

Vijeće građana Rijeke



Citizens' Assembly of Rijeka

The first experiment with “sortition” in Rijeka

- “Rijeka 2020 – European Capital of Culture”
- 30 members of “Vijeće građana” randomly selected after a public call for volunteers (in 2018 and in 2019)
- The role: decision making on project proposals submitted by the citizens and associations for two ECOC programs (“Civil Initiatives” and “Green Wave”)



The Citizens' Assembly of Rijeka

- **How can the City of Rijeka improve the system of community-level self-government and enhance citizen participation in the development of the local community?**
- 34 randomly selected citizens (Population: 107.964 / 18+: 92.937)
- 7 meetings between 3/11/23 and 7/12/23
- Sponsor: The City of Rijeka
- Organizer: Association for Civil Society Development SMART
- Financial support: Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Background 2022

- First steps in 2022:
 - Meetings and workshops
 - International conference on CA in Rijeka
 - Determining the topic of the CA
 - Project and methodology drafting
 - Fundraising
 - Supported by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Roman Huber

Mehr D



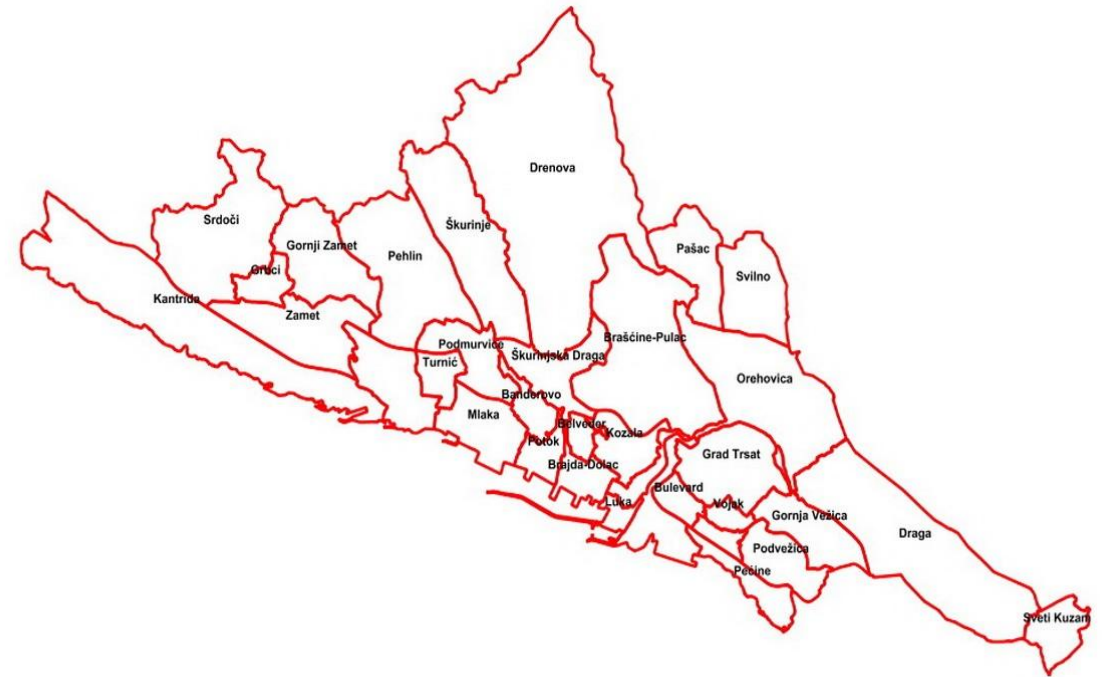
The first official information about the first CA in Rijeka

- May/July 2023
 - The City Council session
 - The first meeting of the Mayor with newly elected members of the local government councils



The topic

- Community-level self-government:
- “A form of direct participation of citizens in decision-making on local activities having direct and daily influence on the life and work of citizens” (since 1993.)
- 34 “neighborhoods” / 34 elected local board councils / 178 elected members
- Voter turnout: 10,27%
- 25 local board secretaries (civil servants)



Sortition – The starting point

- Members and substitutes: 34 + 8
- Households: 64.242 (public information)
- Key demographic: Residence, Gender, Age Group
- Random selection of the 42 starting point households/streets on the press conference
- The eligibility criteria for participation (...)

