

LIFE IN QUARRIES



**Dirk Fincke,
Secretary General of UEPG**

UEPG in a nutshell

Since 1987, UEPG is strongly promoting the interests of the **European Aggregates Industry** and has **members in 27 countries in Europe**



The aggregates sector is by far
the largest
amongst the non-energy
extractive industries
in numbers of sites, companies, numbers
employed and tonnages produced.



Aggregates demand is just on
5 tonnes
per capita per year.



The European [EU28+EFTA, 2015]
aggregates demand is
2.7 billion
tonnes/year,
representing an annual turnover
of an estimated €15 billion.

The aggregates industry comprises



15,000
companies (mostly SMEs),

producing at



26,000
sites across Europe

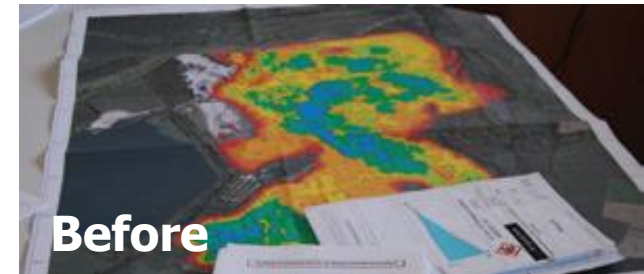
with just over



200,000
people employed
(including contractors).

Sustainable Aggregates Extraction

- UEPG supports the objectives of the EU Birds and Habitats Directive and is committed to contribute to Nature and Biodiversity conservation
- Responsible aggregates production is compatible with a favorable conservation status of habitat types and species.
- Aggregates extraction is not only compatible with biodiversity, but has the potential to create it
- A number of Natura 2000 areas have been designated on former extraction sites – which demonstrates this



Aggregates extraction sites & Biodiversity

- Biodiversity protection can benefit from a more dynamic management of sites.
- Although aggregates extraction sites, by their very specificities, can be natural biodiversity havens, an ad-hoc management (e.g. Biodiversity Management Plans) helps creating new habitats and attracting pioneer species.
- New concepts are emerging from across Europe on Temporary Nature and Dynamic Management of Biodiversity



UEPG works on Biodiversity

- The UEPG Biodiversity Task Force aims at
 - Raising awareness on sustainable extraction practices
 - Disseminating the practice of Biodiversity Management Plans
 - Developing Biodiversity Indicators
 - Communicating on innovative projects
 - Exchange of good practices and case studies across Europe
- UEPG Sustainable Development Awards – Special Category for Biodiversity



Innovative approaches & practices

- **The LIFE in Quarries project is a milestone for the European Aggregates Industry**
 - ▶ Exemplary project that will take the industry a step further with sustainable extraction practices
 - ▶ Exemplary project showcasing the positive outcome of cooperation between industry, environmental NGOs, academic researchers and local & regional authorities
 - ▶ The project will increase the legitimacy of flexible solutions such as the dynamic management of biodiversity – an EU funded project
- Initiatives aiming at producing new **soft law** may help to show that **aggregates extraction is part of the solution; a partner in Biodiversity management.**

Cooperation with the European Commission

- Contribution to the consultations of the **Fitness Check** of the **EU Birds and Habitats Directive**
- Offered support for the implementation of the **EU Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy**
- Great interest in the European Aggregates Industry for **temporary nature but legal certainty for companies is missing**; essential to include the concept in the **Sectoral Guidance** of the European Commission **"Non-Energy Extractive Minerals and Natura 2000"**
- Active involvement in the European Commission **Business@Biodiversity Platform** (Temporary Nature Workstream)
- **We believe the vast network of aggregates extraction sites can contribute to make a difference.**



Thank you



UEPG AISBL

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