



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Support to primary schools in Vareš

As a socially responsible company, EM approaches, recognizes and supports the education of young people with great importance. In line with its strategy, it tends to be in partnership with the community. As part of this strategy, the company donated disinfectants and disposable masks to two primary schools in Vareš and Vareš Majdan in order to respond to the COVID challenge as successfully as possible.

The company will continue to emphasize the affirmation of young people through the educational process, because young, educated people are the key to the success of the community.



Preservation of cultural and traditional heritage of the local community Pržici

To support to the local community in our company activities is something that we have been proud of. Whether we are promoting our involvement within the local community through preservation of cultural values or organizing events together, our goal in mind is to become a key part of these activities. To maintain this bond, active collaboration between the Eastern Mining company and local communities is crucial. This collaboration represents the link connecting the two entities to achieve mutual benefits. Thus, with the support of women from the local community Pržici, we organized a catering service for all members of the Public Liaison Committee in the Cultural centre Pržici. In addition to this, members and our other business partners had the opportunity to learn about the cultural and traditional heritage of this area through the Ethnic museum in Pržici. The very fact that there are over a thousand exhibits in this museum speaks of its importance, but also the great efforts of the local population to preserve their tradition and culture and protect it for future generations. EM will continue to be recognised for promoting the cultural and traditional values of the local population.



Surveying households in the immediate vicinity of the Rupice site

In order to determine the current status of socio-economic characteristics of the communities affected by the Project, a survey of households located in the immediate vicinity of the Rupice site was conducted during October. The survey activities were conducted by the Mining Institute Tuzla, and a total of 54 households participated in the following villages: Semizova Ponikva, Položac, Osredak, Pogar, Gornja and Donja Borovica. The household survey is an important tool for obtaining accurate information on the socio-economic characteristics of the area and it enables the assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on these communities. The survey was successfully conducted with the cooperation of the local population who recognized the benefits of this process.

INTERVIEW WITH STJEPAN ŠIMIĆ

I would like to thank you for your time and for speaking for the fourth edition of our Eastern Mining newsletter about your experience and employment, which is part of the "Living history project". First of all, could you tell us a little more about yourself?

My name is Stjepan Šimić - Pepi, born in Vareš in 1967. I am currently working as a project manager at the Vareš Cultural Center and I am the organizer of the Art Colony in Borovica.

What was your first job?

My first job was in mining. Namely, after graduating from the Mining High School in Vareš, I acquired the title of mining technician and applied for a job in the lead, zinc and barite mine Energoinvest. After three months of trial work in various positions, I got a job at the Swedish machine Carier where I did X-ray sampling, data processing and chemical analysis from the flotation production process. I worked at Energoinvest for two and a half years until the company stopped working.

How many people were employed in your employment sector?

There were five of us, and in addition, other employees came to our sector to take samples for processing in the laboratory. There were not many of us, but we had a very nice environment and cooperation with all employees - we were a really good team.

Did any of your family members or relatives work in the mine?

No, none of my family was employed by Energoinvest, but since my origin is from Borovica, I come from a mining family - my grandfather, uncle and father were miners.

At the time when you had worked at the Lead, Zinc and Barite Mine, were there any employed women?

There were many women employed in the mine. The education followed the occupations that women can perform, and most of them were mineral breeders from Vareš. Furthermore, women graduated at grammar school or at economics high school worked in offices. There were mining and chemical engineers, too.



What did you like most about your job and why did you like working?

Working in Energoinvest was interesting, and what I liked the most was the cooperation with colleagues and the positive energy in the company. When you have this combination at work, then nothing is difficult and even when there were financial difficulties, it means a lot when you have people with whom you are happy to perform work tasks.

When you look at life then and now, in the area of the municipality of Vareš, can you make a comparison?

I can't make a comparison at the moment, but with the activities of Eastern Mining and the return of mining to this area, I think that Vareš could return among the top five municipalities in BiH in terms of development level.

