



# CHRONOLOGY OF THE OPERATION OF LIRIM MUHAREMI AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN ALBANIA AND EUROPEAN UNION

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2004: Lirim Muharemi arrives for the first time in Albania, namely direct from Paris, where the previous year had professional advanced studies in the marketing of various financial products. The main purpose of his arrival in Albania is to find new business partners and to lay the foundations for organizing marketing and sale of financial products.

2005: This is a year of an intensive search for new business opportunities and potential projects outside the financial sector. It is carried out extensive research and analysis of the entire Albanian market and many meetings with potential partners.

2006: Lirim Muharemi intensively continues to travel across Albania and to search for new business opportunities and thinking about projects where it would be possible to exploit the natural resources of Albania. On these trips, he observes the scenery of the country, and the picturesque seashore, where it sees great potential for the future general development of Albania, in the field of tourism and especially in the field of maritime transport.

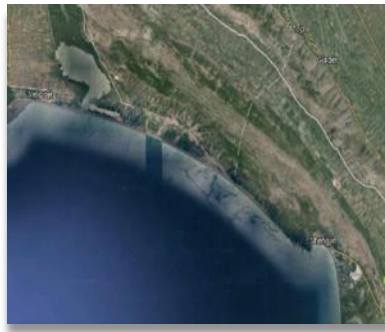
In that way, it begins the birth of the idea that Albania, given its excellent Geo-strategic location, desperately needs a modern and large marine port, which will greatly benefit the countries in mainland Southeast Europe. It is also apparent from Lirim Muharemi's excellent knowledge of the situation in Southeast Europe, which he has over the years before 2004 also traveled across and thoroughly realized its specifics, precisely because he has been born there and has lived for many years in several places in this area.

Further analyses showed that the area of Southeast Europe imports, and exports all together approximately 40 million tons of a variety of products and raw materials.

The idea of the exceptional infrastructure project - a modern international port that meets the needs of Albania's current and future maritime freight and passenger traffic and the same needs of South-Eastern Europe and part of Eastern Europe is born.

Moreover, it has also been an important principle with the idea of the location of the seaport to reduce maritimately and land routes, which results in significant drops of transport costs and a tremendous reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. The resulting significant savings to be invested in the economic and social development of the region.

This idea is to pull a thorough study of the Albanian 362 km long coastline to find the most appropriate location for a large international seaport. The main criteria to be met by the location have been the depth of the sea, accessibility by sea and land, and proximity to transport infrastructure to link to other parts of Albania and the interior of Southeast Europe.



After lengthy and numerous interviews with experts and representatives of local communities, research, measurements, and analysis of various potential sites a location, which is situated approximately 1.5 km outside the town of Shengjin towards the Montenegrin border, is selected.

At the end of the year, Lirim Muharemi invites his business partners from Slovenia to cooperate in the financial market. Later, they together are engaged in discussions at the Ministry of Finance and other institutions related to the operation of the securities market and begin with the preparation of documents for the establishment of a corporation designed to work exclusively on the financial market.



In this and next year, many visits are organized for the leaderships of medium and large Slovenian companies for the purpose of joint appearance in the Albanian market. Unfortunately, they do not succeed in this run, as they later refused to follow the advices of Lirim Muharemi.



2007: A numerous team of Albanian and International experts of various profiles, organized and managed by Lirim Muharemi, starts to create the detailed documentation of all parts and aspects of the construction of the large modern international seaport at the selected location in Shengjin.

This is the official launch of the project, which Lirim Muharemi names Europort Shengjin - *Eagle of the Adriatic*.

By acquiring a license for trading in the securities a joint-stock company Kapital Invest is formally established. Actually, Kapital Invest may now enter in the privatization process.

Since joint-stock company Kapital Invest was exclusively intended for operations in the financial market, Lirim Muharemi with partners establish a new company Europa Albania 007 operating in other economic sectors.

2008: For the creation of the above-mentioned documentation for Europort Shengjin a lot of field work (measurement and situations recording on land and in the sea), as well as all the necessary economic studies to demonstrate the economic viability and feasibility of the project, are carried out during this year.

