

# “Getting Lika Connected”

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*<https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/Lika/ProjekatPovezanoPolje>*

**IEEE : Connecting the Unconnected : 25 September 2024**

# Gubavčevo Polje, Lika, Croatia



# Goals of the project

- bringing internet **connectivity** to a village in Croatia (Gubavcevo Polje),
- rejuvenation of the remote **rural** communities
- enabling **digital rights** for the marginalised
- with “Environmental **Justice** in Tech” principles (Limitations / Reparations / Solidarity)
- while following principles of **Feminist** Internet.





# Solutions & Reasons

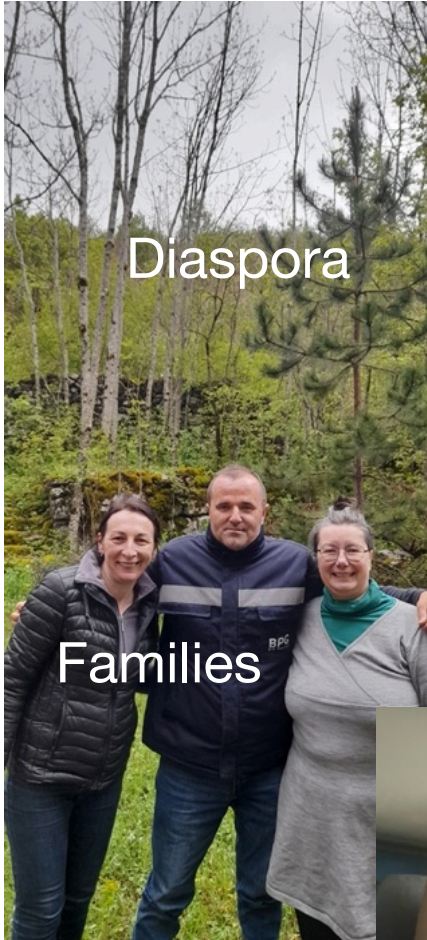
- build a wireless community **mesh** network:
- distributed, decentralised, not-for-profit, **communally** owned & operated,
- from repurposed / refurbished equipment
- using **renewable energy & free software**
- set up by volunteers from the **hackers** & (digital rights / climate justice / feminist) **activists**.



- disadvantaged (**historical**, political, economic) in the last 30 years
- ravaged by **wars** (1941-1945, 1991-1995)
- **de-population**, isolation, **poverty**
- Climate & Environmental Crisis,
- Economic Crisis, Political crisis...

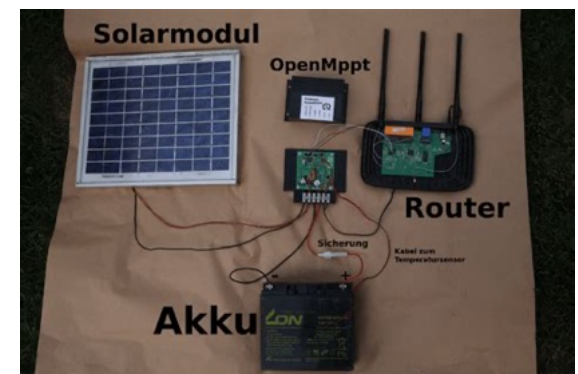
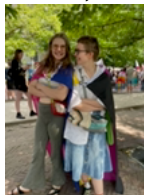


# Who will benefit



# SOCIAL IMPACT, INCLUSION & INNOVATION

- Social Impact
  - promotes community engagement
  - grassroots empowerment of women
  - integration between diaspora, aging population & next generations
- Inclusion (overcoming digital divide)
  - promotes principles of “Feminist Internet”
  - for underserved users : rural population, women, elderly, low income
  - LDBTQ\* youth actively involved
- Innovation
  - promotes Climate Justice & ecological values & environmental sustainability
  - business model based on cooperative ownership, commons & shared ownership
  - RFC7962 & <https://isems.netlify.app/en/>

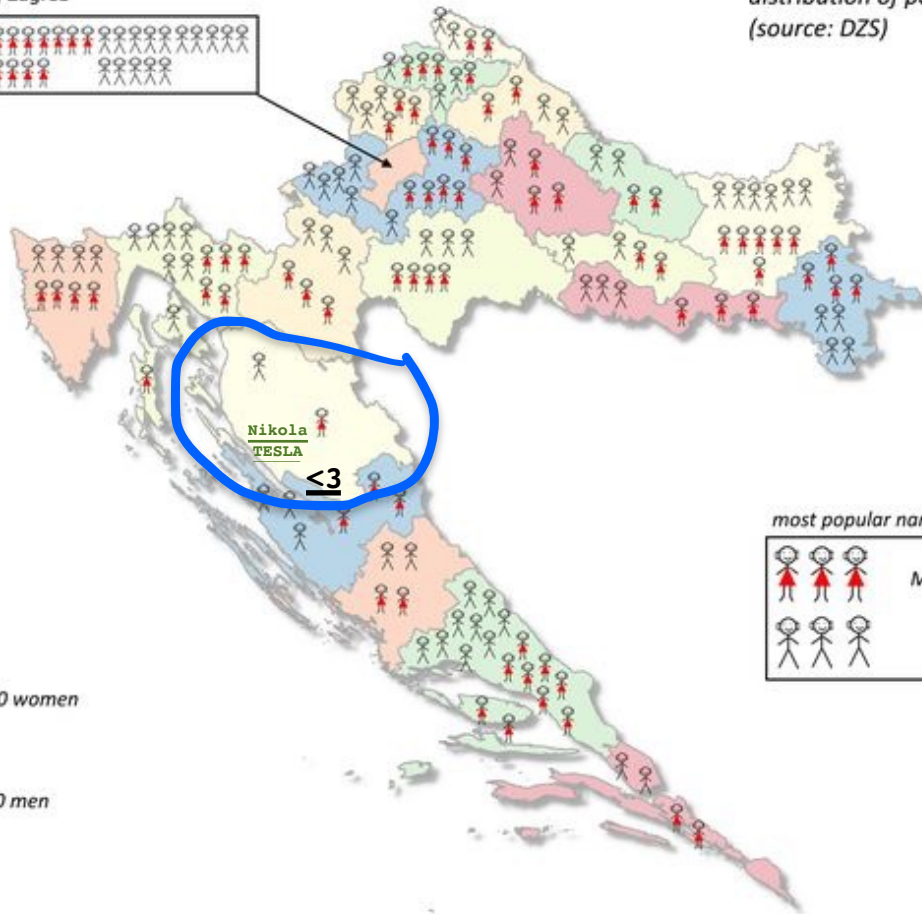




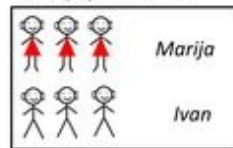
City of Zagreb



Croatian census 2011  
distribution of population by county  
(source: DZS)



most popular names





# Risks & Challenges

- Practical Challenges:
  - Area Challenges: - hilly; - hard to access; - isolated from supply chains
  - Technical Challenges: getting "backhaul"; - securing electricity supply;
  - Legal / Administrative : creating a structure for shared ownership; revitalising a culture of commons governance ; - negotiating with land owners for setting up equipment ; vandalism (destroying the antennas by hunters or bored youth) ; theft of equipment,
  - Climate disaster challenges: deep snow, strong winds, flooding or no water, heat waves...
- Principal Challenges:
  - Climate Justice principles: using ONLY renewable energy / fossil-fuels free
    - using only repurposed / recycled equipment
  - Feminist Internet principles: using only Free & Open Source software

**NO HARM**





**Thank You!**

