

NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLOITING, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ROMANIA



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The University of Petrosani displays a long tradition in training mining specialists. The best professionals who work in Romania or abroad have been educated by the academic establishment in Petrosani. The collaboration of all mining companies – belonging to the State or private domain – with the University of Petrosani is undeniable both in the field of practical knowledge that concerns the students and in the field of scientific research. While celebrating its 65 anniversary we are also confident that the University of Petrosani is going to develop this prospect and continually improve. The exploitation of natural resources will surely continue in Romania and, implicitly, the University of Petrosani will train the specialists required by the mining industry and other fields and will bring its contribution to the development of new mining techniques and technologies.

In a country like Romania that sets forth a vast mining tradition, mines exploiting will always be actual. Official sources show that out of about 650 mines having functioned until 1997, more than 520 are closed at present. Nonetheless, mining has not exhausted its potential as European examples and tendencies as well as Romanians' belief – proven through questionnaires – show. The European Union would like to diminish the dependence of our continent on the massive import of raw materials. And, in order to do this, each country should strive more both at a decisional level and at a legislative one.

Romanians are in favor of natural resources exploiting!

At the initiative of the central daily newspaper, *Adevarul*, an INSCOP sociological research has shown that Romanians are in favor of natural resources exploiting. The authors of the research assert that they have formulated the questions in a manner that allows them to avoid using the phrases "Rosia Montana" or "shiest gas" so that the results are not seriously affected by the extreme duality determined by the two issues at the level of our society. As regards prospect works, 65.2% of the total population investigated is in favor of natural resources exploiting while 28.1% are against the activity. A slightly decreased percent, yet still significant – 61.9% of Romania's population – favor the exploitation of natural resources with a view to capitalizing while 29.8% are against such exploitation. In fact, most part of the population that support prospect works is also in favor of natural resources exploitation.

Another question has targeted the respondents' opinion concerning the exploiting of resources to the extent to which such an activity would determine effects upon the environment. Accordingly, 45.9% of the respondents agree with the exploitation of natural resources in case European environment standards are observed while 6.9% agree with exploiting them irrespective of circumstances. At the same time, 22% are still in favor of exploiting no matter if European environment protection standards are observed while 19.6% form the group that opposes natural resources exploitation irrespective of the terms.

The sustainable exploiting of natural resources represents a potential of economic development that should not be wasted! "Good luck!"

