



RioTinto

The Jadar Project

Community Engagement

Supporting local communities and authorities surrounding the Jadar Project has been – and will remain – fundamental to our operations in Serbia.



Jadar Project's Social Performance

There are understandable concerns among community members about how potential health, environmental and social impacts would be managed should the project go ahead. Listening to and addressing concerns is essential to uphold the highest social and environmental standards to build a sustainable future for the communities we operate in.

How we work with communities

By its very nature, mining and processing disturbs the environment and can impact surrounding communities. It is up to us to minimise and mitigate those impacts. Significant economic and social benefits to the local community, such as the production of essential materials, employment, small business development, tax and royalty streams, training and skills development and socioeconomic programmes, should not be created at the expense of the environment. Environmental protection and social and economic development can go hand in hand.

We recognise that while the benefits of our activities are widespread, many of the negative impacts are localised.

Our teams work in partnership with the local community to understand how our activities impact their lives, culture and heritage. Through meaningful and sustained engagement, we respond to community concerns, mitigate negative impacts and optimise socioeconomic benefits.

When we engage with the local community, we aim to:

- Interact proactively, early and often
- Listen actively to community views
- Communicate openly about our company and proposals
- Provide adequate resources for engagement activities
- Invest in relationships for the long term
- Respect cultural protocols
- Hear the full range of views and interests, including minority and divergent views

We have been proactively engaging and cooperating with the local community since the initial stages of the Jadar Project over 20 years ago. In order to support these engagements, we established two information centres in Loznica in 2016 and Brezjak in 2019. Their purpose is to provide the latest information about the project.

Engagement with communities has also included public presentations, open day events focusing on specific aspects of the project, consultations and regular community meetings, both in person and online.

We have held events about the environment, air and water quality, noise pollution, biodiversity, spatial planning, cultural heritage, land acquisition and compensation, solving property issues and opportunities for local suppliers. These engagements have helped us understand community priorities, concerns and expectations. These interactions also inform our environmental experts' knowledge so that they can consider ongoing refinements to the mine, processing plant and associated infrastructure study proposals.

Our performance in numbers

We have invested more than EUR 2 million to support and directly finance approximately 100 local community projects, benefiting over 10,000 people.

- 1,300 members of the local community have accessed advisory services from our expert partners, including free agricultural advice
- More than 7,000 formal engagements with local community members have taken place since August 2019
- More than 30km of road has been repaired and improved
- To date, 128 households have used or are still using one or several available livelihood restoration and improvement programmes
- A range of donations to schools, local hospitals, various sport clubs, associations and community events
- Supported the fight against COVID-19

Achieving impeccable ESG credentials

Achieving best in class Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards is key to our global operations, and the Jadar Project would be no different. We strive for impeccable environmental credentials, particularly relating to the preservation of natural resources, climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, pollution, energy efficiency and water management.

We are also committed to ensuring that all our operations provide a safe, inclusive workspace that is representative of the communities in which we operate, where everyone can achieve their full potential.

Our code of conduct is clear; we do not offer, pay, or accept bribes, no matter where we operate, the situation or who is involved.

We know that responsibly managing our business impacts is fundamental if we want to continue to grow and deliver on our strategy to benefit all our Serbian stakeholders, just as we do worldwide.

We recognise and take seriously the trust that communities worldwide place in us to access critical materials and make them available for society's benefit. We work in partnership with others to support fair, more sustainable and inclusive communities in the Jadar valley. While doing so, we aim to make more sustainable and meaningful contributions to local communities and Serbian society.

Our global social performance

We know that our operations have a far-reaching impact on society. Our ability to collaborate with local communities to deliver positive outcomes is increasingly important as society comes together to address global challenges.

The concerns of all communities that are local to where we live and work, including in the Jadar valley, are fundamental to our operations as a business. These communities include local residents, landowners, governments, business partners, civil society groups, neighbours and our colleagues. We aim to contribute to a shared future and positive legacy by developing lasting relationships with the local community, learning about and supporting their goals and aspirations, avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts and respecting their connections to the land.



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