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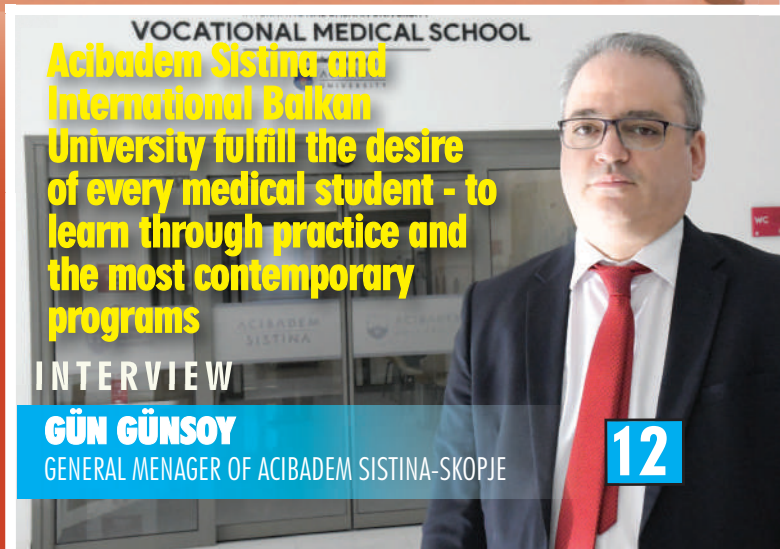
Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia-
leader that builds
Macedonia and the
Balkans

INTERVIEW

Vlatko IVANOV

General Director Civil Engineering Institute "Macedonia" J.S. Skopje

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INTERVIEW

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Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia-a leader that builds Macedonia and the Balkans

Although originally the idea was the establishment of a scientific research institution, today the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia has become a leader in the construction sector.

Interview with Vlatko IVANOV

General Director Civil Engineering Institute "Macedonia" J.S. Skopje



Under the umbrella of the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia there are always top professional engineers who are the backbone of the biggest projects, both at home and abroad.

The Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is the author and designer of many projects for construction of roads, dams, bridges, tunnels, hospitals, factories, schools, treatment plants, irrigation and water supply systems, landslides and other structures, and almost in every significant project for the country, the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is included in the supervisory team.

The importance of the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is proven by participating in capital projects such as: Konsko Dam and Slatino Dam (designer); East Gate Mall (designer); highway Kicevo-Ohrid (supervision), the highway at the border crossing Blace (supervision), rehabilitation of the road Kicevo-Makedonski Brod (supervision), Diamond complex (supervision); the railway Kumanovo-Beljakovce (supervision); Rehabilitation of water supply shafts from the Mavrovo hydro system (contractor); stabilization of the slope behind the hotel Alkaloid-Dojran (contractor) etc. Undoubtedly, the cooperation with the world companies TAV DOOEL Macedonia; TAV TEPE AKFEN; Bechtel & Enka; Gopa, Limak, Idom, Eptisa, Egis, Riko, IC Consult is another proof that the Institute does its job professionally.

Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is focused on sustainable development and achieving competitive advantage through innovation, investment in education and scientific research development. The company successfully realizes its clear vision with the establishment of the Scientific Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering and Energy - IECE. Through the Knowledge and Intellectual Capital Management Strategy, CEIM and IECE in 2020 won the first prize at the European Conference on Knowledge Management on the topic: Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital.

The Civil Engineering Institute has existed for about 50 years.... Can you shortly tell us about the background history of the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia?

The creation of the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is a result of the vision of several enthusiasts from the laboratory of that time of Mavrovo Construction Company, led by the engineer Bozo Miljevski whose original idea was to establish a scientific research institute and knowledge center. The realization of this highly advanced idea for that time, started with the formation of an independent legal entity. Its activity in the first moment was testing of construction materials and later the activity expanded on areas of technical consulting and specialist work in construction. Our official beginning is in the remote 1975. Today the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is one of the largest companies in the construction sector, which with its 47-year tradition has positioned itself as a leader not only in the Macedonian but also in the Balkan market.

Given that today you are a recognized leader in the construction consulting, how much has the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia grown since then and what areas do you cover?

