



Tokaj hills region, Hungary

Historic Cultural Landscape (UNESCO World Heritage)



This case is about exploitation and mineral safeguarding

SCALE

Regional

EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT

Around 10 000 km²

TYPE OF MINING

Quarry

MINERAL RESOURCES

Perlite



Hungary has large deposits of perlite rocks with excellent quality that contribute to the global production with 2%. Perlite is part of the European Union's list of Critical Raw Materials. Perlite products range from the construction, food, pharmaceutical industry to agriculture and environmental protection. The regional case study area has transboundary aspects and EU level importance because the Tokaj Wine Region buffer zone extends to Slovakia and Perlit-92 Ltd. exports the 90% of the perlite milling products to 16 countries. The area demonstrates long tradition between society and environment. Despite the strong limitation of the World Heritage Act and the unique combination of geologic, morphologic, environmental and climatic conditions creating a special microclimate for grape cultivation and specialized wine production, the importance of minerals and mining was also recognized. In the Government Decree (485/2016) a mining and mineral resource management strategy has

to be prepared which will include the attempts to reduce the impact of quarrying as well as the degree of exploitation with taking into account the richness of the region in minerals. The living cultural landscape must remain an asset for the benefit of the sustainable development of local communities. Once the Management Plan is approved and finalised, the revision of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone shall be considered, in order to enhance the integrity and the appropriate protection of the property. The developing strategy will cover other mineral resources (e.g. andesite crushed stone) and will probably be a good example to develop similar regional resource management plans and may contribute to a national level strategy.

