

# NEWSLETTER



## Grand Mine Opening



Paul Cronin, CEO of Adriatic Metals, added: "I am delighted to celebrate this momentous occasion with the team that contributed to this project. From the first exploration drill hole to the inaugural concentrate production in under seven years, this achievement is truly remarkable." The revival of the rich mining tradition has ignited a tumultuous blend of hope, pride, and anticipation in the hearts of the locals. Following the official inauguration ceremony, guests, dignitaries, and Adriatic Metals BH employees gathered at Vareš Fest, a local celebration marking the mine's opening. There, they enjoyed music, crafts, and local cuisine, celebrating a new chapter for Vareš and its people.

At the beginning of March, a remarkable occasion unfolded in Vareš as Adriatic Metals BH officially inaugurated its mine. The event brought together distinguished guests, including Nermin Nikšić, the Prime Minister; Nezir Pivić, Prime Minister of Ze-Do Canton; Zdravko Marošević, Mayor of Vareš; Julian Reilly, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and many other dignitaries. Alongside them stood the proud fleet of Adriatic Metals BH, all gathered to celebrate the commencement of what promises to be a transformative force for the entire region. In his address, Mayor of the Municipality of Vareš, Zdravko Marošević expressed: "Adriatic Metals has revitalized our town, bolstered the population, and invigorated economic activities. Moreover, they have rekindled our robust mining tradition, instilling a sense of pride and purpose in our community."





## PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE SIXTH SESSION HELD IN FEBRUARY

In the Vareš Municipal Hall, on February 22nd, the sixth session of the Public Liaison Committee of Adriatic Metals BH was held.

During the session, key information about the current state of the project and future plans were presented, emphasizing the importance of transparency and cooperation with the local population. Dino Busuladžić, the newly appointed Executive Director Technical, was introduced at the session, who announced the opening of the mine scheduled for March 5th in his introduction.



Alongside the presentation led by company employees, detailed explanations of the current activities and future plans were provided. Technical aspects of the project were in focus, with special emphasis on the water analysis at the mine site and water treatment methods. It was shared that approximately 20 km of boreholes were drilled last year, with exploratory work continuing in the coming days. This session of the Public Liaison Committee underscores the importance of transparency and cooperation between Adriatic Metals BH and the residents of Vareš. The opening of the mine is expected to mark an important step forward for the local community and the region.

## VAREŠ CLEANING ACTION



In February, a cleaning action was organized in the area of the municipality of Vareš. The action was organized by the Scout Association "Zvijezda" Vareš in cooperation with the Municipality of Vareš, Adriatic Metals BH and several local associations.

As in previous years, the goal of the action was to raise awareness of the danger of environmental pollution and to work together to solve this problem. Along with the organizers, the action was joined by employees of the JKP Vareš, residents of the Vareš Majdan and Dabravine local communities, members of the Association "Moja prva nota", members of the Hunting Society "Zvijezda Vareš", members of the Football and Karate Clubs, and all those who want this town and the way to it make more beautiful.



In the heart of our town, around 150 participants gathered in a spirit of unity and determination to contribute to the preservation of the environment and then spread out along the 16-kilometer regional road in smaller groups of five to ten people and started the cleaning action. With the desire to contribute to the environment in which we work and do business in preserving and raising awareness of the importance of environmental protection, the employees of Adriatic Metals BH responded in large numbers to this campaign again this year. We continue our efforts to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the environment and work to ensure that our town remains clean and sustainable for future generations.



## CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH COURSE: CERTIFICATE AWARDING

In an initiative funded by Adriatic Metals BH, the Conversational English Language Course recently concluded in Vareš, aimed at enhancing verbal communication skills within the local community. The course ran from October 2023 to February 2024.

From a diverse group of 19 participants from varied cultural backgrounds, age groups, and genders, 16 of them successfully completed the course, showcasing their dedication to mastering verbal communication skills. Sessions were thoughtfully scheduled on Mondays and Thursdays from 17:00 to 18:00, accommodating participants' busy schedules and promoting accessibility.

