The SNAP-SEE Newsletter, June 2014

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SNAP-SEE CONFERENCE: Important dates

- 1st announcement & invitation of keynote speakers: June 2014
- 2nd announcement & opening of registration form of participation: 1st September
- Deadline for submission of contributions (title only): 5th September
- Submission of abstracts & papers for the proceedings book: 30th September
- Last call for the registration form: 1st October
- Deadline for the registration: 10th October
- Conference: 22nd and 23rd October
- Field Trip: 24th October

The "International Conference on Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe - contributions to the EU minerals policy framework" will take place between the 22nd and the 24th October 2014 in Bled, Slovenia, organized by the Geological Survey of Slovenia in cooperation with the projects’ Lead Partner Montanuniversität Leoben.

The partner institutions of the Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe project (SNAP-SEE) recognized that some countries in the region do not practice sustainable aggregates management and do not ensure a sustainable supply of aggregates to their economies. This can hinder resource efficiency and economic development, and potentially lead to greater negative environmental and social impacts. More consistent, integrated, resource efficient aggregates planning at the national / regional scales, increased knowledge capacity of authorities, civil society, industry and experts and the creation of long-lasting transnational, national and regional networks on aggregates were a direct response to tackle these challenges.

The purpose of this international conference is to share the results of the SNAP-SEE project and place those results in the context of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials’ call for an improved minerals policy framework.
The purpose of the Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe (SNAP-SEE) project is to develop methods and tools to help countries in the region improve their aggregates planning processes, with the long term goal of achieving sustainable aggregates resource management and ensuring a sustainable supply mix of primary and second aggregates for their societies and economies. As is noted in this newsletter, SNAP-SEE is receiving attention across the globe because the topic of aggregate resources and results being achieved are applicable far beyond the SEE region. Also in this newsletter, project activities, progress and next steps are described.

SNAP-SEE partners met in Pula, Croatia, in April, to report on progress, plan for the remainder of the project, and observe quarrying in Istria during a field excursion. The considerable progress made so far was discussed and partners agreed that virtually all activities have been completed, or will be completed within the next few months. The SNAP-SEE Toolbox for Aggregates Planning will comprise 4 products that are inter-related and mutually supporting. In Pula, partners decided to seek a two month extension of the project, from September 30, 2014 to November 30, 2014, to allow time for translation of all Handbooks and the Final Publication.

Three Handbooks have been completed, including undergoing review, and are now being translated. These are: A Vision of Best Practices in Aggregates Planning in South East Europe, Consulting Stakeholders when Applying Best Practices in Sustainable Aggregates Planning, and Data and Analysis Methodologies in Support of Best Practices in Aggregates Planning.

The final Handbook, How to Build a Sustainable Aggregates Plan, will be completed soon and will form the last component of the Aggregates Planning Toolbox.

SNAP-SEE project partner in charge of Dissemination and Communication Activities has created a first promotional video, that is posted on the SEE Programme’s You Tube Channel. In cooperation with all Partners will also create the SNAP-SEE Final Publication. Numerous partners have shared information on the project through news, releases, articles, and presentations at meetings.

In addition, planning is underway for the Final Conference, to be held in Bled, Slovenia, October 22-24, 2014. We invite all interested individuals to attend this meeting to learn about the project and discuss how best to incorporate the results in EU minerals policy.

Deborah Shields & Günter Tiess
SNAP-SEE Lead Partner
Montanuniversität Leoben

More about the activities of SNAP-SEE projects can be found in our previous project Newsletters:

You are welcome to visit our website to find out more about the SNAP-SEE project...
INTRODUCTION

Global Relevance of the SNAP-SEE Project

Aggregates are essential for residential, social and commercial infrastructure development and the need and importance of sustainable aggregates supply is recognized not only in South East Europe countries, but widely in the world, which may be inferred from this world map of the SNAP-SEE website visits.

The SNAP-SEE project’s goal is to improve national and regional planning processes in SEE countries for the provision of primary and secondary aggregates: sand, gravel and crushed stone, as well as construction and demolition waste, mining waste and materials extracted from civil works. Project partners have organized two rounds of stakeholder consultations on aggregates’ planning in twelve countries of the South East Europe area, which has provided much useful information on planning and conducting effective consultations, and have developed an Aggregates Planning Toolbox to support national, regional, primary and secondary aggregates planning that is applicable in SEE countries, but also much more widely in Europe and beyond, including in developing nations.

