



Adriatic Metals
Bosnia & Herzegovina

NINETEENTH EDITION
JUNE, 2023.

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

On Thursday, 11th May, the third session of the Public Liaison Committee was held. Like the previous sessions of the PLC, this one also started with the adoption of the Minutes and Conclusions from the previous, second (II) session of the PLC. At this session, the members were informed that company has changed name to Adriatic Metals BH d.o.o.. Given that the volume of business has increased, as a company that focuses on transparent relations with interested parties, the second item on the agenda was a presentation on current and planned activities of the company. The works on the processing plant, the transport road and the mine at Rupice were presented. In addition, the ecological reforestation activities that the company organized together with Šumarija Vareš were mentioned. At the very end of the session, as always, a discussion was opened for all questions and suggestions of the members of the Public Liaison Committee.



TREE PLANTING ACTIONS



Preservation of precious natural resources such as forests is a common concern and responsibility of all of us. Acknowledging the fact that Adriatic Metals BH is primarily a social responsible company that operates according to the regulations of the International Standards of Sustainability and the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with business activities, the employees of Adriatic Metals BH led by members of the Sustainability Department in cooperation with Forestry Vareš done tree planting actions in two phases. The first tree planting action was held on 13rd April and was attended by about 20 employees. According to the Forestry Vareš provisions, 1,500 seedlings were planted in the Neprivaj - Dabravine locality, Vareš municipality. The employees of the subcontracting company Nova Mining joined the action and gave their contribution. Then, at the location of the Striježovo forest area, also according to the decision of the Forestry Vareš on 28th April the second tree planting campaign was also successfully held. On that occasion, 18 employees of the Adriatic Metals BH planted about 1000 new seedlings. With mutual cooperation, provided food and drinks for the participants of the actions, the employees spent their working day at a slightly different pace with social responsible work. Given that it is an excellent experience in which the additional importance of nature and the forest is realized, the company will continue to initiate the holding of such and similar events.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2022

How important Adriatic Metals BH attaches to sustainable business is confirmed by the first official report on sustainability. The Sustainability report presents the sustainability performance of Adriatic Metals PLC. It includes sustainability strategy, performance and future priorities and shows how sustainable development contributes to long-term success and how the aim is to create real value, not only for investors, but also for our local workforce, supply chain partners and the community. The company's work activities are performed in accordance with international sustainability standards such as GRI, SASB, IFC, EBRD, TCFD and others. The content of the report includes chapters on human resources - employees, the local community, the environment, and the company's transparent work in general. According to the data from the report, the company directly employs 192 employees, whose number is constantly increasing. 91% of the mentioned employees are Bosnian-Herzegovinian employees, while 29% is represented by the female population. The total number of contractors is 138. Given that the local community represents one of the most important segments, it is important to note that the number of visits to the Information Center in 2022 was 2,418. In the environment and climate segment, we highlight the information that there have been zero incidents of non-compliance with environmental protection laws and regulations. Looking at the level of the state perspective, the contribution of Adriatic Metals BH company through concession fees, insurance and taxes amounted to £1.5 million, while the contribution of BH GDP is 1.6%.



NEWSLETTER

INTERVIEW WITH ALMIR ČIKIMIŠ

First of all I want to thank you for agreeing to speak with us as part of Adriatic Metals BH Living History Project. To begin, tell us a little more about yourself.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your project. My name is Almir Čikmiš, I live and work in Vares, where I graduated from primary and secondary school. I graduated from the Department of History at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo. I am currently working as a Social Associate for tourism in the municipality of Vareš and as the manager of the Tourist Info Center in Vareš.

What was your first job?

Already during high school and studying, I worked short-term or seasonal jobs. After college, I became a member of several associations in Vares, through which I performed minor tasks and engaged in volunteerism. To this day, I work with certain associations on a volunteer basis, especially with the Mountaineering and Skiing Society Perun. The first serious employment is related to work in education, I worked as a History teacher in an elementary school, while since 2017 I have been working in Tourist Info.

When and how did the idea for starting Tourist Info come about and what are the main activities you are engaged in?

