

"Getting Lika Connected"

Project Presentation, version 1.1, January 2023, for OFFDEM, by BecHa / Vesna Manojlovic

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



"Getting Lika Connected": Short Summary

- * Idealistic goals: 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
- * Duration: 3 years, in 4 phases (November 2022 - November 2025)
- * Performed in cooperation with **family**, local community, emigrants, international communities of hackers, activists, artists and **friendly** experts

Looking for: Core Team ; Partners ; Funding

Offering: opportunity to contribute; fun summer project; a place to stay for "free" (as in FLOSS)

Related Project: LikaCamp2023 : <https://wiki.techinc.nl/User:Becha/Lika/LikaCamp2023>

- * 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!
 - 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, 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 (6-9 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
- * Networking Knowledge & Expertise / Friends
- * Local Knowledge & Expertise
- * Visitors, with the house in the village
- * Partners in Gracac
- + * Connectivity suppliers
- + * Possible Partner Communities / Friends
- + * Local (“frontline”) Community : Households
- + * Youth to benefit from it
- + * Negotiators & Mediators + * 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

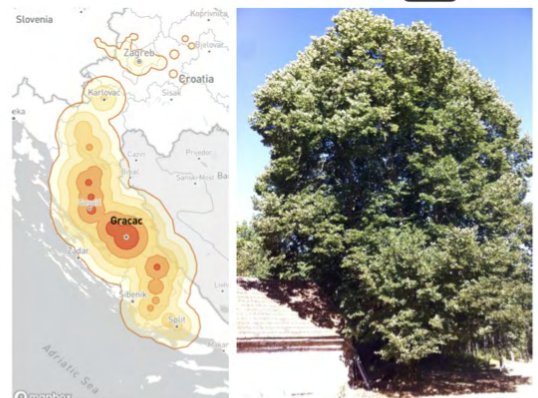
Nearby Tourist Attractions

- * 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>
- Contact: BECHA@UnCiv.NL



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Linden next to LikaLodge



Puh living in LikaLodge
(Glis glis / Edible Dormouse)

Mountain Lisac in snow



Our group on mountain Kokerna in 2016

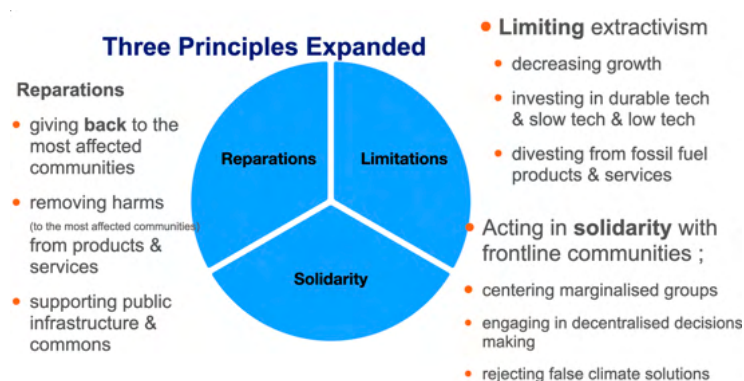
Internet Infrastructure and Climate Justice

— Vesna Manojlovic, BECHA@ripe.net, RIPE NCC, 28-October-2022 ; V2: 08-12-2022

(proposal for <https://www.iab.org/activities/workshops/e-impact/>)

When it comes to the governance of Internet infrastructure, we are still not considering environmental impacts enough. I suggest that we quickly move beyond “Environmental Impact” and towards “Climate Justice”.

As a Community Builder for RIPE NCC, and as an activist/artist/hacker/parent, my suggestions are summarised as 3 principles for (technical) Internet Governance: Solidarity, Limitations, Reparations. (inspired by the (old) principles of (IPv4) address-space distribution: Conservation, Aggregation, Registration).



Solidarity

Technical Communities (IETF, RIPE & other RIRs, ICANN, ACM, etc) *must* work together with, and in solidarity with, “frontline communities” — those that are most impacted by the consequences of the unsustainable way the “internet industry’s” business is being conducted. Other aspects of solidarity are: placing marginalised groups in the centre of any decision making processes, questioning privileges of mainstream groups and “multistakeholder bodies”, and being critical when reviewing proposed solutions - in order to refuse false climate solutions.

Limitations

Technical communities have been focused on growth, “progress” & innovation since the start of the Internet, and the change from these attitudes is as painful as it is necessary. We *should* learn from other sciences that there is no unlimited growth when we depend on finite resources. There is a plethora of existing approaches that we can implement in internet engineering: de-growth, divestment, circular economy, caring economy... And the new challenges for the creative spirits will have to be directed towards **decrease**: low tech, slow tech, durable tech (as opposed to planned obsolescence). Jevon’s paradox is important to mention here.

Something we should embrace without any doubt is to limit, decrease and finally completely **abandon any use of fossil fuels** in Internet industry.

Reparations

The “reparations” principle is the hardest to accept, since it is confrontational and divisive - but it stems from the acknowledging the existing divisions & inequalities that are unjust and exploitative, both historically and contemporary. If we want the future to be sustainable, we have to **repair** the harms that have been inflicted to the most affected communities, **remove** the harms from existing services, and **stop** the new harms from being done. Within Global North, we should support technologies that are contributing to the public and to commons (as opposed to corporations, or

commercial interests). And the Global South has to receive reparations from Global North — in the inter-governmental, commercial and personal areas.

As techies, we can focus on technologies that (first) decrease and (finally) remove exploitation. We can focus on Free/Libre & Open Source Software, hardware, standards & protocols.

Motivation

I want to cross-connect IETF community with digital-rights activists, artists, philosophers, hackers, & climate justice activists, who are already working on “environmental impacts of tech”.

<https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/towards-climate-justice-in-tech/>

More information:

https://media.ccc.de/v/bitsundbaeume-19907-greening-ripe-through-activism-and-empathy-en-https://wiki.techinc.nl/File:Bits_und_Baume_Greening_RIPE_copy-compressed.pdf

- RIPE & IETF are part of Internet Governance power structures
- Climate Crisis is impacting internet infrastructure
- “Data is the New Oil”

- Feelings:
 - Climate Grief & Climate Anxiety
 - Hope & Curiosity about adjacent communities
 - Frustration by slow actions in RIPE & IETF

Bio

Vesna Manojlovic is Community Builder at RIPE NCC. Vesna joined the RIPE NCC as a Trainer in 1999. In 2003, she took responsibility for developing and delivering advanced courses, such as RPSL, Routing Registry, DNSSEC and IPv6. In 2008, she lead efforts to establish IPv6 RIPEness as a measure of IPv6 deployment among LIRs. In 2011, she joined the Science Division as Manager of the Measurements Community Building team; in 2015 she moved to Communications Department as Senior Community Builder, with a focus on organising hackathons. Vesna gives presentations at many technical conferences and workshops, and enjoys visiting hackerspaces. Vesna received a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Computer Science and Informatics from the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade. She has three children.

<https://labs.ripe.net/author/becha/>

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- Organisers & Participants of CJ x DR Workshop (Berlin, October 2022) <https://groups.io/g/Digital-rights-climate-justice>
- Bits & Bäume conference, Berlin
- UnCiv mailing list & community (2013-);
- Extinction Rebellion & GreenPeace
- Individual women: Hvale, Maja, Fieke, Marleen, Becky, Betty, Dorien, Donna, Natacha, Tessel, Josephine, Nana, Nikolina, Alisa.