



Explore the World of Minerals

With events and initiatives in 9 facilities in Bulgaria, Greece, Germany and - for the first time - in Turkey, S&B Industrial Minerals celebrated the European Minerals Day 2013.

Athens - On the occasion of the EMD 2013, S&B in Athens decided to support SchoolLab, an innovative online competition organized by SciCo and the British Council under the aegis of the Ministry of Education for the creation and exchange of scientific ideas among students, their professors, and researchers. This year's scientific subject was the Earth, with a special focus in the world of minerals and technologies deriving from the use of the earth's raw materials.

More specifically, 729 students - from 5th grade elementary school to Junior high school - and 93 teachers, in 235 groups from 73 schools in 50 Greek cities participated this year. Students were required to pick a scientific subject of interest to them, conduct relevant research and create an interesting way to present their subject with a 3-5 minute video. The best video selected is showcased in School Lab's website (<http://school-lab.org/index.php/en/>). Get a flavor of the competition from the short video from the award ceremony. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4rKvunfDOU&list=UUiryWM2JYe_gpKJ_FDLLHg)



In **Fokis**, about 120 pupils of Itea 1st and 2nd Primary Schools, accompanied by 6 teachers, the Principle and the School Consultant of Fokis Primary Education visited S&B's bauxite mines' facility. A warm welcome was followed by the presentation of the mine's activities and reclamation works. The tour included a visit to Vagonetto – Fokis Mining Park and a visit to S&B's plant nursery where local and endemic plants are reproduced for use in mine reclamation. Young visitors were very excited to learn about S&B's activities and especially with their visit to "Vagonetto", where they had the chance to see how an underground mine was actually operating in the past, but also to find out, in the dedicated exhibition area, the basics of S&B's work, from mining exploration for bauxite deposits to the end process of alumina production.

In **Milos**, about 130 children from Kindergarten and elementary school participated in a series of activities involving a guided MILOTERRANEAN Geo Experience tour passing through Aggeria mine, the largest bentonite mine of the island, and Voudia, S&B's main processing facilities. The tour was followed by a visit to the company's plant nursery where local and endemic plants are reproduced for mine reclamation purposes. The event was complemented with a visit and tour of the Milos Mining Museum whereby the young students were informed about Milos' minerals and their use in our everyday lives.



The European Minerals Day 2013 welcomed more than 30.000 visitors to more than 170 events at 170 sites in 24 countries.

Total visitors: 250
Open door days: 2
School/childrens' projects: 3

Themes: exploring minerals, biodiversity, resource efficiency

Partners:
Schoollab, SciCo & British Council, Ministry of Education, Fokis Mining Park, Milos Mining Museum, Miloterranean Geo Experience

The European Minerals Day was initiated in 2007. This pan-European awareness raising and educational event takes place every two years. It aims to increase public understanding of the importance of minerals in daily life and promote biodiversity conservation and enhancement. Mineral raw materials producers show how the sector contributes to a sustainable European economy by illustrating their role in resource efficiency, innovation and regional development.

Companies invite the local communities to take part in open days and school projects - while their European trade associations ensure the coordination, support and visibility at European level.

Lead: IMA-Europe
Partners: CEMBUREAU, EUSalt, Eurometaux, Euromines, ETP SMR, EuroGeoSurveys
With the support of the European Commission, IndustriAll (trade union), ELO, Association of Geologists, IUCN, UEPG, Cerame-Unie, and Members of European Parliament.