40 letters of invitation “sortition”



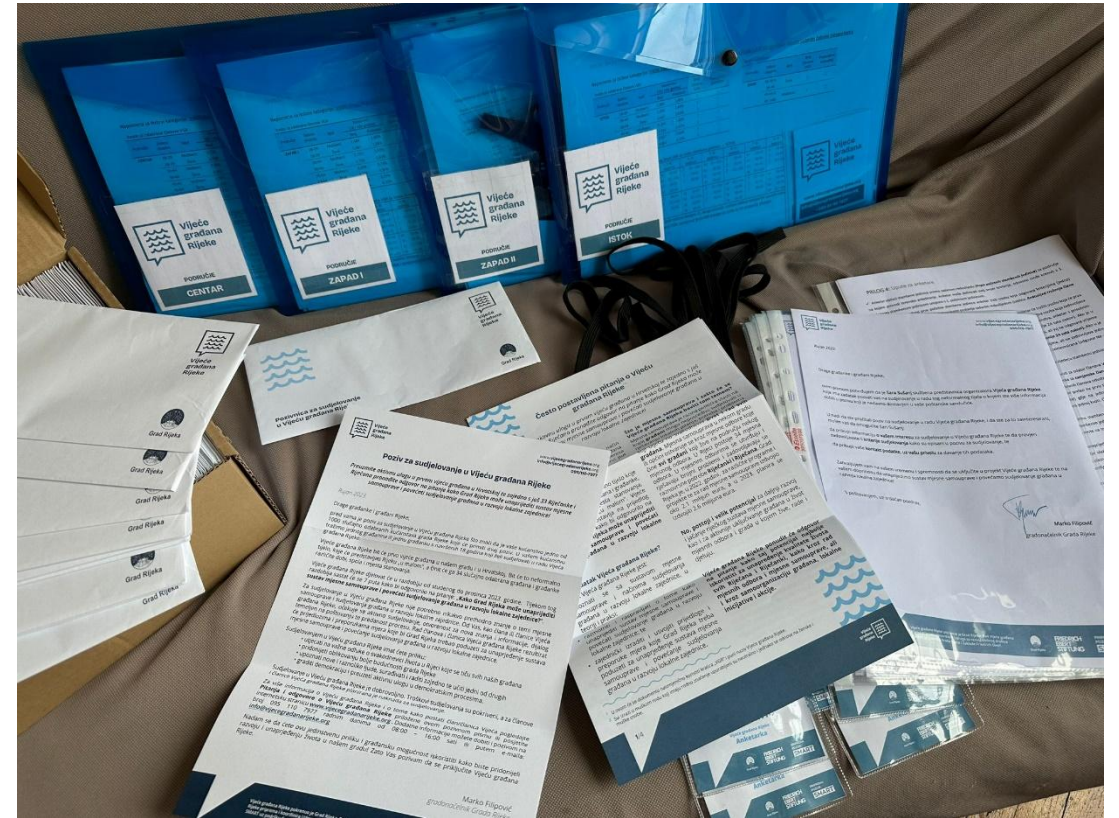
Sortition and Its Principles*

- Randomness (Is the method (near) random?)
 - ✓ Random selection of individuals, **addresses of households** or phone numbers
 - ❑ Filling the seats in an assembly with selected people **by pollsters**
- Representation
 - ✓ Is the **initial composition** of an assembly proportional to the population?
 - ✓ Is the **final composition** of an assembly proportional to the population?
- Equality
 - ✓ Does every citizen have equal chances of being selected **to get an invitation?**
 - ❑ Does everyone participating in the selection process have as equal as possible chances of **being selected as an assembly member?**

