as overarching goals: economic prosperity, environmental health, and social equity for the present generation and equal opportunities for future generations.

Albania is a rich country in mineral resources as well as with primary aggregates evaluated with unlimited reserves. During the fifty years period until 1990, the use of aggregates has been limited and realized by a centralized planning governed by rules of centralized economy. In the last two decades when Albania faced the free market economy rules, at the beginning mining industry almost gone in collapse and with the application of new mining strategies and legislation in 1994, which enabled the transition from an economically centralized type of ownership, planning and operation, into one based on the free market the mining industry begun to play an effective role in improvement of the quality of life and on the sustainable economical growth of the country.

Albania already has a mining strategy and a new package of mining legislation. Even that in the existing mining strategy the aggregates part takes big attention due to the fact that the production of primary aggregates today occupy almost 83 % of the total mining products, in the consultation realised under the SNAP project between all stakeholders, the design of a new specific strategy by taking in account all its elements as an integrated strategy for use of aggregates in Albania is revealed with a great importance.

In the Albanian mining policy, mining legislation, national programs and action plans, the sustainable development of mining industry is treated as a balance on three pillars:

i) Investment development through better legal frame work and regulation, to reduce the administrative barriers, finishing the process of privatization, promotion of industrial business with higher value added, strengthening of the institutions dealing with business, ensuring well-management of natural and human resources, by inciting, supporting, encourage the development and increment of domestic production, education and training for entrepreneurship, coordination and cooperation of the developing programs of the country with those regional and more, improvement of the climate for foreign investments, saving the professionalism and transparency for a sustainable development.

ii) Investment development friendly to the environment, through enforcing the mitigation.
measures, rehabilitation process, strengthening of the supervision on remediation, monitoring and post monitoring process; ensure level of work safety, less damages and pollution to environment, by application and implementation of advanced technologies, for a clean environment and nature, to minimize as much as possible the effects on life of communities.

iii) Social aspects, through the involvement and understanding of community, transparency, civil society involvement in a wider way, taking in consideration profits and damages to the community as an approach to fight poverty, by encouraging the creation of new jobs, possibilities for infrastructure improvement, help in health system and education particularly for the areas with poor economic activity, for a better life of the citizens.

This strategy and different reform that has been undertaken by the government still does not give a proper answer for integrated planning process and activities of use of aggregates.

Discussion in the debate forum realized with almost all stakeholders interested in the aggregates revealed different concerns on planning process of aggregates, that shall be addressed during the SNAP-SEE project as a continuity of the SARMa project.

Identification of the stakeholders, especially of key stakeholders and engagement with the stakeholders for the planning process, to discuss with them the priorities as well as other elements interested to different social groups has been the first important issue raised in this consultation.

From this consultation it expressed the idea that it is time, for a new sectorial strategy for the aggregates, which shall pass the difficulties of its division in two legislations, its management from three institutions. Such division creates difficulties in planning process; in the management from central state and local institutions, use of aggregates from the business and, it is time to harmonize, and improve aggregate planning policies, by a greater policy coordination within and among central and local state institutions, followed by a wide consultation and debate with all the stakeholders.

At beginning it is emphasized that accurate data are needed, so there is importance for the creation of an Aggregates Intelligence (data) System, information and knowledge transfer for all elements of a successful planning such as: the demand of the overall aggregates requirements, chain needs by quality, quantity, end use, positioning, aggregates flows / markets, population movements, social conditions, economic growth by regions and infrastructure development, etc in one side; primary and secondary aggregates resource, complete and reliable data on sources and quantities of unconventional aggregates, actual recycling rates, in the other side, which need to be resolved more in organised manner by enabling a coordinating work within central and local state institutions and strengthen of the Central Center for Territory Planning with infrastructure (labs for quality control, hardware, software) and professionals.

