



## HG PROJECT

In the past quarter, additional hydrogeological research was performed in the Rupice area, more specifically the catchment areas of Borovički and Vruci potok. The first phase of the Supplementary Hydrogeological Research began on November 16, 2021., and was completed on 17.12.2021. These investigations involved the introduction of a tracer or sodium fluorescein solution into a well. The tracer solution introduced into the well is normally used for this type of test and is harmless to flora and fauna. Additional hydrogeological research on Rupice is required to determine the possibilities of groundwater pollution from mining activities, and the possibility that this may influence the water quality of the surrounding watercourses. After inserting the tracer into the well, water sampling was performed at precisely defined locations, of which there were 9. All teams were in the field and took samples at defined periods at the given locations. The sampling went smoothly for a whole month, and all samples were delivered to the internal laboratory in Tisovce, where the analysis for the presence of sodium fluorescein in water was performed.

There wasn't any colour observed in any of the samples. All of our staff working on the sampling have received the appropriate training to ensure that the sampling is performed properly. Sampling, as well as analysis of samples in the internal laboratory, was conducted in the presence of licensed supervision. The second phase of this project will be implemented in the spring of 2022, and the results of this research will be presented in the Hydrogeological Research Study.



## FBiH SCOUTS 'ASSOCIATION PLAQUE TO EASTERN MINING

In 2021, the Scout Association "Zvijezda" Vares proposed to the Scout Association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to award the Plaque of the Scout Association of FBiH to Eastern Mining for their outstanding work, contribution and assistance in achieving the program goals and tasks of the Scout Association "Zvijezda" Vares.

The representatives of the Association of Scout Association "Zvijezda" Vares proudly presented this award to Eastern Mining on January 18, 2022. and once again thanked the company for their cooperation and assistance and expressed hope that this cooperation will continue in the future.



The Executive Director of Eastern Mining, Adnan Teletovic, received the FBiH Scout Association Plaque and emphasized the importance of the work and activities of UOI Zvijezda Vares for the local community and pointed out that the company will continue to support the Association in the future especially for projects in the field of environmental protection.

We are pleased that local associations recognize Eastern Mining as a socially responsible company that supports sustainable projects aimed at developing the area in which it operates.

## INTERVIEW WITH IGOR HINGER

**First of all, I would like to thank you for agreeing to speak for our newsletter as part of the Living History Project. Tell us a little more about yourself.**

Thank you for inviting me for the interview. I am Igor Hinger, professor of German language and literature. I work in all three schools in Vareš, two primary and one secondary. I live in the village of Osoje, married, father of two children (son Benjamin and daughter Emma). In 1997, I returned to Vareš after the war.

**Where were you during the war?**

Until 1994 at Dastansko, then two years in Germany and one year in Austria.

**What was your first job?**

After finishing high school, because the war was on, I joined the army and undertook various training. It wasn't until I returned from abroad that I enrolled in college. I have studied and worked in a store as well.

**When you look at life then and now in Vares, can you make a comparison?**

It was my best years, as a teenager, I was 19 years old when the war started. At that time, there were a lot of organizations that worked with young people, sports clubs, rich social and cultural life in short. When I compare it with now, of course, the first difference is that there are far fewer people now than there were before, now the majority of inhabitants are the older generation. Once graduating from high school or college, the youth mostly go to find work.

This is the first difference, I walk a lot in BiH, especially in smaller areas, if you enjoy a social, cultural, and sports life, Vareš is at a very enviable level compared to neighboring municipalities. The lack of young people is the biggest problem in Vareš. If you take the school, for example, in 1991, in the primary school in Vareš, we had 1,200 or so students, and now we have 250 students. Just 28 students are enrolled in the first grade from the entire town.

**Can you make a comparison of life once, during the operation of the Mine, and now in the area of the municipality of Vares?**

I was younger then, but I remember those queues at 3 o'clock when the workday was over. At that time, they worked according to the four-brigade system, in three shifts, but most of them worked in that first shift, so when the work was finished at three o'clock, it was queues of people and vehicles. Even then, I worked in a trade shop, so somehow most of the work was between 3 and 4pm. Not only in shops but also in the cafes. There were about 20 buses that drove to all the villages and even two buses for one village. It was an irreplaceable and indescribable feeling.



