

Banja Luka, 14 june 2016.

COMMONS! CREATIVE WAYS OF ACTIVISM AND PARTICIPATION

Polluted Air in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Tuzla, the second most polluted city in Europe*
- Sarajevo – the most polluted capital of Europe*
- High air pollution levels also registered in Zenica, Lukavac, Prijedor, Banjaluka, Kakanj, ...

*WHO Global Urban Ambient Pollution Database, 2016.

December 2013., Air Pollution Episode in Sarajevo

- 5 days with hazardous levels of PM₁₀ (per US EPA standard)
- How authorities reacted:
 - “air pollution – the cost of urban living”, Federal Hydro-Meteorological Institute
 - “for protection of health, wear scarves over your mouth and turn on the kitchen filters “, official advice of Sarajevo Canton Public Health Institute
 - “some parents want to extend their New Year holidays”, Sarajevo Canton Prime Minister, after we had requested closure of schools

December 2014., Protest in Zenica



December 2015., Air Pollution Episode

- Two months of high and persistent air pollution
- Public Debate on air pollution in Sarajevo, 19 December



Dr. Bakir Nakaš (former manager of the city hospital) press statement on air pollution impact on health

December 2015., Air Pollution Episode



- For the first time in Sarajevo, citizens wearing masks. 22 December
- Schools closed, 23 December

December 2015., Air Pollution Episode - Aftermath

- Government response:
 - Sarajevo Canton
 - Air monitoring stations relocated to positions with cleaner air, next to the river, contrary to the existing recommendations.
 - Participation in District heating project (UNEP) used to shift attention
 - All other government levels all but ignored the problem

December 2015., Air Pollution Episode - Aftermath

Mjesto	Indeks kvaliteta zraka	Kvalitet zraka
Banja Luka	119	Nezdrav za osjetljive grupe
Brod	107	Nezdrav za osjetljive grupe
Čelić	90	Umjereno zagađen
Jajce	66	Umjereno zagađen
Goražde	105	Nezdrav za osjetljive grupe
Lukavac	166	Nezdrav
Prijedor	95	Umjereno zagađen
Sarajevo	155	Nezdrav
Tuzla	169	Nezdrav
Ugljevik	59	Umjereno zagađen
Zenica	157	Nezdrav

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What to do next?

- Inform citizens on levels of air pollution and how to protect themselves
 - Hourly Air quality index
 - web site, FB, twitter, mobile application
 - posters and leaflets to be distributed to sensitive groups (schools, ambulances, hospitals, ...)
- Legal action?

Small hydroelectric plant in National park “Una”

- **16 July, 2015.**

- Bihać City Assembly approved concession for construction of small hydroelectric plant in National park “Una”
- 20 citizens protested in front of the Bihać City Hall
- Conversion of rotten tomatoes to stones and its impact on decision making

- **23 July, 2015.**

- Bihać City Assembly reversed their decision

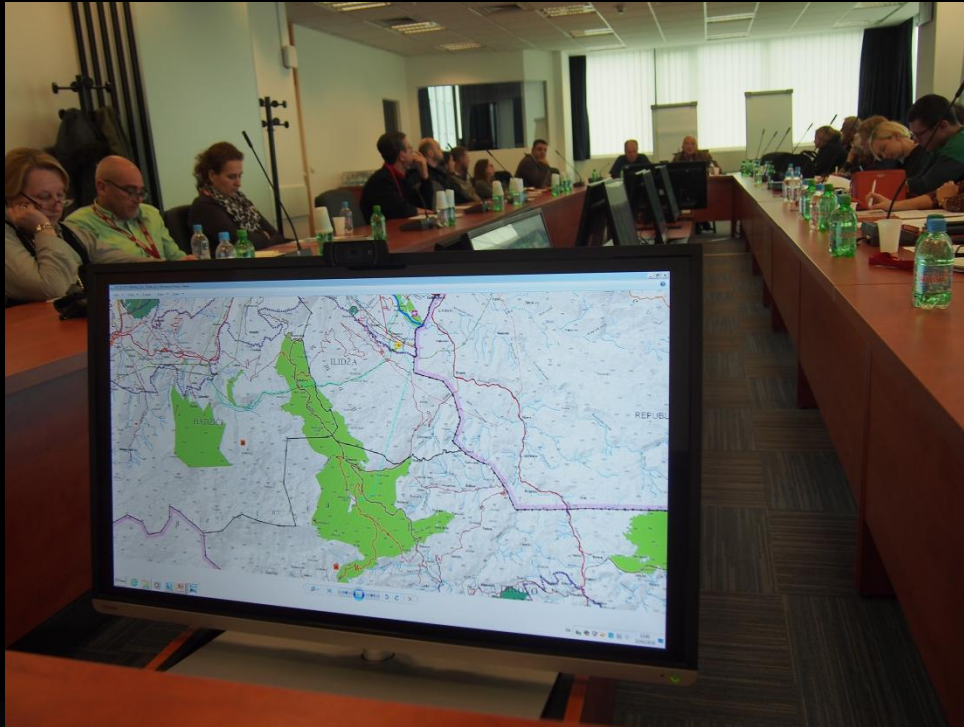
The battle won, but the war has continued...



Sarajevo Water Supply

- Year 2010: Sarajevo Canton Public Health Institute officially announced discovery of fecal bacteria in sources of city water supply.
- Apartments on Bjelašnica identified as source of pollution.
- Polluters did not pay - 5 million Euros of public money spent so far to fix the broken sewage.
- Built without environmental permit.
- Buroj Ozone – settlement for 40 000 tourists
- No environmental permit again.
- Investor driven planning - New Cantonal Spatial Plan proposal to facilitate construction everywhere.

Sarajevo Water Supply



- Citizens public debates
- Media attention
- Legal action

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