The significance of a modern company comes from the accumulated knowledge possessed by its employees, the processes in it and certainly the knowledge of the employees who have spent their lives in our company. Working on many projects in the past, it is necessary to emphasize the value of the relationships built with our longtime clients and partners. The company has more than 310 employees, of whom 160 engineers (some of them Masters and Doctors of Science) from all profiles: construction, architecture, geology, geodesy, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, ecology, chemistry and technology.

This wealth of intellectual capital gives us all the strength in the areas of our company.

Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia today fully covers all areas of design with its own staff such as urban design, designs for dams, bridges, tunnels, roads, hospitals, factories, schools, treatment plants, irrigation and water supply systems, landslides, which makes the designs even more valuable.

In the area of Supervision, there is almost no significant

project for the state or the economy without us being involved. Our Supervision Department today has almost 50 licensed engineers from all fields, which gives us the competence to oversee the overall quality of our client's construction.

The accredited laboratory and the Certification Body of the Civil Engineering Institute today can proudly boast about the most modern equipment for quality control of construction materials and a number of accredited methods in accordance with European regulations that makes us a regional center for quality control.

The Institute of Geotechnical Design applies the most modern calculation methods and scientific knowledge for the implementation of the designs made to ensure the stability of construction pits, landslide designs, designs for special foundations, and the Department of Hydrogeology in addition to outstanding expertise in the field of assessment and protection of groundwater from pollution works, also works on the most serious projects analyzing water resources from different aspects.

The Operations Department has its roots in the Department of Rehabilitation and Repairs, which in the past specialized in special works in construction such as landslide stabilization, construction of anchors, injection of structures in dams, tunnels and today it is upgraded with the largest geotechnical and geological construction machinery in Macedonia with which we have also done the research work for the most important structures in Macedonia and in the region and have successfully built a lot of water supply wells.

You are always part of the team that works on the largest projects in the country. Can you name some of them?

The Civil Engineering Institute, being part of important investments in Macedonia, has always had a certain role:

As a Project Designer - Konsko Dam which has a capacity of 1,375,000 m³ and a height of 78 m which is today performed by the famous Turkish company Serka and on which the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia performs expert supervision. The Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia also designed the Slatino Dam and was the designer of the newest shopping center East Gate Mall with 175,000 m² of space. We were also designers of kilometer- long regional and national state roads, within which a large number of underpasses and overpasses were designed, and we have also worked on the latest highways.

As Supervision Engineers – we manage the largest highway Kicevo-Ohrid, then the highway at the border crossing Blace, rehabilitation of the roadways Kicevo-Makedonski Brod, Mavrovi Anovi-Zirovnica. In the recent past we have completed the largest shopping center in Macedonia East Gate Mall, and we are currently working on a large project of the Turkish company Limak. It is about the Skopje Diamond Complex consisting of Shopping Centers, Hotel Business Center, a residential part and an underground road. We are also supervising the design for improving the energy efficiency of 57 individual residential buildings funded by UNDP which is part of the pollution management program in Skopje. In the past we were part of the team that supervised the construction of the railway from Kumanovo to Beljakovce.

Recently, the Operations Department completed the project for the rehabilitation of water supply shafts from the Mavrovo hydro system. It was an extremely difficult

project with which in a vertical shaft of 80 meters below the surface the concrete coating was repaired and a steel sheath was placed. These days we are handing over to our client Alkalod the now stabilized slope behind the hotel in Dojran. The reference of the Operations Department also includes a number of boreholes - exploration, geotechnical, hydrogeological.

The Civil Engineering Institute signed contracts with TAV Macedonia and the Investment Construction and Operational Joint Stock Company for mutual cooperation in the implementation of 94 infrastructure designs on the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia. What kind of contract is it?

The purpose of the mutual cooperation with TAV Macedonia and TAV TEPE AKFEN in the first phase was to prepare reports from the supervision of the existing technical documentation and approval of the projects. The projects were revised by an expert team from all areas and in accordance with their technical and administrative readiness, directions were given for corrections or starting the construction activities.

In the second phase, the services of the project management were applied, i.e., project management during their realization (implementation), for which a team of project managers is in charge. They daily visit the construction site activities and are in charge of the quality and timely construction of the structures.

You work with many world companies. What are the joint activities with Bechtel & Enka?

The Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia cooperates with many well-known companies such as Gopa, Limak, Idom, Eptisa, Egis, Riko, IC Consult, and other European companies.

