

Visit to Hydro Power Plant MATKA

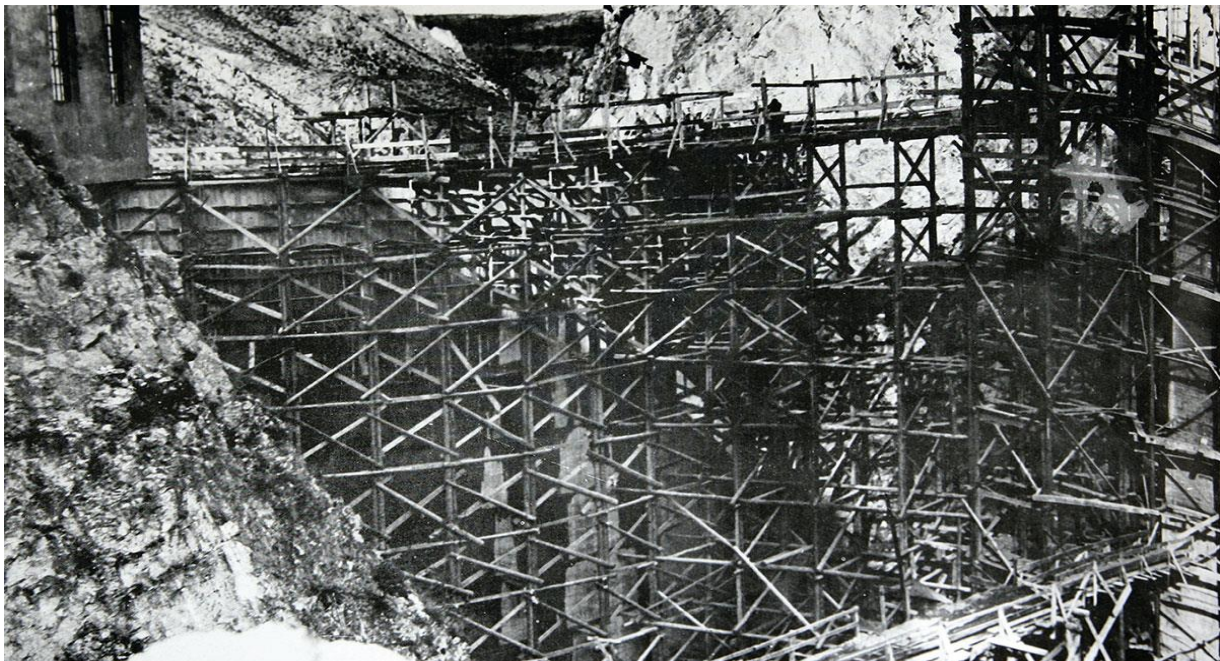
It was a very exciting day because I was part of the group of teachers and students of our primary school "Lazo Angelovski" that visited **Hydro Power Plant MATKA**. It was a chance to see the process of electricity production in practice, as it is described in the books.

Brief history:

The hydropower plant Matka is located in the Matka canyon on the river Treska, in the village that is about 14 km far from Skopje. Due to the natural beauties and rarities in the flora and fauna, this area is protected as "A Monument of Nature".

An artificial lake on the river Treska was built with a concrete dam in the form of an arch, so it was able to generate electricity in the last century. This hydropower plant worked until 2008, when a new power plant was built. Consequently, this means that the old one did not produce electricity any more. Nowadays, the electricity is produced in the new power plant, and the old one has been turned into an Educational Center, that we visited today.

Matka Lake is the oldest artificial lake in Macedonia. The hydropower plant named Kozjak is nearly located to the hydropower plant Matka 2 also called Sv.Petka, so the whole system is known as Kozjak-Matka.





Impressions:

In the Exhibition Center, we were allowed to see many original materials and exhibits that once functioned and were used in the old machine for electricity production. We were explained the actual meaning of electricity - presented by different examples connected to the development of electricity production in Macedonia, and some other interesting things, such as:

- The electricity route, from its production to its delivery to the consumers.
- Control room where the old machines and tools are now kept as exhibits but they were used in the past. This room served as a supervising place of the production process, sending commands and managing operation of the plant.
- Dispatch board that was used in the past versus the modern ways of management and monitoring that are used nowadays.
- An explanation about energy efficiency and economical use of electricity.
- A Ball for Electricity Transmission – which was the most interesting part for me.

We use electricity in our everyday life and after this visit I have realized that it is one of the greatest inventions of the humanity.

Stefan Grkovski VIII-1