

Bijeljina becomes a Great Place to Live supported by the Agenda 2030

Workshop with students from Bijeljina

30th and 31st of May, 2019

hosted by the City of Bijeljina



pulswerk
Das Beratungsunternehmen des
Österreichischen Ökologie-Instituts

Workshop design, moderation, organisation and documentation by
Ankica Todorović (City of Bijeljina/Local Economic Development and European
Integration) and Nadia Prauhart (pulswerk GmbH)

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Authors:

Ankica Todorović (City of Bijeljina, Local Economic Development and European Integration) and Nadia Prauhart (pulswerk gmbh). The authors tried to collect and summarize the ideas of the participants – no matter if they agree or not with several thoughts and ideas.

Contacts:

ankica.todorovic@gradbijeljina.org,
prauhart@pulswerk.at

Opening

Ankica Todorović, Mile Pejčić

thank for the participation of such a large number of students and explain the goals of the two-days-workshop. The goals are to ask the young people what they think is necessary to improve to enhance living in the city. They want to encourage them to come up with new ideas to see how they can support them, as it is important for the city that young persons don't leave after they studies. They provided an overview of what is expecting the participants in the two-days-workshop.

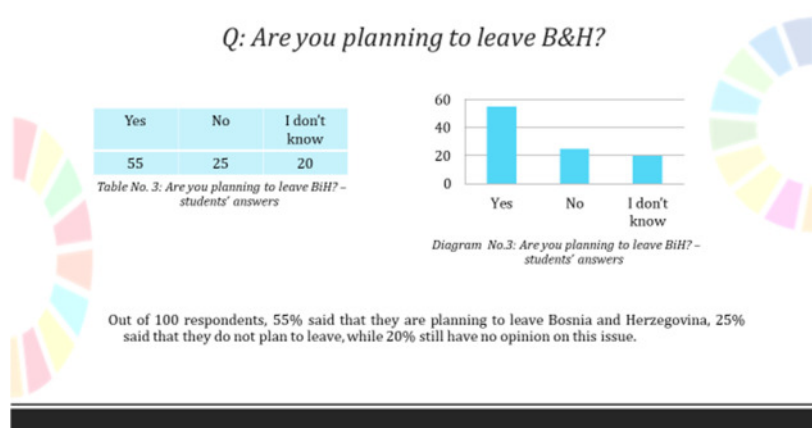
Presentation of the Results of the Survey

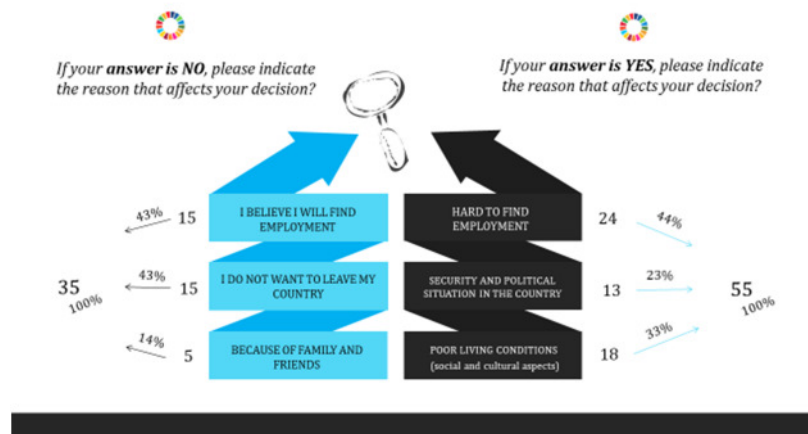
Ankica Todorović

The Section for Local Economic Development and European Integration has conducted a survey with students from Bijeljina, in the period from 19-27 April 2019. The goal of this survey was to get more information on future plans of the students to take this into account in general and to consider the results for the design of the two-days-workshop.

The survey was unanimous and reached 100 graduate students (60 female, 40 male) who study at various Faculties in Bijeljina. Out of the total number of surveyed, 65 live in the urban part of the City, while 35 live in the rural part. Out of 100 respondents, 55% said that they are planning to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina, 25% said that they do not plan to leave, while 20% still have no opinion on this issue.

Difficulties to find a job, unstable political and security situation and poor living conditions (cultural and social aspects) are the factors identified to be crucial for the students' decision to leave the country. On the question for those who stated that they want to leave, what could influence the change of their decision, stated mostly employment as crucial. Those who stated that they do not want to leave the country (26%), alleged as main reasons: believe in finding employment, do not want to leave their country, or do not want to leave their family and friends.

