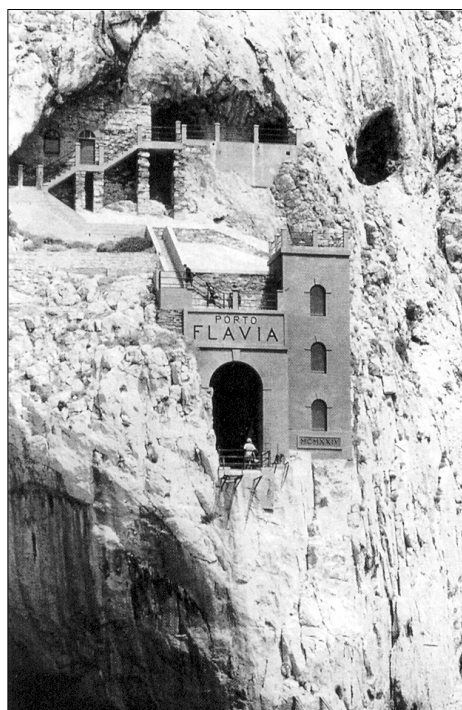


INFORMATION

7th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN ENERGY AND MINERAL PRODUCTION (SWEMP 2002)

The name of Sardinia is internationally known chiefly for the beauty of its shores and countryside and for the colours and cleanness of the surrounding sea. However, this is not all. In reality the island boasts a long mining history that embraces many centuries since Phoenician and Roman times through the Middle Ages until the present days, not to mention the Neolithic period when obsidian was quarried and traded even to far across the sea. Owing to the favourable geologic conditions, a considerable wealth of minerals has been discovered and exploited in Sardinia, including basic metals like lead, zinc, silver and copper, iron ore, coal, and a variety of industrial minerals: barites and fluorspar, clays and kaolin, feldspar and quartz, talc, bauxite and so on.

Today the mining activity is no longer as rich as it was in the past, due to the recent closure of all metal mines, to a sharp decline in the production of most ores with few exceptions and to a lapsing delay in resuming the coal extraction according to plans. On the other side, as the undesirable inheritance of the past, large portions of the territory are suffering from pollution, landscape deterioration, unsafe ground conditions, and they are envisaging dramatic social problems. A comprehensive plan has been dressed under the care of the regional authorities, aiming at the reclamation, recovery and rehabilitation of the abandoned mined-out areas. To mining people and to scientists, Sardinia is a unique place for debating problems, finding together suitable solutions, developing new ideas, gathering information on reclamation works under development.



In compliance with this, the 7th International Symposium on Environmental Issues and Waste Management in Energy and Mineral Production (SWEMP 2002) took place in the capital of Sardinia, in Cagliari. The success of symposium was guaranteed by the number and relevance of the delegates (over 200 persons) from 22 countries and quality of the scientific papers discussed in the working sessions and published in the proceedings.

Our paper "Method of Mining Block Stability Analysis for Room-and-Pillar Mining with Continuous Miner in Estonian Oil Shale Mines" by J.-R. Pastarus and O. Nikitin was warmly accepted.

The more interesting papers related to our scientific work, were:

1. Z. Agioutantis, M. Karmis "SDPS for Windows: an Application for Subsidence Prediction, Optimum Mine Design and Environmental Control"
2. L. Draganescu "Environmental Impacts. The Impact of the Rumanian Salt Exploitation on the Ground and Building Stability"
3. S. Nicol, M. Orunesu Preiata, G. Righini, A. Murrone "SGM Furtei Gold Project: Environmental Management and Monitoring"
4. W. Cuccu, P.P. Manca, G. Madau, G. Piras "Inclinometer Monitoring System in the Acqua sa Canna Landfill (Sardinia, Italy)"

These papers provided useful new information on applied methods, performed modelling and experiments of in situ conditions.

In the evenings the visits to the ore mine *Flavia*, Furtei reclamation area and Nebida/Masua area of the Sardinian Geo-mining Heritage Park took place.

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