



**THE ADRIATIC  
FOUNDATION**

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At the end of April 2021, the Adriatic Foundation was officially established with the aim of providing and directing social investments in an efficient and responsible way in order to leave a lasting positive legacy. The Adriatic Foundation wants to support and promote local sustainable socio-economic development, with a special focus on the communities associated with Adriatic Metals' business. Founded by Adriatic Metals, the Adriatic Foundation supports programs and projects that have a long-term development impact, especially in the fields of education, environment and health.

On 7.6.2021 the first constitutional session of the Adriatic Foundation was held, at which the President of the Board of Trustees was elected. The Board of Trustees consists of 5 members; 4 independent representatives of the local community and one representative from the Eastern Mining Co. The foundation is located at Zvijezda 37 Street, in the premises of the Information Center of the Eastern Mining company and is open every working day from 08:00 to 16:30.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM'S VISIT TO FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

Members of the Eastern Mining Department of Environment and Social Management visited the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism and met with Minister Edita Dapo. During the visit, the basic tasks and responsibilities were discussed and all activities of the department were presented.

Eastern Mining's Department of Environment and Social Management was established in March 2020 and currently has six members whose focus is the protection of the environment and establishing transparent relationships and communication with the local community. The Department performs many duties and responsibilities in these areas, and one of the main tasks is to obtain an International Environmental, Social and Health Impact Assessment Study.

In order to put the environmental protection in place, members of the department have received the necessary education, training and coaching in order to comply with the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina in this area and international business and environmental requirements. In addition, significant funds were invested in the procurement of sophisticated equipment for the needs of the department. The Eastern Mining administration building is equipped with a laboratory for the purpose of collecting data, analyzing results and monitoring. These activities are performed regularly.

Building a transparent and partnership relationship with the local community is one of the priorities and the environmental and social management team has established continuous communication with the local community through communication channels tailored to the local population - newsletters and leaflets, and a Public Liaison Committee has been established as well. It has 30 members, representatives of various local institutions and local communities that are under the direct influence of the Eastern Mining Project. The Committee was established for the purpose of developing mutual cooperation and the transparent sharing of information on the company's activities, as well as collecting feedback, criticism and suggestions from the local community.

The visit to the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism was a visit of great importance for the Eastern Mining Environmental and Social Management Department. The ES team expressed gratitude for the reception and emphasized the readiness and desire for even greater advantages in the work and protection of the environment. The visit took place in a positive atmosphere with the expressed support of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, both the Environment and Social Management Department and Eastern Mining.



## LIVING HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW WITH RANKA MILETOVIC

**I would like to thank you for your time and for speaking to us for Eastern Mining newsletter which is part of the „Living History project“. First of all, could you tell us more about yourself?**

My name is Ranka Miletovic. I live in Pogar, I am housewife and I am 64 years old. I'm President of Pogar Women's Forum which has existed for twelve years.

**How many members does the Forum have and what are its main activities currently?**

There are 20 members, but currently we only have eight members that are active. And we haven't had any activities lately, due to the pandemic.



**The Pogar Women's Forum has an established museum - ethno room at Pogar. Could you tell us how long the museum has existed and how did you get the idea for it?**

The Museum has been here for ten years and we got idea when the group of people from Netherlands visited us. We had prepared for them an exhibition of our traditional artefacts. After the visit, we wondered what to do with it all and we had an idea to establish the museum. We started looking and collecting items from old houses, as well as in our homes. And we are still doing that, other people in the community know about the museum so they bring items for display.

**Have you ever organized exhibitions and visits to museum for the public?**

We cooperate with the Tourist Info and Municipality of Vares, so when foreigners visit Vares, they organize visits to our museum, too. On these occasions, The Women from the Forum prepare lunch with our traditional dishes. I have to emphasize that friar Mirko Majdancic has helped us a lot and had brought many visitors here. On these occasions, we present our homemade handicrafts and sometimes sell these too. We exhibit handicrafts, dolls with traditional costumes – although we don't sell these but give them away as a souvenirs.

**Given that you had many visits from people from abroad, were any of them interested in buying any of the exhibits?**

Yes, many of them, but those pieces are not for sale. They have their owners and if museum ever closes in the future these items will be given back to them.

**What is the most interesting thing for visitors to see in the museum?**

Of all the exhibits, they are most impressed by where the exhibits displayed – the room setting. Each object has its place and meaning. The bedroom and kitchen are authentic and that is something that is most interesting to visitors.