How did Vareš look like at the peak of its power at a time when the lead, zinc and barite mine was operating?

Vareš looked indescribable then, I would say great. We had strong institutions, then the mine, the ironworks, which employed the majority of the population and which provided the entire social community with what it needed from its income. We have been advanced in the segment of culture, sports, art and in the social protection sector as well. Every evening the streets were full of walkers, restaurants full of guests. "Radnički Culture centre" and "Partizan" were places where young and old gathered, we had various sections of music, drama, art and folklore.

When the mine and the ironworks were operating, was sufficient attention paid to environmental protection and compliance with the laws of the area at the time?

I am not familiar with those laws, but looking subjectively, I don't think so, it was important to produce and place where you need and what you need. We remember the heavily polluted Vareš Majdan due to the Blast Furnace, old technology, the snow in Vareš Majdan was black from soot, blast furnaces, railways, etc. There were those "Mornings in the fog" as from the song of Idol's, so we know from these pictures that there was no developed awareness of environmental standards that certainly existed, but what I would like to point out

and everyone else who works first pays attention to environmental protection and water protection.

You said that you are currently working as a project manager at the Cultural Center in Vareš and that you are the organizer of the Art Colony in Borovica, can you tell us a bit more about that?

My art world starts somewhere after finishing high school when I often drew and painted. I was a member of the art course where I was introduced to various materials. Art has become my love. While living abroad, I organized solo and group exhibitions. After returning to Vareš, I got a job at the Cultural Center, and the Art Colony project started even earlier when I decided that I wanted to create in my country and in my Vareš. The Art Colony is a project that has been very well received by both the profession and colleagues, and in a few years we are recognized as one of the leading colonies in this area. We are also recognized as a project of importance for B&H and FB&H because we gather international artists so that artists from Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia, BiH came and visited Borovica and I always try to get our people from Vareš be involved in those actions. This year, unfortunately, due to these conditions as they are, we could not host anyone.

Do you have any message for youth who are just starting to build their careers?

Mining is a difficult craft, that school has not existed in Vareš for a long time, so I think that some retraining should be enabled for young people, which could be part of the program of the cultural center, because in that way young people would have the opportunity to stay in their city. We are all familiar with the trend of migration, especially of young people, out of need, out of adventurous endeavors, and with a stable financial situation and the opportunity to work and improve in their city, they will not need to leave.

Thank you for your time with the hope that this cooperation will continue and improve!

Thank you. I am glad that this Project is happening in our Vareš and that we will continue to have a good and successful cooperation as before. Although much is expected of you, I think that even at this stage of the research you have given enough and had a sensibility for socially responsible business.



To a happy and prosperous 2021!

With best wishes for a year filled with good health and happiness, as well as business and personal successes!



INTERVIEW WITH VILDANA MAHMUTOVIĆ



Tell us more about yourself, where are you from, what is your occupation, previous work experience?

I was born 1986 in Zenica and grew up in Vitez. I have always shown interest in Chemistry and Biology, so as there no college in Bosnia and Herzegovina that combines these two professions, I decided to study Chemistry. After obtaining the title of Bachelor of Chemical Engineering and Master of Engineering Chemistry, I have been working for many years on jobs closely related to environmental protection. I was also the head of the lab, which deals with the analysis of environmental parameters, and I am currently a postgraduate student at the Department of Biology, Course of Ecology at Faculty of Science Sarajevo.

Tell us more about your job?

Managing the environment and transparently dealing with the local community is a great opportunity, but also a great challenge. A great opportunity, because the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina legislation recognizes environmental protection, but environmental management is insufficiently defined through integrated protection of environmental components, and not well represented in practice. Eastern Mining goes a step further and approaches environmental management by adhering to very rigorous IFC standards and Equadorian principles. It is certainly a big challenge, because mining has impacts on the environment and the local community. These impacts are certainly positive for the local community, but of course without adequate management they can also be negative. The aim of the work of the Department of Environment and Social Management is to identify negative impacts in time, to prevent them, and if that is not possible then to mitigate them.

