

NEWSLETTER



Launching Of The Vareš Podlugovi Railway Line

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On December 14th, 2023, the renovated Vareš Majdan railway station was officially opened in Vareš Majdan, and the Vareš-Podlugovi railway line was launched. The ceremony was attended by Paul Cronin, the director of Adriatic Metals BH, Zdravko Marošević, the Mayor of Vareš Municipality, Edin Forto, the Minister of Communications and Transport, and Nezir Pivić, the Prime Minister of ZDK, representatives of Adriatic Metals BH, federal and cantonal governments, as well as a large number of citizens of Vareš, who welcomed the train with great emotion. Adriatic Metals BH, in cooperation with FBiH Railways, renovated the railway station and made the section operational.



The Podlugovi-Vareš railway line will be used exclusively for freight transport, to transport ores that Adriatic Metals BH will exploit in the newly opened mine in Vareš. "These kilometers of railway represent not only steel, but also the spirit of connectivity and progress, improving the social, ecological, and economic sustainability of these regions. We are now more connected than ever", said Paul Cronin in his address to those present. Adriatic Metals BH has once again confirmed its commitment to continuous development, not only of the company, but also of the local community.



DECEMBER 21, MINERS' DAY

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Celebrated in the Organization of Adriatic Metals BH and the Municipality of Vareš

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On December 21, in accordance with tradition and with pride in the rich mining history, Adriatic Metals BH and the Municipality of Vareš jointly organized a solemn celebration of Miners' Day.

The event was held at the Vareš Center for Culture and Education, and was greeted by the President of the Municipal Council of Vareš, Mahira Brkić, and the Mayor Zdravko Marošević, who congratulated the attendees on the occasion of the holiday. In their speeches, they emphasized the importance of the valuable work of miners, their dedication, and the contribution that the mining industry has to society as a whole. The Acting Technical Manager of Adriatic Metals BH, Admir Silajdžić, also addressed the attendees, touching on aspects of modern mining among other things.



As part of the program, the "Mining Song" was performed, and students, recipients of Adriatic Metals BH scholarship, who are currently attending high school Nordbat - 2, majoring in "Miner in Underground Exploitation", also addressed the present. Members of the "Moja prva nota" association from Vareš contributed to the celebration with their performances, creating a festive atmosphere. The celebration of Miners' Day was an opportunity to gather and remind ourselves of the role and exceptional importance of the mining industry for the Municipality of Vareš.

EDUCATION *HEALTHY TEETH*

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Adriatic Metals BH organized an education program called Healthy Teeth, promotion of oral health for children in the premises of elementary school "Vareš" and elementary school "Vareš Majdan". In collaboration with Dr. Šejla Pošković, a specialist in preventive and pediatric dentistry, an education and dental examination was held for students in first and second grades. All students who participated in the education received a report and opinion with a recommendation for maintaining oral health. The aim of the education was to raise awareness of the importance of oral hygiene for overall health. With this initiative, Adriatic Metals BH confirms its commitment to creating a community that is aware of the importance of preventive measures and health care.

ENGLISH CONVERSATIONAL COURSE INTERVIEW WITH STUDENTS

In the beginning, I want to express my gratitude for the time you've dedicated to sharing your experiences and insights about our Conversational English Course. Could you kindly provide some background information about yourself?

Adna Adilović: I am Adna Adilović, seventeen years old, living in Vareš Majdan.

Sumea Čusta: My name is Sumea Čusta, seventeen years old, living in Vareš.

Mia Šoljak: Mia Šoljak, thirteen years old, also living in Vareš.

What motivated you to apply for the Conversational English Course?

Adna Adilović: First and foremost, I love the English language. My greatest motivation was to improve my knowledge of the English language and take it to a higher level.

Sumea Čusta: Like Adna, I wanted to learn more and improve my English language skills.

Mia Šoljak: When I learned that the course was commencing, I believed that my English proficiency was already sufficient. However, I decided to enroll in order to evaluate my knowledge and acquire new skills.

In what ways do you anticipate that the course will enhance your communication skills?

Adna Adilović: Given that this is a conversational course, I believe that it will significantly enhance my future conversations, expand my vocabulary, and boost my confidence when speaking.

Sumea Čusta: Having in mind that English is a globally spoken language, it is advantageous to acquire new vocabulary and practice conversational skills.

Mia Šoljak: Our course covers topics related to everyday life, such as music, books, and other commonly discussed subjects, which can facilitate everyday communication.

What are the situations where you believe that the knowledge you gained from the course will be beneficial?

Adna Adilović: Certainly, there are such circumstances, as English remains the most widely used language in the business world, and it is only an advantage when we encounter new people.

Sumea Čusta: I agree with Adna's viewpoint. English will always be essential in the business domain and when we interact with new people.

Mia Šoljak: I believe that the course will be beneficial to me not only in my personal life when I travel, but also in my professional life when I apply for a job.

In your opinion, will the knowledge you gained from the course make everyday communication easier for you?

Mia Šoljak: I believe it will, as I can be a little shy at times, but I think this experience will help me become more confident in communication.