**Was it difficult to find all the exhibits and did you ever find something without being sure what it was, what period it belongs to?**

Extremely difficult because you need to have a lot of will and desire for it, as well as perseverance and knowledge. For example, here we have the Order of Honor of Francis Joseph. I found it in the ground so we checked on the internet what it could be. We also hired experts who confirmed that this is the Order of the Honor of Francis Joseph, which dates from 1903.

**Is the Order of Honor the oldest exhibit in the museum?**

It's not. We have a couple of older items for example a Cook book which we think belongs to when this country was a Kingdom. There is not a date anywhere in the book, but based on the text and the mention of the monetary currency (crown), we came to the conclusion that it is the Kingdom because that currency was used at that time. We also have one part of the costume that was passed down from generation to generation and according to our calculations is about 160 years old.

**Do you have records of which of the exhibits belongs to?**

Yes, we do. Ethnologists from Zadar have prepared a book with a picture of each valuable exhibit. Along with each picture, basic information about the objects is written - the name, which period it belongs to, the name of the owner, etc.

**Given the space you have here in the museum, have you ever organized some kind of workshop?**

We have organized handicraft workshops. In addition, we made folk costumes and prepared costumes for masquerades.

**Are young people interested in joining you in your activities and how could they be animated to preserve the tradition?**

Honestly, they're not. We are an open association that is at the service of everyone who wants to know more and understand the importance of preserving our tradition.

**Do you have any message for young people primarily regarding the preservation of tradition?**

I would tell young people to remember their great-grandparents, grandparents and parents. I am inviting them to come to the museum to look at everything we have and ask to not forget their roots.

## LIVING HISTORY PROJECT SABAN IBRISIMOVIC INTERVIEW

**I would like to thank you for your time and for speaking to us for the Eastern Mining blog which is part of the „Living History project“. First of all, could you tell us more about yourself?**

My name is Saban Ibrsimovic, I was born in 1965 in Kolakovici village. I am married and I have three sons. I live in Mijakovici. I have been an activist and President of the local community Dragovici-Mijakovici for many years. For twelve years I have been the President of the Association "Guardians of the Bosnian Crown Bobovac Vares", I performed certain functions in the hunting association "Zvijezda" Vares, and I became the Deputy President of the Association of Beekeepers "Polen Vares" where I lead the Vares honey branding project. I am also president of the political party and I am a member of your Public Liaison Committee.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was at Energoinvest's lead, zinc and barite mine. I worked as a scholarship holder at a painter's place where we painted and prepared plants. There were 400 employees in that period of time. After that, I worked in flotation at the 96 pump plant, then moved to the Iron Ore Mine where I got the opportunity to finish the fifth degree of the Mining - Geological - Petroleum School in Varazdin. After completing the fifth degree, I moved to the supervisory technical staff and performed the function of the Chief Manager in the mine at Brezik.

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

My wife's brother worked in the mine as well.

**At the time you had worked at the Lead, Zinc and Barite mine, were any women employed?**

Yes. The women were mostly employed in flotation and filtration and in the laboratory.

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

Given that these are now two different times in my life, it is very difficult to make a comparison of the present and the past. I have changed my business, I am no longer in the mining sector and my views have changed too, but I must say that I remember many good things from the Yugoslavian period. Today the situation is quite different; primarily in economic terms. In the past, the local community Dragovici - Mijakovici had a maximum of four cars, and today every household has at least one car. I think less work is done today and it is much easier to live than before.

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

Vares was town for example. Compared to the neighboring places, Vares was a step higher in cultural, economic and social terms. The majority of the population worked, I would even say that there was no unemployment. Jobs were available to everyone, and today it is not quite so, unfortunately.

**When the mine and ironworks were operating, was sufficient attention paid to environmental protection and compliance with the laws of that period?**

I compare your company, I can see how much you respect not only the Bosnian and Herzegovinian legislation, but also international law. Back then when mine and ironworks were operating, no care was taken to protect the environment.



**Is there a bus line in your local community today?**

Today, we only have school transport financed by the Ministry, and workers who work in Vares or somewhere else travel with their own cars.

**How many children are there in the local community Dragovici-Mijakovici?**

In the primary school up to the fifth grade we have ten children, in the upper grades also ten, and in the secondary school in Vares we have five pupils.

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

I would like to tell young people to be active, to follow world trends in education and to choose their profession based on that. For those who still want to stay in Vares, I would recommend that they adapt to the Vares business environment and that they also choose which school and faculty to enroll in. I would like them not to go from here because with the will and effort they can succeed and build careers here.

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

Thank you for your visit and chance to speak for your „Living History Project“.