All the necessary documentation is made for a comprehensive presentation of the project to the Albanian Government President Sali Berisha and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.



There is a meeting this year with Prime Minister Sali Berisha, who strongly supports the project. By Minister Sokol Oldashi Lirim Muharemi later receives a document, which reflects the full support of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to the project Europort Shengjin.



It follows several working meetings with other ministers.

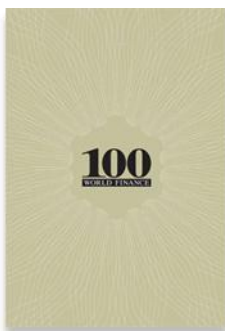


Lirim Muharemi in an interview for Slovenian national TV in emission *Primorski mozaik* presents to the Slovenian public his activities, way of thinking, orientation and great business opportunities that Albania offers to Slovene economy.



Furthermore, Lirim Muharemi's operation is focused on promotional and logistical activities. It also constantly runs his activity to raise public awareness of the project Europort Shengjin *Eagle of the Adriatic* in Albania, Europe and around the world. These activities report that this mega project represents one of the key factors for the social and economic development of Albania and other countries of South Eastern Europe, which will largely stop the migratory patterns to the developed part of the European Union.

2009: For the project Europort Shengjin Lirim Muharemi receives a prestigious award in London for classification on the list *The World Finance 100* (100 best projects in the



world), each year jointly prepared by the London Stock Exchange and renowned business magazine World Finance.

The World Finance 100 celebrates those who have reached the pinnacle of achievement across a wide variety of fields of expertise, as well as those organizations and individuals that lead the way in driving their industries forward. Each year World Finance compiles the list of 100 individuals and companies – not according to capitalization figures or growth (like the FTSE 350 or Deloitte Fast 500 respectively), but purely on excellence in their field.

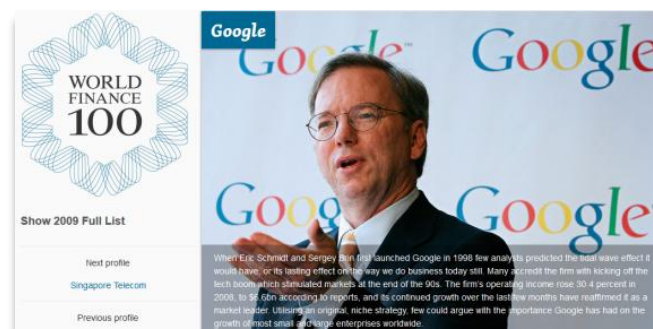
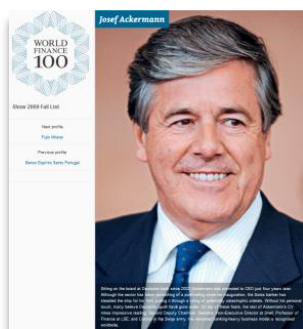
The list presents the new business elite, made up of those whose vision and enterprise shapes the conceptual landscape of finance, business, and technology.

The WF100 research fellowship appraises the invaluable nominations, suggestions, and contributions of the World Finance readership, and explores and analyses new trends to unearth the best and the brightest pioneers in business today.

All readers of World Finance magazine and attendees of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, receive a separate supplement containing List 100. Additionally, the list is posted on the World Finance magazine website, where anyone can view it as a challenge, an inspiration, and a benchmark of achievement.

On this list, there are also three important and influential businessmen, Henri de Castries, Director General of the French insurance company AXA, the second largest insurance company in the world; Josef Ackermann, Managing Director of the German bank Deutsche Bank AG, the third-largest bank in the world; and Eric Schmidt, CEO of Google, an American multinational technology company specialized in Internet-related services and products.

Henri de Castries later becomes a chairman of the board, and Josef Ackermann and Eric Schmidt become members of the Management Board of the most influential global business and political group – the Bilderberg Group.



