



THE TENTH SESSION OF THE PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

In the hall of the Municipality of Vareš, on 26.7.2022., the Eastern Mining company held the tenth session of the Public Liaison Committee (PLC). The agenda of the session began with the adoption of the Minutes and Conclusions from the previous, ninth (IX) PLC session. The uniqueness of this session is evident in the fact that this is the last session in this composition. The representatives of the Eastern Mining company thanked all the members of the Public Liaison Committee for following the development of the project in the previous two years, supporting the company and maintaining a transparent relationship with the communities they represented.



EASTERN MINING ORGANIZED „INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY ”

On 18.7.2022., the Eastern Mining company in cooperation with the Municipality of Vareš, organized an event called "Initiative for sustainable development of local community". The purpose of the event was to attract potential investors, but also to encourage interested residents to start small and medium businesses in Vareš. The event was attended by the municipal mayor, Mr. Zdravko Marošević, representatives of the Mozaik and Impakt foundations, and expert associate of the Vareš Labor Bureau. From Eastern Mining company, Lejla Karčić, compliance manager, and Vildana Mahmutović, head of the sustainability department, had presentations highlighting the services that are missing in Vareš, and which would be of great importance. At the end of the event, representatives of the Impakt and Mozaik foundations presented their programs that they would offer to new and existing businesses. Women's associations active in this area also took part in the event: Women's Association "Zvijezda" Vareš, Association "Women of Stupni Do", Women's Forum Pogar and Izvorno Vareško, which had the opportunity to promote their work and products.





FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE ORGANIZED BY THE ADRIATIC FOUNDATION

The Adriatic Foundation opened a call in April 2022 for a free English language course for all interested residents of the municipality of Vareš, and during the call, 227 applications were recorded. The management of the Adriatic Foundation engaged the language school Facultas Cambridge Center Sarajevo, whose professors teach English in the premises of the High school "Nordbat-2" Vareš, which is the Foundation's partner in this project. The course begun on 1st June and will last 4 months for A1/A2 level participants, while for B1/B2 participants it will last 6 months. It is our honor and pleasure to support the local community in promoting and improving educational content for all generations.

INTERVIEW WITH JOSIP KLARIĆ

I want to thank you for your time and speaking for our Eastern Mining newsletter, which is part of the Living History Project. For the start, tell us a little more about yourself?

My name is Josip Klarić. I am 75 years old. I currently live in Zvijezda, Šimin Potok. Vareš tied me up and I stayed here. I often wonder if the Zvijezda captured me or am I in love with Zvijezda. I traveled around the world, but I simply couldn't stay anywhere, my hometown was calling me back. I am currently retired. I have a small property where I work in the summer, and in the winter I open the ski lift and socialize with visitors.

What was your first job?

I am an economist for tourism and catering by a profession. My first job was at Ponikve Hotel as a director. Then I worked at Željezara where I managed a resort in Srebreno near Dubrovnik. After 3 years of successful business, I realized that catering is my calling. Guided by this, I opened, at that time the first restaurant in Vareš, named "Stari Podrum", and today it is the restaurant "Stari Dani".

Can you make a comparison of life as it was before and as it is now in Vareš?

I have a small problem here, because I used to have those years, and now these years. When a man is young, everything is fine, everything is good. However, now that gap is big and compared to that time, Vareš is empty now. In the past, 5 buses full of workers came to Vareš through Zvijezda, and now even the van is not full. The city was full of youth, full of everything, full of perspective. However, time took its toll.

How important is it to raise tourism in to a higher level in Vareš?

I am perhaps the first from this area who had some real ideas with tourism and who graduated in this area. I finished the higher school for tourism and catering in Banja Luka, and then I enrolled in the third year in Opatija. In the meantime, I got married, started my own business, unfortunately left college, money was the main thing. It was good money, but it always remained in my heart to somehow start and develop tourism in Vareš. Vareš was one of the first places where rural tourism began to develop. In order for tourism to develop, you need to bring people, host them, give me an atmosphere and invite them again. If you provide them all of the above, they will definitely come back. Vareš, apart from the mineral riches that have been mentioned lately in Borovica, has another gold, and that is green gold. It is nature, the nature of Vareš, the people of Vareš and the environment of Vareš.

Are you familiar with the mining project in the area of Rupice and Veovača?

Yes, I have been following the development of the project since the beginning. I can tell you that last year I led two groups, one from Italy, the other from here, to show them the area of Borovica. Because Borovica is an extremely interesting area that is part of the old town of Bobovac and the medieval state of Bosnia. However, I took a group to a locality, to a tailings dump where we found a lot of pyrite waste. Due to its shiny surfaces, pyrite looks a lot like gold, it was interesting to watch them rejoice in the "gold". It will be interesting to follow the further development of the project.

What impact the opening of the new mine will have on tourism and therefore on your business in the area of Vareš?

When it comes to that, the area of Vareš has a lot of hills and valleys. Vareš contains many micro-tourist locations and in this area due to this configuration, forests and high hills, mining and tourism can develop in parallel. And until now there was an iron ore mine, but the hills hide the view and do not allow dust and noise.



How do you see Vareš after the opening of the mine, what kind of future awaits Vareš in your opinion?

The mine will bind the workers here, those workers will bind their families, their children. In addition to the basic occupation in the mine, these workers need rest. Now that vacation should be used in this area that we have. We have the mountain Zvijezda, we have tourist destinations on Zvijezda. The mine is very close to the old town of Bobovac. Borovica is an interesting tourist place. Nearby are the Igrište hunting lodge, the Mrestilište catering facility, which is very popular, the villages of Pogar and Borovica, Sjenokos. With that, I think that in addition to the basic activity of mining, tourism could also be developed. Because if a couple of hundred workers work here, they are busy 8-10 hours with the mine, they have to spend their free time and rest. It is up to us in Vareš, how we will use it. Tourism requires a few things, namely: drink well, eat well, have fun, hear the story of the place you are in and experience life in that place. When these elements are satisfied, tourism is successful. Vareš, if would get a little more serious and follow the example of Eastern Mining, and bring in people who know how to work and how to develop tourism, then could benefit greatly from it.

Do you think that Vareš will experience its resurgence as it had in some past era?

It is very difficult to reach the heyday of Vareš at that time, due to the structure and number of the population. But I think that these figures should not be reached, my opinion is that what is left should be preserved. The regions have relaxed, but again when I look at tourism, people could be attracted here by building cottages, tourist facilities, offering facilities, because we are extremely close to Sarajevo, the airport, and Sarajevo is the source of all potential users of this area, and Vareš is located in the golden tourist ring around Sarajevo.

At the end of our conversation, do you have any message for the young people of Vareš?

Death is behind us. Let's look to the future, and the future is you, our children, scattered around the world. We have Zvijezda, houses, fields, electricity, water, telephone, road, hometown. Let's do something together. We old people are waiting, we are slowly leaving, and it is up to you that this earthly work does not devastate it, that it is not inhabited by other people. Let each of you arrange your property as you have seen in the world where you live now, each of you does something of your own, and together we create a pleasant and attractive whole. Staying in this area is possible both in summer and winter. Come and rest. Bring your friends. Show the world who you are and where you're from. That is my message to the young people of this region.