

# COMPENDIUM OF PUBLIC POLICY BRIEFS



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**SUPPORT TO  
ELECTORAL REFORMS**  
ПОДРШКА НА ИЗБОРНИ РЕФОРМИ  
MBËSHITETJE E REFORMAVE ZGJEDHORE



# SUPPORT TO ELECTORAL REFORMS

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ПОДДРШКА НА ИЗБОРНИ РЕФОРМИ  
MBËSHËTETJE E REFORMAVE ZGJEDHORE

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# Foreword

This Compendium of Public Policy Briefs is an integral part of the project "Support to Electoral Reforms" funded by the Government of Switzerland and implemented by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES<sup>1</sup>). The project's main goal is to promote democratic and credible electoral processes that facilitate political participation and social integration, enabling voters to elect their representatives and hold them accountable<sup>2</sup>. The project activities are channeled to support the overall objective by achieving three results:

- ✓ **Result 1: Strengthened institutions conduct fair and efficient electoral processes.**
- ✓ **Result 2: Internally democratized political parties representing citizen-oriented policies and electoral programs.**
- ✓ **Result 3: Strengthened citizens call political parties and elected officials to accountability.**

Among others, the project supports political parties in developing resources and capacities to adopt evidence-based programs with the aim of greater involvement of local communities, including women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. The evidence-based policy-making approach seeks to bring closer the views of citizens and policymakers and reflect real needs in the planning process of the parties by providing in-depth analyses and relevant factual situations. In the political arena, evidence-based policymaking represents a drive to improve the quality and effectiveness of proposed policies and programs.

Considering the above and the fact that the effective participation of young people in political and public life is crucial for democratic development, an Academy for Public Policy was organized within the project. During 2022-2023, the Academy was led by the Forum for Reasonable Policies (<https://frp.mk/>) and attended by 29 participants from 12 political parties and one citizen initiative. The activities for the third generation of participants were conducted from September 2022 to June 2023. The Academy is intended for representatives of the youth of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ifes.org/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information regarding the project, visit the project's official website: <https://electoralreforms.mk/en/>

the political parties in North Macedonia to educate and raise future political and social leaders equipped with general and specific values and knowledge of the political processes in the country. As part of the programme of the Academy, the participants developed 25 public policy briefs, which are an integral part of this publication.

The Academy also aimed to introduce participants to the overall electoral process, and to encourage and educate youth party members to contribute to a more precise expression of their ideas and concepts for a better society and a plural democratic public space. Participants had the opportunity to learn how public policies are created, how they are influenced, and how an evidence-based approach is applied in public policymaking. The goal was achieved by combining theoretical settings on policy-making topics and practical experience with the local community's involvement in creating policy responses to citizens' needs. One of these additional activities of the Academy is the development of policy briefs by each participant. Namely, young leaders, participants of the Academy, immediately after completing the first module, have identified a challenge they want to address by proposing policy solution(s).

*One Academy participant's impressions: "I am very excited to be part of the Public Policy Academy." It is the only Academy in the country that goes far from classroom/workshop teaching! It helps me to "learn by doing" and encourage us, members of the party, to be with our community, to talk with the most affected, and to propose solutions based on the needs of the citizens.*

The public policy briefs of this publication represent the ultimate reach of the efforts of representatives of political youth to create evidence-based and value-based policies. These briefs were developed to propose relevant citizen-oriented solutions that would be incorporated into the electoral programs of political parties. These activities will allow the participants to apply the gained knowledge and skills in real-life situations and through engagement with citizens. They conducted research as well as consultations with stakeholders and the affected community.

We encourage political parties to integrate the public policy briefs into their programs, as they could prove to be a valuable asset for current and future governance strategy. Incorporating public policy briefs can help political parties demonstrate their commitment to transparency, accountability, evidence-based decision-making, and public engagement. It can also lead to more effective and well-informed policymaking processes, ultimately benefiting the country and its citizens. First, public policy briefs assist parties in communicating their ideas effectively to both their members and the general public, fostering a more informed and engaged electorate. Additionally, policy briefs can be valuable tools for accountability, as they provide a clear record of a party's promises and positions, allowing voters to hold them accountable for their actions once in office. Furthermore, it contributes to the health and effectiveness of democratic systems by ensuring that political parties are focused on evidence-based policies that serve the public interest. Overall, the use of these public policy briefs enhances transparency, communication, and accountability in the political process, making them a valuable addition to any party's programs.

The continuation of the publication shows the public policy briefs, which include the forms and ways of involving the local community in identifying the problems, as well as the proposals for possible resolution of them.

The order of the public policy briefs is made according to the alphabetical order of the municipalities in which the community engagements took place.

*The collection of documents for public policy, developed by the participants of the second Academy for Public Policy, is available online at the following link: <https://electoralreforms.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Compendium-of-policy-briefs-2021.pdf>*

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Aerodrom

1. Lack of parking space in the Municipality of Aerodrom - Valentin Manasievski (VMRO-DPMNE)

## АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
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ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ



LACK OF PARKING SPACE  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
AERODROM

**„Недовољно паркинг места  
во општина Аеродром“**

**"Numër i pamjaftueshëm i vendparkimeve  
në komunën e Aerodromit"**

**Valentin Manasievski  
- VMRO-DPMNE -**



## Summary

*Valentin's brief addresses the problem of insufficient parking spaces in the Municipality of Aerodrom. At a meeting with the municipal authorities, it was proposed to conduct a survey with the citizens of Star Aerodrom and Novo Lisice, the two most affected settlements with this problem in the Municipality, to find an appropriate solution. The results of the surveys showed that the best solution would be the introduction of zone parking, except on ASNOM Street.*

The Municipality of Aerodrom was officially granted the status of a municipality in 2013, whereas previously it formed part of the Municipality of Kisela Voda. Its population stands at 77,735 inhabitants, spread over an area of 21 km<sup>2</sup> in 8 settlements<sup>3</sup>.

