



WEBINAR

Prospects for the recovery
of the ornamental
stone sector

Carrara | February 10, 2021

CIRCULARITY AND DIGITALISATION: TOWARDS THE POST- PANDEMIC HORIZON OF THE ORNAMENTAL STONE QUARRYING SECTOR | ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

Speakers: Marco De Angelis, Domenico Savoca, Orlando Pandolfi, Domenico Gullì.

From Carrara, synergy and cohesion among institutional, technical and industrial actors in supporting the strategic axes for the recovery.

A digital seminar - the first of a dedicated cycle - was held on February 10, 2021, by an initiative of ANIM | National Association of Mining Engineers and Confindustria Livorno Massa Carrara, with the collaboration of Confindustria Marmo Macchine, to shed light on the present and future of a sector - like many others - hard hit by the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has produced on both mining and processing activities.

A collective and organic analysis of the critical issues that affect the employees of a sector which, albeit weakened by the decrease recorded in 2020 (estimated at a decrease of 35% in extracted and marketed materials) looks with realistic optimism at a strategy of relaunch on the international markets, in line with the opportunities offered by the European Recovery Fund, for an urgent and inevitable paradigm change.

To **Marco De Angelis, Chairman of Confindustria MarmoMacchine** and stone entrepreneur, the task of inaugurating the works: "Despite the difficulties, the sector held up" - he explained, adding: "To face the restart, it is necessary to implement a change of mentality that allows us to look at stone as a resource, and no longer as a problem, supported by professionalism capable of bringing excavation to new levels of awareness in terms of safety, sustainability and technological innovation".

Domenico Savoca, Chairman of ANIM - National Association of Mining Engineers, focused on the prospects of social acceptability for the sector, object of particular attention by ANIM itself as the sustainable development of quarrying activities - from an economic, environmental and social point of view - cannot be separated from social acceptance by local administrations and even more by local populations. The environmental reasons, while fundamental for the acceptance of quarrying Initiatives, are not the only ones that can cause the rejection of the same initiatives by large segments of civil society. The conditions for a correct development of the mining activities concerning ornamental stones are preconstituted in the regional planning: indeed, there is often no authority that can synthesize the various opposing interests. When dealing with administrative authorisations and managing mining activities, social communication and listening to administrations, groups or committees are important, with the aim of making credible the Company that proposes an extractive intervention. An interesting procedure for the acquisition of social acceptance, called "Social License To Operate", is now establishing itself worldwide. Finally, the opportunity offered by ANIM for the training of the professional figure of "Quarry Manager" and his certification of competence was recalled, through the attendance of specialised courses and the certification of this competence by a third party.



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This was followed by the contribution of **Orlando Pandolfi, Vice President of ANIM and Innovation Manager & Strategist for the stone quarry sector.** Pandolfi illustrated his strategy for introducing a lean management model in the quarry system, capable of generating sustainable competitiveness and growth through a systemic approach to the improvement of the production organisation, according to the practices of Lean Management and Industry 4.0: "What Europe is asking of us is a conversion that cannot escape a systemic review of processes in the only direction that can be taken today ", he declared. "Circularity and digitalisation will make our quarries pioneering: a unique opportunity to organise and simplify quarrying activities in a green and innovative logic. The virtual quarry, at the centre of the global twin quarry ecosystem based on the digital assistant, will be the quarry of the future".

Finally, the speech by **Domenico Gulli, Head of the Prevention Department of USL Toscana Nord Ovest,** who concluded the schedule by claiming the centrality of safe quarrying, for the excavation sites but above all for the quarrymen, whose observational ability is recognised as decisive for designing the quarrying strategy. "Prevention and safety are the cornerstones of the relaunch, flanked by innovation not only in processes and technologies, but also in monitoring systems" - he declared. This is the right time to constructively disseminate the various possibilities that innovation offers us, both in terms of controls and monitoring, and safety devices for equipment. Control, prevention, training and risk assessment to aim to zero accidents must be the handbook for every entrepreneur, also in view of greater social acceptance of quarrying activities in local communities".

FINAL ROUND TABLE - Alberto Maccabruni, Vice President of ANIM, coordinated the final round table in which the speakers - including a trade union's spokesperson - clarified interesting aspects of the productive recovery of the ornamental stone mining activities, also in relation to the difficulties connected to the economic competition put in place, especially by producers in Asian countries.

The seminar inaugurated a cycle of webinars dedicated to the promotion of an innovative approach to the world of ornamental stone, with a strong focus on professional training and 4.0 transition, consistent with a digital and sustainable mindset.

The webinar was organised by:

