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"Citizen participation: From Sherry Arnstein's
ladder to Co-everything"

Experiences of citizen participation in Zagreb

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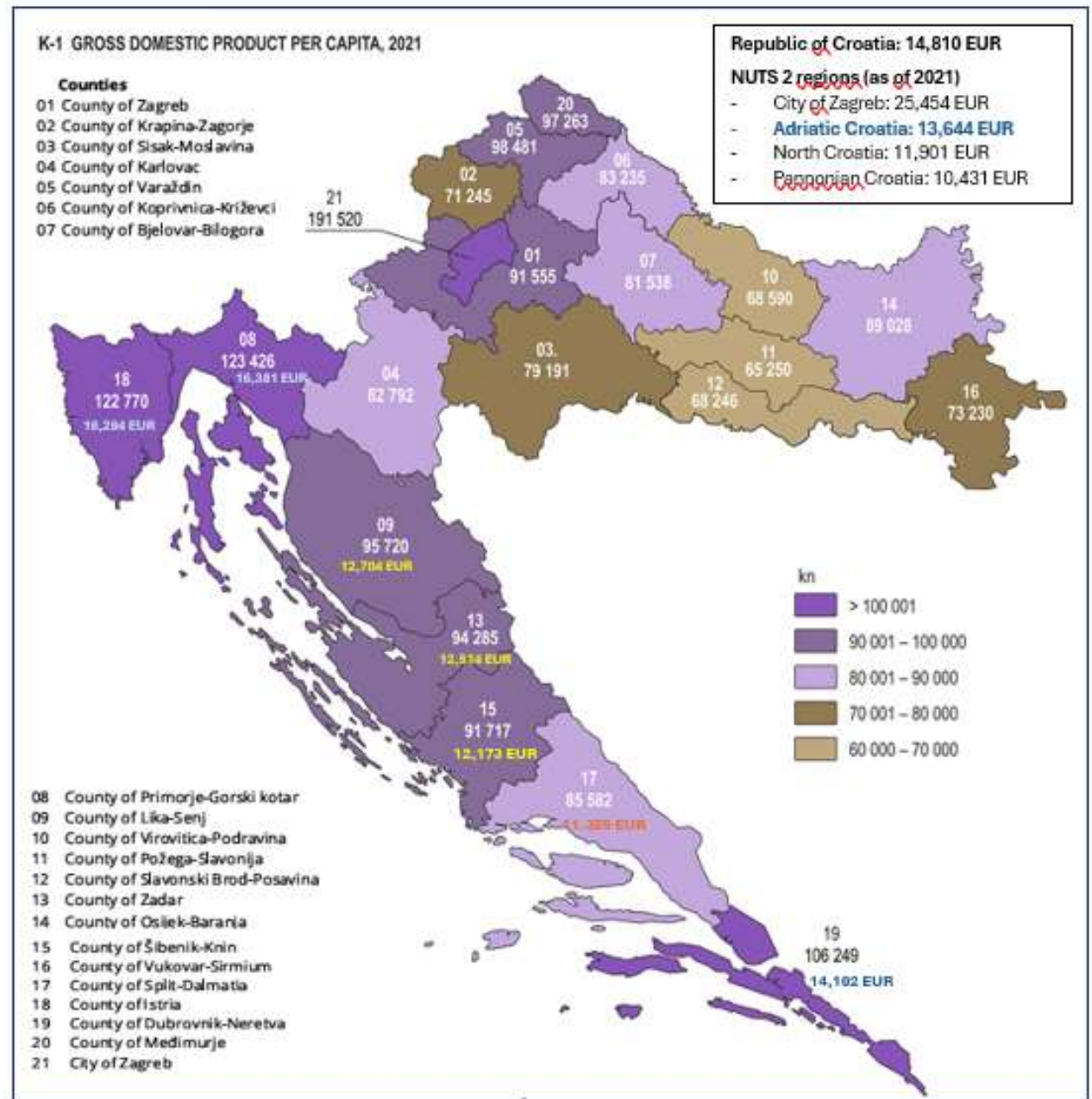


About me



- Background in economics, finance, and regional development policy
- 18 years researcher in local and regional development
- 6 years consultant, evaluator, trainer, lecturer
- Focus on participatory methods in integrated development planning on all governance levels
- President of Croatian Evaluation Society
- Member of Zagreb City Assembly

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



Source: CBS, 2024.

PARTICIPATION IN CROATIA



- Since 2000 and EU Preaccession period
 - Introduction of participation into local development planning – still **dominant top-down**
 - Humanitarian aid projects and EU funded **institution building projects** support participatory approaches incl. civil society – contributing to institutionalisation of participatory methods
- 2013 – onwards – EU member state
 - Stakeholder **consultations** in strategic planning on all governance levels – expert driven
 - **E-consultations** platform for all legislative and strategic documents targeting broader population
 - Project driven attempts to introduce democratic, social and institutional innovations – **participatory budgeting, citizens assemblies ...**

Example of participatory budgeting in Zagreb, Croatia

- Participatory budgeting in Zagreb – pilot project initiated in 2024 in 4 city districts
- Citizens have a direct influence on the decision-making on the spending of part of the public funds allocated by the city budget
- They identify challenges in their neighbourhoods, propose project solutions, and participate in the selection of projects to be financed through the voting process.
- <https://eparticipativno.zagreb.hr/>



Piloting proces:
Proposal submission
and voting system,
funding of 16 selected
neighbourhood
projects through
Communal Action
Plans for 2025



City district – Podsused-Vrapce (44,910 inhabitants)

- design of the skate park - 100,000 EUR

City district – Peščenica-Žitnjak (53,023 inhabitants)

- arrangement of the driveway of Augusta Cesarca Primary School – EUR 40,000
- expansion of the children's playground in Volovcica - EUR 30,000
- landscaping of the Little Prince park - EUR 30,000

City district – Trnje (40,539 inhabitants)

- installation of equipment for children in "motorcycle park" Vrbik - EUR 30,000
- planting trees in the yard of G. Vitez Elementary School - EUR 10,000
- renovation of benches at the G. Vitez elementary school playground - EUR 20,000

City district - Tresnjevka – south (65,324 inhabitants)

- Preparation of project documentation:

- arrangement of the pedestrian path and installation of a bench - 4,000 EUR
- construction of paths on the southeastern part of Hrgovici and Horvacanska streets - EUR 5,000
- reconstruction of the playground at the Srednjaci Kindergarten - EUR 4,000,
- construction of a tartan track in the park of Emil Cossett - EUR 10,000
- drawing a NO STOP zone at Palinovecka street and Kutnjacki put street - 10,000 EUR

- installation of a fence around the children's playground - EUR 6,000
- installation of bollards around the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Slavenski Street and Jarnoviceva Street - EUR 30,000
- installation of 20 benches along the sidewalk from Gredic to the "Stjepan Radic" Student Dormitory - EUR 20,000.