A burning issue for the citizens in the Municipality of Aerodrom is the lack of parking space. According to data from the State Statistical Office, there are a total of 26,352 registered passenger cars within the municipality<sup>4</sup>. In particular, the problem derives from the fact that many residents have not purchased parking space in their residential areas, and in the cases where they have, the purchased parking place is not used, but rather the vehicles are being parked randomly. This reckless behavior primarily endangers the movement of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. In addition, material damage is inflicted upon public areas and greeneries and the environment is also affected<sup>5</sup>.

For the purposes of this document, two locations were analyzed, in the district of Novo Lisice, and Star Aerodrom. In both locations there is a shortage of parking spaces. In Novo Lisice, in particular, even the installed one-story parking does not resolve the problem.

In the interview conducted with the municipal services, it was established that the problem has also been identified, in particular in the above municipalities, and the services pledged their openness to cooperation in finding a long-term solution to the problem.

### What change is needed?



At a meeting with the municipal authorities, it was proposed to conduct a survey with the citizens of Star Aerodrom and Novo Lisice on whether they agree with the introduction of zone parking in the settlements. In cooperation with the municipal authorities, questionnaires were developed, and the municipality took the responsibility to administer them to the citizens. A total of 24 polls were conducted on Angel Dimovski Street in Aerodrom, 34 polls on Jane Sandanski

<sup>3</sup> Profile of Aerodrom Municipality, <http://www.aerodrom.gov.mk/page/portret#>

<sup>4</sup> [https://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/mk/MakStat/MakStat\\_\\_Transport\\_\\_RegistriraniVozila/275\\_Trans\\_Reg\\_voz\\_Gorivo\\_mk.px/table/tableViewLayout2/?rxid=63d13bd1-5691-4a1f-b607-4642a307515d](https://makstat.stat.gov.mk/PXWeb/pxweb/mk/MakStat/MakStat__Transport__RegistriraniVozila/275_Trans_Reg_voz_Gorivo_mk.px/table/tableViewLayout2/?rxid=63d13bd1-5691-4a1f-b607-4642a307515d)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.porta3.mk/vo-aerodrom-vozila-parkirani-na-javni-povrshini-opshtinata-apelira/>

Street, 70 polls in the neighborhoods of Novo Lisice on Kosta Novakovic Street, and 27 polls on ASNOM Street. The survey asked the respondents whether they would agree to have a free parking area for the residents, the parking fee for a second family car to cost a symbolic 1,000 denars per year, and the non-residents to pay 25 denars per hour of parking.

In the Angel Dimovski, Kosta Novakovic, and Jane Sandanski Street, the vast majority of citizens are in favor of introduction of zone parking, whereas the citizens of ASNOM Street are against this proposal. One of the solutions for the ASNOM Street would be to install a multilevel parking garage at the end of the street, which would provide twice as many parking spaces for both residents and visitors. At the initiative of the Council of the Municipality of Aerodrom, the districts of Novo Lisice 2 and Star Aerodrom will introduce zone parking with benefits for local residents, i.e. each apartment will be allotted a numbered parking space, and each additional parking space per family would cost a symbolic 1,000 denars per year. This is expected to alleviate the traffic and parking congestion in this municipality.

In the upcoming period, a proposal for introduction of zone parking will be put forward by the VMRO-DPMNE advisory group at a session of the Aerodrom Municipality Council where the proposal for the ASNOM Street will also be presented to councilors and other stakeholders.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Berovo

1. Intercity and local transport in Berovo - Angela Zdravkovska (VMRO-DPMNE)

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ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# INTERCITY AND LOCAL TRANSPORT IN BEROVO



**„Меѓуградски и локален превоз во Берово“**

**“Transporti rajonal dhe lokal në Berovë”**

**Angela Zdravkovska  
- VMRO-DPMNE -**



## Summary

*Angela's public policy brief addresses the problem of the need for intercity and local transport in Berovo. To explore the problem and find the most appropriate solution, she conducted an online survey with 82 respondents. Of all the problems listed, the majority of respondents, 58.5%, pointed to intercity and local transport in Berovo as the main problem. As a possible solution, the citizens proposed that the Municipality provide a public-private partnership with local businesses to provide transport services in the region of Berovo.*

Berovo is a town in the eastern part of the Republic of North Macedonia, located under the slopes of the Maleshevo Mountains. In terms of demographics, according to the last census in 2021 it has 10,890 inhabitants. The town is known for its natural beauty and tourist attractions, and despite being small, it faces several problems, in particular neglect of the town and the surrounding villages, which accordingly leads to neglect of the cultural and historical heritage and ultimately to reduced tourists and visitors. Other problems in Berovo include the poor condition of the road network, lack of infrastructure for water supply and sanitation, as well as socio-economic challenges due to lack of employment opportunities and prospects for young people. Culture and cultural infrastructure, quality of the drinking water, wild landfills and intercity and local transport (from Berovo with the surrounding villages and vice versa) are also some of the issues Berovo is facing on regular basis.

In order to prioritize a specific problem and work on finding an adequate solution, an online survey was administered to a total of 82 respondents. Four main problems were identified by the respondents, primary among which is the lack of intercity and local transport in Berovo which was effectively noted by the majority of respondents (58.5%). The survey also included an open question, in addition to the listed options, for the citizens to write about their problems.

After almost 20 years of successfully operating bus lines, the east was cut off from the state. The only bus station that covered the region of Berovo (Berovo, Pehcevo, Delcevo, Vinica and Kamenica with the surrounding villages) ceased to operate overnight. For some reasons, unknown to the citizens, the operating license for transport is not functional.

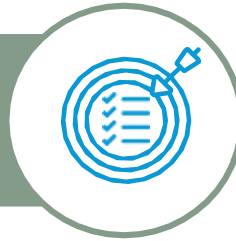
Further to highlighting the problem with the public transport and the meetings held with relevant stakeholders, including a meeting with the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Municipality of Berovo on the 24th session adopted a decision to start free public transport throughout the territory of the municipality, every Thursday, starting from 6 April 2023.