Presentation to Albanian stakeholders

Since 2009 Albania is applying “one stop shop” procedure not only for business registration (National Registration Centre. NRC), but also for the licensing of economic activities including mining activities (National Licensing Centre, NLC), as part of the reforms for improving business climate, regulatory framework,
fiscal and activity inspection; reduction of administrative barriers and application of Electronic Government. During discussion has been raised the idea for the creation of a new institution just for the aggregates or a division within this National Center of Licensing which will take care for managing the activities in aggregates from the licensing, up to environment rehabilitation, so for the whole lifecycle of quarries. This solution would bring more efficiency to private subjects.

Use of secondary aggregates is still a challenge for Albania. There are big quantities of clean waste of aggregates or mix ones which come from the process of opening, preparation and exploitation of mines. These important quantities of secondary aggregates are available for market delivery. Their use is still in very low levels.

Consultation process realized under SNAP-SEE project was the first step in beginning the debate forum for planning process of aggregates and a part of the several topics related to planning, exploitations rehabilitation of quarries, improvement on Albanian legislation, investments on mining sector and environments, mining legislation and policies, needs for a cooperation among ministries and relevant institutions on permitting, monitoring and control etc, there are emphasized in this consultation also the following topics:

- To set up a multi sectorial and inter institutional working group which should work on elaboration of a platform for aggregate planning. It is needed major participation of NGOs, Universities, Researcher and local experts in planning processes;
- Harmonization of laws, for cleaning the overlapping of jurisdiction within central state institution and between central and local state institutions;
- Creating an investment environment with appropriate international standards by fighting corruption, increasing transparency and better informing about the impact of exploitation of mineral resources to the environment, to facilitate the availability of information;
- Encourage the establishment of domestic association of operators in the aggregate business;
- Determination of the proper criteria during planning process such as: Geographical, Geological, Environmental, Organizing, Social and economic development, etc;
- Strengthened of the institution to correctly applying the law, (supervision, monitoring, illegal quarrying) and imposing the law to the producers to provide accurate data on aggregate production, environments rehabilitation, etc, during the elaboration or annual reports;
- The “Know-How” and experience exchange between local operators, but also other companies dealing with aggregates in the region should be stimulated;
- Progressively environmental rehabilitation of operating quarries to be carry out with aim to decrease some major environmental damages caused by quarries, such are erosion, floods, land loss, etc., and by not leaving it to the end of quarry operation;
- A reassessment of aggregate resources based on international standards is a must for a good planning;
- Gathering of all data for aggregate use in all activities within the country and at the cross border areas;
- Exploitation of the riverbeds gravel only for rehabilitation purposes.

Results of the first open debate and its continuity during these months with different groups of interest, topics raised during discussion, ideas for performing a wider participating process in the planning of aggregates reveals once more the importance of such consultation and at the same time ensuring that a plan done with all the stakeholders has more chances to be successful that any other plan done just only from the authorities which approves such plan.

Ledi Moisiu¹, Sokol Mati²

¹ Geological Survey of Albania
² SNAP-SEE projects’ external expert
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.2. Stakeholder consultations in Livno - BIH, Herzegbosnian Canton

Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton has organized on 20ᵗʰ June 2013 in Livno regional round table within the project "Sustainable Planning aggregates in South East Europe".

Participants of the round table have proposed different solutions to identified problems in existing practice of aggregates planning and also on topic what other stakeholders, especially industry and civil society, could do to solve these problems.

Key problems: (1) there are no aggregates planning, (2) existence of corruption, bad or corrupt quality control, (3) laws governing this area (jurisdiction between federation of BIH and the canton) are not harmonized (4) procedures for obtaining permissions and concessions are too long.

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

On topic what other stakeholders, especially industry and civil society, could do so that identified problems could be solved, participants have proposed following: (1) encourage the establishment of domestic association of operators, (2) contribute to the sanctioning process of illegal exploitation and forging of documents, (3) contribute to the active participation of operators to adopt legislation concerning their activities, (4) contribute to process of informing of local community with the impact of the exploitation of mineral resources on the environment by investors and corporate social responsibility, (5) contribute in facilitating the availability of information of the needs for aggregates (at least for larger projects).

Round table has brought together numerous representatives from ministries and municipalities of several cantons in F BiH, operators, companies from the construction sector in the region and Bosnia and Herzegovina, media etc.