An extensive interview, titled *Eagle spreads wings*, with Lirim Muharemi is published in the magazine World Finance, May-June issue. There, Lirim Muharemi talks about his operation in Albania, the mega project Europort Shengjin, the general economic climate in Albania, the course of the privatization process and investment opportunities in various sectors in Albania through his joint-stock company Kapital Invest.



Lirim Muharemi submits to the Commercial Court in Tirana an application for registration of the limited liability company Lirim Muharemi & COMP.

In December, the company in setting up Lirim Muharemi & COMP obtains from the National Agency of Natural Resources a permit for the exploitation of raw materials (in place of Berat) for the production of cement. In this connection, the design of a study for the exploitation of raw material and the erection of a cement factory is started.



2010: At the beginning of the year, a company Lirim Muharemi & COMP (abbr.: LM & CO) is registered and Lirim Muharemi transfers the construction project of the Europort Shengjin *Eagle of the Adriatic* (abbr.: Europort Shengjin) to this new company.

Albanian Chamber of Commerce awards LM& CO by the prize *Golden Eagle of the Adriatic* for the project Europort Shengjin which they briefly describe it as *the prestigious project of the century*.

The prize *Golden Eagle of the Adriatic* has been before Lirim Muharemi awarded Prime Minister Sali Berisha and Albanian President Bamir Topi only.



The leading European business magazine *European CEO* publishes an interview with Lirim Muharemi. He represents the rapid changes taking place in Albania and pave the way for the exhausted ex-communist country into a modern, according to the European model, an organized state with an open economic market. Furthermore, Lirim Muharemi stresses that investors will miss a lot of business opportunities if they will not timely respond to the changes, and the project Europort Shengjin is an evident proof of these changes.

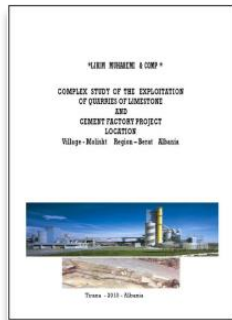


With both prizes and high-profile articles in the above and internationally recognized business magazines, Lirim Muharemi with his colleagues achieve in the following years, the project Europort Shengjin becomes recognizable not only in Europe but also beyond, in America as well as in China and the Arab world.

Lirim Muharemi attends a Slovenian-Albanian meeting of businessmen and politicians, organized by the Slovenian Embassy in Tirana under the leadership of the Ambassador Davorin Seničar.



The expert team ends with a study for the exploitation of raw materials for cement production and a project to build a cement factory.



Lirim Muharemi meets in one of the European countries a very important person who is a member of the most powerful structure in the world.

2011: On the initiative of a business partner from New Zealand, the activities on new project *1000 MW Wind Power Renewable Energy Production Albania* begin to carry out.

Together with the expert teams in India and South Korea, the intensive works on the project documentation are going on. A team of experts in Albania works on the selection of suitable wind locations across Albania. Discussions are ongoing also with Nasip Naço, Minister of Economy Trade and Energy.

Lirim Muharemi obtains from a person whom he met last year in one of the European countries a letter of recommendation, where is stated that the project Europort Shengjin is strongly recommended as highly regarded and profitable project, which shows initiative, demonstrates a strong work ethic and a clear dedication to success with an international perspective.



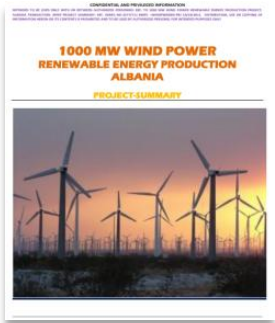
In the middle of the year Lirim Muharemi directs part of his activities in providing opportunities for Slovenian economic and financial companies to participate in the project Europort Shengjin and other projects of LM & CO and Kapital Invest in Albania.

Presentations, and proposals for various forms of cooperation and investment as well as numerous conversations taking place over half a year. All with the purpose to enable the Slovenian companies the opportunity of rapid and successful penetration in the emerging, rapidly growing and secure Albanian market. Albania gets in the meantime a status of associate member of the European Union and has already successfully harmonized all the necessary legislation with the European Union, especially those in the field of foreign investment and the protection thereof.