This demonstrates that because the SNAP-SEE project has tackled globally relevant issues, the project results are receiving international recognition and interest.

Snježana Miletić,
Geological Survey of Slovenia

4th Steering Committee Meeting in Pula, Croatia

The 4th SNAP-SEE Steering Committee Meeting was held in Pula, Croatia, between the 9th and the 11th April 2014 at the Hotel Pula. The meeting was attended by 36 participants, project partners from 10 countries.

At the beginning of the meeting, welcome addresses were given by Günter Tiess, Deborah Shields, Slobodan Miko, a representative of the Croatian Geological Survey, and Urška Dolinar. The meeting continued with an overview of the aims and the agenda of the meeting, a short presentation of progress of each work package and discussions on different themes.

During the meeting, the Quality Management Board meeting was held. The work package and activity leaders assessed the SNAP-SEE project progress as in line with the project plan, identifying some minor delays. However, concerns were raised about the challenging task of translating and printing the four booklets of the Aggregates Planning Toolbox into all national languages and printing them. Other tasks are expected to be finished as was originally planned.

On Friday, 11th of April, the project partners participated at an extremely interesting and informative field excursion to the interior of Istria. As an introduction, the minerals of Istria were presented by Slobodan Miko at the meeting. The details of the trip are presented in the Field Excursion Guide.

Meeting participants unanimously agreed that the SNAP-SEE project should be prolonged for two months, finishing on 30th November rather than September 30th 2014. The prolongation has been approved by the Montanuniversität Leoben and the SEE Managing Authority. Thus, the 5th Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Bled, Slovenia, on Tuesday, 21st of October 2014. The final conference of the SNAP-SEE project will take place over the ensuing two days, followed by a field trip on the 24th.

Željko Dedić, Slobodan Miko
Croatian Geological Survey
Dissemination and Communication Activities

Since the SNAP-SEE project is facing the last stage of its implementation, communication activities have been carried out in order to best disseminate the results produced, increasing their impact and reaching an appropriate target audience.

In the beginning of the year 2014 project partners jointly prepared the 2nd SNAP-SEE Newsletter with a review of all project activities completed from the summer of 2013. This activities were also compiled in the 1st promotional video, which presents the SNAP-SEE project and an importance of sustainable aggregates planning to the general public. The SNAP-SEE video is published on the SEE Programme’s You Tube Channel. In April, we began with a filming of new material for the second project video. At the 4th Steering Committee Meeting in Pula, Croatia, partners were interviewed to present the project progress and its results. The second video will be prepared during the summer. After the Meeting, partners had a photoshoot for the SEE Photo Competition. Three teamwork photographs that best illustrate the SNAP-SEE project topic were selected and submitted to the competition. The online voting process took place in June.

The project was presented through numerous other dissemination activities, such as partner participation at conferences and seminars, in articles published on websites or in newspapers, with press releases sent to journalists, with abstracts and posters etc.

Implemented dissemination activities from the projects beginning until June 2014 are summarized in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF DISSEMINATION ACTIVITY</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation at event, where SNAP-SEE was actively presented</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP-SEE events organized</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media appearances (articles, radio or TV broadcasts)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press releases</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dissemination activities</td>
<td>30</td>
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The SNAP-SEE Toolbox for Aggregates Planning comprises 4 products that are inter-related and mutually supporting. One of them is the handbook on Consulting Stakeholders when Applying Best Practices in Sustainable Aggregates Planning. The Handbook provides insight into the consultations with stakeholders as a supporting activity when best practices in aggregates planning are being implemented at the national, regional or local level. It shows the benefits of a participatory approach and provides practical advice on how to define the aims of stakeholder involvement and practically plan and implement the consultation events.

The purpose of the Handbook is to provide practical advice in:

- how to increase the knowledge and capacity of target groups related to aggregates planning
- how to identify different groups of stakeholders and suitable techniques for involving them
- how to plan a consultation process
- how to implement a consultation process
- which methods and techniques can be used in consultations and capacity building events.

The structure of the Handbook is presented at the figure below.

### Key steps in planning the involvement of stakeholders

The Handbook summarizes the benefits of involving stakeholders based on the experiences of Partners in the project:

- Stakeholders representing very different organisations came together and started talking to each other.
- Significant interest in participation at consultations and engagement at events was experienced, even in countries where a different reaction was expected.
- Cooperation was enhanced between authorities of different sectors, e.g. mining, environment, water, land use planning, transport etc. and at different levels (national, regional, local).
- Awareness was raised about the importance of planning.
- The need for preparing a national minerals policy was identified.
- Key obstacles or problems faced in planning were identified (e.g. procedures, illegal quarrying, lack of awareness etc.).
- Suggestions for solutions were proposed and were acceptable for the majority of involved groups.
- The importance of recycling of aggregates was promoted.
- A basis for future cooperation was set or enhanced.