Tourist Info has two phases of creation, the first phase started in 2007 and was completed by 2010. In essence, the task of the team at that time was similar to ours, although they did not have sufficient support from the local government, so that attempt was unsuccessful. The whole story about the Tourist Board of Vareš was restarted in 2016 through the Project that the municipality of Vareš implemented with the German organization HELP. It is an organization that, in cooperation with the Municipality of Vareš and in cooperation with the Extreme Sports Club of Vareš, worked to improve the tourist infrastructure in the area of the Municipality of Vareš. A number of individuals who wanted to engage in tourism were also supported. From that project, the idea was born to make this contribution permanent through the informal tourist community. I say informal considering the confusion in the adoption and implementation of legal regulations regarding tourism. We only recently received the Cantonal Law on Tourist Boards, which has not yet entered into force. Tourist Info officially started working in May 2017 and its primary task is the promotion of tourist potentials in Vares, cultural-historical, natural potentials, rural tourism, work on projects that contribute to the development of tourist infrastructure, support to individuals engaged in tourism activities. We follow the ten-year strategy of the municipality of Vareš, where tourism is emphasized as one of the main economic branches for the development of the municipality of Vareš, with an emphasis on rural tourism. natural potentials, rural tourism, work on projects that contribute to the development of tourist infrastructure, support for individuals engaged in tourism.



Can you give your review of life in Vares then and now from the perspective of a historian?

As is known, Vareš has always been a mining area. We can trace the traces of mining and the existence of mining settlements since the time when these areas were inhabited by the Illyrians. With the Roman conquest, mining continued, for which evidence was found that indicates that the Mine was important at that time, such as the found mining lamp, until the medieval period when this area is called the King's Land when there were also mining settlements. The period of Socialist Yugoslavia when Vareš experienced its "golden period", i.e. a great industrial rise. Many people today will say that life was best in Vareš when Stavnja was red, and apart from mining, there were also many other economic branches that developed simultaneously in the area of the municipality of Vareš.

Are you familiar with the Adriatic Metals BH company's mining project in the area of Vareš municipality?

I try to be as informed as possible about the Project, which I think is the duty of every resident of the municipality of Vareš. This Project brings big changes in the area of the local community, so I try very hard to be involved and follow all the activities of your Company through social media, website, public appearances of your representatives and the rest of the media.

Has the development of the Project had an impact on tourist events in Vares so far, and to what extent?

When Adriatic Metals BH first came forward with stories of huge reserves of gold and silver back then there was a "media boom" as far as Vareš is concerned. At Tourist Info, we felt a shift in the very start by increasing the number of searches through our social media, website, itself the number of searches in the localities of Vareš and Borovica. We were significantly more represented in the media various television and radio stations as well as online media. So it's a positive influence because you're cooking found again on the map.

What do you think this project will bring in the future for tourism in Vareš?

I believe that it can intensify media representation as before, and increase opportunities for investment in tourist infrastructure with its economic contribution. Given that the Adriatic Metals BH company pays large concessions to the Municipality and thus stabilizes our budget, there is a potential greater influx of investment in tourist infrastructure. So, through an indirect influence, it can improve opportunities for the development of tourism, however, I do not see a concrete opportunity that would directly arise from the opening of the mine. In theory we could talk about creating an industrial heritage tourism arrangement, but I'm afraid we're a long way from that.

According to your knowledge, what do you think, during the operation of the Mine and Ironworks in Vares, was care taken about the environment and compliance with the laws of that time?

I believe that the laws had to be respected within a certain limit, but the question is how far those laws are from those of today. We are talking about a different state system, other priorities in business. It can be said that the environment was not in focus then as it is today, then the emphasis was on social security and maximizing economic profit.

Have you noticed Adriatic Metals BH attitude towards environmental protection and do you have any concerns?

I have no concerns at the moment, I read your ESIA – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and I saw that the assessment was carried out according to European and national regulations. I am aware of how much is invested in environmental protection, but I believe that we should be realistic and understand that every economic branch affects the environment and that our task is to minimize the damage. Considering the European standards of your business, I say that I have no concerns at the moment, and I hope that it will remain so, everything depends on how well the company, as well as the local, regional and state levels, will ensure that what is put on paper is implemented.

What do you think about the opportunities for the development or recovery of other economic branches by opening a mine?

There are a number of economic branches that are supporting branches such as the construction and hospitality-service sectors. The question is how willing the residents and the local government will be to take advantage of the opportunities that are presented.

At the end of our conversation, what would you say to young fellow citizens?

I recommend young people who are just looking for their opportunity to follow the opportunities that this company provides and to use their education, knowledge, and skills here in their city. Also, in addition to the company, I hope that as many young people as possible will stay and that they will enable themselves to stay with their efforts.

Thank you.