



Meeting of the ENSQM: Possible Horizon 2020 Call

28 November 2019

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome & compliance statement

T. Suffys welcomed participants and read the antitrust compliance statement.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Introduction: Horizon 2020 Call – Possible relevance for ENSQM partners

A. Shtiza presented the call for proposals on sustainable management in extractive industries and reminded about the deadline for proposals (13 February 2020 at 17.00 hrs). This call would be eligible to EUR 2 million EU funding at a 100% funding rate. The call fits with the second pillar of the EU Raw Materials Strategy; it stresses the importance of the value chain of the extractive life cycle. Concretely, the call aims at producing a toolkit to help the permitting process; a second set of deliverables consists in preparing training materials and organising capacity-building workshops locally. The project should last for two to three years.

4. Tour de table: Member feedback about interest in project and specific elements of interest

- IMA-Europe is interested in the project; French, German, Polish and two Spanish member associations would also be willing to join, along with several companies.
- UEPG expressed interest in the project, pending official confirmation.
- ANEFA (UEPG's Spanish member) wants to be part of the project. C. Luaces Frades will enquire within Cominroc for possible other partners.
- Cembureau is also positively inclined towards the project but awaits confirmation from national associations.
- Eurogypsum is also interested to join the project. Further feedback is awaited from national associations.
- EuSalt would also be interested in the project. A Swiss member company may also be interested to join.
- EXCA will consult members and inform about possible interest in the project.

5. Discussion on key aspects of the project

Concerning the **concept and relevance**, a proposal for this call would contribute to help operators with the permitting process, by facilitating decision-making and creating awareness among external stakeholder about the added value of raw materials. It should help fight against the 'NIMBY' effect; it would also move the focus from 'critical' raw materials towards 'strategic' raw materials. Having socio-economic data about extractive industry activities would be important to demonstrate the value chain's importance. The induced climate impact of bad permitting practices (with increased transportation needs, e.g. due to imports) is an important element that should be taken into account when

assessing permitting projects. Having information about the number and good environmental record of extraction sites in Natura 2000 areas would also be useful. The project would also enable to link with – and cluster – existing projects such as Minatura, Minland, Life in Quarries, the ENSQM or the European Minerals Day. In terms of the approach, earlier permitting processes should be mapped out, to identify obstacles and prepare the most relevant toolkit. The issue of compatibility between land users should be considered in this work. The final toolkit should be translated in all EU languages and include case studies.

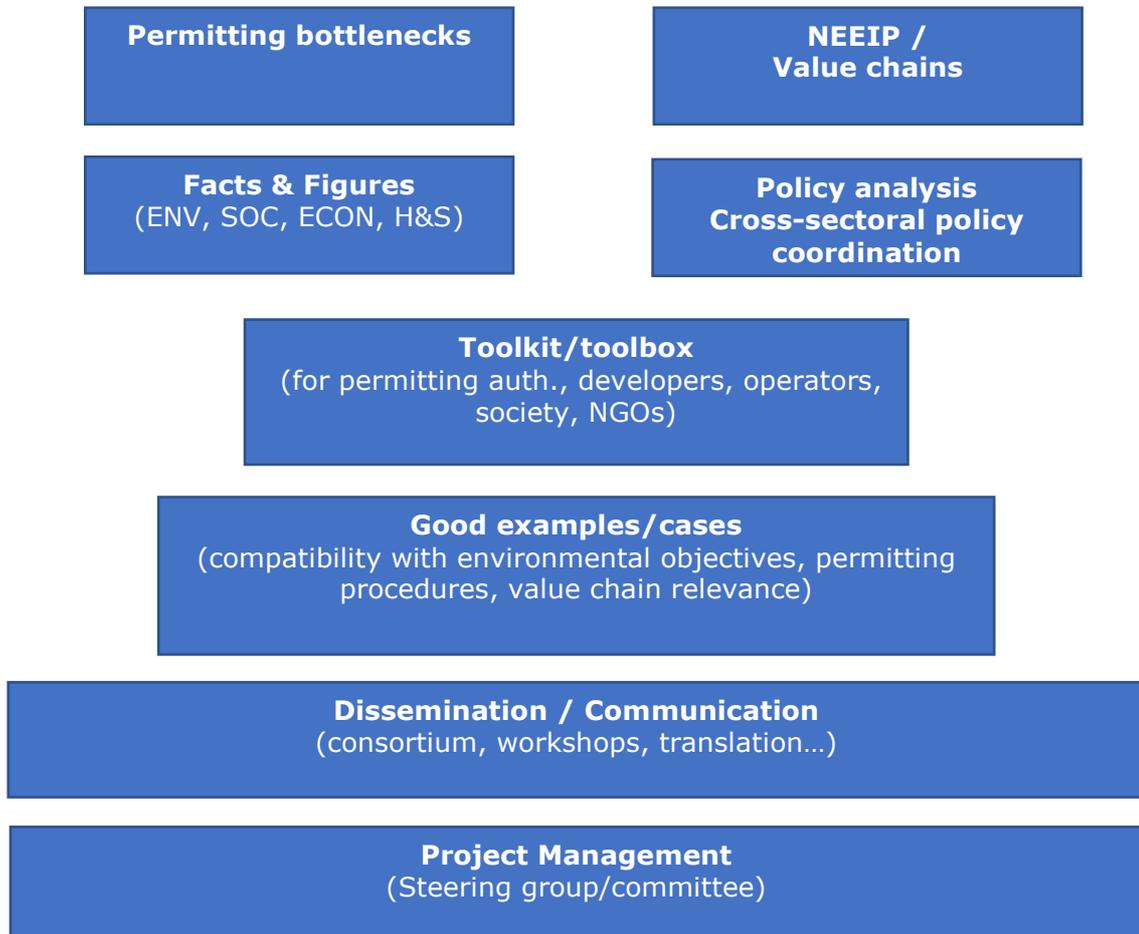
Regarding **partners**, DG GROW would expect NEEIP associations to take the lead on such a project, but national partners would be crucial to ensure the project's objectives. Having both levels would allow to tackle the permitting bottleneck, by linking EU policy needs with the difficulties faced on the ground. Hence it would be important to have all NEEIP partners at least in the project's Steering Committee, even if some are not active members of the project. We would need national or regional authorities involved in permitting. We should seek to involve NGOs in the project, ideally at several levels (EU/national or local). NABU and BirdLife could be approached in priority through existing links with BBS and other partners. It was suggested to reach out to EGF and EuroGeoSurveys to ask about potential interest. Universities involved in ENSQM (Bingen & Liège) should also be approached. A communication partner (agency) should be on board, to develop the deliverables (toolkit...).

Concerning the **content** of the proposal, members discussed and proposed first graphs of the expected deliverables and workstreams, as well as permitting bottlenecks (see *annexes*), to be used for further discussions and drafting of the proposal.

6. Agreement on next steps

- Reach out to all ENSQM and NEEIP partners and ask for feedback by 9 December.
- Prepare an engagement letter for interested parties to sign by 9 December (based on C. Luaces Frades' template)
- Approach national/regional authorities (e.g. DGEG, partner of ENSQM; other authorities: Spain - C. Luaces Frades; Estonia/Czech Rep./Slovakia – UEPG; France – UEPG)
- Approach other parties where relevant (e.g. ANIET – C. Luaces Frades)
- Progress call: 9 December 2019 (10.30 – 12.00 hrs) – to inform on engagement in the project
- Meeting (with conference call facilities) to assign drafting/project tasks, identify missing partners and work on the proposal: 16 December 2019 (13.00 hrs onwards)
- Make list of partners available by mid-December 2019

Annex 1: Graph presenting possible work packages for the project



Annex 2: Graph presenting key permitting bottlenecks