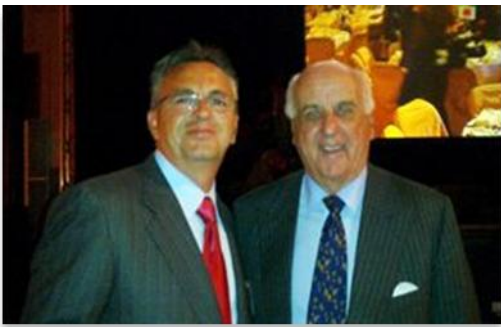
Opportunity and Lirim Muharemi's vision are recognized and identifies by more Slovenian private investors, whose investments significantly contribute to the path of realization of the project Europort Shengjin.

The growing Albanian market this year, and in the following ones draws the attention of Germany, France, Italy, USA and others which take advantage of that opportunity and set up mixed industrial and trade associations between their Chambers of commerce and Albanian partners.

In November, a project for the construction of wind farms with a total power of 1000 MW is completed. At the beginning of December in this regard, LM & CO receives from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Energy a document in which the ministry welcomes foreign investment in the energy sector and confirms its support for the project by the end of its realization.



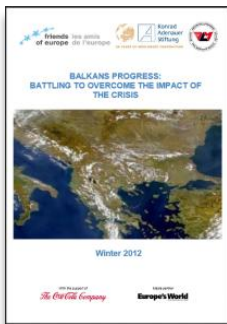
2012: Lirim Muharemi becomes a VIP member of the leading *think tank* organization Friends of Europe at the European Commission in Brussels. Therefore, he is in this period several times in Brussels, where he meets the President of Friends of Europe—Viscount Etienne Davignon, President of the European Commission—José Manuel Barroso, and President of the European Parliament—Jerzy Buzek.





In early December, Lirim Muharemi attends an important business and political meeting in Brussels entitled *Balkans Progress: Battling to Overcome the Impact of the Crisis*. There he presents his mega project, Europort Shengjin, to foreign politicians, and institutions as well as to the representative of the *European Investment Bank*, Dominique Courbin, Director for Slovenia, Croatia, and the Western Balkans.

LM & CO is also a co-organizer of this event along with the organization Friends of Europe and the biggest German State Foundation—Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



2013: In the election campaign by the Socialist Party of Albania, which that same year wins the election, classify a project Europort Shengjin as one of the leading and priority projects in its economic part of their program.

Their program is also published and the project Europort Shengjin is listed in its economic section entitled *Economic Recovery - Albania Could Live Much Better*, as well as on their website under the title *European Infrastructure*.



In the summer issue of significant political and economic journal Europe's World (p. 61) is published Lirim Muharemi's article titled *NEW BALKAN ORDER-Albania, Western Balkans and Europe in relation with the new port Eagle of the Adriatic*.



Lirim Muharemi in this period actively cooperates with Minister Edmond Haxhinasto, who leads the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. He presents to the Minister the activities on the project Europort Shengjin and its presentation to the international business entities. They also talk about the various forms of public-private partnerships. In this respect, LM & CO receives from the Minister two important documents, one for foreign investors and another for the *European Investment Bank*.



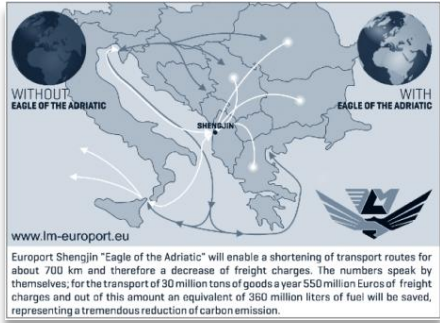
At that time, Lirim Muharemi meets in Tirana the Chinese ambassador Wang Junling, who expresses the great interest of the Chinese economy for the project Europort Shengjin.

LM & CO continues with the promotion of a project Europort Shengjin, this time at the largest trade fair in Tirana, where the guest of honor and speaker is the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure - Edmond Haxhinasto. On this occasion, in his speech, he pays a lot of attention to

the project Europort Shengjin and as he says, the project is an extremely important strategic project for Albania.



