

CROATIA

The Croatian Chamber of Economy, Industry division and Croatian Geological Survey, Department of Mineral Resources organized on the 25th October 2013 **the first national Consultation Conference** "Sustainable Planning aggregates in South East Europe (SNAP SEE) – Capacity building and stakeholder involvement in the planning process aggregates" (Fig. 1) 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.

The Croatian **second national consultation** took place on the 7th July 2014 in the premises of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce (Fig. 2). Invitations for active participation on the meeting were sent to targeted groups related to spatial planning and regional planning. These included ministries and authorities responsible for mining, environmental protection and regional planning, representatives of regional authorities, county offices and institutes for spatial development. The invitation was answered by 25 participants. The main aim of the meeting was sustainable aggregate planning on a national and regional level. Presentations on new practices in the study, use and recycling of aggregates, economic and environmental advantages of life cycle approach, the planning of sustainable mixed supply of stone aggregates and the importance of recycling were held.



Fig. 1. The 1st SNAP-SEE consultation in Croatia took place in October 2013.



Fig. 2.. The 2nd SNAP-SEE consultation was organized in July 2014.

As an introduction to the discussion, **Guidelines for Aggregates Planning at the National / Regional Level** (Work Package 5, activity 5.2) were presented, including the best aggregate planning practices in Europe, and the methods of implementing them in the creation of spatial plans. The discussion was focused mainly on the Ordinance on Content and Method of Making Mining-Geological Studies in the Republic of Croatia, in order to improve the quality of planning and sustainable management of stone aggregates on a national and regional level.

Public research institutions and county zoning offices, for which the Department of Mineral Resources has developed mining-geological studies, are interested in further cooperation by launching an initiative with the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning with the aim of implementing zones for exploration and exploitation of mineral resources when developing future state spatial plan of the Republic of Croatia under the Law on Spatial Planning (153/13).

The participants found the presentations very informative and the exchange of ideas dynamic and creative. Hopefully, the consultation has succeeded in prompting a higher level of cooperation between various groups with the final goal of sustainable mineral resources' planning.