Sumea Čusta: Same as Mia, I sometimes mix up some words, but I think the course will help me progress.

Adna Adilović: I think the course will make it easier for me to improve communication with other people.

Did you have any specific goals you wanted to achieve during the course?

Sumea Čusta: I wanted to improve my conversational skills and then use them when looking for a job in the future.

Mia Šoljak: I wanted to improve my reading, as I read very fast, and it can sometimes be incomprehensible.

Adna Adilović: My goal was also to improve my reading. Like Mia, I rush when I read.

Do you think that improving your conversational skills will be beneficial in interpersonal relationships?

Adna Adilović: Certainly, there are many foreigners who work in Vareš and are not fluent in our language, but with English language, we can communicate. Also, when we go somewhere and want to meet someone and learn about other cultures, we can use the English language.

Mia Šoljak: Of course, for example, if we move out of the country, it will be of great benefit to us if we are fluent in more than one language.

Sumea Čusta: I agree with what Mia and Adna said. Knowledge of the English language will be useful in various situations.

Do you think that the skills you acquired from the course will boost your confidence in communication?

Adna, Mia and Sumea: Yes, definitely.

Is there any aspect of your daily life that the things you learned in the course will make easier?

Adna Adilović: Since I often use the internet, better knowledge of the English language will make it easier for me to search and use the internet.

Sumea Čusta: I believe that improving grammar and pronunciation will contribute to me being more precise and more confident in everyday communication.

Mia Šoljak: I'll be more confident and articulate when communicating.

Thank you for your time.

Adna, Mia and Sumea: Thank you.



LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Senada Parić

I want to express my gratitude for the time you've 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 appreciate the invitation. My name is Senada Parić, and I am a mother of two. I graduated from the Mining School in Vareš, as a Mineral Processing Technician. For six years, prior to the war, I worked as a Reagent Control Technician, at Energoinvest Lead, Zinc and Barite Mine. Currently, I am working as a bartender at a local caffe. Furthermore, for the past ten years I've been closely involved with the Scout Squad Zvijezda Vareš, which is something I take a great deal of pleasure in.

What was your first job?

In fact, in the beginning I worked as a janitor since there were no open positions for my vocation. The management suggested that I take the janitor role, so once there were vacant positions, I could transfer the role within the company, without the company having to announce the job opening. Shortly, I became a Reagent Control Technician.

Can you tell us what kind of community Vareš was during the time you worked at Energoinvest?

At that time Vareš was quite a charming little town. The population was significantly larger, there were many young people, the employment rate was low, the community was vibrant and thriving.



What made your job interesting?

I wouldn't characterize it interesting, however, the thoughtfulness of the colleagues and their kind demeanor have had a profound impact on me. I was young, it was my first job, everything was new to me, but their solidarity and effort in relaxing the adaptation process for me, was truly remarkable.

Can you describe a typical workday in Energoinvest?

We had a secure transportation system from Vareš to Tisovci and back, we worked in three shifts in accordance with the four-brigade and three-brigade work system. For example, if the four-brigade system was in force, we would work the first shift for four days, the second shift for four days, and the third shift for four days, with a day off every four days. Upon arrival at Tisovci, I would first change into a work clothing, then I would have a meeting with the floater, to determine which reagents are to be used that day. Afterwards, the workers would put the reagents into the flotation basins, and my task was to check the accuracy of the dosage. Then I would return to the office to fill out the tables, which I would hand over to the manager for control regularly.

Do you recall, how many females were employed during that period, and which positions they held?

There were a few of us in the production itself, while women mostly worked in the laboratories and administration. The leadership positions were reserved for men.

Would you say the environmental/health laws and regulations were enforced?

From my personal standpoint, I would have to disagree. Although we did have personal protective clothing, the barite powder would penetrate through our PPE. Oftentimes, bathing after work would turn into skin scrubbing. When it comes to the neighboring village, it would be enough to say that the white snow was nonexistent, the whole village would be covered with gray snow. However, I must mention that one of the reasons for this inadequate approach to protection could be due to the fact that outdated technology was used.

You are also an active scout, what motivates you for such an engagement?

Indeed, for more than a decade I have been actively engaged with the Scouts Zvijezda Vareš, and that is something I am truly proud of. I genuinely appreciate nature, it nourishes, inspires, and the scouts are known for their love of nature.

Are you familiar with the mining project that is being carried out in the localities of Rupice and Veovača? In your opinion, how will commencement of mining affect the life of the town?

Certainly, there are already apparent changes taking place. Furthermore, your high-visibility apparel cannot be overlooked, so I notice many young people wearing them. Creating job opportunities for young people is praiseworthy. I am looking forward to seeing even more young people moving to Vareš. More importantly, I hope that your project will encourage our former residents to come back to their hometown. I would say it's a promising beginning.

What advice would you give to the youth?

They must prioritize their education, actively seek opportunities in Vareš, try to find a way to stay in Vareš and be part of this community; start families and fill our schools with students. I understand that there are educated young people who would like to work in Vares, but they lack the opportunity. Mining could initiate development of alternative economic sectors, so many of them might be given the opportunity.

Thank you for your time.

Thank you.