“Assessment and capacity building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Solihorsk regions”

Environmental Information Management and Mining for Closure

Study tour

22 – 24 April 2009

Budapest

organized by

GRID-Arendal
Zoi Environment
and Regional Environment Centre
1 Project description

The main goal of the study trip and workshop was to increase the capacity of participants, exchange of experience with the Hungarian authorities as well as within the group as identified within the needs and goals set out in the framework of ENVSEC “Assessment and capacity building for managing environment and security risks in Donbas and Solihorsk regions” addressing sustainable mine management and integrated mine closure concepts. Moreover, the workshop focused on integrated environmental assessment on the city level according to the UNEP GeoCities process. The workshop was conducted with the support by the Ministry of Environment and Waters of Hungary how presented its experience in relevant areas.

The participants to the study tour included representatives from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine, both from institutions responsible for environmental information management and regulation of extractive industries.

In order to meet the demands by the diverse group of participants, the workshop was partly divided in parallel sessions addressing issues on environmentally sound mine management “Mining for Closure” in one group and Environmental Information Management in the other. Introduction, field trips and discussions were held in plenary.
2  Summary of the agenda topics of the workshop and study tour

1\textsuperscript{st} day, morning

Joint session

- Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)
- Environmental mine management and Mining for Closure
- Environmental information management
- GEOcities: Integrated environmental assessment for cities

The first session was held jointly with all participants and provided an introduction to respective topics to be addressed during the workshop. Presentations were held by key speakers of the workshop at the Ministry of Environment and Waters of Hungary.
1st Day, afternoon

Environmental information management group

- Information management system in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan
- Information management system in Hungary
- E-PRTR systems
- Information chain - from data collection to communication

Mining for Closure group

- Environmental mine management in Ukraine and Belarus
- Best Environmental Practice in Mining - Mining for Closure
- Environmental standards for mining sites
- Mine remediation planning and information management

This session gave participants the opportunity present national concepts regarding environmental mine management and information management. They shared their experiences and presented challenges that should be addressed, possibly during the workshop.

Participants showed great interest for the topics related presentations and engaged into lively discussions where feedback was given to the issues presented. Specific interests were related to the process of providing environmental information, setting up and operation the monitoring systems. In particular questions regarding environmental information management and mine closure issues within the EU and the comparison to national frameworks have been of great interest to the participants.

2nd Day

2.1 Field trips

- 1st Site: Lead-zinc mine in Gyöngyösoroszi  
  Visit and presentation to the closed mine/mine under rehabilitation - Obligations and practicalities on monitoring
- 2nd site: Coal Mine in Gyongyos Visonta/ MERT  
  Presentation and visit related to Monitoring obligations and practicalities for mining emissions and effluents and rehabilitation of mining site
The field trips aimed at presenting practical examples on environmental monitoring of industrial sites that apply different types of remediation and land reclamation. Both sites featured mining activities that due economic and environmental concerns had cease and which now undergo mine closure as obliged by the national legislation.

The visits were opened by introductory presentations that described the main conditions and elements for operation and the process related procedures and permitting which was followed by visit and inspection of the sites.

There was great interest by the participants with regard to the related decision making process, the practicalities for mine closure and the mine water treatment and monitoring systems installed and operated within the Gyongyosoroszi site. The discussion focused on technical aspects and exchange of knowledge for solutions in the national context.

In Gyoggos Visonta the open cast mining site was visited and the process of operation was shown on the site along with water well systems connected with the ongoing operations. Next to the operating mining area, already rehabilitated area was shown to the group. Issues like communication with the local inhabitants, measures that are taken to protect the environment during the operations, management of the natural resources and technical aspects of the surface coal mining were addressed.
3rd Day

Environmental information management group

- Why should we manage cities sustainably?
- Elements of the GEO cities process 1-4
- Related initiatives, resources, examples

Mining for Closure group

- Legislation in Hungary on mining monitoring and liability issues
- EU-Mine Waste Directive: implications for practice
- GIS for environmental mine management
- Overcoming obstacles to achieving best practice in mining

Both groups had interesting presentations that allowed proactive discussions and explored the various aspects presented. A closing session was held jointly with all participants and study tour organizers in which feedback on the event was collected and benefits of the exercise were discussed. Participants pointed out that learning on site the challenges and benefits of environmental remediation has been very useful as well as seeing how a country like Hungary with similar background like the participant’s countries is dealing with implementing EU regulations.

3 Final notes

The main goal of the workshop and study tour was to increase the participants capacity, create knowledge, facilitate experience exchange for issues related to environmental mine management, PRTR and integrated environmental assessment on the city level. The program was composed in a way that allowed participants to engage into discussions with local and international experts and present their own experience as well as country related issues. The study tour offered the participants good insight legislative, institutional and the practical arrangements related to the subjects which have been greatly received.

Annexes

Annex1: Agenda
Annex 2: List of participants
Environmental information management and Mining for Closure
Study tour and workshop Hungary
22-24 April, 2009
Draft programme

Tuesday, April 21  Arrival

appr. 16:50  Arrival of the participants
Hotel Ibis Budapest Vaci Ut, Dozsa Gyorgy ut 65 , 1134 – BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
Tel : (+36) 1 3290200

20.00  Registration and Joint Welcome Dinner
Introduction to the study tour aims and program and distribution of materials

Wednesday, April 22  Venue: Ministry of Environment and Waters

9.00 – 9.15  Welcome
Ms. Magdolna Tothne Nagy., REC
Claudia Heberlein, GRID Arendal/Zoi

9.15 – 10.00  Participants and their expectations (2 min each)

10.45 – 10.45  Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR)
Ms. Magdolna Tothne Nagy., REC

10.45 – 11.15  Environmental mine management and Mining for Closure
Mr. Philip Peck

11.15 – 11.45  Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.15  Environmental information management
Mr. Bozo Pal, MoEW (GRID Budapest?)