Why is it important to take care of the environment at this stage, when we have research work and design?

Environmental management starts before any other works. It is important

to perceive at the state of the environment as it is now, especially when we have a situation that it is the takeover of an old closed mine. Observing the state of the environment, when taken seriously, is time-consuming and that is why the word monitoring is used for various aspects. With the right input data, design guidelines are defined and it is ensured that already now, in the early stages of the project, when we talk about ore exploitation and processing, we also talk about environmental risks and manage them. Certainly, all of the above is accompanied by an honest and transparent relationship with the local community.

What motivated / attracted you to join the Eastern Mining team?

As I have already said, this company approaches environmental management strategically and very seriously, the business itself is very dynamic and that drives me.

What are your views on this Project?

I believe that this mine can come to life in full glory, and it is the responsibility of all of us to make it so.

INTERVIEW WITH GORDANA LUKIĆ

I would like to thank you for your time and for talking to us about your experience and job in mining for the Eastern Mining Bulletin. This is part of our "Living history project". First of all, can you tell us something about yourself?

My name is Gordana Lukić, I was born on September 20 1961 in Donja Borovica, the most beautiful place in the world. I lived there until 1987 when I got married and moved to Vareš. I finished primary school and after that I finished the Sewing and Tailoring Course.

What was your first job?

My first work experience was at sea, in Srebreno, Croatia where I worked as a cleaner and waitress. Then my first full-time job was at Energoinvest. I worked as a cook there, and later I worked behind the bar in the restaurant.

How many people were employed in the department where you worked?

About 500 people worked in Energoinvest, and there were twelve of us in the kitchen and restaurant sector. I worked in two shifts, but only worked part-time in the second shift, for example in the evening I worked until 21:00 and had transportation provided.

You have already mentioned that about 500 people worked in the mine at the time, did any of your family members or relatives work in the mine?

My dad was a miner, working at Smreka and Rupice in Borovica and had a pension from the mine. I remember as a little girl carrying my dad's lunch to the mine at Rupice.

At the time when you had worked at the Lead, Zinc and Barite Mine, were there any employed women?



Yes, there were a lot of women employed in the mine, in the flotation, in the laboratory, etc. They were all young people then, as is your company now - you remind me of that period.

What did you like most about your job and why did you like working?

I loved my job because I was always communicating with people, everyone came to the bar a lot. It was fun and very interesting for me. I was happy, young, the salaries were solid and it was really beautiful time for all of us.

When you look at life then and now, in the area of the municipality of Vareš, can you make a comparison?

I can, because I feel sorry for the current generations of young people, for not having a job, I especially feel sorry for people who are educated. Before, we could hardly wait to finish the craft and get a job because jobs were waiting for us. That is why I would like this mine to come to life.

How did Vareš look like at the peak of its power at a time when the lead, zinc and barite mine was operating?

Life in Vareš was beautiful then.

At least to me. Everything was regular for everyone, we had great health which is the most important thing.

You have also been the president of the Mother Teresa Association for a long time - can you tell us more about that?

The Mother Teresa Association was founded in 1998. I was president for 22 years but this year the Association closed. Our goal was to help the elderly, the sick and all people in poor financial situations. We operated in the entire municipality of Vareš and I cooperated with many non-governmental organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighboring countries. It was a beautiful experience for me because humanitarian work is my love. After the closure of the Association, I continue to visit and help those in need.

When the mine and the ironworks were operating, was sufficient attention paid to environmental protection and compliance with the laws of the area at the time?

I don't think that was a priority then. However, Vareš was not as polluted as Zenica was. Vareš has always been a clean city.

Do you have any message for youth who are just starting to build their careers?

They should build their experiences while they are still young, if I were young now I would always look for a job in my home town and I would not leave.

Thank you for your time with the hope that this cooperation will continue and improve!

Thank you for having me. It is my life's wish that this mine will be successful and that the younger generation have jobs and stay in Vareš. They are our future.