## ADRIATIC FOUNDATION AWARDED 27 SCHOLARSHIPS

In line with our goal to support projects in the education field, the Adriatic Foundation announced an offer for scholarships for pupils and students from the municipalities of Vareš, Breza, and Kakanj on 2.11.2021. The offer was open for 15 days and the Foundation received 46 applications. At an extraordinary session, held on November 30, 2021., the Board of Trustees agreed to a list of 27 students who were to be offered scholarships from the Adriatic Foundation. The allocation is as follows:

- Municipality of Vareš high school students - 14
- Municipality of Breza high school students - 5
- Municipality of Kakanj high school students - 5
- students - 3 (one student from each municipality)

On Thursday, December 23, 2021, the signing of the scholarship agreements took place with the students and their parents. This was the final step in the process of awarding the scholarships from the Adriatic Foundation.

**When Rudnik and Zeljezara were operating, how much attention was paid to environmental protection?**

I can't really talk about it right now, because I don't even know what the laws were in that area at the time. However, from what could be seen, all year round it was muddy, even the sand and gravel was being extracted from the river for malting in Pajtovo. Not much attention was paid to ecology because just the colour of Stavnja was an indicator. As for other things, for example, the cleanliness of the town was much better, we had people who maintained the hygiene in the parks and everything else, the collection bins were not so neglected and dirty. So, more attention was paid and there was more regular cleaning of the town and streets. There were communal workers who did that, it was regular and there were maintenance workers caring for the parks and streets, which is not the case now.

**Can you tell us a bit more about your engagement in the Scout Squad "Zvijezda" Vares and the activities you carry out?**

I've been in the Scouts since 81/82, with a break during the war. As a child, I went through many youth work organizations and sports clubs, from young firefighters to a holiday federation, but Scouts have always been my number one priority and it simply has remained a love to this day. We are very active. A detachment is something that teaches children and young people about life: the organization of yourself, the organization of those you work with, it simply teaches you responsibility and planning. It operates on several fronts, from ecological to informal teachings on nature orientation, topography, music festivals, singing, socializing, wintering, camping, various competitions. This is an organization that provides all the skills to develop a young person through activity.

**You are familiar with the Eastern Mining Project, what are your expectations, do you have any concerns?**

Well, I would say that this project for Vares is a beacon of light because we have already witnessed the activities that Eastern Mining undertook with the Scout Squad. It is a company of young people and when I see 40 or 50 of you, come out and participate in events and everyone is maybe up to the age of 40. This is an indicator of what that company will mean for Vares and for young people. On the other hand, a company that no one leaves is another indicator of its success. We see that the workers are happy and content, cheerful and smiling.

I'm not afraid of anything in particular, but would say that no matter how hard you try to invest in ecology (environmental protection), it will probably show some harmful effects, but when we weigh what the company will bring to Vares, and what will happen from the negative consequences, the positive effect will be much higher.

**Do you think that the quality of life in Vares will improve after the opening of the mine?**

The quality of life will certainly improve, I am not sure how many of you will be employed in the whole project. There will be a regular income, as soon as they have people have an income, then they will celebrate, get married, they will need music, and they will pull in many small businesses that exist and there will probably be a need to open new ones.

**Do you have a message for young people?**

Well, I can talk from my experience. In '93 I finished high school and immediately went to war, drafted into the army. When a truce was signed between the Army of BiH and the HVO, I went to Croatia, and then to Austria and Germany. I came back here again, and I would say that as a young man, I always wanted everything in my life. Normally it is easier to achieve this in Germany rather than here, but if we take into account other things in life, I would tell them to ask themselves whether material goods are the most important in life or everything else?

If you are here, and your mother and father and brothers and sisters live here, and you move to Germany, you live alone, you may have a better standard of living, but you miss out on family and friends. So, is it better to have a salary of 1000 KM, live in Vares and tomorrow when you get married, wife and husband as well or go to Germany to live alone for 100 euros? Even when you buy a car, you have no one to brag about it to! It's not all about the money, hopefully, they will learn. Well, I do think about this and I understand that there is no work here. If there is little opportunity, you should leave, but if you can live here with some income from your work, then I think there is a lot a nicer life to be had here than anywhere else.

**Thank you for your time, we hope that this cooperation will continue in the future.**

Thanks to you, too. And I sincerely hope that we will continue to cooperate on many activities as before.