### Lessons from the experience with involving different stakeholders in the SNAP-SEE project include the following:

- The interests of target stakeholder groups are vary. Their opinions differ a lot and can be opposite to each other. Therefore you need to carefully consider how to cooperate with all of them and how to avoid escalating conflicts.
- It is crucial to identify not only the organisation in charge of planning but also the right person dealing with the topic of the consultations at the organizations.
- It is most challenging to motivate representatives of the authorities. It is essential to inform them about the benefits and the expected outcomes of the consultations.
- Industry is very motivated to cooperate and we must be careful that they are equally represented. They are most interested that the authorities assure stable and fair working conditions for their operations.
- Expert organisations and experts from different areas will provide important insights into different themes.
- Representatives of the environmental sector, NGOs and communities also want to be included in the dialogue from the start so that their opinion can be considered and their knowledge shared. Experience shows that they are not a priori against (quarrying) operations, but are too often excluded until to the last stage of the planning process.

The Handbook is going to be available at the project website in electronic form in languages of all participating countries and in English. As part of the Toolbox for Aggregates Planning it will also be printed and available at the SNAP-SEE partner organisations in paper form. You are invited to take a look at it and utilise the SNAP-SEE experiences in your own work.

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Urška Dolinar, Alianta
The English version of the Data and Analysis Methodologies Handbook is finally complete. The manual includes a total of six chapters where the significance of data and data analysis methods for planning are presented in detail.

Data should be handled in a uniform manner and stored in a central distributed database for access by all stakeholders. The main data categories are maps (spatial data), time series data (annual production, consumption, capacity, etc.) as well as data pertaining to the legal framework of each region.

A very important contribution included in this manual is the concept of the information matrix which was developed under Methodologies activity of the SNAP-SEE project. The information matrix actually links inputs to and outputs from every process that may be involved in aggregate production or consumption (e.g., construction, demolition, etc.) with the material flows to and from this process and how these material flows are linked to other parallel processes in the region.

The information matrix is presented as a conceptual framework and should be customized for every region or country of application.

### Data and Analysis Methodologies

This matrix can be as complicated or as simple as required by a specific area. The material flow links in the information matrix allow for material balance checks on the reported quantities of materials in the different flows. This is an important check that ensures data reliability, which is an important step in sustainable aggregates planning. A simplified version of this framework is presented in the figure below.

The manual is approximately 60 pages long and will be one of the four documents comprising the Aggregates Planning Toolbox, which is the main deliverable of the SNAP-SEE project.

The documents will feature a common introduction and a uniform format regarding layout and front and back covers to assist readers in finding the information they need to illustrate how the different aspects of SNAP-SEE inter-related.

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**Zacharias Agioutantis,**  
Technical University of Crete
The joint vision for aggregates planning in the South East European countries was arranged by the following topics: legal-regulatory framework (national level, aggregates planning, other related policies, permitting procedure, stakeholder involvement, local planning, authority, EU issues), environmental issues (air pollution, noise, water, quarry fines and waste, ecological offsets), social issues (increase knowledge and awareness), economic issues (cross-border SARM policy, taxation), professional tasks (inventory, mineral safeguarding), technology (recycling, blasting, restoration, safety), general (transport).

Some interesting results are:

- The governmental sectors responsible for aggregates planning are mining, land use planning and other authorities.
- The planning of aggregates in all partner countries and provinces (except Autonomous Province of Trento) address only primary aggregates.
- In 5 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Autonomous Province of Trento) the contents of aggregate planning documents is predefined by an Act or an ordinance. The planning documents for aggregates planning are the Mining Act, and Regulations on procedure for granting concessions, except in Austria where the AUT MINPLAN itself does not include legal character, i.e. it is not legally binding.
- In most countries the main responsible authority (coordinator) for the development and creation of the aggregates plan are the Ministry (department of mineral policy) - in close cooperation with national geological survey and the land use planning authorities, other ministries in charge of mineral resources (Min. of Physical Planning and spatial plan).
- The aggregate plans in most of the countries (mining strategy, AUT MIN PLAN, National Land Use Plan, General Plan of the National Programme of Mineral Resource Management) are updated every 5 to 10 years depending on the needs of the community or society, except in Albania, where the mining strategy covers 15 years, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Romania, where laws on mining do not specifically address frequency of updating of aggregate plans.
- In most countries the mineral plan is an expert document validated by the authority that is responsible for its implementation, but in some countries a document goes through public reviewing or public consultation procedure.
- Generally an aggregate plan is considered a land use planning policy in relation to mineral extraction.
- The mineral plans of countries such as Croatia (County Minerals Plans), Slovenia (National Programme for Mineral Resources Management - NPMRM) and the Autonomous Province of Trento, follow the principles outlined by:
  1. Aggregates demand and supply sources (Geology and economics)
  2. Aggregates availability (Spatial planning restrictions)
  3. Potential impacts (Environmental impacts, social impacts)
  4. Life Cycle Analysis (usually not applied)
  5. Scenarios (supply/demand)
- Primary aggregates resources and reserves and production data linked as a part of a minerals GIS should ideally consist of: spatial data related to the dimensions and shape of the exploitation field, proven reserves, type and quality of aggregates. The availability data in most countries is limited due to confidentiality, but is usually collected on an annual basis by mining authorities.
The following conclusions have been confirmed:

- **Mineral plans**, especially when they are integrated into spatial land use plans, help the industry and relevant authorities to establish a stable planning framework for mineral extraction over the long term.
- The planning system has a fundamental role in providing a framework within which sound and consistent decisions on mineral development proposals can be taken.
- **Social progress** recognizing the needs of everyone is very important.
- **Effective protection of the environment**: to protect things that are highly cherished for their intrinsic qualities, such as wildlife, landscapes and historic features; and to protect human health and safety by ensuring that environmental impacts caused by mineral extraction and transportation are within acceptable limits; and to secure, without compromise, restoration and and to secure, without compromise, restoration and aftercare to provide for appropriate and beneficial after-use.
- **Prudent use of natural resources**: to help conserve non-renewable resources for future generations through efficient use, recycling and minimization of waste; to protect renewable resources from serious harm or pollution; and to promote the use of appropriate alternative materials;
- **Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth**: to ensure an adequate supply of minerals that are needed at prices that are reasonable; and to safeguard mineral resources for future generations.
- **AGGREGATES PLAN** should consider the following topics: the knowledge base, the demand for aggregates, the aggregates supply of potential, the location of natural and alternative aggregates, assessment of the expected depletion of non-renewable resources, impacts of noise, air, water resources, biodiversity, the principal trading routes, life cycle analysis: the destination of aggregates (recycling/disposal).

**Presentation of National and Regional Planning results in Geneva**

The 5th session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification was held in Geneva, 28th April to 2nd May 2014 by the Committee on Sustainable Energy, which is the principal intergovernmental body at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE).

A Hungarian delegation (Dr. Zoltán Horváth, Katalin Sári and Zsolt Kovács) presented the SNAP-SEE project there and highlighted the importance of common language in resource inventory of the SEE region, which can be implemented by using international standards. Other SNAP-SEE partner countries were also represented at the session: Serbia, Romania and Turkey.

To get closer to the more effective aggregates planning on national and transnational and international levels, both the question of mineral resources classification systems and analysis between sectors may be important. **Sectors** regarding and in addition **aggregates planning** are: sustainable development, minerals management, land use planning, waste management, recycling and environment.

Even if the presence of the most important policies is about 75% based on our multi-sectoral analysis and the picture is heterogeneous, only 3 participating partners have Aggregates Planning Policies which consider both primary and secondary aggregates (Austria, Trento in Italy, Slovenia). Most countries in this region have the Russian type system, or national one. The traditional first one can be compliant with the CRIRSCO template (JORC and PERC codes), which means that using the Bridging Documents between these systems and the UNFC-2009 the harmonization of mineral resources classification systems in SEE countries can be implemented.

The parallel use of the SARMa glossary (Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management) may result in the common language on all aggregates types as well. SARMa and UNFC-2009 can be a good tool to support sustainable mineral resources management.

In addition in the Palace of Nations the official SNAP-SEE poster was presented, many leaflets were distributed for many European and overseas representatives of governmental bodies, industry and NGO’s, and several topics were discussed.

