

“Someone brought a company to Jajce that is an enemy to us citizens,” the citizens tell us. These claims are directed at the company “Bosnia Green Energy Project”, which as an investor is interested in the construction of hydropower plants “Pijavice” and “Elektrobosna”, one of which is planned only 300 meters from the waterfall on the Pliva. The company “Bosnian Green Energy Project” was founded in 2019 in Sarajevo, and the founders are Abdurahman Pezo and Muhamed Sabic, according to the Register of Business Entities in BiH. It is important to note that the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament in June adopted a conclusion banning the construction of small hydropower plants in the Federation of BiH. However, this was not an obstacle for the Bosnian Green Energy Project to submit a request for design and construction approval to the SBK Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on 5 October. The consent of the local community is required for the issuance of the concession, so the Ministry submitted a request to the Municipality of Jajce in November. From that moment, the struggle of the citizens of Jajce and non-governmental organizations began, and their position is clear: “They don’t want new hydroelectric power plants.” According to the president of the Mountaineering Association “Cusine” and the person who cares about the ecology Velid Hrnjić, Jajce already has enough problems with the Hydroelectric Power Plant Jajce 1, which draws 92 percent of the water from the large Pliva Lake.

In just four days, a petition against the construction of SHPPs was signed by 6,000 people. In the meantime, the investor has temporarily withdrawn the request for the issuance of the concession, due to public pressure, but at the same time it is waiting for the formation of the Municipal Council. Hrnjić notes that 99 percent of the public is against the construction of these two SHPPs, and the citizens of Jajce have the support of all international organizations that deal with these issues.

Although, according to the Journal, most municipal councilors are also against the construction of SHPPs, there is still some suspicion among citizens and representatives of non-governmental organizations. As they say, there is “some other background” in this whole story. For that reason, they assume that the investor will not give up.

### **Negative impact on flora and fauna**

Along with the request for the concession, the company “Bosnia Green Energy Project” also submitted the Feasibility Study with conceptual solutions for SHPP ElektroBosna and Pijavice, which was prepared by the company design, engineering, consulting and construction Sento d.o.o. According to the study, which we received for inspection, the power of SHPP Pijavice would be 1458 MW and the possible annual energy production

would be 6.3 GWh, and in this SHPP one employee would be operated. The power of MHDE “Elektrobosna” would be 1,538 MW, and the possible annual production would be 7,937 GWh. Some of the advantages of the construction of mini hydro power plants in the Study are, among others, preservation of non-renewable energy sources, efficient use of energy, security of electricity supply in local areas, short construction time of SHPPs and minimal maintenance costs, provision of small water downstream and the use of the SHPP region for tourism purposes. However, NGOs warn that the new mini hydropower plants would jeopardize the ecological minimum of water flow, on which the formation of tufa and the survival of living underwater depends.

“By building SHPPs, the Pliva riverbed would be further impoverished by water, which has an extremely negative impact on flora and fauna, as well as on recreational, sports and tourist offer on the Pliva River and the municipality of Jajce as a whole,” reads one of the conclusions from the meeting. NGOs held in November last year. Spatial plan of the Municipality of Jajce, for the period 2007-2027. (adopted at the session of the Municipal Council of Jajce on December 30, 2015) the construction of SHPP “Elektrobosna” and “Pijavice” is not planned.

“In practical terms, this means that the investor cannot obtain a permit for the construction of SHPPs, given that the construction of any of them is not planned in the spatial plan,” concluded the members of the NGO.

They also point out that the existing study on ecologically acceptable water flow (ecological minimum) on the Pliva River dates back to 1957 and as such, the current water flow does not meet the minimum conditions required for self-sustainable development of flora and fauna in the Pliva Riverbed. For this reason, the members of the NGO ask the Municipality of Jajce to prepare a new study on environmentally friendly water flow, in order to be in line with modern laws and scientific knowledge. Also, they state that the Agency for Audit of Privatization of FBiH issued a decision on initiating the procedure of audit of privatization of “Elektrobosna” d.d. Jajce, which is why the outcome of the privatization audit should be awaited.

### **The same representative of two companies**

Let us remind you that the Municipality of Jajce bought the stadium from the company Elektrobosna for one million and 350 thousand. The contract on the sale of the stadium, which we received for inspection, is signed as a seller by five members of the Macak family (majority shareholders of the company “Elektrobosna”), and on behalf of Elektrobosna dd Jajce by the director Adnan Pezo. that Adnan Pezo also appears as a representative of the

Sarajevo company “Bosnian Green Energy Project”.

Earlier, Mayor Hozan denied this kind of allegation to the media, and confirmed that he knew Peza and that he had signed a contract with him for the sale of the stadium in favor of the Municipality of Jajce, but that they were not on friendly terms. He also mentioned on several occasions that no hydroelectric power plant had been built in Jajce during his tenure.

The citizens of Jajce emphasize that there is only the interest of the individual in the construction of these two SHPPs and that they will not give up their fight.

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