

PRESS RELEASE

announcing the implementation of the final conference of the project SARMa – Sustainable Aggregates Resources Management

The implementation of the project SARMa started in spring 2009 and will be finished in December 2011. The main objectives of the project are: to develop a common approach to sustainable aggregate resource management (SARM) and sustainable supply mix (SSM) planning to ensure efficient and secure supply in South East Europe. The objectives are met at (a) local, (b) regional/national and (c) transnational scales. The project has 14 partners from the SEE area, who represent professional and research organizations, together with national, regional and local level decision-makers. The lead partner is the **Geological Survey of Slovenia**. The project is financed by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme.

Sustainable Aggregates Resource Management International conference

The SARM international conference took place from 20th to 22nd September 2011 at Hotel Lev in Ljubljana. The conference brought together all stakeholders connected with sustainable management of mineral resources: researchers, public and private sector representatives, various non-governmental and environmental associations and everyone interested in the topic. The topics of the conference were summarized into three large groups: extraction and demolition at the site level, regional and national level of raw materials supply and transborder cooperation in raw materials supply. Developing a common approach to sustainable aggregates resource management at three scales, with the aim of ensuring efficient supply in SEE area was our vision. Special attention was placed to the outcomes of the project SARMa (www.sarmaproject.eu).

The main speakers of the conference were:

- *Jim O'Brien, European Aggregates Association, president*
- *Alessandra Pala, Southeast Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme*
- *Horst Hejny, The Mineral Industry Research Organization and*
- *other experts in the field of aggregates resource management.*

In two days of plenary session of the conference the most important findings and recommendations for a more sustainable approach and supply of aggregates were presented. Findings and recommendations were addressing decision-making bodies on the national, regional and local level, representatives of the industry and local communities. There was also a discussion about the opportunities for future participation of stakeholders from the field.

The official part of conference was followed by a field trip, where conference participants had the opportunity to visit an example of a good practice, quarry Črni Kal – Črnotiče. The field trip was continued by the visit to the Škocjan World Heritage caves and the Idrija mercury mine.

More information about the project: <http://www.sarmaproject.eu/>

Additional information regarding conference and the project:

dr. Slavko V. Šolar, Geological Survey of Slovenia, SARMa Project Manager,
email: Slavko.Solar@GEO-ZS.SI, tel: 01/280 97 60