

“Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

European Conference on Democratic renewal: innovating with deliberative democracy

Hotel “Mepas”, Mostar, Kneza Višeslava bb and online

20-21 September 2022

ZOOM: [Link to join](#)

Meeting ID: 829 6862 0594

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Context

The implementation of deliberative processes paves the way towards more collaborative governance and stronger commitments of local authorities to open government principles. In the current context of multiple crisis, innovating democracy is key to go beyond polarisation, especially in multicultural societies, so that citizens engagement and trust in democracy is enhanced.

The use of deliberative democracy as valuable complements to the representative democracy was recognised in the latest Congress Report (2022) [“Beyond elections: The use of deliberative methods in European municipalities and regions”](#). Following up on the successful [first Citizens’ Assembly in the city of Mostar](#), and the unanimous adoption of citizens’ recommendations by the Mostar City Council, this European Conference on Deliberative Democracy, which is organised in a hybrid format, is aimed at further promoting these approaches in the country and across Europe.

The Conference seeks to identify the main challenges of deliberative democracy as well as to present good practices in different European contexts. The discussions will delve into some topical issues around these types of innovative processes, including their follow up, their institutionalisation, their potential to empower underrepresented groups, or their use as valuable tools to complement other participatory initiatives. A wide range of local authorities, policymakers and researchers from across Europe will participate in the peer exchange, aiming to capitalise on the good practices and recommendations presented in order to enhance the replication and multiplication of deliberative processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in South-East Europe.

This conference is organised in the framework of the project “Innovating democratic participation at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The project is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2025](#). The project aims to enhance the quality of local democracy and create opportunities for citizens to engage in innovative participatory processes in Mostar and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It promotes new democratic approaches, open government, public ethics, transparent and inclusive local policy making in the country.

Contact

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PROGRAMME

20 September 2022: Deliberative democracy in Europe

09:30 – 10:00 Welcome coffee & registration

Congress Hall Queen, Hotel Mepas

10:00 – 10:15 Official opening remarks

Mario KORDIĆ, Mayor of the City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rafael BENÍTEZ, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Bojana URUMOVA, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo

Moderation by Nikola Vučić

10:15 – 11:15 The state of deliberative democracy in Europe: a growing and consolidating successful trend

This session introduces the latest developments of the practice of deliberative processes around European regions and municipalities. The discussion will be centred around the potentialities they might entail to foster an innovative democracy closer to the citizens.

Karl Heinz LAMBERTZ, Congress Rapporteur on the use of deliberative methods at local and regional level

Claudia CHWALISZ, Founder Democracy Next Institute

Moderation by Nikola Vučić

11:15 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00 ROUND TABLE I: Follow-up on deliberative processes: enhancing credibility and impact of citizens recommendations

The Congress report [“Beyond elections: The use of deliberative methods in European municipalities and regions”](#) highlights the importance of the follow-up as one of the key elements in design of deliberative processes. The discussion will analyse wide range of aspects that are at stake, such as authorities’ commitment or citizens’ trust or disillusionment.

Salem MARIĆ, President of the City Council of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Monika CHABIOR, Deputy Mayor of the City of Gdansk, Poland

David FARRELL, Professor, University College Dublin, Ireland

Moderation by Nikola Vučić

Open discussion

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch at Restaurant Prestige, Hotel Mepas

14:15 – 15:45 ROUND TABLE II: Institutionalisation of deliberative processes: the pathways and challenges towards more collaborative local decision-making

This session explores the institutionalisation of deliberative processes and different ways in which this can be achieved, touching upon the effects on decision-making processes, public trust and capacities for civic participation.

André DURAMOIS, Head of the Citizens Engagement Department of the City of Paris, France

Magali PLOVIE, President of the French-Speaking Parliament of the Brussels Region, Belgium

Moderation by Nikola Vučić

Open discussion

15:45 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:45 OPEN DISCUSSION I: Deliberative processes as a complement to other participatory initiatives

Increasing citizens participation and civic engagement is essential to enhance democratic values. This session will analyse how deliberative processes can complement other participatory initiatives at local and/or regional level and thereby further enhance citizens' participation in decision making processes.

The plenary will be split in groups, one of them online, and moderated by Nikola Vučić, Damir Kapidžić and Claudia Chwalisz. The main inputs will be reported back in the plenary.

17:45 – 18:00 Conclusions and announcement of the day 2

18:00 Dinner at Restaurant Prestige, Hotel Mepas

09:30 – 10:45 ROUND TABLE III: The challenge and need of adopting an inclusive approach: bridging differences in multicultural societies through deliberative processes

Deliberative processes can entail a wide range of social and human rights benefits, which call for inclusive approach in their implementation since the outset. This round table will focus on the added value of adopting this approach to ensure meaningful participation of citizens, especially in multicultural societies.

Stewart DICKSON, Congress Rapporteur on the observation of local and regional elections / Northern Ireland Assembly, United Kingdom

Erika CAPASSO, President of Urban Innovation Foundation, Delegate for Districts and Civic Imagination of the City of Bologna, Italy

Tülin HADI, President of Istanbul Citizens' Assembly of the City of Istanbul, Türkiye

Moderation by Damir KAPIDŽIĆ

Open discussion

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:45 OPEN DISCUSSION II: Deliberative processes as useful tool to empower underrepresented societal groups

How women, youth and other underrepresented societal groups can be more engaged into civic participation? This session will discuss on the innovative approaches and mechanisms to adopt to empower underrepresented societal groups, aiming at increasing their active participation in the public arena.

The plenary will be split in groups, one of them online and moderated by Nikola Vučić, Damir Kapidžić and Claudia Chwalisz. The main inputs will be reported back in the plenary.

12:45 – 13:00 Closing remarks

Radmila KOMADINA, Advisor to the City of Mostar

Rafael BENITEZ, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

13:00 – 14:00 Closing reception / lunch at Restaurant Prestige, Hotel Mepas