

# NEWSLETTER



## Uniting for Wellness: Adriatic Metals BH Champions Breast Cancer Awareness

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In the Municipal Hall of Vareš, on November 10th, 2023, Adriatic Metals BH, in cooperation with the chairperson of the Municipal Council of Vareš, Mrs. Mahira Brkić, organized an education session on breast cancer awareness, bringing together over a hundred women from all local communities in the Municipality of Vareš. The event highlighted the importance of health and well-being as key elements in building sustainable communities.

The Company's social responsibility management team led the education, and prominent figures such as Dijana Jerković, the head nurse of the Breast Disease Department at the Cantonal Hospital Zenica, and Prim. Dr. Harun Drljević, Chief of the Breast Disease Department, provided crucial information on breast cancer awareness.



The goal was to encourage women to take an active role in caring for their health. The organization covered all local communities in the Municipality of Vareš, contributing to raising awareness about the seriousness of this issue. Successful community mobilization was achieved through informative posters, announcements on Radio Bobovac, and active use of social media. Adriatic Metals BH continues to play a key role in promoting health and well-being, building sustainable communities that prioritize their health.





## FOCUSING ON THE COMMUNITY:

### Adriatic Metals BH Hosts English Language Course

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Adriatic Metals BH organized an intensive conversational English course which represents an excellent opportunity for language skill enhancement. The course, which began on October 26th, 2023, takes place every Monday and Thursday from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the High School 'Nordbat 2' in Vareš.

The project provides practical knowledge that participants can apply in real-life situations, including business meetings, travel, and daily interactions. Given the evening schedule, even those with professional commitments can join. With a duration of 26 hours, the course aims to achieve a high level of fluency and spontaneity in communication.



## ADRIATIC METALS BH PAVES THE WAY:

### Generous Donation for School Bridge Reconstruction

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**This is an excellent example of how, through the combined efforts of the local community, school leadership, and the company, smiles can be brought to the faces of children.**

During the summer months, Adriatic Metals BH has helped secure funds for better and safer access for students of the 'Pogar' Elementary School to their classrooms. The necessary funds to reconstruct the old, unsafe, and inadequate access bridge to the 'Pogar' Elementary School were donated. As a recognition of their efforts, a certificate of appreciation was presented to the Company and individuals involved in the realization of these activities. The certificates were presented by the representative of the Pogar Local Community, Milijan Pašalić, and the director of the Vareš Elementary School, Ilijana Vidović, expressed gratitude on behalf of the school. This success is a true example of how collaboration between local institutions, schools, and the business sector can result in tangible benefits for the community. Adriatic Metals BH proudly continues to support initiatives that contribute to the betterment of the local community, affirming its role as a socially responsible company.



## THE FIFTH PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE SESSION

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At the fifth session of the Public Liaison Committee, held on November 16th, 2023, the conclusions of the previous meeting were discussed, and activities and plans for future initiatives were presented. The session was characterized by constructive dialogue, with a focus on efficient information sharing. The conclusions of the previous meeting were analyzed to ensure the continuity of the Committee's work, crucial for monitoring progress and identifying areas requiring additional efforts.



The presentation of activities encompassed events and projects in the local community, emphasizing the commitment of Adriatic Metals BH to social responsibility, particularly in projects directed towards the community and sustainability.

# LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

## Melkior Brđanović

I want to express my gratitude for the time you have dedicated to sharing your experiences and insights on your mining job. Your valuable contribution will be featured in our newsletter and blog, as part of the "Living History Project."

**At the outset, could you kindly provide us with some background information about yourself?**

I was born on 6th January 1945, in Vareš, where I finished primary school and secondary school. I graduated in 1969, from the Department of Economic Geology, Faculty of Mining and Geology in Belgrade, on the subject of Technical and Economic Assessment of Lead, Zinc and Barite Mine, Veovača. As a scholarship holder of the Mine and Ironworks, I got a job in the Bureau of Geology.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was as a Pit Geology Officer. Thenceforth, I worked as a Senior Exploration Geologist and as a Geology Manager in the Works and Investments Department, at the Mine and Ironworks Vareš.