The transport will be carried out by bus, owned by the Municipality of Berovo on the following routes:

1. Dvorishte – Ratevo – Rusinovo – Vladimirovo – Berovo: departure at 07.30 (departure from the village center) and back; Berovo – Vladimirovo – Rusinovo – Ratevo – Dvorishte: departure at 13.00;
2. Mitrashinci – Budinarci – Macevo – Smojmirovo: departure at 10.00 (departure from the village center) and back; Berovo – Smojmirovo – Macevo – Budinarci – Mitrashinci: departure at 15.00.

Citizens who would like to use the free transport on Thursdays should register on the phone number of the Municipality of Berovo, 033/471-057, on Tuesday, between 08.30-13.30 hours.

### What change is needed?



This solution is not final, and according to the bulk of the residents it is not feasible and is rather limited, since this transport is organized only on Thursdays (market day in Berovo). People from the villages have a real need for a local line so that they can commute daily from the village to the town and vice versa to address a variety of needs (health, administrative or financial).

The need for intercity and local transport is severe and the quick fill up of the transport organized according to the terms outlined above is a good indicator of its urgency.

One possible solution to the problem of intercity and local transport in Berovo could be to engage private carriers through a public-private partnership with the municipality that would offer transport services in that region. This can be achieved through an agreement between the municipality and the private sector, which would allow control and regulation of carrier services.

Another solution is the establishment of a public company by the municipality and the procurement of buses and/or vans. This solution is less feasible due to the lack of financial and human resources in the municipality.

This problem and the respective solutions outlined above will be put forward as a proposal on the agenda of the Municipal Council, to discuss ways for finding substantial and sustainable solution to this problem.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Bitola

1. Day centre in Bitola for people with intellectual disabilities - Mario Janevski (Levica)

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# DAY CENTRE IN BITOLA FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



**„Битола со дневен центар за лица  
со интелектуална попреченост“**

**"Manastiri me qendër ditore për personat  
me aftësi të kufizuara intelektuale"**

**Mario Janevski  
- Levica -**



## Summary

*This brief addresses the problem of not having a day care center for people with intellectual disabilities in Bitola. To investigate the problem, Mario held meetings with municipal officials, councilors, and family members who have people with intellectual disabilities. In conclusion, one of the councilors decided to submit a proposal to the Council of the Municipality of Bitola to start the process for technical specifications and for locating facilities within the competence of the Municipality.*

In 2011, the Republic of North Macedonia signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; however the current state of affairs is substantially far from real implementation of reforms that will cater to this marginalized group of citizens, as is the practice in many EU member states.

In Bitola there is a club for creativity and education founded by the association "Poraka". In an interview with stakeholders, representatives of the association and family members of persons with intellectual disability, it was concluded that they need to be provided with space that will be used as a day centre for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Bitola is one of the most urban municipalities in Macedonia, and there are no centers of this type on its territory which are undoubtedly needed to facilitate the daily functioning of people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The lack of day centers for stay, work and socialization of people with intellectual disabilities puts people and their families in an extremely marginalized state and excludes them from the regular daily routine. Consequently, these families cannot provide conditions for children to socialize or leave the home, they cannot adequately address the needs of other children in the family, or their health problems, and at least one parent cannot provide for the family due to the full-time commitment which a person with intellectual disability requires and thus one parent cannot seek regular employment. Only one family income is hardly sufficient to cover the monthly costs, which effectively exceed the needs and expenses of families who do not have to care for a person with disabilities. In addition to this, entire families find themselves in psychologically unbearable living conditions.

### What change is needed?



Establishing a day care centre for people with intellectual disabilities in the Municipality of Bitola is the only solution for this vulnerable category and their families. The Association "Poraka" is ready to provide all the support and intellectual capacities in developing the programme, as well as equipping the centre through various donations, while the municipality should provide the space and cover the costs of its functioning.

In interviews with members of the Municipal Council and representatives of other local self-governments which already house a day centre for people with

intellectual disabilities, they shared experiences about the process of establishing such a centre. "Initially, the Municipality should conduct technical specification for the needs of the centre (how many square meters of space are required, the accessibility of the facilities, the additional conditions that the space has) and locate certain facilities which are under the jurisdiction of the Municipality and meet the above conditions. Then, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) to establish communication on the next steps for the functioning of the centre", were the statements of the bulk of the councilors.

In cooperation with a group of Municipal Council members from the Municipality of Bitola, there were discussions on this topic and one of the councilors decided to submit a proposal to the Council of the Municipality of Bitola in order to initiate the process of technical specification and to locate the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Municipality. It was also agreed that, once the municipality has implemented the process of technical specification and location of facilities, a meeting would be scheduled at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to review further steps to ensure functioning of the day centre for children with intellectual disabilities.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Brvenica

1. Local youth council in Brvenica Municipality - Adem Jashari (Alternativa)

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ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN BRVENICA MUNICIPALITY



**„Формирање на локален младински совет  
во општина Брвеница“**

**“Formimi i këshillit rinor lokal  
në komunën e Bërvenicës”**

**Adem Jashari  
- Alternativa -**



## Summary

*This policy brief addresses the problem of the non-existence of a local youth council in the municipality of Brvenica, which is a legal obligation for each Municipality in North Macedonia. After researching the problem and a series of meetings, and in coordination with the mayor, the youth official in the Municipality, and a group of councilors, the process is in the phase of electing members of the local youth council.*

The Municipality of Brvenica lies in the northwestern part of North Macedonia, in the Polog Valley. It is a rural municipality which comprises 10 settlements, with a total of 13,645 residents, as per the latest population census in 2021. The migration process has affected various areas in the municipality, including the decrease of the number of youth in the municipality. The total count of young population aged between 15 and 29 is 2853, comprising almost 21% of the overall population.

According to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, enacted on January 14, 2020, each municipality is mandated to form a youth council which will operate in compliance with the law and the Municipal Council principles<sup>6</sup>.

Due to the absence of a local youth council in the Municipality of Brvenica, young people lack the participatory mechanism in the youth-related decision-making process, especially in youth policy-making. Young people are also not informed about the role of the local youth council in youth policy-making in Brvenica Municipality.