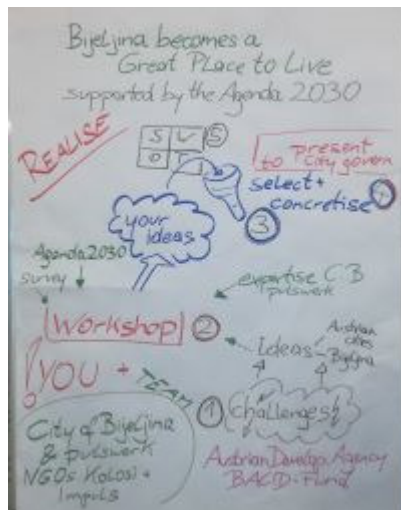




Find the whole survey in English and Serbian language in the Annex.

Presentation of the project

Nadia Prauhart, pulswerk GmbH



“Bijeljina becomes a Great Place to Live – supported by the Agenda 2030”

The overall goal of the project is to support the City of Bijeljina on its way to be an attractive place to stay and live for young people after their studies. The method is to listen to the young citizens in order to support them in developing their ideas on a good life for all in the city. For one to two of the selected ideas we try to get funding to make them reality. The realisation of the ideas is not part of this project.

Project lead: pulswerk GmbH/subsidiary company of the Austrian Institute of Ecology with partners: City of Bijeljina, NGO Impuls, NGO Kolosi, young students/participants of the workshop.

Steps in the project:

- Map on challenges which the city of Bijeljina faces and already successfully realised ideas to address similar challenges in Austrian cities as well as projects realised by the City of Bijeljina
- Workshop with students:
Basis for the workshop design: Map challenges-ideas, expertise of City of Bijeljina, expertise of pulswerk in ideation and participation processes, survey on “to stay or to leave BiH” (see above), Agenda 2030
- Collection of ideas from the students for a good life in Bijeljina
- Selection of realisable ideas
- Analysis of strengths and opportunities, weaknesses and threats of chosen ideas, first assessment of feasibility of the ideas
- Presentation of the chosen ideas to decision makers in the city
- Conclusion on one to two concrete ideas that shall be realised
- Application for funding for chosen ideas

Presentation of the Agenda 2030

Ankica Todorović, Mile Pejčić

Ankica and Mile present the Agenda 2030 in general and the implementation in BiH (RS) and in Bijeljina.

Find the whole presentation in Serbian language in the Annex.

Some statements of the participants

- Why do people go to Germany and other countries and work in jobs that are lower than their education?
- Awareness raising is needed.
- It is not enough to talk and promise actions, the institutions and authorities need to realise concrete actions.
- When there are elections the promises are high, but then the level of realisation of the promised activities is very low.
- Politicians need to see the big picture.

Presentation of the NGO Kolosi

Jović Milorad

- goals of Kolosi, its members and activities
- network of 13 NGOs, 2540 members
- 2010 UN convention: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>
- How to achieve the UN convention for persons with disabilities – there is money, but it is not properly invested.
- Action plan on level of city for people with disabilities
- MyRight programme enhances status of people with disabilities
- Discrimination: until 18 years disabled people get 100 KM, than not anymore
- talented people, don't focus on disabilities
- Logo – fly to be free and take your rights.
- Integrations: presents different models,
- Inclusion: focus on society and not on disability as a problem
- Model human rights: Kolosi follows this model
- Obstacle analysis – equality – equity

<http://myright.ba/kolosi-bijeljina>

Presentation of the NGO Impuls

Tanja Milinković gives an insight in how NGOs function, how they work and how people can engage. Impuls works with women with various disabilities.

