

SLOVAKIA

The tourist resort Novy Smokovec in the High Tatras Mountains in Slovakia welcomed on October 24 - 25, 2013 Slovak experts on aggregates planning (Fig. 1). 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 covered the presentations of many topics, including: the SNAP - SEE project, 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 and conflicts of interests.

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.



Fig. 1. The 1st Slovak consultation.



Fig. 2. The 2nd Slovak consultation took place in Zvolen in April 2014.

2nd stakeholders consultations in Slovakia were held in Zvolen (Fig. 2) in early April 2014. The experiences from the first consultation shows 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 second consultations. The aim of the second consultations 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 aggregate planning and production and suggestions for addressing them can be considered for the great contribution.

The main proposed messages were, that if the aggregates producers want to get on their side municipalities and citizens, they must be motivated. This was very clearly supported by the proposal that part of the royalties for extracted minerals (50 %) should be provided to the municipality where the extraction takes place and which is affected by mining. Some specific measures also 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.