**What were your responsibilities in the mine?**

*Initially, my tasks were related to getting acquainted with the geology of the Droškovac pit and mapping all the pits within the Mine and Ironworks Vareš, and the main engagement was associated with monitoring the quality of the ore of the Droškovac pit.*



**Can you tell us a little bit more about the history of mining in the Vareš area and how it affected the local community?**

Back in ancient times, the Illyrians who inhabited these areas were the first to exploit the ore. Their headquarters were in Breza, the home of the famous Baton, one of the instigators of the Baton Rebellion against the Romans. The Illyrians extracted iron ore, turned it into iron, and traded that iron through the seaports with Carthage. The Romans did not approve of the arming of Carthage and set out to conquer these areas. With the arrival of the Romans, the mining continued. They mined mostly iron ore, and they obtained silver from pits around Srebrenica. The work of the miners in those days was not valued and was done by slaves, with the somewhat more privileged position of the smelters and the blacksmiths. The Goths also briefly mined in our territories. After the arrival of the Slavs, exploitation is present, but to a much lesser extent. During the Ottoman Empire, mining was revived, only to be accelerated with the arrival of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



**Have environmental laws been respected? What methods have been used to reduce the negative impact on the environment?**

Measures were respected. For example, when blasting, it was especially important to be overly cautious of the dose of explosives used, then the mine dust, after blasting, had to be reduced to a minimum, since mine dust is also highly flammable, like methane in coal mines. The mines were equipped with so-called showers to get the hazardous dust down to the ground and minimize the possibility of inhalation, although protective masks were mandatory. In my department, environmental protection mostly related to the prevention of the deterioration of terrain surfaces, the prevention of landscape devastation or, for example, in open pit mines, such as Brezik and Smreka, the stability of slopes on the ground had to be considered, in order to prevent collapse.

**Have you witnessed significant technological advances in the mining industry during your career?**

Yes, it was the construction of a heavy-liquid separation, and later, unfortunately never built (Zenica never agreed to this investment) but a more significant and environmentally friendly high-intensity magnetic separation. Moreover, I have to mention the Swedish method of ore mining with the caving of the roof. This is a method of underground mining that involves blasting the ore and letting the roof collapse into the void.

**Have you encountered challenging geological conditions (landslides, earthquakes) and how did you overcome them?**

There were landslides, surface terrain collapses, as well as underground water. For example, if we noticed that the impurities of the waste rock were higher than usual during the extraction of the ore, the excavations in that part had to be immediately stopped.

**I believe you are familiar with the mining project, Rupice, what are your expectations?**

It is difficult to predict, perhaps it is better to wait for the project to come to life before talking about expectations.

**Given your considerable expertise, what future do you foresee for the mine and what are the key components for success?**

Readiness for significant investments in mining exploration works is one of the key components for success.

**In your opinion, will Vareš experience a new expansion with the opening of the new mine?**

Vareš has, without a doubt, already revived. It is commendable that you invest in the education of young people, professions related to mining will surely benefit, and all the activities you conduct within the community have a positive impact on life in Vareš.

**Do you have any advice or message for young people who are starting out their careers?**

My message for them would be to strive to create a successful company, because if the company is successful, they will also prosper in various fields.

**Thank you.**

Thank you.



# EVENTS THAT DEFINED THE 2023 YEAR:



FOURTH PLC MEETING



HIRING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE COMMUNITY



BAZAAR "WOMEN'S HANDS"



"CROSS-RUNNING" COMPETITION



ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE



GIFTS DELIVERED TO PRESCHOOL IN VARES



A VISIT FROM STUDENTS FROM ABROAD



WORKSHOP "HOW TO WRITE A PROJECT"



A VISIT FROM THE NORWEGIAN AND UK'S AMBASSADOR



A VISIT TO "DUNDEE PRECIOUS METALS" MINE



THIRD PLC MEETING



REFORESTATION



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SECOND PLC MEETING

To you and your loved ones,  
may the upcoming holidays  
be filled with joy and  
warmth.