Ministry of Economic Affairs of Herzegbosnian Canton

More about the event can be found in the August 2013 issue...
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.3. Stakeholder consultations in Italy

The Italian stakeholders' consultation took place on the 18th of September 2013 in Ferrara, one of the province capitals of Emilia-Romagna Region: the event was organized as an inside-happening of the international environmental fair "RemTech". RemTech Fair is one of the most important environmental occurrences in Italy. It deals with different environmental topics from soil reclamation to debris-flows mitigation. This year the fair was on three main topics: the aggregates management, and the aggregates planning in particular, have been one of them. The event has been organized in collaboration with ANPAR, the National Association of Recycled Aggregates Producers, gathering more attention from operators and public authorities interested in providing a sustainable aggregate supply.

Each SNAP-SEE member presented the state-of-the-art in its territory, and which results are awaited by the SNAP-SEE project. Among these purposes we included: sharing of knowledge about SSM (Sustainable Supply Mix) and aggregates planning; the role of stakeholders at different planning levels; data collection and data methodologies adopted in our country; strategies to improve the current aggregates planning by integrating more deeply our secondary resources; enhancing the recycling efficiency through instruments such as guide lines; building technical capacity and awareness in public administrations.

At the end of the day a brief round table was successfully arranged with the aim to start a dialogue with the stakeholders regarding the main themes, focusing in particular on aspects related to secondary resources.

Stefano Furin¹, Michele Valbusa²

¹ Emilia-Romagna Region
² Autonomous Province of Trento
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.4. Stakeholder consultations in Montenegro

Geological Survey of Montenegro organized its first national consultations on 27th September 2013 in premises of Hotel M Nikic, Podgorica.

We tried to have balanced participation of representatives of stakeholders from various area that are on some way included in aggregates supply issues.

We have send 55 invitations and 33 participants attented the meeting, among them representatives of state institutions from the area of environmental protection, inspection affairs, real estate, geodesy, transportation, construction and road maintenance, statistics; representatives of aggregates producers, mining and construction companies; experts from geology and mining representatives of ministries in charge for mining and geology, finance and foreign affairs and european integrations; representative of non – governmental organization; representative of educational institution; representative od local community.

Purpose of the consultations was to introduce participants the SNAP-SEE project and to start constructive dialogue between different stakeholders in Montenegro and to collect opinions and answers on prepared questions. As method of dicussion we used carousel method, with the following procedure: Participants were divided into three sites where the questions were asked, each group had conversation and debate on the questions that were asked and replied, or made the suggestion to resolve the outstanding issues. Each station had moderators that did not participate in debate and who wrote opinions of each group. After each group visited each site with questions, another part followed and that was – the ranking of the responses on the way that participants marked by three responses that they considered the most important to address the questions asked.

Our opinion, as organizers, is that our first consultations were successful.

After the consultations, we sent letter to all invited as well as participants who attended the meeting, expressed our gratitude to participants and sent presentations from the meeting, along with the report.

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3.5. Stakeholder consultations in Slovenia - “Aggregate supply in Slovenia“

The Geological Survey of Slovenia has organized the first round of Slovenian SNAP-SEE consultations for stakeholders on the field of aggregates planning. A title of the event was “Aggregates supply in Slovenia”. The event took place in the premises of the Geological Survey of Slovenia on Thursday, 24th October 2013.

Aims of the SNAP-SEE stakeholders’ workshop were:

- Presentation of the SNAP-SEE project with its objectives and results to be achieved.
- Sharing knowledge gained in the preceding SARMa project and to inform stakeholders with the first results of the SNAP-SEE project.
- Finding main obstacles in increasing the recycling rate of construction and demolition waste, to define better ways for environmental-friendly aggregates extraction and do find future challenges for better aggregates planning in Slovenia.
- Miscellaneous discussions.

All types of stakeholders were invited, and 28 participants responded. Participants were from following sectors: industry, universities, NGOs, national mining service representatives, research institutes, nature conservation authorities, ministries, spatial planning authorities, water management authorities, mining project designers, stakeholders from civil engineering sector and construction & demolition waste recycling experts, with a support from Montenegrin project partner and project consultants from Alianta. Workshop included presentations on the topics of aggregates supply, interactive workshop and round table discussions, followed by a social event for stakeholders after the workshop closure to enable unofficial conversations and establishment of personal connections between them.

