

On 6-7 May 2021, the scientific conference "Jadar Project: What is Known" was held in the main hall of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. The conference brought together leading scientists and qualified experts, representatives of the Serbian government, as well as experts and managers of the potential investor (Rio Tinto / Rio Sava Exploration d.o.o.) and also representatives of third parties cooperating with Rio Tinto / Rio Sava Exploration d.o.o.

The main results and conclusions of the conference were published in the conference proceedings (Zbornik, in Serbian) at the end of 2021.

The conclusions published on pages 17 and 18 of the Conference proceedings "Project Jadar - what is known" were translated into English

Conclusions

The scientific conference "Project Jadar - what is known" represents one in a series of efforts by Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts to contribute to solving the accumulated problems of Serbian society, issues that cannot be postponed and which are of essential importance for survival. A group of eminent researchers concludes in their author's text that the implementation of the "Jadar" project would lead to massive devastation of space, permanent changes in the character of the landscape, degradation of biodiversity, soil, forests, surface and underground water, displacement of the local population, cessation of sustainable and profitable agricultural activities, and establishing a scenario of permanent risk to the health of residents of nearby villages and the city of Loznica. The authors also conclude that the continuation of the uncontrolled realization of similar mining projects would lead to serious ecosystem disturbances, environmental degradation and would be an indicator of the inability of the state, but also of the wider social community, to see the harm of such activities to the public interest.

The majority of authors believe that the preservation of a healthy environment and respect for the existential security of the population represent elementary human rights, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. The authors indicate that the available natural resources should be used sensibly and with measure, with reliance on qualified local professionals in the work of continuous monitoring of emissions of harmful substances in water, land and air in the entire territory, with reliance on domestic scientists of integrity in the development of strategies, with the establishment of trust in selected representatives of public authorities and decision-makers, and with transparent cooperation with investors based on a deep knowledge of their own long-term interest, and with the application of the highest environmental standards as adopted by the leading countries of the European Union, which we strategically strive for. In the conditions of the widespread struggle for resources, visible climate changes and the decrease in the population of Serbia, the priority interest of Serbian society is the suppression of pollution and dirty technologies and the sustainable use of natural resources in a way that does not endanger the environment, does not lead to displacement and does not deprive future generations of living space, drinking water, healthy food, fertile land and preserved, clean and diverse nature.