At the beginning of December Lirim Muharemi with his associates attends the strategic conference on the *Western Balkans Western Balkans: Fast Lane, Slow Lane* in Brussels, where he is also a speaker and LM & CO a financial supporter of this important event.



On this occasion Lirim Muharemi is interviewed by the political and business weekly magazine *Europost*. The article is titled *Mega project Europort is no longer a dream*.



On the initiative of the person, whom Lirim Muharemi meets in one of the European countries, he begins preparations for the establishment of the foundation, which the main objective is social, cultural and economic development in entire Southeast Europe.

2014: The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure includes the project Europort Shengjin on its list of priority infrastructure projects.

The importance of the project Europort Shengjin is also recognized by other ministries and therefore is listed in the official documents issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, and the Ministry of Environment.



Multi-member Chinese governmental delegations, along with top management of the largest state-owned construction company, *China Communications Construction Company (CCCC)* visit Albania. They also visit the area of Shengjin, where a new port, Europort Shengjin is to be built.

A protocol on trade and economic cooperation between Albania and China is then signed at the Ministry of Economy.

Top management of the *CCCC*, interested in financing and building the Europort Shengjin, meets Lirim Muharemi, who presents them the project in detail and the possibilities of cooperation.



Works on founding acts and other necessary documentation for the establishment of the foundation are finished. The Foundation, which gets the name Lightbringer Foundation, is soon officially registered.

In autumn, Lirim Muharemi gets from one German organization their intention to enter the project Europort Shengjin as a strategic partner.

In December Lirim Muharemi with his associates attends the 11th annual strategic conference *State of Europe 2014 - A new action plan for Europe*, where he participates as a discussant.



On this occasion, a journalist from the web portal *Debating Europe* interviews Lirim Muharemi.

Lightbringer Foundation is along with some prominent global companies and institutions (Sanofi Pasteur, European Investment Bank – EIB and Huawei) a financial supporter of this important conference and Lirim Muharemi is a co-signatory of the foreword to the report from this conference, where Lightbringer Foundation also has a full page of its presentation.



2015: A team of LM & CO's experts in Tirana begins with making the additional documents necessary for the entry of the German strategic partner and the government agency - Concession Treatment Agency (ATRAKO).

In March Mr. Nico Berx, one of the Directors of the Port of Antwerp International and Mr. Gilles Baunvens, Dutch Deputy Ambassador along with China government delegation visit Shengjin, where they confirm their joint interest in building and development of a new port in Shengjin to be the biggest port in the Adriatic Sea and the main gate to the Western Balkans.

Lirim Muharemi with his associates has in the next several months, numerous meetings and visits at the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, other Governmental agencies, and especially at the Concession Treatment Agency.

At the same time also the coordination with experts on making additional documents is in a process.

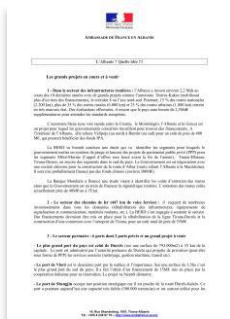
On July 8<sup>th</sup> Lirim Muharemi attends German-Albanian Economic Conference in Tirana, organized by the German Industrial and Trade Association DIHA, where LM & CO is also a member. At this conference, German Chancellor Angela Merkel expresses strong support for the Albanian large projects, especially infrastructural ones.



In the following months until the end of the year, a lot of business trips and meetings at various levels in Tirana, as well as in Germany with representatives of the future German strategic partner, are realized.

One such meeting is held in November in Tirana with Blerina Kazhani, executive director of the French - Albanian Chamber of Commerce who expresses a great interest of the French economy to participate in the project Europort Shengjin.

The French Embassy in Tirana includes this project in its official list of large-scale projects - *Grands Projets*.



2016: On March 14, 2016, an article titled *Europort Shëngjin, a pharaonic project rewarded with a nice obelisk (and no investment)* is published in the leading online magazine of maritime and transport economics - SHIP2SHORE.