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Zoltán Horváth, Katalin Sári,
Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary
Activities regarding the Aggregates Planning Toolbox and Scheme have been vibrant in these months since the partners are collecting the results of the activities of the entire project. The main output of this work package, the Aggregates Planning Toolbox, represents the conclusive printed deliverable of the SNAP-SEE project.

One of the main purposes of the Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe (SNAP-SEE) project was in fact to create and disseminate such Toolbox for Aggregates Planning to help governments in South East Europe to enhance their aggregates planning and management processes. For this reason it will be printed in English and in all national languages of the partners. For the same reason the order of the documents has been arranged in order to reflect the logical flux of a reader looking for hints in the general approach to follow and in the procedure to build a comprehensive and sustainable aggregate plan.

The Aggregates Planning Toolbox is composed of four handbooks, dealing with four themes we developed in these years and they are entitled:

- “A Vision of Best Practices for Aggregates Planning in South East Europe”
- “How to Build a Sustainable Aggregates Plan”
- “Consulting Stakeholders when Applying Best Practice in Sustainable Aggregates Planning”
- “Data and Analysis Methodologies in Support of Best Practices in Sustainable Aggregates Planning”

All the documents are inter-related and mutually supporting. All documents will have a consistent two-page preface from Dr. Günter Tiess, Project Manager of the Lead Partner Montanuniversität Leoben, that will briefly introduce the SNAP-SEE project and will discuss how the four documents inter-relate.

The “A Vision of Best Practices for Aggregates Planning in South East Europe” document presents a Vision for a transition to integrated, comprehensive sustainable planning in SEE. It includes discussions of the issues that need to be addressed, interim steps that can be taken toward more sustainable planning, and a review of the components a sustainable plan should contain.

The “How to Build a Sustainable Aggregates Plan” document represents a roadmap, a “Scheme” for planning, including discussions of the planning process itself and its various steps. Examples of well-written planning modules are provided that embody the principles, approaches and actions necessary to achieve the goals of the Vision laid out in the Best Practices report.

The “Consulting Stakeholders when Applying Best Practices in Sustainable Aggregates Planning” document provides a step-by-step guide for how to plan and conduct stakeholder consultations so as to ensure that industry, government, non-governmental organizations and civil society can provide input to and participate in the planning process. Capacity building materials are also provided.

The “Data and Analysis Methodologies in Support of Best Practices in Sustainable Aggregates Planning” document discusses the various types of data that provide essential background information for the planning process. Data definitions, significance, availability, structure and needs are addressed. Methods for validating and analyzing data are presented, including approaches to demand forecasting.

The documents will be completed before the end of June, ready to be translated and printed by our partners. The document, in English language, will be printed and distributed among the participants of the final conference. Electronic versions of the documents will remain available on the SNAP-SEE website after the event and after the end of the project.

Stefano Furin, Emilia - Romagna Region
The First SNAP-SEE Stakeholders Consultation in Greece

The 1st Greek stakeholders consultation was organised by the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration of the National Centre for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Technical University of Crete and took place in Athens, on 7th February 2014.

The aims of the 1st consultation were:
1) To inform stakeholders about the purposes of the SNAP-SEE project.
2) To increase capacity of stakeholders on SARM & SSM.
3) To discuss how aggregates planning is currently applied in Greece and which are the major concerns of the industry.
4) To collect information from participants and define topics that represent the biggest challenges for which solutions should be sought.

The agenda included three sessions during which eleven oral presentations were presented regarding: “The current practices in Aggregates’ management”, “Aggregates’ planning framework and the exploitation potential of secondary resources in Greece” and “The sustainable development of the aggregate sector - the views of the industry” and followed by two rounds of open discussion among all the participants. Nearly half of the participants were industry representatives. The consultation gave the opportunity to the participants to express their views, to debate in matters of planning at a national and regional level and to identify the main challenges regarding aggregates planning.

The preliminary results showed that there are open issues in Greece, regarding sustainable aggregates planning. Aggregates’ planning is not always supported by reliable and up to date data and currently applied planning does not consider both primary and secondary aggregate resources.

For this reason, achieving sustainable aggregates’ planning is a big challenge in Greece.

It was acknowledged by all the participants that the first consultation was an important and successful event and that the results should be communicated to the Competent Planning Authorities and other relevant stakeholders.
The first national stakeholders consultation was held in Belgrade, Serbia on 21st February 2014 in the Hotel Life Design. Participating organizations included: Ministries, Universities, Concessionaires, Institutes, Companies and Consulting Companies with 50 participants in total.

