

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CARPATHIAN EURO-REGION  
SPECIALISTS IN INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS  
6<sup>th</sup> edition**

**THE NEED FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY IN MINING SECTOR**

*Daniel Lucian Surulescu<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Boteanu<sup>2</sup>, Stefan Troaca<sup>2</sup>*

*<sup>1</sup>PhD.Eng., <sup>2</sup>Eng.*

*CNH Petrosani*

***Abstract:** Amongst all the changes of the last decade in Jiu Valley's mining activity, more and more obviously, it turned to be a necessity like the civil society to get involved in the complex process of reestablishing the environmental balance, after the diminishing of the mining sector.*

**General characteristics regarding the mining sector**

Until 1990, the development of Romanian mining sector was very important to achieving energetic and raw materials independency;

The areas where mining activities were developed became dominated by those activities

Other economic activities grew in dependence on the mining sector being at most a support factor in achieving the designated tasks

Around the National Hard Coal Company were concentrated Jiu Valley's entire social economical activities, as: technical education, health, culture, sports, transport, constructions, and even local administration

From all over the country massive labor force was relocated into mining areas under promises that involved attractive salaries and social protection facilities

***As a result of these actions, the National Hard Coal Company authority became more and more dominant and relevant for the local community.***

**The restructuring of mining sector**

Since 1990, in the context of all political and social changes that took place within the Romanian national economy, the necessity of engaging in a **profound reforming process** became clear. This process included mining and metallurgy industries.

Reorganization of the mining sector involved decentralizing the auxiliary activities and concentrating around the main object of activity, coal extraction and processing.

Mining organizations were reorganized in companies and mine units. There were also detached from the mining organizations main structure those auxiliary activities that related to:

- centralized supply
- transport
- mining construction and assembling
- electromechanical equipment repairing and maintenance
- mining research and design
- mining safety research
- education, computer services, canteens administration, etc.

***The consequences of taking these actions were:***

- reducing the number of mine units
- reducing the number of employees
- putting to stop new mining investments
- conservation/closure of the unprofitable or polluting mine units



Demolition of Dalja Mine Unit

**Long and medium term objectives of the mining strategy 2005-2010**

Civil society's interests are expressed in the following fundamental goals of the strategy:

- Preparation of the mining companies** in order to insure there efficient operation within a competitional market, **as required by Directive 2002/1420 EC** in the context of Romania's adhesion to the European Union beginning with 2007 .
- Reducing impact over the environment** due to mining operators' activities.
- Partnership development** with the local communities, institutions and nongovernmental organization.

**Measures to be taken in order to achieve strategy's objectives**

***Regarding environment and resources:***

- ❖ promotion of nonpolluting technologies;
- ❖ waste dump reprocessing followed by ecological and landscape rehabilitation;
- ❖ identifying and attracting external financial support for energetic, environmental, or other projects of interest, in partnership with mining companies;
- ❖ improving the management system based on productivity but also on cleaner environment;
- ❖ promoting an environment policy based on sustainable development.

From the environment point of view, specialized institutions identified and inventoried all the pollution sources, determined their impact evolution in time and established monitoring systems.

#### **Water protection measures**

- improving Jiu river's water quality and landscape rehabilitation of the mining areas surroundings in order to transform Jiu Valley in a tourism attraction



River Jiu – clean water

#### **Soil protection measures**

- preservation and closure programs implemented in the mining sector with the purpose of reinstatement the affected areas in the natural circuit.

After ecologization, the rehabilitated areas are going to be transferred from the National Hard Coal Company's property of into the afferent cities patrimony.

#### ***Measures regarding the economic system:***

- ❖ more profoundly externalization of the mining subsidiary activities;

- ❖ assets (buildings, equipments, terrains) transfer into municipality property;
- ❖ continuing mine closure in areas with almost extinct or unprofitable coal deposits.

*. Measures regarding the social system:*

- ❖ **developing close relationship with local communities;**
- ❖ **sustaining a controlled number of direct and indirect jobs** in the mining sector, keeping a decreasing rate in accordance with job transfers to other economic sectors;
- ❖ **increasing the mining companies involvement** alongside the local communities in professional development process;
- ❖ **implication and support in the development of suitable framework** necessary for environment rehabilitation and landscape rearrangement of former mining areas;
- ❖ **putting utilities and infrastructure elements at the disposal of local communities;**
- ❖ **performing consultancy activities in partnership with local communities for** encouraging business enterprising.

**Objectives for the future**

**Co-operation** with the civil society for developing a healthy environment adequate for regenerating mining areas by concentrating the attention on the existing small and medium enterprises, investment developers centers and on creating industrial parks;

**Former mining regions promoting campaign** in order to access World Bank non reimbursable funds;

**Sustaining tourist development** as a new sector of economic activity in mining regions;

**Continuing environment rehabilitation;**

**Accelerating transfer of social protection measures from mining companies' responsibility to concerned state officials.**

**Conclusions**

Almost everywhere in the mining regions, ongoing efforts of authority and responsibilities transfer toward the civil society (local and central officials, non governmental organizations) are needed in order to regain and exercise control over a healthy economic and social development.