Connecting Lika: DIGITAL COMMONS for RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Award Application for 4D https://4d.cat/convocatoria/en/home/
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 URL: https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/Lika/ProjekatPovezanoPolje

* Idealistic goals: rejuvenation of the remote rural communities, digital rights for the marginalised,
while following "Environmental Justice in Tech" principles (Limitations / Reparations / Solidarity)
* Practical goal: bringing internet connectivity to Gubavcevo Polje
* Duration: 3 years, in 4 phases
* Performed in cooperation with **family**, local community, emigrants, international communities of hackers, activists, artists and **friendly** experts

* Additional goals:
    - practicing creation of "mesh networks" : rural networks, community networks, decentralised networks…
        => WHILE focusing on LOW TECH & SLOW TECH (offering MINIMUM VIABLE SERVICES)
    - enabling "remote working" for temporary visitors, and thus invigorating local community interactions
    - attracting more people to MOVE IN & create new (intentional) communities! e.g. "startup village" ***doi:10.2760/998554***
    - making organisation of "camps" & "gatherings" easier
* More detailed social goals
    - keeping (online) connections / communication between locals & emigrant population / families
    - strengthening local community by sharing a common infrastructure
    - **making sure that the project & service is NOT-FOR-PROFIT / non-commercial**
    - rejuvenation of the local communities - by attracting youth back to the area (or at least attracting grandchildren to visit!)
    - making local community more connected with the region, country, Europe & world
    - making local produce available to the remote "markets"
* Stretch Goals
    - adding other equipment to the "sites", with sensors & measuring (Klimerko, RIPE Atlas… LIGHTNING DETECTORS)
        -> making this ^^^ data available to locals
    - monitoring & alerting & STOPPING deforestation, water abuses, illegal hunting, forest fires…
    - producing & sharing local content & media

Problem Statements

The village of Gubavcevo Polje, and the municipality of Gracac, has been suffering a lot in the last 30 years (and the more distant past has not been easy, either): Ravaged by war (1991-1995) , De-population, Isolation, Climate & Environmental Crisis, Economic Crisis, Political crisis…
This resulted in displaced people, disconnected families, and destroyed nature. (OTOH… see way below).

- Ravaged by war (1991-1995)
- De-population
- Isolation
- Climate & Environmental & Economic Crisis

CHALLENGES

Area Challenges : - hilly ; - poor ; - hard to access

Technical Challenges: - getting "backhaul" ; - securing electricity supply ; - negotiating with land owners ; - getting funding

Principal Challenges
- creating a structure for shared ownership ; revitalising a culture of commons governance (as used for water infrastructure)
- engaging in decentralised decisions making (using NVC)
- using ONLY repurposed / reused / recycled equipment!
- using ONLY renewable energy / fossil-fuels free
- balancing between keeping the existing advantages & creating beneficial changes

TIME PLANNING
* Phase 1: Exploration & Negotiations (1-9 Months)
* Phase 2: Building (1-3 Months)
* Phase 3: Maintenance (0.5 - 2.5 years)
* Phase 4: **Final Review & Closing** (6 months)

Possible Partners

* Networking Hardware Suppliers & Donations   + * Connectivity suppliers
* Networking Knowledge & Expertise / Friends   + * Possible Partner Communities / Friends
* Local Knowledge & Expertise   + * Local ("frontline") Community : Households
* Visitors, with the house in the village   + * Youth to benefit from it
* Partners in Gracac   + * Negotiators & Meditators + * Possible Funders

BUDGET
  * equipment / * connectivity fees / * travel expenses / * stipends for experts / * (part-time) salary for core team

"Environmental Justice in Tech" Principles: Limitations / Reparations / Solidarity ->
https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/towards-climate-justice-in-tech/

Great Local Potentials Activities

OTOH (On the Other Hand), the human-desolation has led to REWILDING! Beautiful "nature", untouched forests & fields, peaceful surrounding (no people!), far away from "civilisation" — and this has its own advantages — so much so, that we have to be careful with this project to bring "just enough" change, but not to introduce too much change.
This area has wonderful resources and great potentials!

Social Potential
  People are warm, hospitable, resourceful & smart (e.g. Nikola Tesla ;-)
  (when they are not hot-headed, nationalistic, aggressive; exploited and traumatised; marginalised & isolated…)

Nature Activities
* Just BEING in the WILD nature ; * Mountain climbing, trekking, hiking… ; * Gathering Herbs & Wild Fruit
* Unspoilt Nature Walks ; * Mountain Biking ; * Bird-watching; * Insect-watching
* Camping ;* Drinking spring water from the streams ; * Caving ; * "Free Climbing"; * Dog-walking

Growing & Tending Activities
* Organic Gardening & Collecting Rain Water
* Caring for Edible Forests: hazelnuts, walnuts, apples, plums…
* Raising Livestock (sheep, goats, donkeys, cows, horses…)
* Traditional Agriculture: growing barley, oats, corn, potatoes, cabbage…
* Honey-bees tending

  Nearby Tourist Attractions
* Caves (Cerovacke Pecine) + Museum: Nikola Tesla Memorial House + Adriatic Coast + Waterfalls (Plitvice, Una Spring)

Free & Open Source Cottage

- "Lika Lodge":

  - a small house under the huge LINDEN tree! (LIPA)

  - in the middle of nature / mountains, in Croatia

  - near the train line Zagreb - Split

- Available for "free" as in Free SW: steep learning curve, functional but not fancy, you can contribute fixes :)

- For retreats, communal camping,"digital detox", vacation, rural hackerspace, nomadic base…

- http://tinyurl.com/Lika-Lodge

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