The cooperation with Bechtel & Enka started with the realization of the highway from Pristina to Blace in the Republic of Kosovo where we worked on geotechnical research works, installation of inclinometers, and analysis of slope stability in a landslide zone.

Today with Bechtel & Enka we work on the highway Pojate-Prejina in the length of 110 km in the Republic of Serbia, where CEIM performs all tasks that arise from the work of the current laboratory for quality control of materials. We also work on geotechnical research works for the alignment and structures as well as stone deposits.

We sincerely hope that our cooperation will continue in Macedonia where according to the decision of the Assembly, Bechtel & Enka will work on four new highways.

Under the umbrella of the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is the Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering and Energy IECE ...

Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is focused on sustainable development and achieving competitive advantage through innovation, investment in education, and scientific research development, and successfully realizes its clear vision with the establishment of the Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering, and Energy IECE.

IECE has developed extensive experience with external partners throughout Europe, works on international European projects, and creates its uniqueness by creating unique sustainable business models to achieve a competitive advantage in institutions and their development. It is a center of excellence that has a mission through a collaborative partnership to increase the research and innovation potential





of human capital.

Through the Knowledge and Intellectual Capital Management Strategy, Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia and the Institute for Research in Environment, Civil Engineering, and Energy won the first prize at the European Conference on Knowledge Management in 2020 on the topic: Knowledge Management and Intellectual Capital. This award is given annually to the world's best practices in knowledge management and intellectual capital, as part of the European Conference on Knowledge Management, which is the oldest conference in this field in Europe.

In the last few years, the company Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia is active at the European level, part of consortia and partnerships that work together in the implementation of numerous projects funded by prestigious European funds.

Apart from the Republic of North Macedonia, you are also active in several European countries. In which countries are you present and what projects are you involved in?

More than a decade ago, the company's growth had to be backed up by conquering new markets. This vision of a regional setting is a reality today, and is based on our work in other countries in the region:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina through our company Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia - Geotechnics successfully works on geological exploration works and construction of wells.

- Montenegro through our company Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia – Montenegro. In Montenegro, we have the most modern and the latest laboratory for material testing and we are fully licensed to prepare project documentation

- Serbia through our branch office Civil Engineering Institute- Belgrade today we work for Bechtel & Enka on the highway Pojate – Prejina

- Kosovo through our branch office in Pristina where in the past we cooperated with Bechtel & Enka on the highway Pristina – Blace

- Albania through our branch office in Tirana where we worked with our partners on bridge projects.

We are currently in the phase of participating in tender procedures in Romania and ongoing activities for opening our representative office.

What impact did the Covid-19 crisis have on construction?

Dealing with this challenge has changed the way we live in all areas of life. Of course, we also had to adapt, but thanks

to our conscientious employees and well-organized work process, we successfully realized the set goals. Construction as a sector was affected but the biggest blows from the pandemic were not within our scope of work.

What are the environmental steps that the company will take and what is the Cinderella project?

CINDERELLA is a complex research and innovation project, funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program, based on urban waste reduction opportunities, which aims to develop and demonstrate a new business model of the circular economy. The project is implemented by a consortium of thirteen outstanding research institutions and organizations from seven European countries, including the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia.

For the realization of some of the activities needed for this project, the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia signed an agreement on business and technical cooperation with Makstil where a pilot plant for mechanical processing of secondary industrial raw material - slag (black and white) was set up, which is obtained during the smelting process of scrap metal in the factory.

The goals of the circular economy are otherwise focused on sustainable urban development and the use of secondary waste raw materials in various areas. This process connects different industries, the construction sector, municipal services, decision-makers, and the general public.

In which future projects will we see the Civil Engineering Institute Macedonia?

Our expertise is extensive and we know that we can provide the best product in the region whether we are a Designer, Supervision Engineer, Laboratory for testing the quality of embedded materials or working on geotechnical research. Due to this, we are justifiably actively involved in the four highways that will be realized by Bechtel & Enka, the railway to neighboring country Bulgaria, the new Clinical Center, the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Skopje.

We continue in the direction of implementing our mission and that is with constant development to be a regional leader in construction and to continually offer high values of services through the delivery of reliable, quality, and innovative solutions. We are focused on pursuing a business development strategy based on a system of high values of professionalism, quality, responsibility, ethics, initiative and innovation, teamwork, and high results.

Bülent SULOCCA