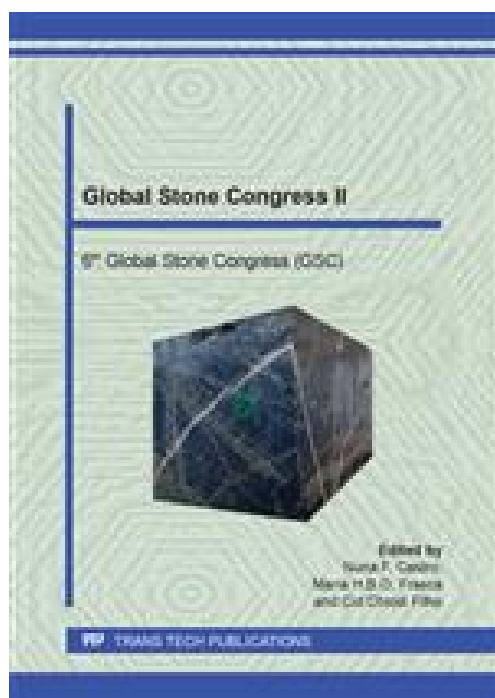


Global Stone Congress II



Subtitle: 6th Global Stone Congress (GSC)

Description: This volume contains selected, peer-reviewed papers from the 6th edition of the International Stone Congress, the Global Stone Congress 2018 (GSC): Connecting Minds in the World of Stone that was held- 25-28 April 2018, Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil. Presented articles reflect the latest results and achievements in the area of technologies of mining, processing, and application of the natural stone and marble.

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Portugal Mineral Resources Cluster: Collective Strategy for Sectoral Recognition and Sustainable Development

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Abstract. The proposal as a strategic economic cluster and subsequent recognition of the Portugal Mineral Resources Cluster, by the Portuguese Government, constitutes a milestone and an important step for its rational management. It was clear that the economic growth of companies associated with the cluster of mineral resources grew comparatively more in the same period than those that are not part of the cluster. It has also been demonstrated that the learning capacity of making alliances increases the performance of companies.

As an evolution of the Portuguese Stone Cluster, where the clustering strategy demonstrated positive results during the Portuguese economic crisis, the main goal, partly already achieved, of the “Associação Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources” is to spread the experience acquired in the stone sector to the Mineral Resources Economic Sector.

Introduction

The Mineral Resources Economic Sector can only be properly considered as a potential factor in the development of a Country if there is an integrated strategy transversal to all activities related to it. Contributions from different areas, such as geology, territorial planning, environmental protection, risk assessment, socioeconomic sustainability of populations where Mineral Resources are exploited, associated with market policies, among others, should be analyzed together in an integrated way.

A Cluster, by definition, is a group of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular area, linked by similarities and complementarities. In 2008, the Government of Portugal launched the Collective Efficiency Strategies program within the National Strategic Reference Framework (QREN). This initiative integrated a Program of Action aimed at innovation, qualification, and modernization of companies, through network operation, between companies and other relevant Cluster stakeholders covered by this Collective Efficiency Strategy.

Not being a new concept [1,2], and already widespread in other countries (i.e. France, USA), the Economic Sectors in Portugal were organized and recognized in 2008, resulting 11 Competitiveness Poles and 7 Clusters, which included the Natural Stone Cluster [1].