

The search for gold in our region is increasingly interesting to foreign companies, as evidenced by the fact that “Western Tetjan Resources” (WTR), which is 75 percent owned by the British company “Ariana Resources”, received another license for searching for gold in the area of the municipality of Podujevo.

WTR has three other gold prospecting licenses

WTR has three other gold prospecting licenses in the province, pending final approval by the Independent Mines and Minerals Commission. The new permit refers to the village of Hrtica, in the municipality of Podujevo, and covers 58 square kilometers. WTR now has 297 square kilometers of land under license to KiM and an additional 161 square kilometers where work has begun.

Deputy Director of the Geological Survey of Serbia, Predrag Mijatović, tells “Blic Biznis” that the largest producer of metals in Serbia is the RTB Bor system, which produces copper metal, after which gold, silver and a certain amount of platinum are obtained. In the “Čukaru Peki” copper and gold deposit, which is located five kilometers south of Bor, the estimated amount of ore in the upper zone of the deposit is 46.1 million tons, with a copper content of 2.71 percent and gold of 1.7 grams per ton. Mijatović states that Zi Đin first offers the gold obtained from Bor to the National Bank of Serbia for purchase, and only after that the gold is offered on the market.

Large quantities of silver and gold, lead and zinc

In addition to the mine in Bor, other mines are currently active in Serbia where the exploitation of metals is carried out, the final concentrates of which are lead and zinc, claims Mijatović. Within these concentrates, large amounts of silver and in some gold appear, and all concentrates are processed into metal outside the borders of Serbia, because the capacities for processing do not exist in our country.

The Veliki Majdan mine near Ljubovija contains lead-zinc with a lot of silver content in the ore, and their end product is two concentrates of lead and zinc, which are sold abroad.

Mine and flotation Mine near Gornji Milanovac, where copper, zinc, lead and silver ore are mined and processed.

The Grot mine on Besna Kobila mountain, which has two products, which are lead and zinc concentrates with a lot of silver. According to some data, these concentrates also contain certain amounts of gold.

The Lece mine in Medveđa is a lead and zinc mine, but it is characteristic that it has high concentrations of gold and silver in its definitive products.

The Deputy Director of the Geological Survey of Serbia, Predrag Mijatović, adds that in addition to the aforementioned mines, there are two active mines in the north of Kosmet, which work as part of Trepče, Crnać and Koperići, whose ore processing also produces lead and zinc concentrates.

Mineral raw materials are currently being explored in more than 200 locations in Serbia

Bearing in mind the number of deposits, the abundance of ores, as many as 50 types, and the fact that mineral raw materials are currently being explored in more than 200 locations in Serbia, experts estimate that mining in Serbia could be the main asset of our economy in the coming years. According to some estimates, Serbia abounds in a large number of metal and non-metal ores, and among the most represented is the exploitation of copper and gold, lead, zinc, iron, chromium, manganese, molybdenum, cobalt, cadmium, antimony.

Mijatović says that a larger amount of gold could be expected from the “Čukaru Peki” mine in the coming period.

- From the “Čukaru Peki” mine with full production, we should expect a higher production of gold there, because that ore is significantly richer than the one processed from old Bor. This mine started production last year, and we do not have data on how much production they have reached to date, but it should be kept in mind that full production is almost never achieved in the first year - says Mijatović.

Currently, there are more than 200 locations where mineral resources are being explored, plus places that are already in exploitation. We are the richest in copper, lead, zinc, as well as coal, mostly lignite. From non-metallic raw materials, there is clay, as well as technical-construction stone for roads. Most of the deposits were discovered by Serbian geologists (except for lithium), and foreign companies that are now present in Serbia confirmed that data and expanded research with additional investments.

According to the opinion of the profession, the existing deposits have the potential for at least another 15-20 years of exploitation, although in geology this is a relatively short period. In this area, companies usually count on at least 50 years, because they invest heavily in research, Kamatica writes.