

# gradimo

Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



Grad Mostar

The Congress



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The project “Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar” aims to create opportunities for citizens to engage in a deliberative process and participate in local decision making, with the ultimate goal of revitalising citizens’ confidence and trust in public authorities.

The project is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021, and in line with the principles enshrined in the European Charter for Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122) and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No.207).

## OUTCOMES

- ▶ Local authorities, citizens and civil society organisations apply new deliberation tools and mechanisms
- ▶ Local stakeholders improve their skills and knowledge about democratic approaches
- ▶ Local decision-makers create favourable conditions for enhanced citizen engagement

## METHODOLOGY

A tailored methodology for Mostar will be used to allow citizens to deliberate on topics of interest and make proposals for local politicians to create more responsive and accountable policies. Deliberation is a more advanced practice of citizen participation being used in many communities where local, regional or national authorities want to include representative groups of citizens in decision making.

The deliberative process consists of four main phases: selection of citizens, learning and capacity building consultation and deliberation. During each phase, a comprehensive participation of different stakeholders is ensured, ranging from the general public to interest groups, NGOs and local political parties. This leads to more rounded and informed public opinion and arguably better decisions. Ultimately, it leads to increased trust towards local authorities.

The support includes expert support and guidance, as well as capacity development activities for local decision-makers, politicians and other relevant stakeholders.



## EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ Citizens implement a tailored deliberative process in the City of Mostar
- ▶ Citizens formulate proposals for local decision-makers
- ▶ Local stakeholders develop their capacities to implement democratic approaches based on citizen deliberation
- ▶ Local stakeholders debate lessons-learned to identify the best applicable models of citizen participation
- ▶ Local stakeholders improve their knowledge of European standards of local democracy, electoral systems, open government, public ethics and strategic planning at local level

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Piloting a tailored methodology for citizen deliberations in the City of Mostar
- ▶ Capacity development activities and workshops

## PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ City of Mostar
- ▶ Citizens of Mostar
- ▶ Civil society and citizen groups
- ▶ Media

The Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021 is a strategic programming instrument that aims to bring Bosnia and Herzegovina's legislation, institutions and practice further into line with European standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The Action Plan aims to support the country in meeting its obligations as a Council of Europe member State.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

[www.coe.int/congress-cooperation](http://www.coe.int/congress-cooperation)

### Council of Europe Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

[www.coe.int/sarajevo](http://www.coe.int/sarajevo)

### Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018 – 2021

[www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/bosnia-and-herzegovina](http://www.coe.int/en/web/programmes/bosnia-and-herzegovina)

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[www.coe.int/congress](http://www.coe.int/congress)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all the members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 150 000 local and regional authorities.

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