Soon after the inception of the mayor's term, municipal councilors discussed and agreed upon the need of addressing the establishment of the youth council as soon as some local priorities are resolved. Before the end of 2022, in a conversation with the mayor, this problem was once again raised, and it was promised that the municipal councilors would be involved in the monitoring process and supporting the youth officer in achieving this goal.

### What change is needed?



The youth council is a platform that enables close cooperation between young people and local authorities in overcoming various challenges affecting young people in their community. The Law on Youth Participation stipulates active participation in youth policy-making processes and decision-making at the local level, thus enabling active youth participation in public life and decision-making that affects their daily lives.

Establishing the local youth council is not just a key mechanism to involve young people in the decision-making process at the local level, but also a

<sup>6</sup> Law on Youth Participation: <https://www.pravdiko.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Zakon-za-mladinsko-uchestvo-i-mladinski-politiki-16-01-2020.pdf>

communication tool between young people and many other relevant institutions at the local level. The establishment of a local youth council aims to address the problems and needs of the youth.

Following our last meeting with the mayor at which this issue was met with high consideration, together with the youth officer, we held meetings with different key stakeholders, including representatives of NGOs, representatives of political youth forums, activists and motivated young people who want to contribute to solving this problem. In collaboration with the youth officer, a call was announced for young individuals to get involved in this process.

Implementing an information campaign in all municipality settlements should precede this process to inform the youth about the role of the local youth council. These initiatives require coordination by the youth officer in cooperation with the council presidents, councilors and the mayor.

In addition to the campaign, the process should continue with consultation of stakeholders who will share their opinions about the needs and interests of the youth and the extent to which they are represented and considered in local decision-making.

The youth council can help foster the creativity and innovation of young people, helping to increase their commitment and responsibility to their community and country.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Butel

1. Environmental problems of the Serava river in the Municipality of Butel - Boris Petrovski (DOM)

2. The problem of stray dogs in Butel Municipality - Dzunejt Rushid (Movement for National Unity of the Turks)





ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROBLEMS OF THE  
SERAVA RIVER IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BUTEL

**„Еколошки проблеми со реката Серова“**

**"Problemët ekologjike me lumin Serovë"**

**Boris Petrovski  
- DOM -**



## Summary

*This brief addresses the environmental aspect of the Serava River in the Municipality of Butel. The Mayor, councilors, and citizens were consulted on this issue. Proposed solutions to the environmental problems of the Serava River in the Municipality of Butel include raising public awareness about not throwing waste, increasing inspections and penalties for throwing waste, and arranging the area around the river with greenery and seating benches.*

The Municipality of Butel, located in the furthest northern part of Skopje, has a total population of 37,968 inhabitants, according to official data of the 2021 census. About 15 years ago in the Butel settlement, the Serava River was rich in flora and fauna; however due to lack of maintenance and pollution by the inhabitants, the wildlife starts to die out and the flow of the river is disturbed. In addition, due to the fact that all type of waste and litter is being thrown out by the citizens, there was a clogging of the Serava riverbed. Due to heavy rain, there was a flood in 2001 which affected the citizens; however the failure to undertake activities to address the challenges, the irregular maintenance and the inadequate infrastructure in the riverbed area, the risk of flooding still exists.

An additional problem is the drainage of sewage into the river from the houses on the west side of the riverbed, which contributes to additional pollution and risk of various infections. Due to the smell of sewage and the unmaintained space at the riverbed, citizens cannot use the area for walking and recreation.

These problems were also identified in the interviews with the citizens of this settlement, who are somewhat satisfied with the cleaning of the river, but continue to emphasize that it is not a sustainable solution.

The main identified problems are:

- Low citizen awareness about dumping waste and litter in the riverbed;
- Insufficient field inspection of the houses that let the sewerage drain into the riverbed;
- Lack of maintenance of the riverbed area with greenery and seating benches, to be used afterwards for hiking and recreation.

### What change is needed?



Several stakeholders including citizens, municipal service, and councilors were involved in the process of identifying the problems. All stakeholders agreed about the existence of the above problems, and the following solutions were offered during discussions with the municipality:

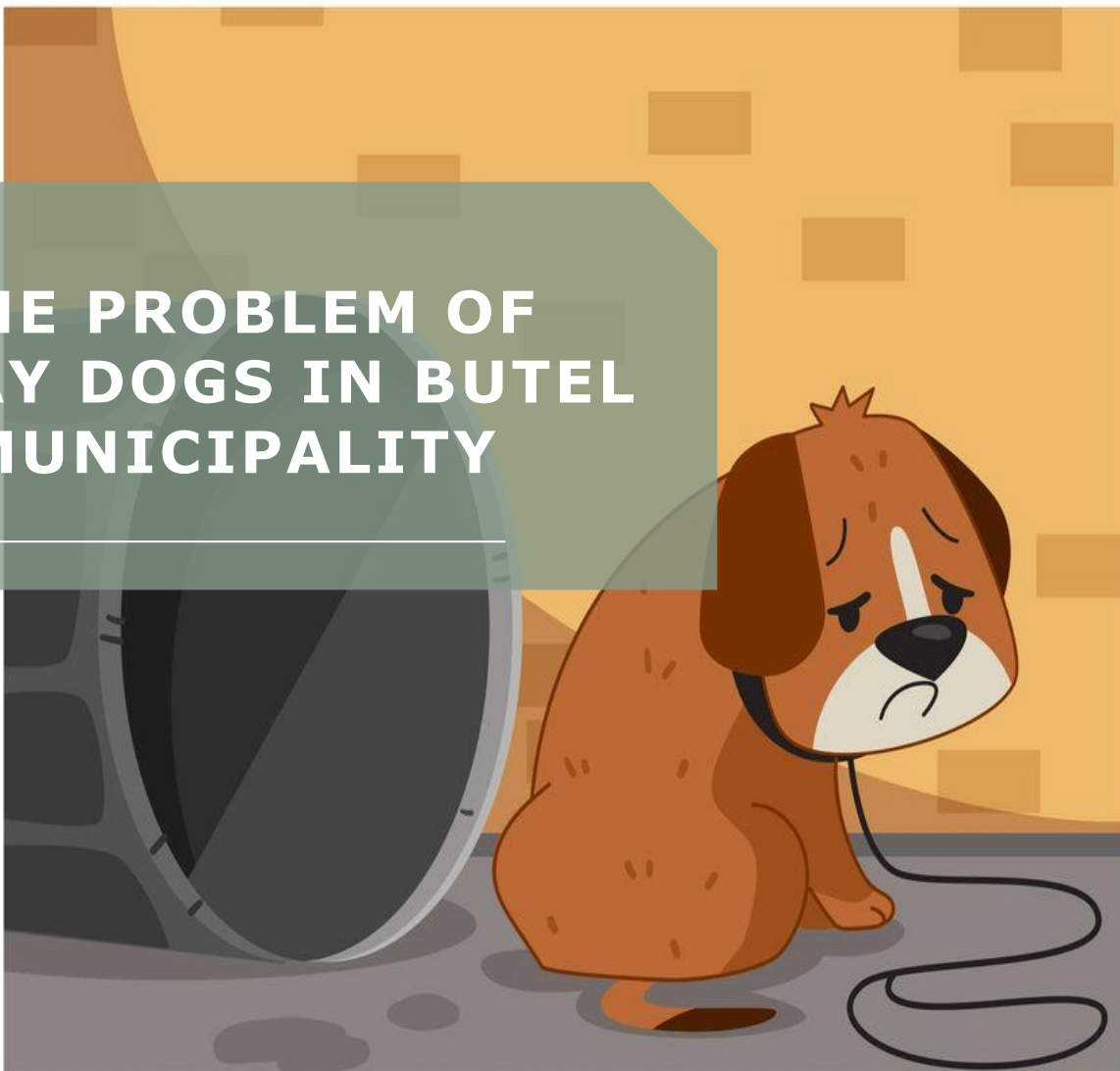
- Conducting awareness-raising campaign among the citizens in order to prevent throwing waste and litter in the riverbed;
- Increase inspectorial supervision, especially in the neighborhood where citizens flush the sewage into the riverbed and prescribe adequate penalties;

- Submission of a proposal to the municipal services for arrangement of the space along the riverbed with seedlings, greenery, and seating benches.

The proposed solutions were viewed positively and were accepted by all stakeholders: citizens, municipal service and councilors. The mayor promised more frequent inspections in the future, relying also on the support of the citizens to report any type of violation to the services. An open telephone line will also be made available for reporting of such cases.

In addition, in cooperation with the councilors, a draft plan will be prepared for the arrangement of the space along the riverbed with seedlings, greenery, and seating benches. The proposal will be put on the agenda of a Council session and when adopted, municipal services will immediately start its implementation.

# THE PROBLEM OF STRAY DOGS IN BUTEL MUNICIPALITY



**„Бездомни кучиња  
во општина Бутел“**

**"Qentë e pastrehë  
në komunën e Butelit"**

**Dzunejt Rushid  
- Movement for National  
Unity of the Turks -**



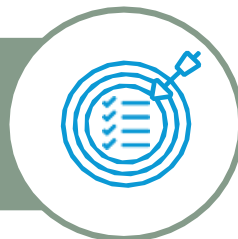
## Summary

*This policy brief addresses the problem of stray dogs in the Municipality of Butel, which move freely and endanger the lives of citizens, especially children. Junejt met with citizens, municipal officials, and councilors on this problem. Regarding the resolution, the brief addresses and offers the following alternatives as solutions: establishment of a coordinating body that will directly cooperate with NGOs and citizens, conducting an inventory of vaccinated stray dogs, or appointment of a responsible person - coordinator of the activities in this area.*

One of the most prevailing problem in the last decades in the country, in the city of Skopje and in particular, the municipality of Butel, is the problem with stray dogs, their free movement and the danger that they impose to the daily lives of the citizens and especially the children. This problem is persistent on a daily basis. Very often the media showcases reports of stray dog attacks resulting in minor and occasionally severe injuries to people<sup>7</sup>. Due to the complexity of the established procedures for resolution of the problem, the citizens take individual measures to cope with the issue (vaccinating the injured citizens, identifying the attacker dog, reporting the case to the police). The ANIMA MUNDI Association for Protection of Animals is an organization which deals with care and protection of animals and has been regularly making proposals for the care of stray dogs. However, the problem perseveres and no solution has been found to date.

In direct conversation with parents of children from Petar Zdravkovski Penko Primary School, located in the municipality of Butel, severe concerns were expressed for the safety of their underage children. It is not uncommon for the stray dogs to conduct attacks in the school perimeter. There have been several stray dog attacks on students on their way to school. When asked whether the incidents had been reported to the police and the relevant services, the parents gave negative answers, citing lack of information about the procedures to be followed in such cases.

### What change is needed?



The Municipality, as the authority responsible for the citizens, needs to take concrete steps to resolve the issue.

To resolve the issue, it is recommended that the Municipality of Butel take the following measures:

- establish a coordinative body that will provide a platform for direct cooperation between representatives of non-governmental organizations, citizen associations and individual citizens;
- initiate an inventory process of vaccinated and unvaccinated stray dogs in the municipality.
- appoint a focal point - coordinator of the activities.

<sup>7</sup> <https://netpress.com.mk/petgodishnik-i-vozasna-zhena-napadnati-od-kuchi-a-vo-skopje/>

The interviews with the advisory groups, which show great interest in the issue, resulted in constructive proposals with regard to ways to deal with the issue of stray dogs. One of the proposals is to build a collective facility, in the Municipality of Butel, for the care stray dogs. At the same time, in conjunction with the citizens inclined to provide protection to animals, the dogs should be domesticated, after having undergone full vaccination and medical examination. This proposal has the support of NGOs that have committed to invest the necessary efforts and to apply their experience and knowledge to successfully complete the project.

