

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

BANJA LUKA 2024 - Bosnia and Herzegovina

? Banja Luka wants to support innovation, sustainable development, and create new jobs in order to reduce the emigration of young people. ***How can we effectively support young entrepreneurs in our community?***

The Assembly gathered **40 citizens** of Banja Luka, selected randomly to reflect the demographic and geographic diversity of the city. Following three days of learning phase and three days of deliberation, a total of **20 preliminary recommendations** were formulated. Following a discussion with City Councillors, participants finalised their proposals.

Recommendations (highlights)

- Introduce entrepreneurship as a regular subject in primary schools through co-operation between the City and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska.
- Organise and finance an annual entrepreneurship competition for high school students, rewarding the best business ideas.
- Continue regular annual trainings for young people on entrepreneurship through the Entrepreneurship Centre.
- Develop a dedicated website for the Entrepreneurship Centre of Banja Luka to provide information, tools, and services for entrepreneurs.
- Establish a financial fund within the City budget to provide subsidies and start-up capital support for young entrepreneurs.

"Compromise is always possible, but it takes a little goodwill for people to sit down to talk or at least to listen. I think that listening to different viewpoints and what others have to say is the key to everything".

Assembly member, Banja Luka 2024

Impact

The local administration turned the recommendations into an Action Plan. Some recommendations are already being implemented by the City Administration:

- Secured financial funds to provide subsidies and start-up capital support for young entrepreneurs;
- Tax and salary contribution subsidies for young entrepreneurs;
- With the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, a dedicated website for the Entrepreneurship Center of Banja Luka was developed;
- Banja Luka is leading continuous talks with other levels of governance in order to ensure better investment environment for youth entrepreneurs.

THE CONGRESS LE CONGRÈS COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE