



SCHEDULE FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, ROUND 1

25 March 2015	Meeting with Novo Selo Municipality
26 March	Municipal Leaders focus group
27 March	Meeting with Bosilovo Municipality
28 March	Agricultural Representatives focus group
30 March	Business / Economic Development focus group Young Adults focus group
31 March	Emergency Services focus group Healthcare focus group
3 April	Education focus group Hunters Association focus group



Municipality of Novo Selo

4pm, 25 March 2015

Participants:

- Blazho Velkov - Mayor of the municipality of Novo Selo
- Meri Avramova - Environmental protection department
- Blagoj Tasev - Manager of financial budget
- Aco Krlev - NGO "Feniks" Novo Selo
- Atanas Atanasov - Utilities inspector
- Gjorgji Atanasov - Councilor of the Council of municipality of Novo Selo elected by the people from Sushica
- Nace Cekov - Director of the utilities company of Novo Selo
- Violeta Atanasova - Independent Officer for referral
- Venera Shopova - Authorized construction inspector
- Tushe Stojanov - Economic department
- Ilija Banukovski - Independent Utilities Officer

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and Questions:

Participants asked for employment profiles for the Project

People expressed concern about trucks moving ore through villages on roads that are in poor condition and where there are schools and school children walking to and from school

People expressed concern about changes to water quality and asked what the approach to water quality monitoring would be and would there be intervention if a change is observed, particularly with relation to Sushica (approx. 2km from boundary of expanded concession).

People asked if EOX is planning on a tree planting program and other environmental protection

People expressed concern that EAs were done in the past and mitigations were not implemented and monitoring results did not trigger additional mitigations

One participant asked if the waste rock could be turned over to communities for use as building material or as an opportunity for businesses; the participant mentioned that there are few income generating opportunities

Mayor expressed that his main hesitation is related to the tailings and potential impacts on water quality

A question was raised regarding the treatment of metals on site and potential impacts on the environment, including air quality.



Municipal Leaders Focus group

10am, 26 March 2015

Participants:

- Mitko Stojanov - Representative of the village of Ilovitza and Councilor of the Council of municipality of Bosilovo elected by the people from Ilovitza
- Vnacho Cvetkov - Representative of the village of Shtuka and Councilor of the Council of municipality of Bosilovo elected by the people from Shtuka
- Gjorgi Atanasov - Representative of the village of Sushica and Councilor of the Council of municipality of Bosilovo elected by the local population of Sushica
- Vane Dimitriev - Department for economic and rural development

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva

Issues and Questions:

Population in decline in villages (Ilovitza = approx. 2000 residents; Shtuka = approx. 800 residents; Sushica = approx. 1200 residents). Young people moving for jobs (Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland) and better wages; also young people not marrying and raising families without a foundation so people are delaying marriage and children. Would young people return to villages with new economic development? No, but pace of outmigration might slow.

Lack of jobs is not the only problem causing migration away from villages – low salaries also contribute. Offering jobs would not solve the problem. Minimum wage is approx. €150 per month (rate set 10 months ago); increases to minimum wage are not keeping pace with increase in cost of living.

Participants also indicated that concerns regarding the impacts of the mine are also encouraging young people to move away. For example, people were skeptical of the official explanation given for the death of the fish in the reservoir and still think it relates to Euromax operations.

Participants expressed concern that a proposed Sushica reservoir is planned on the other side of the hill that the tailings management facility will back onto. Could there be contamination from the TMF into the reservoir?

Participants (Ilovitza) expressed concern that agricultural products produced in the area would not be purchased for fear that the water and soils in the area are polluted. Those that breed cattle would also see an effect on sales if pasture lands are polluted or if there is stigma due to the presence of the mine and perception of water and soils contamination. The participant raised the Buchim mine as an example: people left their village and moved elsewhere because they could not grow crops and they were fearful of contamination.

Participant asked what EOX would do if there were effects on livelihoods (answer set out the impact assessment and mitigation process, also described that EOX is considering a workshop on effects and mitigations; environmental awareness program, etc.)



Participant asked what assurance there was if environmental performance was poor, that EOX mitigate or would respond with additional mitigations to unfavourable monitoring results; the suggestion was that the mine would not stop production as a lot has been invested in getting the project operating and that Government would not revoke their license. So, how can affected villagers be sure that EOX will do as it says it will?

