



Coordinating and integrating state-of-the-art
Earth Observation Activities in the regions of
North Africa, Middle East and Balkans
and Developing Links with GEO related initiatives
toward GEOSS

Consulting stakeholders: WHY? Examples from the Balkan Region

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Contents of the presentation:

(based on experience gained from the implementation of a transnational project which involved partners and different stakeholders from the Balkan region)

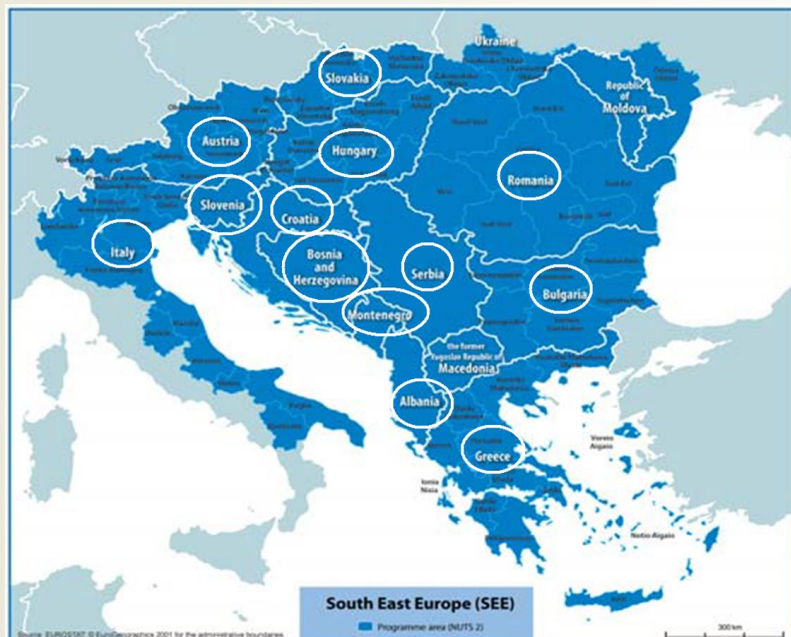
1. WHY involve stakeholders?

2. WHO are the stakeholders ?

3. HOW they were involved?

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**5. Results and impacts
achieved**



The SNAP-SEE (Sustainable Aggregates Planning in South East Europe) project's goal was to improve national and regional aggregates' planning in SEE countries by developing Toolbox.

Duration: 2012-2014

Budget: 1 733 928.80 €

Co-funded: by SEE transnational cooperation programme

Partnership: 27 partners from 13 SEE countries

Balkan Region: All countries except FYROM

The project focused on enhanced cooperation, information sharing and capacity building amongst **relevant stakeholders**.



1. WHY involve stakeholders?

- ❑ Stakeholder participation enhances cooperation and ensures that the concerns and needs of all target groups are considered

Input from more than 800 stakeholders (e.g. industry, administration, society) at 24 organized events in the 12 SEE countries

- ❑ To analyze existing situation and key obstacles

Procedures, legislation, illegal quarrying, lack of awareness, lack of coordination between different administration levels and disciplines

- ❑ To explore possible actions and ideas before decisions are finalized

Through capacity building presentations, consultation workshops, on line surveys, questionnaires etc.



WHY involve stakeholders?

- ❑ Using the knowledge, views and ideas of a wider group builds social capital, enriches discussion and leads to better informed and better supported outcomes

Representatives of all target groups from 80 different organizations took part in the consultations

- ❑ To look for and assess suggestions for solutions that are acceptable for the majority of involved groups

Which solutions should be implemented, under which conditions, by whom, in what time frame?