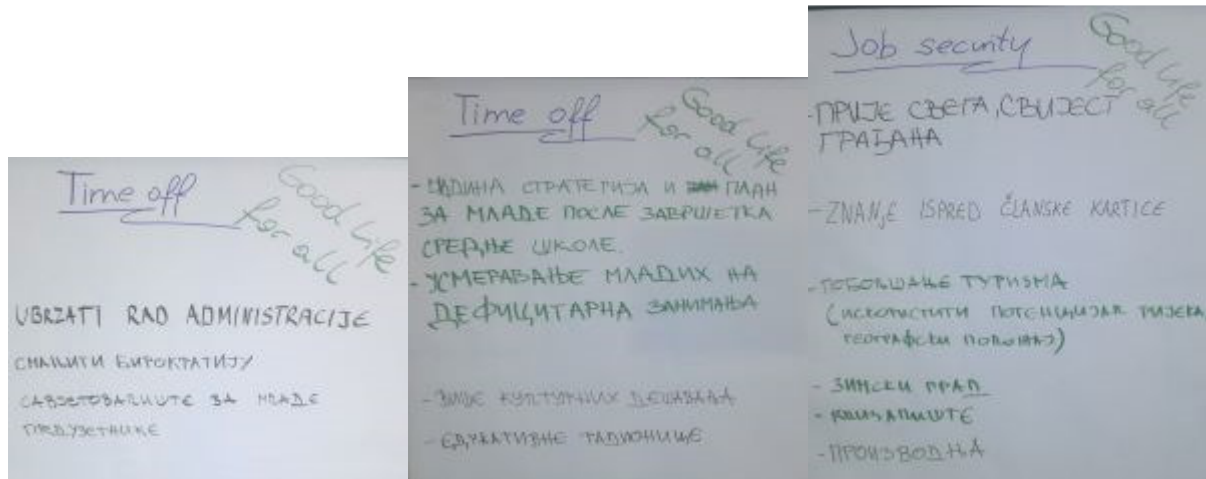
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFK7Wf-Vfpw>

<http://impuls.rs.ba>

Coffee break

Moving brainstorming - rapid ideation

The participants were invited to write down their ideas, with focus on cultural and social offers, job security and entrepreneurship. The overall focus was “a good life for all”.



Time off:

- speed up the work of administration
- less bureaucracy
- a place where young entrepreneurs can get advice and support
- government plan and strategy for young people after they finish their high school
- educational workshop
- more cultural events
- more jobs, more deficit work places

Job security:

- knowledge first- not political parties first
- improving tourism (use potential of rivers and the good geographic position)
- winter city/Christmas market
- ice skating
- domestic production

Interactive sessions

In two sessions we worked on the SDG tool and on the development of ideas: cultural and social offers; job security/entrepreneurship. After 45-50 minutes the groups changed.

SDG UN BiH Interactive Tool

Two groups per session participated in the SDG UN BiH interactive tool

All participants are divided into groups of 6. Each group must coordinate 1 SDG (out of the total of 17) to be addressed during the workshop, as well as the relevant target – all members of the group vote and agree by consensus on one SDG and one TARGET within the selected SDG and, after writing down the target, the card is placed at the centre of the base.

1. SELECTION OF VALUE CARDS - The trainer explains what the value cards are, reads each card aloud and puts all available cards on the base.

a. Each group member picks 1 card and elaborates his/her selection, and then places it near the target card already placed on the base

b. Each member receives 3 tokens and places them on the "best" card (other than his/her own card). The same process is repeated with ACTIVITY CARDS, ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM/MECHANISM CARDS and OPPORTUNITIES, BOTTLENECKS, DIFFICULTIES, RESTRICTIONS CARDS.

At the end, the GROUP SELECTS 3 ADDITIONAL SDG that are complementing the selected SDG and places them on the board.

After the whole procedure, one representative of each of the groups presents to all participants the work done by his/her respective group and how they think the selected SDG/target can be reached.



Development of ideas

Two groups per session worked on the development of ideas.

Regarding leisure time, the participants had some similar ideas on quality public space (music in public space, sports activities, open air cinema), theatre, educational workshops, volunteering and participation.

Regarding entrepreneurship and job security support of young entrepreneurs is important to all. Some suggestions were of systemic character or address other institutions than the city government, eg. faculties. Nevertheless they are recorded.

*Groups on Leisure time/Time off***1st round:**

- help/support in sport activities to the poor persons
- sports activities
- ecological actions (e.g. cleaning up activities)
- participation initiatives (more involvement)
- NGO sector
- walking path with music
- Don't forget about the rural area.
- music at public space
- volunteering
- humanitarian work
- playgrounds for all children
- socialising at public spaces
- open & closed sports terrains
- workshop for enhancement of skills
- creative workshops
- theatre, cinema

Picture of the results of the group work on Leisure time/Time off (1st round)**2nd round:**