Results of the interactive workshop were suggestions of many possible ways on how to improve practices and legislation towards better aggregates supply planning in Slovenia, including a need for national spatial planning and mining strategies, improvement of recycling of construction waste legislation, a suggestion for a better involvement of different stakeholders in aggregates planning process, a need for better distribution of concession fees among local communities/state, for appropriate land recultivation of mining site after closure and an importance to use best available technologies for mining and processing.

Gorazd Žibret, Snježana Mletić,
Geological Survey of Slovenia
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3.6. Stakeholder consultations in Slovakia - High Tatra Mountains hosted experts on aggregates

The tourist resort Novy Smokovec in the High Tatra Mountains in Slovakia welcomed on October 24-25, 2013 Slovak experts on aggregates. This year the 15th traditional annual seminar of the Slovak Association of Aggregates Producers was organized in the spirit of the international project SNAP-SEE and its main theme was aggregate planning issues and stakeholder consultations. The seminar was attended by 120 stakeholders and during the round table on the end of the seminar 34 participants expressed their views on issues related to aggregates exploration and production. Very active were mainly representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, the Mining and Forestry authorities, the State Geological Institute of Dionyz Stur, the Railways of the Slovak Republic, the National Highway Company, the Technical and Testing Institute, the Tax Office representatives, representatives of mining and recycling companies, the Mining and Concrete associations and representatives of Nature Protection.

The presentations on the seminar included:

- SNAP - SEE project information,
- Legislation on mining, geology, mining waste, constructions, forestry, royalties and taxes,
- Current status in aggregate survey and production,
- Licensing, mining waste management and planning,
- Raw material policy and prognoses,
- Conflicts of interests.

Stakeholders’ consultation in Slovakia

Round table was structured as a moderated discussion combined with brainstorming and was focused on:

- Addressing conflicts of interests,
- Removing barriers in mining and recycling,
- Motivation of local communities,
- Synergy in national planning.

Participants of the round table finally formulated conclusions and recommendations for the next stakeholder consultations. The main messages were:

- All participants expressed their support for aggregate planning initiatives,
- Aggregate producers called for synergy in relevant fields of national planning (such as highways, railways, waste management, spatial planning, aggregate production, etc.),
- All participants appreciate their involvement to consultation and the perspective to implement such consultations before decision making processes in future.

Vlasta Jánová, ENVIRO-SK

Presentation of the SNAP-SEE project at the Slovakian workshop
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3.7. Stakeholder consultations in Croatia

The Croatian Chamber of Economy, Industry division, and the Croatian Geological Survey, Department of Mineral Resources, have on 25th October 2013 organized the first national Consultation Conference "Sustainable Planning aggregates in South East Europe (SNAP-SEE) – Capacity building and stakeholder involvement in the planning process aggregates" at the premises of the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

The purpose of the consultations was to inform stakeholders about the SNAP-SEE project, on sustainable planning aggregates, with an emphasis on secondary aggregates and their integration into the planning process as well as obtaining information from stakeholders through discussions and questionnaires.

All relevant stakeholders could share their experiences, opinions, and issues related to minerals sector, from the standpoints of exploitation of mineral resources, administration and non-governmental sectors.

As part of the consultation colleagues from the province of Emilia - Romagna in Italy presented the situation in their province and ways to implement planning in line with European standards. The work involved a little less than 50 participants from government institutions at the national, regional and local levels, universities, NGOs and companies.

The agenda has been performed successfully and fruitfully. Following the presentations, there was a thematic discussion in the form of "Carousel", after which opinions were synthesized and reports given for each specific issue.

From the discussion and questionnaires, we have generated the most important issues concerning the sector of mineral resources, and aggregates specifically:

- Ambiguous, and in some parts controversial, legal solutions,
- Lack of adequate strategies in the field of mineral resources and their clear status in the planning documents,
- A complete lack of or insufficient involvement of geologists and mining experts in the processes of planning,
- Underdeveloped market for aggregates sector,
- Lack of plans and programs for the rehabilitation of abandoned and active exploitation fields,
- Insufficient involvement of civil society in creating legal solutions.