**Prepared and interpreted presentations from Act 3.1 were used:**
- Presentation of the SNAP-SEE and SARMa projects
- Primary and secondary aggregates in Serbia
- Legal and regulatory overview in Serbia
- Legal and regulatory overview in Montenegro
- Planning data and forecasts
- Legal and regulatory overview in Croatia
- Recycling of aggregates.

We also used another presentation to give an overview of the aggregate industry in Serbia, and Examples of best practices in aggregates planning (Austria).

**Discussion included the following topics:**

**Topic 1** – The importance of aggregate planning for administration

**Topic 2** – The importance of aggregate planning for industry,

**Topic 3** – How to start and improve recycling in Serbia

**Key problems and suggestions related to the first topic, identified by the participants are:**
- Suppression of illegal exploitation, more strict inspections, but no political will
- Creation of cadastre of aggregate producers in Serbia
- Strict application of regulations regarding certificates of aggregate quality
- To establish good coordination between different levels of administration

**Key solutions to the second topic proposed by the participants are:**
- To perform strict monitoring of aggregate exploitation by inspection
- To apply the same regulations regarding exploration and exploitation of aggregate as for the other mineral commodities,
- To respect the regulations
- To prevent utilization of aggregate from illegal quarries and pits
- Strict investigation of aggregate quality and its control

Draft of the new Law on geological exploration and mining enables illegal exploitation of aggregates along the different categories of roads.

**In regard to the third topic, participants have proposed the following:**
- Subvention system for recycled aggregates producers
- To introduce mandatory recycling
- To define regulations in C&DW recycling
- To prohibit C&DW dumping on public disposals
- To give priority to recycled aggregates in case of public civil works.
The Slovak Association of Aggregates Producers, which brings together 47 members, has a long-term cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. At present they are working together on the international project SNAP-SEE - Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe. The President of the Slovak Association of Aggregate Producers, Ing. Peter Gajdzica, discussed the objectives of the project with the Slovak project manager RNDr. Vlasta Janova, PhD. The interview was held after the 2nd stakeholders consultation in Slovakia, which took place on 1st April 2014.

The aggregates sector is the largest sector in the Non-energy mining in Europe. What was the motivation of the project leaders to address the project to aggregate?

According to UEPG data, the total aggregate extraction in Europe is about 3 billion tons per year. It involves about 17,000 firms, 24,000 operations and provides jobs for approximately 300,000 employees. From these figures it is obvious how important the aggregate production is in Europe. Despite the importance, the representatives of this sector invoke the more systemic solutions to problematic issues at the European level, for example improvement of future access to sources of aggregates, setting priorities in aggregates planning, simplifying the process of permitting, resolution of conflicts between mining and nature protection, removing unreasonable barriers to the recycling of aggregates etc.

What are the sources of funding and which countries are involved?

The project is financed from the EU Transnational Co-operation Program, which is called South East Europe. The total project budget is 1.7 million EUR and it involves 27 partners from 13 countries of South-East Europe, including Slovakia.

Could you explain to our readers what the main objectives of the project are?

The project aims to develop tools to support planning of primary and secondary aggregates, collection and exchange of information on the management of aggregates between Member States SE Europe and capacity building. If you translate it into a “human speech” it is about training manuals and materials under which the Member States should start the planning process in aggregates with respect to lifetime of mineral deposits, future generations, environment and projected needs of the society. In the field of capacity building it means training professionals for addressing conflicts of interest and resolve conflicts among stakeholders, i.e. among miners, environmentalists, municipalities, property owners, planners, NGOs, etc., and also the involvement of all stakeholders in the planning process, which takes into account the needs of all target groups. Project's importance lies mainly in its international activities oriented to harmonize the approaches, policies, plans and legislation on aggregate in the countries of southeastern Europe. These activities will contribute to the introduction of management of mineral resources to ensure sustainable supply of aggregates, exchange of experience and information, protection of environment through the use of secondary aggregates and ultimately to creating intelligent information system for supplying aggregates.

In early April of this year a second round of consultations with stakeholders was organized in Zvolen. What is the main benefit of such consultations? Met this meeting the required purpose?

After the first consultation, which was held in October 2013 in Novy Smokovec in the High Tatras Mts., we prepared the second consultation a little more experienced. We found out that the relevant stakeholders group cannot be too large, because there is no guarantee that everyone involved in can get the opportunity to express his opinion and to be heard. For this reason, only about 40 stakeholders were invited to the consultation. The aim of the consultation was to work together and find answers to some questions concerning the sustainability of aggregate planning and resource efficiency. The active participation of stakeholders in
group work, defining some of the problems in aggregates planning and production, where suggestions for addressing them can be considered as great contribution. I am sure that the meeting fulfilled its purpose.