- Social and cultural happenings
- School for swimming for youngest for free
- Use the potential of the rivers (regatta, rafting, sports terrains, arrange the shores, pathway)
- Zoo
- Discount for students (food, drinks, entrance tickets) in connection with loans advantages for students
- Organising an event such as a Christmas Market at the square and an ice skating area
- Small entrepreneurs (lemonade, cookies) – also in connection with humanitarian purposes for children with disabilities
- Street work out
- Educational workshops for the youngest, different classes (sections) – additional classes in school
- Rent a bike
- Sports terrains
- Bijeljina festival with local bands
- Cinema at public space

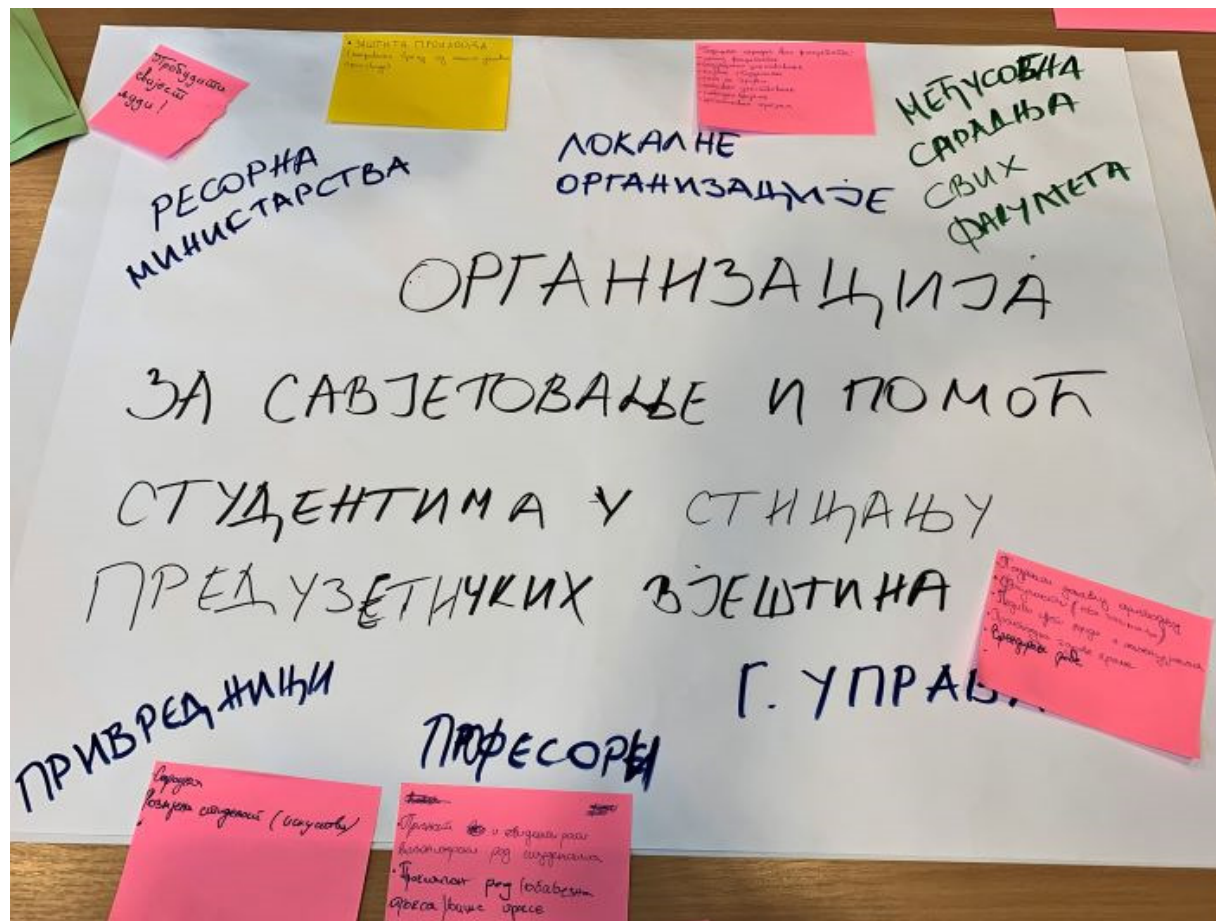


Picture of the results of the group work on Leisure time/Time off (2nd round)

Groups on Job security/Entrepreneurship

1st round:

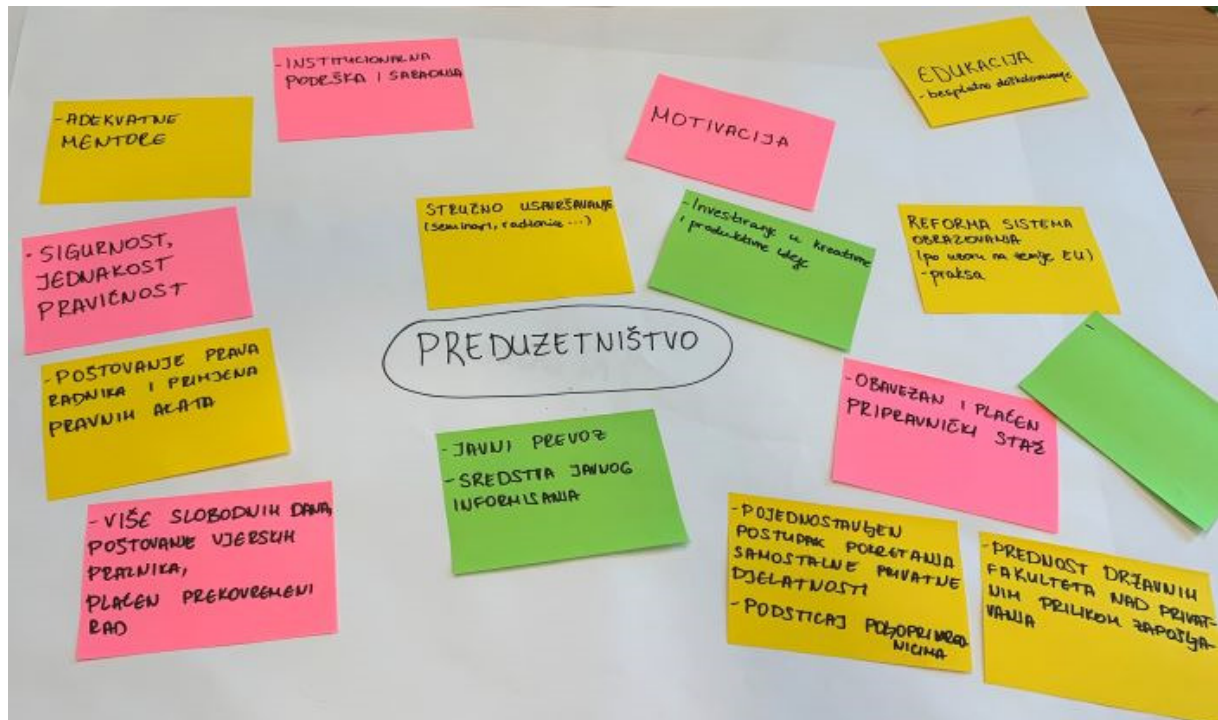
- Organisation for advising and helping students in achieving entrepreneurship skills
- Brand of domestic products
- Raise awareness of people in general, change the mind-set (what rights do people have, where do they get information)
- volunteering certificate (recognised and evidenced)
- practical work during studies
- raising awareness about subventions and other opportunities for students (support), e.g. exchange of students
- develop entrepreneurship spirit with the youngest in preschool (add: primary school)
- business sector, professors, city government as supporters
- support of local production
- new professions at faculties in line with the economic demands
- Production of healthy food (and domestic production)
- Branding of products
- Annual cooperation between various faculties



Picture of the results of the group work on Job security/Entrepreneurship (1st round)

2nd round:

- Entrepreneurship skills/training
- Motivation
- Education, free training (additional training)
- Investment in creative and productive ideas
- Security, equality, fairness
- Education system reform needed urgently, nobody is doing it in line with the EU countries
- more practical classes
- obligatory and paid volunteer work
- simplified procedure for starting entrepreneurship
- subvention for farmers
- give priority to people from public faculties than to people from private faculties
- public transport
- better outreach regarding public information
- institutional support and cooperation
- adequate mentors
- respect workers' rights, application of laws
- more free days and respect religious feasts
- paid overtime



Picture of the results of the group work on Job security/Entrepreneurship (1st round)

Presentation of the developed ideas

One representative of each group presented their findings.

Closing of the first WS-day

Ankica Todorović, Mile Pejčić, Nadia Prauhart thank the participants for their contributions and the creation of the broad range of ideas.

Buffet

Opening of the second day, welcome of new participants and review of the first day

Review of the first day by Ankica Todorović

Presentations of the group findings - UN BiH Interactive SDG Tool

All of them focussed on a realistic approach and on how to solve concrete issue through activities and system mechanisms. They pointed out what obstacles and opportunities are of such an approach and they find common values which should be in place in order to reach the chosen SDG and its target. Examples: SDG 4 - Quality education, SDG 1 - reduce poverty - they tried to find a way how to solve this and how to put the global SDGs in the context of the local community.