The aforementioned proposals have also been presented to the municipality councilors and will be placed on the agenda of Butel Municipal Council.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Gazi Baba

1. Channel concreting - priority solution for local authorities - Abduselam Kamberi (DUI)

2. Stray dogs in the Municipality of Gazi Baba - Viktorija Smilkovska (LDP)



# CHANNEL CONCRETING - PRIORITY SOLUTION FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES



**„Уредување/бетонирање на каналот  
во населба Сингелиќ“**

**"Betonimi/rregullimi i kanalit  
ne lagjen Hasanbeg"**

**Abduselam Kamberi  
- DUI -**



## Summary

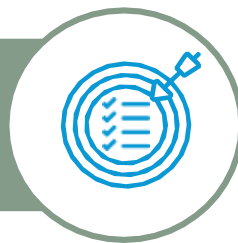
*Abduselam's brief addresses the wastewater canal problem as a priority in the Singelic neighborhood. Through a survey of more than 100 citizens, the wastewater canal problem has been characterized as urgent. He also met with one of the municipal councilors, where it was agreed that the problem would soon be asked to be put on the agenda and a solution found, for example, concreting the canal bed and arranging greenery beside it.*

Hasanbeg neighbourhood, known as Singelic in Macedonian, is located within the Gazi Baba Municipality and has a population of approximately 7,800 inhabitants, according to the latest census. The community faces a significant challenge with the channel that runs through the neighbourhood, carrying sewage from residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The 4-kilometre-long channel has an unsealed bed, which poses problems for the community it passes through, as it becomes a source of environmental pollution and a hazardous threat to public health. The lack of concrete lining means that sewage often surfaces and enters houses, causing hygiene and health issues for the residents.

The citizens have identified the channel problem through a survey that gathered over 100 respondents. Of all the issues faced by the citizens, over 90% of respondents prioritized the problem with the channel. In addition to the survey, several conversations took place with citizens, who emphasized that they have raised this issue with the authorities on multiple occasions and demanded prompt solutions to this problem and other infrastructural issues that rely on channel concreting.

During a conversation with the BESA Movement's only Albanian councillor in the Municipal Council, it was concluded that this issue represents a critical problem for the residents.

### What change is needed?



The most effective solution to the problem is concreting the channel throughout its length of 4km. During the survey, citizens suggested that besides the channel concreting issue, there should also be an investment in greening the surrounding area. This option received the most votes from the residents.

Therefore, I recommend that the municipality take action to concrete the sewage channel to reduce environmental pollution and minimize the risk to public health.

That will prevent sewage from reaching the surface and posing a threat to the neighbourhood's residents. It will also enhance the cleanliness of the land and its products.

Although this initiative will require funding, the long-term benefits will be significant. Additionally, the channel concreting will create a clean and secure

environment for the residents, ultimately increasing the value of their properties and improving their quality of life.

Given the widespread support from the neighbourhood residents, it is time for the municipality to prioritize this critical issue.

Working alongside the municipal councillor, we have agreed to prepare a specific proposal to be put on the Municipal Council's agenda and discussed as soon as possible.



STRAY DOGS IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF GAZI  
BABA

**„Потенцијално решение  
за бездомните кучиња“**

**“Zgjidhje e mundshme  
për qentë e pastrehë”**

**Viktorija Smilkovska  
- LDP -**



## Summary

*Stray dogs are one of the main problems in the Municipality of Gazi Baba, where there are numerous attacks on citizens. Viktorija explored the problem and possible solutions by conducting a survey of more than 200 residents of the Municipality, most of whom (96%) are in favor of building a shelter. She also met with municipal councilors, administration, and other stakeholders. Consequently, the policy brief provides possible solutions to this problem and the cost-benefit analysis of the proposed solutions.*

Gazi Baba Municipality is the largest municipality in the City of Skopje, housing some 72.222 inhabitants. According to the 2021 Census, 62.6% of the population comprise people of up to 40 years of age. Given the high mobility rates of this segment of the population, in terms of commuting to school, faculties, and the workplace, they face numerous problems on a daily basis. In addition to the infrastructure shortcomings, the citizens of the Municipality of Gazi Baba face the recurrent problem of stray dogs. Citizens who use public transport cannot safely reach bus stops from their homes<sup>8</sup>. Increasingly, we are confronted with a group of stray dogs who, due to the poor conditions and hunger to which they are exposed, react aggressively towards people. We have witnessed numerous cases of attacks on citizens by stray dogs. Citizens of the Municipality of Gazi Baba have difficulties in their movement through the municipality, especially in the early morning and late evening hours. Because of the attacks that they are exposed to, citizens are seeking damages from the municipality, which affects the municipal budget. In 2021 alone, 589 lawsuits were filed against the City of Skopje<sup>9</sup>. In this case, the Municipality spends funds from the budget which can be redirected to implementation of a project designed specifically to address this problem. In this regard, the municipality recently set up shelters for stray dogs, which did not provide significant positive results. Despite setting up shelters, attacks on citizens continued<sup>10</sup>. This problem continues to be present, both to the detriment of citizens and dogs who remain on the streets, hungry and without a home.

<sup>8</sup> <https://kanal5.com.mk/tri-novi-slucai-na-napadi-na-kuchinja-vrz-skopjani/a313899>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%D0%D0%B4%D0%BE%D1%82-%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%98%D0%B5-%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D1%81%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D1%82%D0%D0%D0%83%D0%D0%D0%D0%B1%B0%B0%B8%D0%D0%BB%D0%D0%98%B0%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B8-%D0%B5%D0%B2%D1%80%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%D1%D1%B0%D0%D0%82-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%D0%BE%D1%82%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%D0%D4-%D0%BA%D0%B0%B0%D1%81%D0%BD%D1%83%D0%D0%D0%D1%D1%9A%D0%B5%D0%D0%D0%D4%D0%D1%87%D0%B5-%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA/a-61561455>

<sup>10</sup> <https://post.mk/%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%87%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D0%BA%D1%83%D1%87%D0%B8%D1%9A%D0%B0-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B0-%D0%B4%D0%B2%D0%B5-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%B3%D0%B0%D0%D0%D0%B7%D0%B8-%D0%B1/>

## What change is needed?



Several recommendations have been proposed to address this problem. Some of them include: sterilization, castration, fines for pet abandoning and construction of dog shelters.

