

Connecting Lika - Rural Digital Commons

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



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.



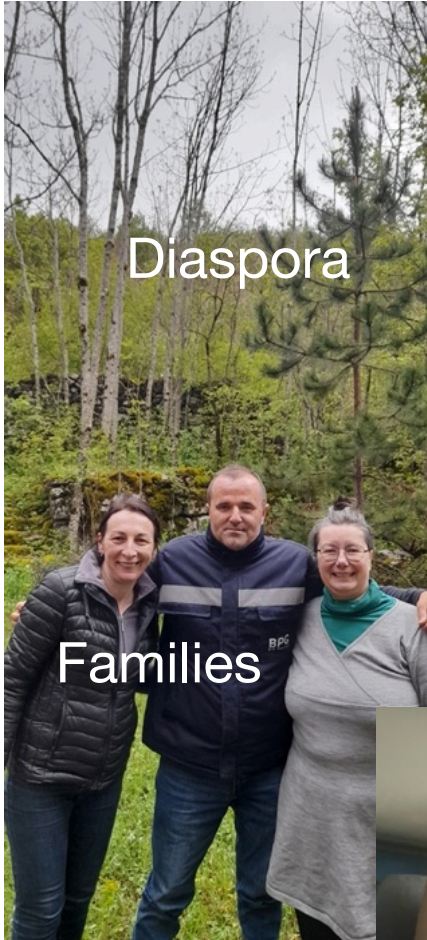
Solutions & Reasons

- 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.**



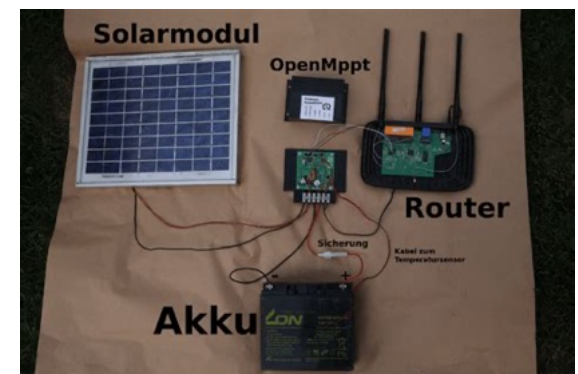
- disadvantaged (**historical**, political, economic) in the last 30 years
- ravaged by **wars** (1941-1945, 1991-1995)
- **de-population**, isolation, **poverty**
- Climate & Environmental Crisis,
- Economic Crisis, Political crisis...

Who will benefit



SOCIAL IMPACT, INCLUSION & INNOVATION

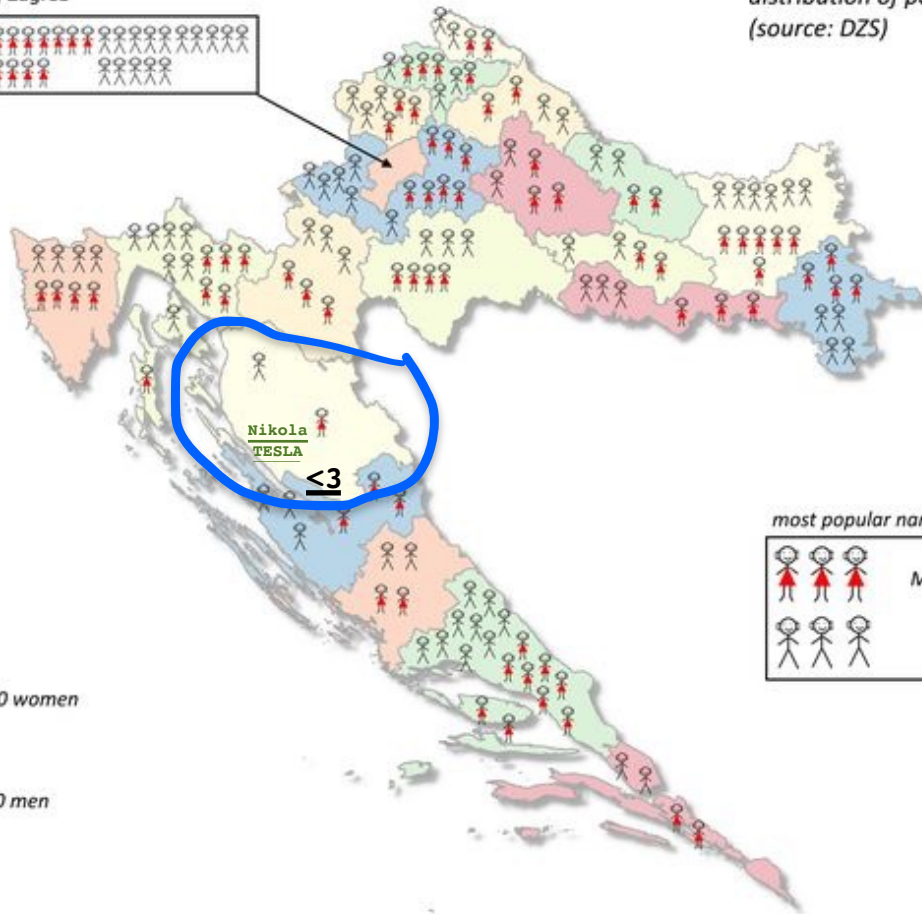
- Social Impact
 - promotes community engagement
 - grassroots empowerment of women
 - integration between diaspora, aging population & next generations
- Inclusion (overcoming digital divide)
 - promotes principles of “Feminist Internet”
 - for underserved users : rural population, women, elderly, low 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/>



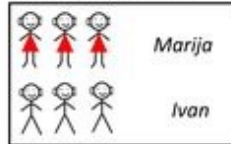
City of Zagreb



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



most popular names



aprox. 50 000 women

aprox. 50 000 men



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!