Bijeljina of my dreams – city planning

Two groups build the city how they want it to be.

Instructions by Nadia: Be creative, keep in the city what is there and what you want to keep, delete what you want to delete, include the ideas of the first day, if you want, etc.

Conclusions of both cities:

Both cities are full of places for recreation and quality leisure time, they want to make use of already existing infrastructure and offers. Ice skating, public/air cinema, bicycles, renovated canal with new bridges, etc. are ideas in both cities. Regarding the traffic, there are some changes: one group removed the bus station from the centre close to the university, another group stopped the traffic in the centre totally.

City of Bijeljina / Group 1



Features* of this city:

canal Dašnica,
students home
parking building
swimming pool
cinema
iceskating place
zoo
playgrounds for football, tennis,
basketball
music on the main square
*no claim to be complete

City of Bijeljina / Group 2



Features* of this city:

- ice-skating place
 - swimming pool
 - cinema
 - square with coffees and restaurants,
 - recreation areas
 - solar panels in the park
 - pedestrian zone in the center, no traffic in the center
 - Canal Dašnica
 - foreign ambassador in the center who wants to invest money
 - path for bikes and trees along the path
 - theatre
 - beaches at the river Drina (with bike rentals)
 - stadion
 - street work out
 - shopping centre
 - hippodrome
- *no claim to be complete!

Detailed information regarding some of the ideas developed on day 1

Ankica Todorović informs about the status of some of the ideas:

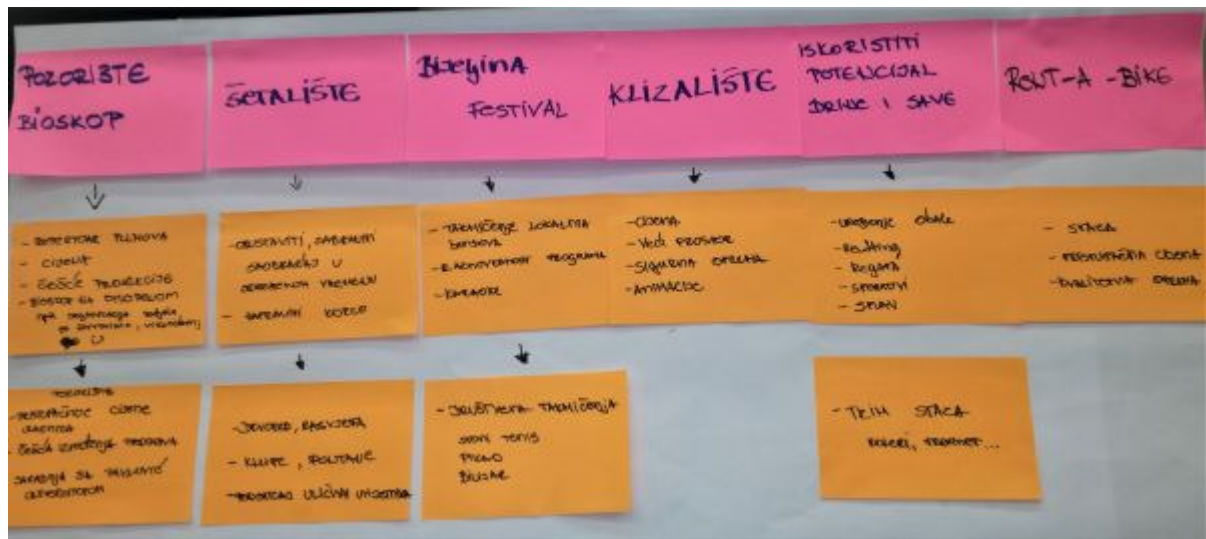
- Sports arena: is in the strategy of the city, planning a multifunctional hall for a couple of 1000 persons, problem was the land; shall also be accessible for children with disabilities
- Ecological activities: green services in the city, cleaning up the city together, connect faculties with schools and educate young people how to support green services: possible to address this locally, proposal to schools to organise workshops in schools
- Public spaces, open cinema, music: local bands could play once a week, to promote them, for free
- Problem traffic: five times more cars than persons; learn from other countries how to make secure bicycle tracks. A bike path around the whole city would be a goal. Planned in the city strategy.
- Entrepreneurship and support to young entrepreneurs: the project “Through continuous cooperation towards sustainable jobs in Bijeljina” supported 20 young entrepreneurs through entrepreneurship training and funds of € 4.000,- for the twelve best business ideas. Also the Section of Local Economic Development and European Integration applied to the new project for entrepreneurship training for 100 young people (up to 30 years old) and relevant funding for 20 best business ideas.
- Bijeljina festival: connect the ideas of branding domestic products and local groups. To organise this festival the cooperation of several institutions and organisations is needed.
- Cooperation of students, practical work during the studies, students’ exchange (Erasmus) is within the duties of the faculties. Lack of information. Ankica proposes to send public calls to the mailing list of the participants of the workshop, to forward these information is within their duty then.
- Problems with quality of private and public universities cannot be solved by the city as the ministry is responsible.
- Ankica encourages the students to do a survey on what they need. City of Bijeljina can help, but things have to be addressed in partnership.
- Rent a bike: was already discussed in the city
- Advent/Christmas market: next trial will be hopefully done for this year
- Street work out: an open space gym is being set up in the local community (MZ) “Vuk Karadžić” and will be accessible for all citizens. This activity is done within the project “Strengthening the role of MZ in BiH”
- Social organisations, free space for NGOs, organisation of workshops: Ankica encourages to contact the “Vuk Karadžić” where a Društveni centar has been set up which is available to all citizens of Bijeljina for holding workshops, seminars, meetings, etc. for free. The Društveni centar has been set up through the project “Strengthening the role of MZ in BiH”
- Lemonade and cookies activity: could be connected with supporting of groups in need. Possible to organise this in a simple way – everybody brings a cake, joint selling e.g. in public space. The earnings go to NGOs or people in need.
- Zoo: difficult and very cost-intensive
- Use of the resources of Drina and Save: Marine is in the reserve list of the City Development Strategy (2019-2023).
- Discount for students: would need talks to the responsible persons in banks. Try to appeal to the social responsibility of banks.
- Volunteering certificate: encourage relevant institutions to issue certificates.
- Public transportation is a problem. Decision doesn’t only depend of the city government.

Buffet

Selection and concretisation of ideas

The participants work on the two topics “cultural and social offers” and “job security/entrepreneurship”, select and concretise ideas.

Leisure time / Time off: Cultural and social offers



Cinema and cinema in public space: (in brackets comments from Ankica and Nadia)

- Prices should be acceptable, cheaper for children
- Cinema in public space for free (can be simple for the beginning, does not need hightech-screen)
- Once a week
- Variety of programme (Ankica: survey what people want to see)
- Financing: address companies for equipment, specific programme to connect companies to give equipment for theatre and cinema

Pedestrian area / green public space:

- with plants and green services (Nadia recommends to have a look at www.graetzloase.at. Involvement of school for carpentry. What it needs is the allowance of the city for using certain places in public space. Does not need many financial resources.)
- better public lighting
- shops to sell souvenirs
- concrete-path

Ice skating:

- Prices should be minimum
- Equipment, bigger space, mascots, music

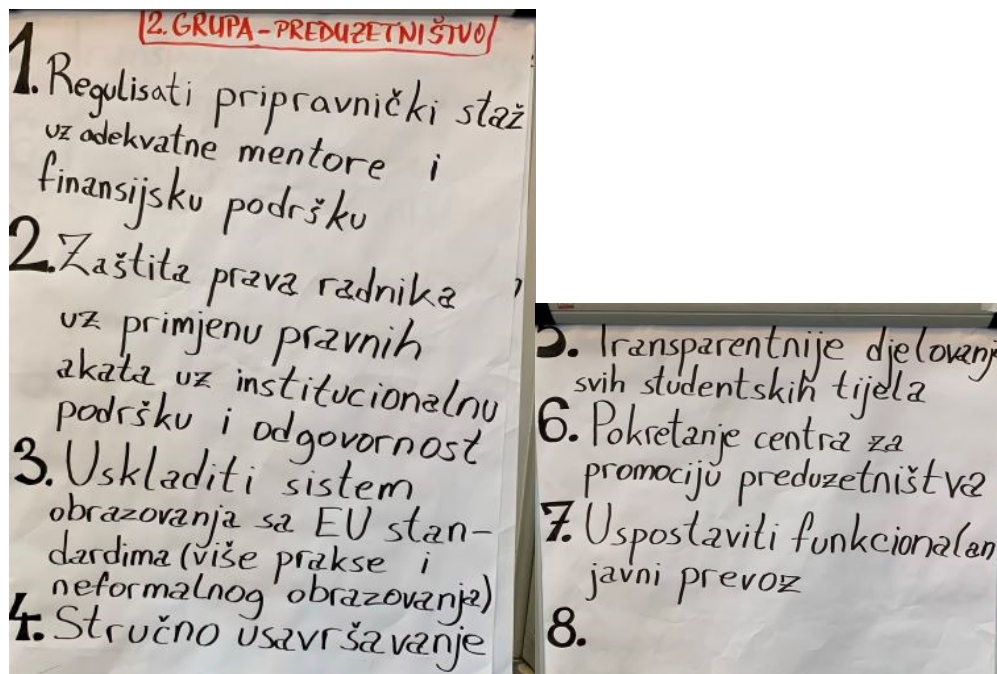
Rent a bike:

- Bikes for young people and children
- Free for children

Bijeljina festival:

- Competition between local bands
- Dancing, karaoke, table tennis
- On the main square
- Easy to organise because it needs only the permission of the city
- 3-5 companies that could donate for drinks

Job security / entrepreneurship



1. Volunteering with high training professors, financial support
2. Rights of the workers must be protected with institutional support and responsibility
3. Educational system should be equal to European system (more practical work)
4. Activities of students' organisations should be more transparent, where does the money go,... all faculties should work here together
5. More transparent work of all students' organisation
6. Centre for promotion of entrepreneurship skill
7. Establish working public transport

Closing and good-bye

Thank you for your intense and constructive contributions! This was the first step – and there are more to come. Ankica underlines that the city will try to improve information transfer and invites to also communicate with the city via Ankica and shared contact details for communication.

Looking forward to working with you in the future!

Ankica, Mile and Nadia

Conclusions and next steps taken

Out of this manifold collection, four main ideas were looked at in detail to discuss their feasibility:

- Bijeljina festival
- Entrepreneurship Innovation Centre for supporting entrepreneurship
- Public open air cinema
- Inviting public space

On 3rd of June 2019, Ankica, Mile and Nadia presented these ideas to the mayor. The feedback was very positive. Now we will start the framing of the projects and look for funding opportunities.

Bijeljina becomes a Great Place to Live – the two-days-workshop in the media

1. 31.5.2019, Zvanični sajt grada Bijeljina (official website of the City of Bijeljina)
<http://www.gradbijeljina.org/sr/news/novosti//2703.proaktivan-pristup-rjesavanju-problema-odlaska-mladih.html>
2. 31.5.2019, Zvanični sajt Arena Tv (official website of Arena TV)
<https://www.ntvarena.com/live/index.php/accessories/item/16229-proaktivan-pristup-rjesavanju-problema-odlaska-mladih-video>
3. 31.5.2019, Bijeljina Danas portal (Bijeljina today – portal)
<https://www.bijeljina.org/novosti/39183/64/Proaktivan-pristup-rjesavanju-problema-odlaska-mladih.html>
4. 31.5.2019, Youtube (Arena TV)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGejBS-elNQ>
5. 31.5.2019, InfoBijeljina portal
<https://www.infobijeljina.com/vijesti/studenti-ukazali-na-problem-i-uzroke-odlaska-mladih-iz-rs>
6. Faculty of Business Economics in Bijeljina
<http://www.fpe.ues.rs.ba/news/6722/257/Studenti-FPE-na-radionici-Proaktivan-pristup-rjesavanju-problema-odlaska-mladih.html>

Some websites - for inspiration and further information

Centre for entrepreneurship and innovation

<https://belgrade.impacthub.net>

<https://vienna.impacthub.net>

<https://otelo.or.at> (this is mainly citizen driven)

Public Space

www.graetzloase.at (scroll down for information in various languages)

www.samstaginderstadt.at (to show the variety of possibilities of using public space and making a community place out of it)

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/2050-public-space-community.pdf> (what are good features or a good social (public) space etc.)

Open Air Cinema

<https://www.una-aqua.com/en/events/open-air-cinema>

<https://openaircinema.us/blog/category/outdoor-movie-products>

<https://openaircinemas.wordpress.com/category/pop-up-cinema/>

from Austria:

<http://www.cyclecinemaclub.at>

<http://volxkino.at/programm-2/>

<https://www.sommerkinoe.at/spielorte/>

Bijeljina festival

<https://www.ebrdgreencities.com>

<http://pulswerk.at/events.htm>