

## INTRODUCTION

For the first time in the City of Mostar, a Citizens' Assembly will be held, which will enable citizens to participate in the preparation of proposals for addressing topics important for the local community. This is a specific form of democracy called "deliberative" democracy, in which a group of randomly selected citizens discusses a particular topic or issue, aiming to choose a topic that is extremely important to the city and its citizens, who will be able to hear different facts and opinions on the selected issue, including the exchange of opinions with experts in the field.

As the first phase being realised within the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar", implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021, in co-operation with a professional agency for social research and public opinion polling Prism Research & Consulting, an "online" survey was organised, available to all citizens of the City of Mostar, over the age of 16, through which they had the opportunity to propose topics they consider to be crucial for their city.

In parallel, a promotional online advertising campaign was organised, as well as an invitation to the citizens of Mostar to take part in this project. The campaign was conducted through various channels and platforms of electronic advertising, including social networks and internet portals.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the period from 13th to 26th of April 2021, the total number of citizens who participated in the survey was 1068. The data collection process and the promotional advertising online campaign (called) "gradiMO" were implemented from April 13th to April 26th, 2021, during which **1826** votes were collected, and **1068** citizens of the City of Mostar participated

During the period of participation (in the survey), the citizens of Mostar selected a number of topics that are broadly organised in the following major categories:

The target population for the survey was the citizens of Mostar, living in one of the 6 city areas: South, Southeast, Southwest, North, Old Town, and West. Respondents who did not meet the mentioned conditions or refused to give information about their residential area - were excluded from the Survey. The total number of the excluded respondents was 41.

For the purpose of the first phase of research, a short questionnaire was created on the professional online platform for data collection - "Survey System". Through the advertising system of the social networks, websites, and other internet channels, a promotion campaign was organised with the aim of attracting as many citizens of Mostar as possible to participate in the survey, proposing key topics as part of the project *"Building democratic participation in the city of Mostar"*.

The section of the survey where participants could suggest their topic was created in the form of an open-ended question where one participant could suggest one or more topics. The answers were grouped by thematic content, then by thematic categories to which they belong, and further into subcategories within the thematic categories, for the purpose of quantitative data processing and calculation of the number of votes.

Although the instructions were made for one respondent to propose one topic, some respondents suggested up to five topics, and the sum of votes was defined at the level of the proposed topic, not at the number of research participants. Ultimately, **1068** citizens of Mostar took part in the nomination, a total of **68** topics were proposed, and the total number of votes was **1826**.

During the period of participation (in the survey), the citizens of Mostar selected a number of topics that are broadly organised in the following major categories:

- Ecology
- Infrastructure
- Healthy living, sports, and culture
- Economy and tourism
- Support for the youth of the City of Mostar
- Social topics
- Landscaping of the city and city areas
- Security of citizens and police work
- Law, politics, and administrative topics

Taking into account all proposed topics, hereafter in Table 1, you will find 20 topics with the largest number of votes

Table 1 – Top 20 topics

RB	TOPICS	Total	% Total
1	Cleaning and maintaining the cleanliness of the city	282	15.4%
2	Solving the problem of the landfill "Uborak" (closing, relocation)	128	7.0%
3	Construction, renovation, and arrangement of parks, green areas, and parks with a playground for children	125	6.8%
4	Renovation and construction of transport infrastructure and roads	95	5.2%
5	Creating new jobs, tackling unemployment	90	4.9%
6	Restoration or removal of devastated buildings	74	4.1%
7	Social policy, financial assistance to families with children, parturient woman, the elderly, and infirm	66	3.6%
8	Solving the problem of illegal building, with demolition, or legalization	64	3.5%
9	Trash containers, bins, and waste disposal	61	3.3%
10	Solving the parking issue and building new parking spaces	49	2.7%
11	Investing in the education system, investing in children and youth	48	2.6%
12	General security issue in the city, greater police engagement	48	2.6%
13	River and environmental protection, renewable energy, and ecology in general	44	2.4%
14	Unification of the city, solving the problem of nationalism	40	2.2%
15	Other utility problems	33	1.8%
16	Solving traffic safety problems, adequate sanctions for violators, setting up cameras, child safety	33	1.8%
17	Solving the problem of corruption, misuse of authority, the problem of nepotism in various spheres, work, employment	33	1.8%
18	Infrastructure, in general	33	1.8%
19	Support in youth employment, help in starting own business	32	1.8%
20	A solution to the problem of wastewater collectors, utility infrastructure	31	1.7%

The online survey is organised in the framework of the project [“Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar”](#) within the [Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021](#). The aim of the project is to create opportunities for citizens to engage in a deliberative process and increase their contribution to local decision-making. In turn, this process will foster dialogue at local level and contribute to the revitalisation of democratic processes in the City of Mostar.