Participant asked if air quality will be monitored and deposition to land resulting in potential land contamination.

How will ore be transported?

Sekirnik and Sushica may not approve of the access road going near their villages.

Authorities are trying to convince people that there will be absolutely no impact. People want opportunities to ask more questions and raise issues as information becomes available.

Participants asked that local people be prioritized for jobs. The top priority for local people is employment.

Participant asked if EOX will be as friendly after the mine is installed as they are now (ongoing engagement plan)

A lot of environmental problems now and mine adds to the “boiling pot” (no sewage treatment plant, water supply system is old, some built in 1972; no central municipal landfill and no collection system, looking for a regional concession holder that will manage waste; gas line under construction but no fixed implementation plan or construction schedule—gas would address air pollution from fire wood and burning oil for heating);

No soil monitoring now. Suspected use of illegal pesticides and herbicides. New program (Agency for Financial Support and Rural Development) will tie agricultural subsidies to demonstrating use of legal products but program will not be in place for several years.

Some successes of LEAP discussed including reducing poaching through Hunting Association providing guardian services; regular clearance of Turija Canal to reduce potential for flooding; revitalization of Monospitovo Swamp (program to supply spring water and then add fish); connection of Robovo and Ednokukjevo to the Ilovitza Reservoir water supply. Revision of LEAP is being done in cooperation with Brabant Water (Holland), will be ready December 2015.



Municipality of Bosilovo

10am, 27 March 2015

Participants:

- Marjan Manev - Department for utilities, environmental protection and local economic development (position - Utilities inspector)
- Bozhin Dinishev - President of the Youth Council of Bosilovo
- Mirche Stojkov - Head of the Water treatment plant
- Liljana Shopova - NGO CEOR "Ilovitza"
- Nikola Gjorgiev - Director of the Utilities company "Ograzhden" Bosilovo
- Zoran Zimbakov - Department for utilities and environmental protection and local economic development (position - Senior Associate for Public Utilities)
- Milchev Stojan - Department of Human Resource Management (position - Junior officer for personal records - human resource management)
- Ljupcho Kolev - Mayor of the municipality of Bosilovo
- Vane Dimitriev - Department for economic and rural development

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and Questions:

When will information on water supply be available?

What processing will be done on site?

Will there be meetings with the people of Ilovitza and Shtuka?

Director of the public utility stated that to date there has been good cooperation with Euromax so far and they want to help the project to succeed so are willing to provide data from water quality testing regime. Participant asked which documents would be publicly disclosed. Will there only be national disclosure? Will the PD and design criteria be disclosed?

Mayor stated that it is essential that the feasibility study is made available. Want definitive answers, not just options / possibilities. Results of the feasibility study will be included in the LEAP and other strategy documents for the municipality, with relation to effects to infrastructure, development programme, meeting national programmes.

Participant asked where the public hearing (consultation) will be held?

A comment was made that reiterated the need for demonstrated community benefits in addition to environmental mitigations.



Agricultural Representatives Focus group

10am, 28 March 2015

Participants:

- Nikola Stamenov - President of the Farmers Association of Republic of Macedonia
- Timo Krstev - Member of the Board of the Farmers Association of Strumica and representative of the Young farmers

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and Questions:

What is the level of protection for citizens in terms of air, soil and water pollution (standards and thresholds)?
Want reassurance that they'll get information as soon as it's available. People already believe that there have been impacts to water. People are skeptical of the mine and the potential for pollution.

Will there be development benefits in addition to employment?

Comment was made that the Buchim scenario is feared by agriculturalists.

The President of Federation (also "president" of Ilovitza and long term resident) asked that EOX consider supporting construction of a playground in the Ilovitza town square and a training centre for farmers.

Would like to see a public debate of the project including potential impacts, jobs, etc.



Business Focus Group

10am, 30 March 2015

Participants:

- Vane Dimitriev - Department for economic and rural development
- Petre Jovov - Head of AD "Agrolozar" – Hamzalii

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and Questions:

Participants expressed concern about out-migration as a constraint to business development.

Participant noted that there are government grants available for people to start up new businesses, particularly relevant in areas where there are shortages of particular trades. However, people may not take it up as they prefer to play it safe and stick to agriculture.