**What so interesting has been proposed?**

For example, that if the aggregate producers want to get on their side municipalities and citizens, they must be motivated. There was very clearly supported the proposal that part of the royalties for extracted minerals (50%) should be provided to the municipality in which cadastre the extraction takes place and which is affected by mining. Also, some specific measures have been proposed to incorporate in the upcoming mineral policy in the area of aggregates recycling, the use of secondary aggregates and implementation of principles of green public procurement in aggregate.

And when could we expect the final results of the project? Will the publications be publicly available? Will they be translated?

SNAP-SEE project ends in September this year. Until then, the publications must be prepared and translated into national languages of all project partners. The Slovak copies of documents will be distributed to all stakeholders, involved and interested

**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS**

The Second SNAP-SEE Stakeholders Consultation in Serbia

The second national stakeholders consultation was held in Belgrade, Serbia on 22nd April 2014 in the Hotel Crowne Plaza. Participating organisations were from: Universities, Concessionaires, Institutes, Companies and Consulting Companies with 20 participants in total.

We used prepared and interpreted presentations from Act 3.1: Life cycle of aggregates and Green public procurement. We also used another presentation to give an overview of the methods used to analyze aggregate resources and comparison of Serbian and EU standards that Serbia is adopting at the moment.

**Joint discussion included the following topics:**

Shall Serbia have aggregate planning documents; at which level planning should be; should the Geological Survey of Serbia process data on mineral resources production in Serbia (including aggregates); should Mineral potential studies be prepared as a basis for future aggregate planning; who should be responsible for aggregate planning (which authority); which are the main issues in aggregate planning; how to include recycled and secondary aggregates in aggregate planning and what should we do to start aggregate planning.

**Main messages from the consultation were:**

1. There is neither aggregates planning policy in Serbia, nor legal document which can start it;
2. Illegal aggregate exploitation and trade prevents any planning activities;
3. There is no stable and reliable planning of infrastructural objects;
4. Disharmonised planning at the state level (between different institutions);
5. Authorities need better and more efficient organisation.

Vladimir Simić,
University of Belgrade

1Vlasta Janova, 2Peter Gajdzica;

1Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic,
2Slovak Association of Aggregates Producers
On Thursday the 8th May 2014, the second stakeholders consultation took place in Rovereto in the premises of the Progetto Manifattura: this second national event was arranged by the Autonomous Province of Trento and the Emilia-Romagna Region, both partners in the SNAP-SEE project. If the first national stakeholder consultation, held in Ferrara on the 18th September 2013, was dedicated to the presentation of the European project paying attention to its topics and purposes, this meeting intended to share the results gained in the project with the stakeholders and to give new perspectives and proposals for the sector of all the aggregates.

For this reason, the meeting title was “Natural and Recycled Aggregates: The Shared Utilization of the Data as Potential in the Sector”.

The clear hint was to highlight the importance of the data management and of the data analyses in order to have effective tools not only for the public administration but also for the SMEs and other private users.

All the speakers pointed out that only reliable and accurate data can bring useful information: the knowledge without such high-quality information is partial and misses to describe properly a complex system such as the one of the aggregates. Relationships and activities, articulated both by technical regulations and utilizations, were in depth explained to the audience, but also new proposals such as the certification of the supply chain of the aggregates and the use of IT technologies were shown. The participation of the Ministry of the Environment permitted to give a look on the validation and accuracy of the data collection methods related to the indexes given by the European regulations, particularly referred to the wastes. Moreover some examples of already used database were explained such as the one presented by the Emilia-Romagna Region regarding the data structure of the regional cadastre about extraction activities.

The audience participated actively in the discussion started before the coffee break and continued after the last speaker’s presentation, highlighting the need to deepen the technical aspects of the produced materials.

Follwoing the first SNAP-SEE stakeholders consultation in Slovenia in October 2013, the Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS) organized the second Slovenian SNAP-SEE Stakeholders Consultation for all interested public in Sustainable Aggregates Planning. The event, entitled “Guidelines Towards Sustainable Mineral Resources Planning”, took place in the premises of GeoZS on Wednesday, 14th May 2014, with the opening of the meeting at 10:00 AM and closing at 2:00 PM.