Singled out as the most appropriate solution is the construction of a dog shelter where the stray dogs would be cared for. This proposal is the most suitable for both, the dogs and the citizens. In order to gauge the opinion of the citizens, a survey was conducted which provided the citizens the opportunity to share their thoughts about this problem. The citizens answered the following questions:

- Are there any stray dogs in your community?
- What degree of danger the stray dogs pose to your life and the life of your loved ones?
- Have you and your loved ones ever been attacked by stray dogs?
- What steps should the community take to address this issue?

The survey was administered to 215 citizens of the Municipality of Gazi Baba. To the question regarding which proposed solution is the most appropriate for them, 95.74% of the respondents voted for the proposed construction of a dog shelter.

Following completion of the survey, the idea was shared with a member of the Municipal Council and an animal care expert, who discussed the possibility of providing finances for the project from the municipal budget. Given that the municipality spends funds to cover for damages to citizens who were attacked by stray dogs, a common conclusion was that the same funds can be redirected to sponsor the implementation of this project.


The implementation of this draft proposal, i.e. the construction of a shelter for stray dogs, will permanently solve a major problem of the citizens of the Municipality of Gazi Baba. This will allow for free movement of the citizens of this municipality, and at the same time, will save many stray dogs that are doomed to hunger and cold streets.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Gostivar

1. Insufficient parking facilities in Gostivar Municipality - Admir Miftari (DUI)

2. Introduction of E-services in the Municipality of Gostivar – Angela Avramovska (SDSM)





INSUFFICIENT  
PARKING FACILITIES  
IN GOSTIVAR  
MUNICIPALITY

**„Нови паркинг места  
во општина Гостивар“  
“Parkingje të reja  
në komunën e Gostivarit”**

**Admir Miftari  
- DUI -**



## Summary

*Like many other cities in the country, Gostivar is facing the problem of traffic congestion and lack of parking spaces, especially in the city center. To investigate the problem, Admir conducted a survey with more than 100 citizens and met with municipality councilors. Almost 60% of respondents agreed with constructing multi-storey parking garages on existing parking spaces in the city center.*

The City of Gostivar is facing a critical issue of traffic congestion and insufficient parking facilities, particularly in the city center. As a result, residents and visitors are struggling to find a place to park their vehicles, leading to frustration and disappointment. This problem not only affects the individuals attempting to park, but also has a ripple effect throughout the community.

The lack of parking space in the city center has resulted in traffic jams as drivers continuously circle in search of a spot to park. This, in turn, leads to longer travel time, increased fuel consumption, and air pollution. Additionally, this has negative effect on the centrally-located businesses as difficulty finding parking can discourage people from visiting the area, potentially harming their financial gain.

Despite promises<sup>11</sup> made by the local government before the last local elections to construct new parking garages and address the issue, no progress has been made to date. The citizens have been hearing the same promises for the last five years without any concrete action taken. This inaction is not only disheartening, but it also has a tangible impact on the daily lives of the citizens.

At the start of 2023, a survey involving over 100 citizens was carried out to conduct an extensive investigation into the issue and gather feedback from the public. The findings of the survey demonstrate that Gostivar is facing a significant problem with shortage of parking space. A staggering 95% of respondents highlighted the urgent need for additional parking facilities in the city, indicating that the current situation has caused a great deal of worry and frustration amongst residents and visitors alike. Moreover, a substantial proportion of respondents, namely 85.9%, reported being late for meetings, events or work due to difficulties encountered while searching for a parking spot.

### What change is needed?



The local government must take action to address the issue of parking shortage in the city. Investing in new parking garages is critical as it will not only alleviate the current parking shortage but also improve the overall quality of life for residents and visitors. This will increase access to the city for all citizens and

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vr7zDpA6IYc>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap38QTjKqzs>

visitors, as reducing the time spent searching for parking will enable them to arrive on time at meetings, events, and at work.

A survey has proposed a possible solution to this problem which involves constructing multi-level garages. The survey found that 59.2% of respondents agreed that building three new parking garages in existing parking spaces would effectively address the parking shortage. Meanwhile, 24.5% of respondents supported the idea of expanding existing parking areas, and 16.3% of respondents supported building a multi-level garage in an existing parking area.

During a meeting with the municipal councillors in the Gostivar Municipality Council of the Democratic Union for Integration party, we discussed this issue and agreed with the citizens about the proposed solutions. These proposals will be discussed further in upcoming sessions of the Municipal Council.

It is important for the local government to deliver on its promises and provide a safe, accessible, and efficient city for its residents and visitors.



INTRODUCTION OF E-  
SERVICES IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF  
GOSTIVAR

**„Воведување е-услуга  
во општина Гостивар“**

**“Vendosja e e-shërbimeve  
në komunën e Gostivarit”**

**Angela Avramoska  
- SDSM -**



## Summary

*Angela's brief addresses the problem of citizen accessibility to municipal services. The main task of the digitalization of the services of the municipality is easier and faster access for the citizens. To define the problem and see possible solutions, she conducted a survey with more than 300 citizens and met with the municipality's and municipal councilors' representatives. Almost all respondents and interlocutors agreed that the introduction of e-services is the best solution for faster and more efficient access to services and how it can be implemented.*

The idea to digitalize the services of the municipality of Gostivar rests on the citizens' need to access municipal services and have easier communication with municipal authorities. Despite that municipal services digitalization is quite topical in the last period, it is a fact that only a small number of municipalities in the Republic of North Macedonia have introduced e-services. One of the municipalities that has not yet gone through the process to digitalize the services under its competence is the Municipality of Gostivar.

The main purpose of municipal services digitalization is easier and faster access for citizens living on the territory of the municipality of Gostivar. The importance of municipal services digitalization is proven by its benefits, such as practicality and efficiency, transparency, accessibility, inclusiveness, accessibility and automation of data, as well as cost reduction.