Participant commented on mechanization of farming (viniculture) and that some employment positions were lost but new process is efficient and some workers were trained in Frankfurt on the use of machinery (increased capacity).



Young Adults Focus Group

2pm, 30 March 2015

Participants:

- Bozhin Dinishev - President of the Youth Council of Bosilovo (YCB)
- Marjan Stoev - Member of the YCB
- Nace Gjorgiev - Member of the YCB

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva; Dragi Peltechki; Patrick Forward and Kate Harcourt

Issues and Questions:

Participant asked when assessment results will be available.

Interested to hear more about the opportunities for jobs. Will age impact likelihood of being hired?

Will surveys be done in villages other than Ilovitza and Shtuka? People are generally familiar with idea of the project but don't have any detail.

Participant commented that retired people do not have enough information (are not represented by an organization, although there are some Associations for retired people in some Municipalities).

Will there be ongoing monitoring of the environment once the project gets started?



Emergency Services Focus Group

10am, 31 March 2015

Participants:

- Milan Rusev - Head of the Regional center for crisis management
- Mijalche Krstev - Commander of the fire department of Strumica
- Marjan Dautov - Head of the regional office for protection and rescue
- Vasko Chaushevski - Director of the Ambulance in Strumica
- Gjorgi Bozhinov - Head of the Department of Internal Affairs in Strumica

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva; Dragi Peltechki; Patrick Forward and Kate Harcourt

Issues and Questions:

No concerns from the perspective of these groups—they have plans in place.

Participant said that they share the same environmental concerns that others in the area have.

Recommended that information regarding the project, Euromax, environmental hazards and intentions re. management be made public to allay concerns from members of the public.

Participant noted that a useful community contribution that Euromax could make would be an all terrain/four wheel drive ambulance.



Healthcare Practitioners Group

2pm, 31 March 2015

Participants:

- Maja Katrandziska Dzonlaga - Doctor at the local clinic at the village of Ilovitza
- Tanja Vasileva - Dentist at the local dental office at the village of Ilovitza
- Nike Tufekchiev - Doctor for hygiene at the Public Health Institute of Strumica

Golder representatives: Michaela Simms and Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva; Dragi Peltechki; Patrick Forward and Kate Harcourt

Issues and Concerns:

Participant asked what will be excavated (geochem of rock) and what will be the environmental impacts?

Participant noted that there are already water pollution issues and that any impacts from the mine would add to these.

Participant asked what the output of the mine will be in terms of heavy metals? This participant suggested soil analysis be taken at various depths.

Valass/Veles project was raised as an example of poor environmental performance as lead and cadmium were released during the smelting process and contaminated the land (? Not sure if this is right).

Are you analyzing radio nuclides? (Pat said that we will be looking into that in the final report).

Will flotation be used?

Where will waste be stored?



Secondary Education Focus group:

10am, 3 April 2015

Participants:

- Slobodan Veta - Principal of the high school “Nikola Karev” Strumica
- Janko Shilinov - Representative of the high school “Nikola Karev” Strumica

Golder representatives: Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and questions:

Have received gov't approval for Mining and Geology program to begin Sept 2015. Support for program provided by Municipality of Bosilovo and through an assessment of demand by surveying primary students in older grades. Mandate is to adapt programs to local economy so there is an expectation of working with EOX as the project moves forward.

Concerned about environmental effects of mine: asked about floatation process.

Question about access road—location and purpose (need)



Bosilovo Hunters Association

2pm, 3 April 2015

Participants:

- Gjorgji Zimbakov - Secretary of the Hunting Association "Goce Delchev"- Bosilovo

Golder representatives: Linda Havers

EOX representatives: Elizabeta Stoeva and Dragi Peltechki

Issues and questions:

Asked about project effects on animals, especially effects to water. (explained studies to assess effects, including loss of habitat, changes in access to hunting in preferred locations, changes in abundance.

Had expressed a concern that the noise from current activities has driven animals away.

Asked whether EOX would consider contributing a fenced area to encourage breeding of "replacement" animals. When animals are harvested, each has to be "replaced" through a purchase program. Programs operate in Bulgaria and Serbia and will release animals, for example, into the area to replenish the species.