In the beginning of April, a cooperation contract between LM & CO and *INSTINCTIF PARTNERS* from London is signed. The *INSTINCTIF PARTNERS* company is one of the leading world's consulting companies presented all over the globe.

At the same time, preparation of the documents and promotional materials for the forthcoming REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INVESTMENT PLAN FOR EUROPE is going on.

Lirim Muharemi with his team attends this conference on April 21 & 22 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. At this conference besides the European Commissioner for Transport, Ms. Violeta Bulc, the top representatives of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), also the Ministers for Transport from all Western Balkan countries are presented along with Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto, a Minister for Transport and Infrastructure from Albania.

On this occasion, Lirim Muharemi has very important talks concerning the investments into project Europort Shengjin with the top representatives of EIB and EBRD, respectively.

Above mentioned conference is a part of a new EU Strategic Investment Plan initiated by the President of European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, where the investments of at least €315 billion in three years will be realized in the real economy across Europe for the member states and the candidate states as well.





Lirim Muharemi, on his birthday in May, changes the name of the project from *Eagle of the Adriatic* to *Dragon of the Adriatic*.

The Dragon is chosen as per more legends in the region of the Balkan peninsula, where the dragon had played a positive role in protecting the people and their possessions.

In Brussels, on July 11, Mr. Muharemi, Mr. Dalan (LM&CO), and Mr. Olisa, Mr. Rusagara (Instinctif Partners) have two very important meetings.

First one with high officials (Mr. Alain Baron, Mrs. Evi Lardi, Mrs. Fleur Breuillin, and Mr. Wojciech Sopinski) from the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Unit D1: Maritime Transport and Logistics or *DG MOVE* and a second one in the afternoon with MEP Mr. Knut Fleckenstein (Vice-Chair of Social Democratic Party of Germany - SPD).



Next very important meeting is held on 12 July 2016 with Ms. Tzvetina Tzvetkova, a high official from Directorate General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) Unit D.4 (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina).



At all three meetings, a project Europort Shengjin is presented with a strong accent on its benefits for Albania and all the Southeastern European region in terms of economic, social, cultural development, the coexistence of nations, and decreasing the migration to developed Western European countries.

Since all mentioned benefits of a project Europort Shengjin completely fit the European Commission’s agenda for the development of Southeastern Europe is a project well accepted by all named high officials.

Mr. Muharemi, Mr. Dalan (LM&CO), Mr. Olisa, and Mr. Rusagara (Instinctif Partners) have a meeting in Brussels with MEP Mr. Ivan Jakovic (ALDE; Croatia), Vice-Chair of the EU-Albania Delegation of the European Parliament, who welcomes the project and expresses his support.

The next day on October 13, Mr. Muharemi, Mr. Dalan, Mr. Olisa, and Mr. Rusagara have a meeting at the Port of Antwerp International with a senior consultant Mr. Wim De Rycke. This meeting is very important from the perspective of developing the project and operating the Europort Shengjin since Mr. Wim De Rycke confirms the readiness of the Port of Antwerp International to consult during the construction period and to organize the operating of the port as well as to be a minor shareholder, which is the matter of their standard decision-making process.

2018: American professional magazine Businesswire published an excerpt from the Analysis of European Port Construction Projects in 2019-2022 (European Port Construction Projects Insights). There is also listed the \$ 2.9 billion port construction project in Shengjin, Albania.

Businesswire is the leading global magazine to publish professional reports for organizations, professional investors, and another professional public. The magazine is also distributing and publishing specific regulations. Businesswire is a subsidiary of the world's largest private American investment house, ie. Berkshire Hathaway, and is owned by Warren Buffet - one of the ten wealthiest people on the planet.



2019: In May, a complete analysis of the projects of the European ports (*Project Insight - Port Construction Projects: Europe*), made by Business Wire experts, begins to sell on

their partner's company *Research and Markets* portal which contains the world's largest paid professional analyses for all areas of the economy.