Centered on practical communication skills, the curriculum addressed everyday scenarios like dining out, shopping, financial management, and job interviews, empowering participants to confidently navigate English conversations. Unlike traditional language courses, this program exclusively prioritized verbal communication skills, allowing participants to refine their speaking abilities and gain confidence in expressing themselves orally. Native English speakers conducted guest lectures, providing participants with firsthand exposure to authentic language usage, facilitating interaction, and bolstering comprehension abilities. At the end of the course, participants who completed the course were awarded certificates, marking their achievements in advancing their English language proficiency and cultural competence.



# LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Ferid Ćosičkić

**I would like to express my gratitude for your valuable time and for agreeing to speak for our newsletter, which is part of the 'Living History Project.'**

**To begin, could you tell us a bit more about yourself?**

I am Ferid Ćosičkić, a retired mining engineer. I was born in 1950 in the renowned mining town of Lukavac. I completed my secondary and university education in Tuzla. I obtained my degree as a mining engineer from the Faculty of Mining and Geology in Tuzla

**What motivated you to choose a career in the mining industry?**

Mining at that time was a dynamic branch of the economy, and the fact that I come from a place with a mining tradition motivated my choice

**What strategies did you employ to minimize the environmental impact of mining activities?**

In the eighties, a combined transport system for overburden material from lower levels to the disposal site was introduced using the DTO System (crusher-conveyor-stackers). This significantly reduced the transport distance. High-capacity dump trucks (50-80 tons), excavators, and high-capacity loaders with bucket volumes ranging from 4.6 m<sup>3</sup> to 8.0 m<sup>3</sup> were utilized. Additionally, large-diameter drilling rigs (120-160 mm) were employed, contributing to a substantial reduction in the environmental impact of mining activities.

**The adoption of innovative technologies in mining is crucial for creating a sustainable future. What is your perspective on using artificial intelligence, for example, in the mining industry?**

It can definitely optimize different processes, such as design, data processing, safety and the like.

**You moved from Tuzla to Vareš. Could you share your experience with us? What was the community like in Vareš during that time?**

Considering that during my final years of study I was a scholarship recipient from Mining & Metallurgy Combine Zenica, upon completing my studies, I had an obligation to work for two years in one of the mines owned by the company. In my case, it was the Vareš Mine and Ironworks in Vareš. Initially, I was discontented with this arrangement because at that time, I only associated Vareš with its mineral wealth. However, in a noticeably brief period, I discovered that Vareš, beyond its mineral resources, is shaped by its people and nature, which ultimately influenced my decision to stay.



**As one of the main designers for the Smreka open pit mine, what challenges did you encounter?**

The exploitation of iron ore (limonite, siderite, hematite) in Vareš at that time held strategic significance, not only for Bosnia and Herzegovina but also for the entire former Yugoslavia. Consequently, advanced equipment and mining technology were employed at the time.

**With the opening of the new mine, what future do you envision for Vareš?**

The revival of mining in Vareš makes sense only if other sectors of the economy are also revitalized, particularly forestry and wood processing. This would encourage more people to choose to come and stay in Vareš. Additionally, the re-establishment of a vocational mining school provides hope that education is returning to a high standard.

**What safety measures were implemented in the workplace?**

To enhance the protection of urban structures against seismic effects and large-scale blasting (up to 10,000 kg of explosives per mining field), millisecond delay devices were employed. When addressing the reduction of harmful dust impact on the environment, water cartridges were utilized in mining boreholes, along with dust suppression tankers watering the roads along all haulage routes.

**Is there a specific technological innovation in mining that significantly eased your work?**

The software program AutoCAD significantly helped the execution of my work tasks.

**On February 27, 2024, Adriatic Metals produced its first ore concentrate. What future do you foresee for the mine, and what are the key components for its success?**

I believe that underground or surface excavation of deposits (which are relatively shallow), when coupled with appropriate soil reclamation and the separation of raw ore without the use of aggressive chemical agents, will not significantly impact the environment. Concurrently, the economic aspect of mining has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of life in Vareš.

**I believe you are familiar with the mining project at Rupice. What are your expectations?**

I primarily gather information about the Rupice mining project from the media and the internet. I concur with the positive opinions expressed by investors and other technical experts.

**Do you have any advice or messages for young individuals embarking on their careers?**

Good luck!