Željko Dedić,
Geological Survey of Croatia
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.8. Stakeholder consultations in Hungary

The Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary (MFGI) and the Hungarian Mining Association (HMA) have organized the Hungarian stakeholders' consultation entitled “Sustainable Aggregates Planning – Professional Consultation” on 28th October, 2013.

The aims of the SNAP-SEE stakeholders' consultation were:

- To present the SNAP-SEE project;
- To share knowledge gained in the preceding SARMa project and to inform stakeholders with the first results of the SNAP-SEE project;
- To introduce the present Hungarian aggregates situation and determinate how to improve it;
- To highlight the importance of conflict management.

There were 30 participants involved at the workshop and were representing different sectors: ministry (Ministry of National Development), authorities (Hungarian Office of Mining and Geology, National Institute for Environment), civil sector (Scientific Society of Silicate Industry, Non-Profit Llc. for Quality Control and Innovation in Building, Lechner Lajos Knowledge Centre), experts (MFGI, Budapest University of Technology and Economics – Engineering Geology Division, University of Miskolc – Faculty of Earth Science and Engineering – Institute of Raw Material Preparation and Environmental Processing, Hungarian Mining and Metallurgical Society, senior experts), industry (Hungarian Mining Association, Basalt Ldt.).

The consultation included short oral presentations and some round table discussions. After the opening speech of the Director of the MFGI the first lecture was presented by the representative of the Ministry of National Development about the infrastructural demand side of aggregates.

Introduction to the SNAP-SEE project and the domestic aggregates situation were presented in the first session of the Consultation. In the second session of the Consultation SNAP-SEE participants held lectures on aggregates planning – need – data, aggregates recycling, regulations related to nature conservation and Green Public Procurement issues. In the third session the invited stakeholders have presented domestic aggregates potential, legal framework of aggregates supply, geopolymers as a way of recycling, complex conflict management and community planning.

At the end of all sessions stakeholders discussed about the current problems and the possible next steps to improve the communication, complex conflict management and to establish aggregates strategy.

Zoltán Horváth, 
Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary
PART III: First round of stakeholder consultations

3.9. Stakeholder consultations in Romania

Romanian stakeholders' consultation has been organised by the Geological Institute of Romania (ERDF PP6) on November 17, 2013 in Bucharest (National Museum of Geology). The purpose of this consultation, set up as a workshop and round table type event, was to promote the SNAP-SEE project and to establish new contacts with stakeholders for their contribution in the national aggregate planning activity.

The 25 participants were representatives of public authorities, mine operators in aggregate domain, associations of aggregate producers and of construction materials, and research institutions.

The first part of the event was assigned for oral presentations (with time for questions and answers) concerning the general objectives of the SNAP-SEE project, the main purposes of the existing Aggregates Resource Plan (e.g. Austrian Plan), and the necessary data for an aggregate resource plan, besides the relevant data on strategy of mining industry in Romania (Horizon 2035) and on the state of art in Romanian aggregate industry.

During the second part, it was an interactive discussion organized as a round concerning the problems related to:

- Strategy in the mining and quarrying industry;
- Usefulness of an aggregate planning to conduct and control the activity of aggregate operators;
- Problems concerning the licenses and permits, the actual and new taxes, especially local ones;
- Where should be find the old data on aggregates and the availability of producers to contribute with new data referring to geologic background, quality and resources/reserves;
- Problems concerning the relationship between the aggregate exploitation, “Natura 2000” areas, and aggregate demand.

The main messages from the consultation were:

- Necessity of national synthesis on aggregates resources (distribution maps, residual zones);
- Planning at national scale to facilitate fast access to aggregates resources, including quick licensing process, and avoid the conflicts;
- Entire help from operators and aggregate association;
- Administrative sector interested in planning process and open to contribute with data needed.

Marcel Mărunţiu,
Geological Institute of Romania