

GRANITE EXPLOITATION IN ROMANIA

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In Romania over 20 types of rocks are exploited and used in the construction and building industry. The total annual production is around 30 million tones. In the year 2000 only 8 of 17 known deposits were exploited, providing 755000 tones of granite. In the North Dobrogea orogen (North Dobrogea Plateau as geographical unit) the exploited granite deposits are: Turcoaia-Iacobdeal, Macin-Derea-Anton Suluk, Izvorul Macin-Vii and Caprarie-Macin. Two other deposits are Atmagea and Caprarie. In the Southern Carpathians granite has been exploited in Mala-Eselnita, Plesa-Purceni and Meri deposits. Other identified resources are Valea Cernei-Seracova, Valea Porcului, Iablanita and Crusovita deposits. In the Apuseni Mountains (Western Carpathians) several deposits are known: Radna, Soimos, Valea Lupului-Homoroad and Pietroasa. From all these, only the first one has been exploited. In the 2000s the total granite production was came from 4 counties: Tulcea (483000 tones), Gorj (217000), Mehedinti (34000 tones) and Arad (21000 tones). On the geostructural units, the granite production is distributed as follows: the North Dobrogea orogen (483000 tones), Southern Carpathians (251000 tones), Apuseni Mountains (21000 tones). In quarries, the extraction has been done with explosives placed in galleries or mine holes. Granite has been transported first to the preparation units, then directly to the beneficiaries or to the loading points on ships or vans. The products obtained after preparation are natural aggregates crushed artificially (great stone, spalls, chippings, crushed sand) and processed stone (paving stones, paving bricks, borders, boundary stones). The total granite resources are estimated at around 370 million tones but can certainly be increased considering the geological situation. The most important resources are located in Tulcea (230 million tones), Caras-Severin (68 million tones) and Gorj (43 million tones) counties.