

## Connecting Lika - Application for Risktakers Fellowship

14-12-2022, <https://risktakers.space>

Summary of your submission:

- **What is your name? (Nickname or alias is fine too.)** Vesna Manojlovic
- **What is your email address?** [becha@xs4all.nl](mailto:becha@xs4all.nl)
- **What is the name of your project?** Connecting Lika
  
- **Describe your project in 1000 characters**  
Idealistic goals of my project are: rejuvenation & reconnection of the remote rural communities, while following "Environmental Justice in Tech" principles (Limitations / Reparations / Solidarity).  
Practical goal: bringing internet connectivity to Gubavcevo Polje (a village in Croatia); optionally: as a "community mesh network"  
This will be done in cooperation with family, local community, emigrants, international communities of hackers, activists, artists and friendly experts. Mid-term, this would enable "remote working" for temporary visitors, and thus invigorating local community interactions; long-term: it would attract more people to MOVE IN & create new (intentional) communities! And short-term, it would be making organisation of "camps" & "gatherings" easier
  
- **Does your project have a website or social media account? Then add the link here.**  
<https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/Lika/ProjekatPovezanoPolje>
  
- **Your vision: To what future do you aspire? How does it relate to the challenges and crises of our present and future?**  
My ideal future of for both the society and "the Internet governance" is PARTICIPATORY ALTRUISM. <https://wiki.techinc.nl/MeshNet> sharing of the common resources, preferring cooperation over competition, holding the common benefit higher than the personal (or corporate!) benefit; where people are not consumers, but active contributors in all spheres of their lives.
  
- **How are you working towards this future with your idea? What role does technology play in this future?**  
By bringing Internet connectivity & using it as shared resource, we are practicing participatory altruism: contributing with what skills we have, receiving from the abundance of resources available. Technology enables connection between "indigenous" & displaced populations, emigrants & their families; provides redistribution of jobs & money from overpopulated urban centres into isolated rural areas; by using only repurposed equipment & renewable energy we are not making the climate crisis worse.
  - **Tell us about the community or communities you are working with and reaching out to with your idea.**  
I have been working with hackers communities since 1995, and I am still member of several hackerspaces in Amsterdam, NL; I am a Community Builder in Network Operators Groups / RIPE, so I have good contacts with engineers worldwide (also with IETF/GAIA); and my family comes from Lika - so I am working with local communities on the ground. I am also part of CJxDR activists communities <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/ClimateJusticeDigitalRights2022> , and MeshNet (see link above)
  
- **What do you plan to work on during the fellowship?**  
I would work on the Exploratory phase [https://wiki.techinc.nl/images/0/04/PDF\\_Getting\\_Lika\\_Connected\\_1.0.pdf](https://wiki.techinc.nl/images/0/04/PDF_Getting_Lika_Connected_1.0.pdf) Gathering technical requirements & involving 2 more people in the Core Team; contacting potential partners for equipment; setting up a structure for common ownership; conducting interviews with local community; securing funding for the Maintenance Phase; Promoting project at various events. If we get to Building Phase: build a test mesh network.
  
- **Tell us more about yourself: What motivates you to work on this idea? What previous projects have you been working on?**  
My POSITIVE motivations are: love for nature, longing for the country I lost & left due to wars & economic migration; interest in communal sharing; and a wish to contribute with skills & contact I have; my NEGATIVE motivations since 2013 has been my disappointment in the direction of Internet development (commercialisation, centralisation) and expectation of urban civilisation collapse . I have organised a 3-week gathering in Lika in 2016, with 12-30 people from 10 different countries...
  
- **Where are you based? It is sufficient to state the country you are most active in.**  
Netherlands / Croatia
  
- **I confirm that I am 18 years or older living in Europe or the Mediterranean.** Yes
  
- **I consent to the Risktakers Fellowship contacting me solely for the purpose of processing my application.** Yes
  
- **Please let us know how you heard about the Risktakers Fellowship. Thank you <3** from SUPERRR newsletter!

(<https://superrrr.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07794224f80eb3988af949760&id=f62de1f7c1&e=87ad8a2846>)