The aims of the second Slovenian consultation were:
- To present project progress and its achievements,
- To present results of first round of stakeholder consultations
- To present legislative on mineral resource planning in Slovenia, including existing and future document
- To present the Austrian mineral plan, its development process and relevant legislation
- To discuss about Slovenian mineral plan, its development process and importance.

As an introduction to a constructive discussion, the members of GeoZS team presented the SNAP-SEE project progress, where the agreements and numerous suggestions, brought at the first Slovenian stakeholders consultation in October 2013, were accurately shown. To set an example of preparation and implementation of a mineral plan, the Austrian case was presented.
The second Hungarian Stakeholders Consultation took place in the headquarters of the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary on 15th of May 2014. The event was organized by the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary and the Hungarian Mining Association in cooperation with the Hungarian Geological Society and Association of Environmental Enterprises as the section “C” of the conference entitled “Mullock? Waste? No! Recoverable Material!”.

More than 50 participants of the conference listened the general SNAP-SEE presentation by Zoltán Horváth in the plenary session and 21 invited stakeholders seated around the table of the SNAP-SEE consultation.

Participants on the Consultation were from the Ministry of National Development, from the National Institute for Environment, from the Hungarian Office of Mining and Geology, from the Mining Inspectorate of Szolnok, from the National Adaptation Centre, from the Lechner Lajos Knowledge Centre, from the Város-Teampannon Ltd., from the Hungarian Mining Association, from aggregates industry (Colas Hungary Ltd., OMYA HUNGÁRIA Ltd.), from the Hungarian Non-profit Association for Valuable Waste Management and from the Geological and Geophysical Institute of Hungary.

While all the relevant stakeholder groups were represented, the consultation was efficient.

An interactive part of the workshop, held using the “World café” method where participants were divided into three groups regarding to a sector they represent, was focused on three main themes:

- How should the ideal excavation site in Slovenia look like?
- What are the basic requirements a new quarry should meet?
- What are the exceptions?

Dynamic conversation between 30 participants, representatives of different sectors on the field of aggregates’ planning, made very creative atmosphere, which brought numerous suggestions and argumentation, that could be seen as possible future guidelines towards sustainable mineral resources’ planning.

The participants presented and discussed:

1. This year’s outcomes of the SNAP-SEE project in 13 partner countries and in Hungary;
2. The national steps towards establishing Aggregate Strategy;
3. The application of environmental, nature protection and cultural heritage laws in practice related to aggregate mining;
4. The possible progress in use of secondary aggregates.

The necessity of an aggregate or construction raw material strategy was highlighted at the consultation; it could support the communication with the representatives of natural and cultural heritage protection. However, a strategy requires data on both the supply and demand of aggregates. Aggregate related issues such as permitting, extraction, use, employment are managed by several authorities, causing difficulties. The harmonization of the official terminology is necessary. Primary aggregate resources can be saved by the use of secondary aggregates although their comprehensive inventory is needed for planability. The participants agreed the stakeholder consultations must be continued even after the end of the SNAP-SEE project.
The Second SNAP-SEE Stakeholders Consultation in Montenegro


Invitation for participation at the meeting were sent to all interested for aggregates supply planning issues, especially representatives of producers and users of aggregates, state institutions, local government, institutes and faculties, consulting companies, NGOs. At the meeting, 32 participants was present, representatives of stakeholders from various area, were present in aggregates supply issues in Montenegro, as well as representatives of the project partners from Serbia and Slovenia.

The aim of the meeting was to show approaches of creating models of sustainable planning of aggregates supply based on present conditions in aggregates industry, with introduction of new ways of thinking and treatment of life cycle of aggregates, ways of their testing, usage of recycled aggregates, their positive effects and limitations, and public procurement policy. In the name of the host, meeting was opened by Slobodan Radusinović, Deputy Director, project manager for Montenegro, who briefly introduced participants with program and goals of the meeting. Participants were also welcomed by prof. Vladimir Simić from the Faculty for mining and geology, and Urška Dolinar, representing the lead partner University of Leoben.

Within the meeting, discussion named “Aggregates Production and Supply Planning in Montenegro” was held. Participants actively participated in discussions where answers and suggestions were collected for solving important questions related to planning aggregates production and supply.

We are pleased to note that the second national consultations with stakeholders completely justified expectation of participants, organizers and the SNAP-SEE partners.

Training materials for SNAP-SEE stakeholder consultations in 12 national languages:

DISCLAIMER
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