

From a Planned Economy to the Market-Oriented System: Transition in the Hungarian Geological Survey

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In the last 50 years, Hungary suffered twice from the transformation of her economy. In 1949, centrally planned and rigorously controlled economy was introduced, even into the mining and prospecting. From 1989 on, the painful procedure of returning to the market-oriented and evaluated structure has been going on.

In the centrally planned economy only state-owned mining companies operated, and ordered projects from the state-owned scientific institutions. The Survey of that time managing the state geological affairs was quite different from the recent. Mining, together with prospecting and exploration was a strategic issue. The paper presents examples for the strategy-oriented mineral management (bauxite, coal, and uranium ore mining).

The new era after 1990 brought a complete change to the mining, while exploration and exploitation of mineral commodities have been transferred to the private sphere mainly in the form of concessions. However, mineral resources have remained in the ownership of the state, so it is national concern and duty to assess the mineral resources, to collect and utilise geological information and to maintain the expert level of geological authority procedures. These issues are managed by the Hungarian Geological Survey, established in 1993. The structure, duties and goals of the Survey are presented.

Although the recent structure is totally compatible with those existing in the European Community, the new millennium brings us novel tasks and mission, presented in the paper.