Area	Age group	Gender	Residents (18 and over)		Number of CA members
			Number	Percent	
CENTER	18-29	Man	1.723	1,85%	1
	18-29	Woman	1.738	1,87%	1
	30-44	Man	3.096	3,33%	1
	30-44	Woman	3.092	3,33%	1
	45-64	Man	4.263	4,59%	1
	45-64	Woman	4.856	5,23%	2
	65 i više	Man	3.292	3,54%	1
	65 i više	Woman	4.709	5,07%	2
WEST I	18-29	Man	1.484	1,60%	1
	18-29	Woman	1.481	1,59%	1
	30-44	Man	2.715	2,92%	1
	30-44	Woman	2.716	2,92%	1
	45-64	Man	3.479	3,74%	1
	45-64	Woman	4.230	4,55%	1
	65 i više	Man	3.099	3,33%	1
	65 i više	Woman	4.384	4,72%	2
WEST II	18-29	Man	1.366	1,47%	1
	18-29	Woman	1.354	1,46%	1
	30-44	Man	2.501	2,69%	1
	30-44	Woman	2.535	2,73%	1
	45-64	Man	3.526	3,79%	1
	45-64	Woman	3.849	4,14%	1
	65 i više	Man	2.607	2,81%	1
	65 i više	Woman	3.852	4,14%	1
EAST	18-29	Man	1.389	1,49%	1
	18-29	Woman	1.236	1,33%	0
	30-44	Man	2.264	2,44%	1
	30-44	Woman	2.437	2,62%	1
	45-64	Man	3.234	3,48%	1
	45-64	Woman	3.729	4,01%	1
	65 i više	Man	2.637	2,84%	1
	65 i više	Woman	4.064	4,37%	1
Ukupno			92.937	100%	34

Sortition and onboarding

- Letters of invitation + FAQ distribution (21.-24.09.23)
- Door to door (23.09.-13.10.23) with precise protocol for pollsters
- Additional letters of invitation for the age group 18-29 (10.-12.10.23)
- Verification
- Invitation to the first meeting (23.10.23.)
- Reminder (30.-31.10.23)



Submissions and consultations

- Online consultations with (October 2023):
 - elected representatives in local board councils
 - local board councils secretaries
 - other civil servants
 - associations and civic initiatives
 - citizens
- Live consultations Saturday, November 25, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Experts

CA meetings – A brief overview

- Friday, November 3, 18:00 – 20:00, RiHub, opening of the VGR, what will we do and how will we do it?
- Saturday, November 4, 09:00 - 16:00, RiHub, introduction to the system of local self-government (lectures, presentations and discussions)
- Saturday, 11.11., 09:00 - 16:00, RiHub, introduction to the citizen participation in decision-making and examples of good practice (lectures, presentations and discussions)
- Saturday, November 25, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., City of Rijeka, talks and consultations with elected representatives in local board councils, local board secretaries, heads of city departments and other civil servants, associations and civic initiatives
- Sunday, November 26, 09:00 - 16:00, RiHub, recommendations drafting (small groups and discussions)
- Friday, December 1, 18:00 – 20:00, RiHub, adoption of the recommendations
- Thursday, December 7, 18:00 – 20:00, City of Rijeka, submission of the recommendations to the Mayor

Opening of the CA Rijeka - what will we do and how will we do it?



Introduction to the system of local self-government (lectures, presentations and discussions)



Introduction to the citizen participation in decision-making and examples of good practice (lectures, presentations and discussions)



Conversations and consultations with relevant stakeholders (panel discussions and work in small groups)

- presidents of councils of local committees (9)
- City employees (9)
- head of the Administrative Department for Communal System and Transport and the Administrative Department for Urban Planning, Spatial Planning and Construction of the City of Rijeka
- representatives of Rijeka associations and civic
tives



Work on proposals and recommendations (work in small groups and discussions)

- Informing: How to increase the level of information and interest of citizens about local self-government and the possibilities of involvement in the development of the local community?
- Education: How to improve/increase the knowledge and skills of all relevant actors (VMO members, MoD secretaries, citizens, city officials, associations) in the system of local self-government and on what topics?
- Involvement: In what ways can the involvement and participation of citizens in local committees and activities for the development of the local community be increased?
- Participation: In what ways can citizens' participation in decision-making processes in local committees and the local community be increased?
- Local self-government: How to increase efficiency in meeting the needs of citizens and solving problems in the system of local self-government?



Proposals and recommendations of CA measures (voting)



Submission of the Work Report, members' letters and 90 proposals and recommendations of the CA to the Mayor



First meeting in 2024 – City of Rijeka accepted 48 CA recommendations



Conclusion

- Preparation
- Support for inclusion and participation
- Facilitators
- Associates
- Visibility and promotion
- Recordings of lectures and presentations
- Evaluations
- Report and documentation

- **More information:**

- <https://vijecegradanarijeke.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/VijecegradanaRijeke>