In the last quarter of the year, the *European Bank for Reconstruction and Development* (EBRD) published on its website a document *50123-bia.pdf - Biodiversity Impact Assessment - The Proposed Shëngjin to Velipojë Road Scheme, Albania*, where in paragraph 5.5. the project Europort Shengjin is listed and shortly described.



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which finances the Albanian national road construction project is for the construction of a new road, which will run behind Europort Shengjin, had engaged the Albanian Development Fund and the English group RSK to make a study of the biodiversity impact on the environment in the construction of the said road.

With this document, both the EBRD and the Albanian Development Fund as well, have recognized the project Europort Shengjin and gave it an even greater international dimension, as now this project is also recognized by the World Bank, which had been together with the Government of Albania a co-founder of the Albanian Development Fund.

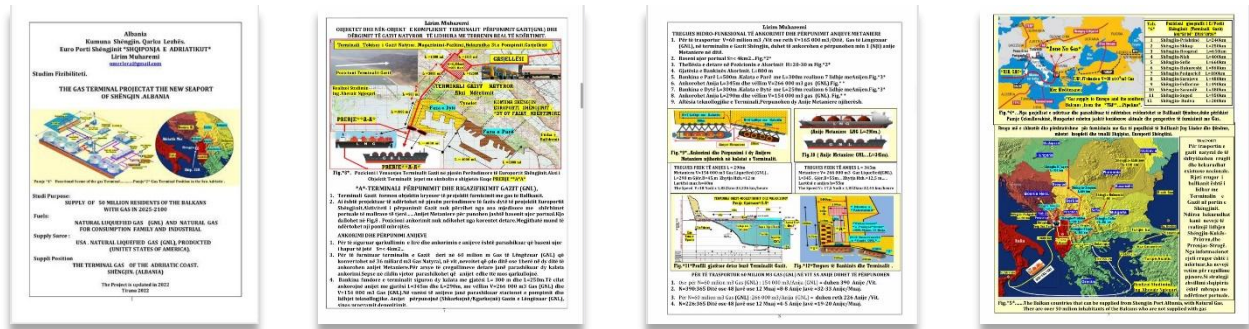
**2020 – 2021:** Forced to stop further international activities relating to the Europort Shengjin *Eagle of the Adriatic* project due to the world "Lockdown" caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**2022:** After the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24th and given the international economic and financial sanctions against the Russian Federation, together with the announcement by the European Union of a complete suspension of imports of Russian natural gas and the announcement of the accelerated construction of LNG terminals across Europe, for which the European Union has already prepared financial resources in the amount of more than €100 billion, the idea of the expansion of the Europort Shengjin project with the LNG terminal and the regasification facilities is born.

According to the instructions of Lirim Muharemi, in the coming months, the expert team in Albania is making the conceptual project for the construction of the LNG terminal and the regasification facilities with an estimated annual capacity of 36 billion m<sup>3</sup> of natural gas (with the

possibility of subsequent extension), which exceeds the entire current gas needs in the Western Balkans together with Slovenia.

This natural gas will be distributed from the expanded Europort Shengjin through gas pipelines in Albania and throughout the Western Balkans (including Slovenia) and Southern Italy via the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), which already runs through Albania and under the Adriatic Sea to Southern Italy.



After the completion of the conceptual project mentioned above, the same expert team, under the instructions of Lirim Muharemi, begins to prepare a conceptual project for the additional expansion of the Europort Shengjin complex with a military naval base to serve the needs of the USA and NATO.

The basic project of Europort Shengjin *Eagle of the Adriatic*, together with the expansion of the project with an LNG terminal and the regasification facilities, as well as the idea of the military naval base Lirim Muharemi, introduces at the beginning of July at the US Embassy in Slovenia to their representative for economic and commercial affairs, Mr. Onejin Wu, and his colleague, Mr. Matjaž Kavčič. They both accept the presented expanded Europort Shengjin project with great affection, such as in terms of the expansion of the Europort Shengjin project with an LNG terminal (where LNG will be supplied from the USA), as well as the preparation of the project for the construction of a military naval base (where Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers will also be able to anchor), and Mr. Onejin Wu also indicates the possibility of cooperation.