

## The opening of the Rio Tinto mine in Serbia could be disastrous for the environment

Dr. Dragana Djordjevic, scientific advisor, graduated physicochemist, said in an interview with "Glas javnosti" that the pollution that Serbia is facing and which could be further increased by opening the Rio Tinto mine, could lead to severe consequences for the health and lives of citizens.

-If this pace of pollution continues, there will be no more life in this area in the next fifty to a hundred years. Pollution is transmitted through air, land and water, and if we come to the opening of the Rio Tinto mine, wastewater will be poured into Jadar, and then it will reach the Drina, and further into the Sava. All that at one point can lead to millions of Serbian citizens being left without drinking water - stated Djordjevic and explained which poisonous compounds are in question.

She pointed out that it was also "arsenic which is known to be a strong poison" and stated that in the last century it could happen that the living world disappears from pollution in this area.

Dr. Mirjana Andjelković-Lukić stated that "Serbia is surrounded on all sides by pollutants, from Bor in the east, through Smederevo, so it could be Rio Tinto in the west."

- We would be in a zone of pollution that would spread very quickly in a small area of our country, but also outside it. What Serbia would gain from that is nothing compared to what we are losing - said Dr. Andjelkovic-Lukic.

She reminded of "the hell that remained behind Rio Tinto in Papua New Guinea, where even today children are born with bumps on the body from pollution, and in Australia they mined Aboriginal caves and did incalculable damage."

Miroslav Mijatovic from the Anti-Corruption Pact from Loznica said that according to his information, changes to the spatial plan are being prepared. He stated that "everything is done almost in complete secrecy" and that there is no public interest in the Rio Tinto project.

- Nobody asked the citizens of this area what they want and whether they accept the mine of dirty technologies. Are they willing to sell the land. They offered some from 120 to 120 euros per acre, and when they refuse, they threaten that expropriation will be done, and that the inhabitants of that area will in that case receive a smaller compensation for the land - said Mijatovic.

Source: glas-javnosti.rs