**Achieve a win-win
situation**

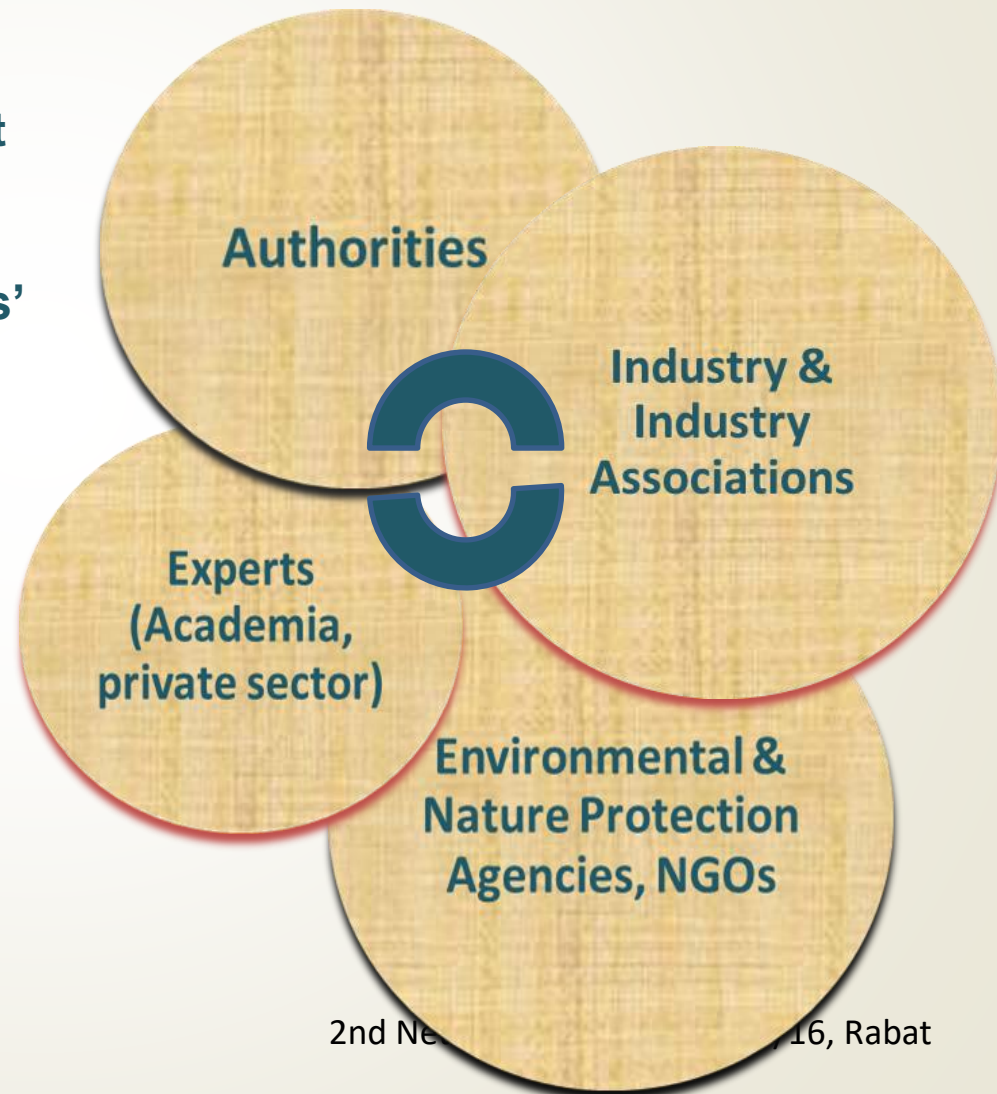


2. WHO are the stakeholders?

Any person, group or organization that is involved in, potentially impacted by, or have an interest in the decisions being made with regards to aggregates' planning.

Target groups:

- Authorities (national, regional and local level)
- Experts
- Industry and Industry Associations
- NGOs





3. HOW they were involved?

Project partners organized two rounds of stakeholder consultations in their respective countries, addressing different topics related to sustainable aggregates planning

The specific purpose of the consultation events was:

- ☐ To enable cooperation and discussion between different organizations involved in or affected by aggregates planning
- ☐ To present the current situation in aggregates planning in the concerned countries and open a debate on major issues
- ☐ To share recommendations and good practices in aggregates planning and
- ☐ To collect participants' opinion on existing good approaches and challenges in current aggregates planning practices

The invited stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their views and engage themselves in a network for further collaboration on issues related to the sustainable aggregates planning.



4. Lessons learnt

- ☐ The interests of target stakeholder groups vary. Their opinions differ and in many cases it is opposite to each other. Therefore we need to carefully consider how to cooperate with all of them and how to avoid escalating conflicts
- ☐ It proved very challenging to motivate representatives of the authorities. It was essential to inform them beforehand about the benefits of their participation and the expected outcomes of the consultations
- ☐ A balanced mix of participants should be attained. Organizations strongly affected (e.g. industry) are usually more motivated to participate.





5. Results and impacts achieved

- ❑ Stakeholders representing different organizations came together and started talking to each other
- ❑ Significant interest in participation and engagement was experienced, even in countries where a different reaction was expected
- ❑ Outcomes of consultations were shared with all partners

Better understanding of aggregates planning process and current limitations

A basis for future cooperation was set

Increased awareness on good/bad practices and sustainable approaches in other countries



Results and impacts achieved

- ❑ Expert organizations and experts from different areas provided important insights into different themes
- ❑ Cooperation was enhanced between authorities of different sectors, e.g. mining, environment, land use planning, transport etc. and at different levels (national, regional, local).

Capacity and knowledge of project partners increased

Strong geo-related network in the Balkan Region established capable to address new challenges and achieve new synergies



Concluding remarks

In some participating countries, the consultation process was the first step in starting a debate with regards to sustainable aggregates planning

Major issues were raised as common in many countries such as:

- illegal quarrying,
- promotion of the use of recycled aggregates
- need for improvement of mining legislation,
- protection of mineral deposits against other land uses,
- poor coordination and/or lack of cooperation between authorities

In many cases suggestions for solutions were offered

Over the last years, the importance of mapping stakeholders interests and needs with regards to mineral raw materials has significantly increased and acknowledged by the authorities at national and EU level.

The SNAP-SEE experience has proven that involvement of different stakeholders is beneficial and results in:

- enhanced cooperation,
- long-term benefits and
- better-informed decisions



Thank you for your kind attention

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