12.00 – 12.30  GEOcities: Integrated environmental assessment for cities
Ms. Claudia Heberlein, GRID Arendal/Zoi

12.30 – 14.30  Lunch
**Environmental information management**

14.30 – 15.00  **Information management system in Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan**  
Existing practices and plans for developments  
*Presentation by participants*

15.00 – 15.30  **Information management system in Hungary**  
Legislative, institutional and technical requirements. Informational flow: from subjects of monitoring to European Level, EEA  
*Mr. Pal Bozo, MoEW*

15.30 – 15.45  **Coffee break**

15.45 – 16.15  **E-PRTR systems**  
Designing and implementing at national level (Hungary)  
Reporting process to EU  
*Ms. Edina Gampel, National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (NIENW)*

16.15 – 16.45  **Discussion:** What are the obstacles to develop such a system? How to overcome them? Is it feasible to develop such system in EECCA countries?  
*Moderator: Orsolya Szalasi, REC*

16.45 – 17.15  **Information chain - from data collection to communication**  
*Claudia Heberlein*

17.15 – 17.30  **Preparations for field trip**

**Mining for Closure**

14.30 – 15.00  **Environmental mine management in Ukraine and Belarus**  
Existing practices and plans for developments  
*Presentation by participants*

15.00 – 15.30  **Best Environmental Practice in Mining - Mining for Closure**  
Policies and Guidelines for Sustainable Mining Practice and Closure of Mines  
*Philip Peck, GRID Arendal*

15.30 – 15.45  **Coffee break**

15.45 – 16.30  **Environmental standards for mining sites**  
Mine closure, waste management and remediation  
*Philip Peck, GRID Arendal*

16.15 – 17.00  **Mine remediation planning and information management**  

17.00 – 17.15  **Preparations for field trip**
06.00  Departure to countryside by bus

1st Site: Lead-zinc mine in Gyöngyösoroszi

**Closed mine/mine under rehabilitation - Obligations and practicalities on monitoring**
*Presentation by:*

*Mr. Gabor Földing, Director for Environment Protection - Mecsek Oko Zrt*

13.30  Lunch break

15.00-  2nd site: Coal Mine in Gyongyos Visonta/ MERT

**Monitoring obligations and practicalities for mining emissions and effluents**
**Recultivation of mining site**

*Presentation and site visit by representative of MERT Mining Department*
*Mr. Gusztav Dovter*
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 9.30</td>
<td><strong>Environmental information management</strong>&lt;br&gt; <em>Why should we manage cities sustainably?</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Claudia Heberlein, GRID Arendal</em></td>
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<td>9.30 - 11.00</td>
<td><strong>Elements of the GEO cities process 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Environmental assessment (establishing a baseline)&lt;br&gt;PSIR framework: pressure-state-impact-response&lt;br&gt;<em>Viktor Novikov, GRID Arendal/Zoi</em></td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.15</td>
<td><strong>Legislation in Hungary on mining monitoring and liability issues</strong>&lt;br&gt;Implementation in Hungary&lt;br&gt;<em>Mr. Laszlo Kulcsar, Project Director, Mecsek Oko Zrt.</em></td>
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<td>10.15 - 11.00</td>
<td><strong>EU-Mine Waste Directive: implications for practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;Implementation in Hungary &amp; considerations for Eastern European Countries&lt;br&gt;<em>Mr. Ferenc Kereki, Director, Mining Department, MECSEKÉRC Zrt.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 10.30</td>
<td><strong>Elements of the GEOcities process 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Strategy, priority setting, action plans&lt;br&gt;<em>Claudia Heberlein</em></td>
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<td>11.30 - 12.15</td>
<td><strong>Information management</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reporting structures and use of GIS for environmental mine management&lt;br&gt;<em>Presenter?</em></td>
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<td>12.15 - 13.00</td>
<td><strong>Discussion:</strong> What are the obstacles to achieving environmental and social good practice in mining? How to overcome them? Is it feasible to implement in Eastern Europe?</td>
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<td>12.00 - 13.00</td>
<td><strong>Elements of the GEOcities 3:</strong> Indicators&lt;br&gt;<em>Viktor Novikov</em></td>
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<td>13.00 - 15.00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<td>15.00 - 16.00</td>
<td><strong>Elements of Geocities 4:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Planning the process, organisational issues, approval/validation by political authority&lt;br&gt;<em>Claudia Heberlein</em></td>
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<td>16.00 - 16.30</td>
<td><strong>Related initiatives, resources, examples</strong></td>
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<td>16.00 - 16.30</td>
<td><strong>Result presentation and discussion</strong></td>
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16.30 – 17.30  **Looking ahead, planning next steps**
   Individual discussions

16.30 – 17.00  **Wrap up and closure**

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**Saturday, April 25**

City tour through Budapest (to be confirmed)

**Sunday, April 26**

Departure
Environmental Information Management and Mining for Closure Workshop and Study Tour

22-24 April, 2009

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