In order to explore citizens' views regarding the need for municipal e-services and whether the availability of e-services will increase the accessibility and transparency of the municipality, a survey was conducted among the citizens of the municipality of Gostivar. The survey was conducted by means of a questionnaire shared on the social media. The results of the survey confirm the need for introduction of e-services in the municipality. 93% of the respondents identify the lack of online available services as a major problem. Of the total number of respondents (304), 88% believe that if the municipality had available e-services, they would be used by a wider group of citizens. Majority of citizens of the municipality of Gostivar, i.e. 67.9%, stated the need for an affordable e-service "Report a problem / Ask a question" in order to be able to directly address the municipality, as well as service for e- payment of taxes and fees, that is, 47.1% of the respondents stated the need for this service.

### What change is needed?



To be useful, it is important that e-services are accessible to a greater number of citizens through municipal websites or applications and to be continuously provided in an easy and accessible way to ensure uninterrupted use of e-services by end users.

One possible solution to be undertaken by the municipality is a website on which e-services will be offered. Another way is a software solution with a link on the municipal website that will lead the users to the e-service. A third solution is to

create a separate application with e-services and citizens will be able to use municipal e-services by logging in with a username and password.

Some of the recommendations to implement the municipal services digitalization process are as follows:

- introduce a stable IT infrastructure to ensure digitization and maintenance of the respective infrastructure;
- training of the municipal staff to successful master the technology that will be used for services digitalization;
- in the case of the Municipality of Gostivar, it is necessary to provide e-services both in Macedonian and Albanian language.

After implementing the digitalization process and introducing e-services, the municipality will bear the obligation to inform and encourage citizens to use e-services, with a view of greater promotion and use of digital services through organized campaigns and providing explanatory materials on the use of services. This was also identified as needed by citizens at the meeting with members of the Council of the municipality of Gostivar, that is, SDSM members of the Council, which helped to discuss problems related to the lack of e-services and the importance of services digitalization for citizens. Members of the Council supported the idea of digitizing the services of the municipality of Gostivar and will discuss it as an item on the agenda of the municipal Council.

Citizens of the municipality of Gostivar expect that municipal services digitalization will ensure easier and faster access to municipal services, as well as increased availability and transparency of the municipality, which are some of the greatest benefits of digitalization.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Dolneni

1. Improvement of the road infrastructure in the Municipality of Dolneni - Deniz Miftari (DUI)

## АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# IMPROVEMENT OF THE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DOLNENI



**“Како да се подобри моменталната состојба  
на патиштата во Општина Долнени?”**

**“Si të përmirësohet gjendja aktuale  
e rrugëve në Komunën e Dollnenit?”**

**Deniz Miftari  
- DUI -**



## Summary

*Deniz prepared a policy brief in which the implemented questionnaire and designations for priority projects in the road infrastructure in the Municipality of Dolneni were integrated. He presented his initiative to the municipal authorities, who are expected to start completing the necessary documentation as soon as possible.*

The Municipality of Dolneni is located in the northern part of the Pelagonija valley. Its territory spread over 450km<sup>2</sup> is a predominantly flat area (2/3 of the land) with intermittent mountain hills (1/3). This rural municipality comprises 36 settlements, some of which are smaller with 50-100 inhabitants each, and some larger with 2000-3000 inhabitants per settlement. According to official data from the 2021 Census, the ethnic composition is of mixed character with several ethnic communities, of which 27% are Albanians, 36% Macedonians, 19% Turks, 17% Bosniaks and other smaller ethnic communities (data from the 2021 Census). Settlements in the municipality are connected with a rather large network of local roads (with a total length of about 140 km of road infrastructure at the municipal level); however not all of them have been reconstructed. The local roads are not in the best condition, i.e. most of them have been paved in the past and are now depreciated; some have been paved with new asphalt and these are in good condition, however some roads are in very poor condition and have not been reconstructed<sup>12</sup>. In order to investigate the problems with the road infrastructure more in-depth, a questionnaire was developed and administered to a representative sample of 104 local citizens of the Municipality of Dolneni. To the question whether the Municipality of Dolneni invests enough funds in the road infrastructure, 60% of the respondents answered positively, 30% answered negatively and 10% of respondents were undecided.

### What change is needed?



Paving the main arteries of the road infrastructure in the Municipality of Dolneni is the only feasible solution for road improvement and also a priority for the local authorities. However, with this public policy document which was developed through surveying the citizens and the municipal authorities, we try to prioritize important projects in road infrastructure.

The questionnaire included several options for road reconstructions, based on which 68.7% of the respondents decided that the priority is to reconstruct the road between villages Dupjacani - Desovo. To the question "Based on which criterion did you select the specific road", 62% of the respondents stated that the deciding factor was the age and the need for renovation of the road, 25% stated

<sup>12</sup> Interview with the authorized person from the urban planning sector in the Municipality of Dolneni conducted on 20 January 2023.

that the number of residents living in the area was a deciding factor for their decision, 10% based their decision on the number of students who use the road to commute to school and only 3% based their decision on the number of employees using the road.

At the meeting with the municipal authorities, it was emphasized that the Municipality continues to work on securing the necessary financial resources for the implementation of projects in road infrastructure within its budget capabilities and with the help of the central institutions of the Republic of North Macedonia, and that the information obtained from the survey is very useful for future planning and programming activities. Options were discussed for this initiative to be raised within the Council of the Municipality and to start compiling the necessary documentation as soon as possible.

The settlement of Dupjacani and the villages that gravitate towards the road Dupjacani - Desovo, use this road as the main connection point to the seat of the Municipality of Dolneni, whereas the settlement of Desovo is connected by this road to the town of Prilep. This road is also used daily by high school students who commute to Prilep for schooling, employees in the local self-government and in the town of Prilep and other citizens who use this road on a daily basis for various needs. This is an indicator of the importance of this road as a connection point between these settlements, and serves to further support the decision of the majority of respondents to single out this road as the most important.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Kisela Voda

1. Setting up outdoor fitness areas in the Municipality of Kisela Voda - Gorjan Churlinov (Party of the Vlachs of Macedonia)





Illustration showing five people exercising in an outdoor fitness area. A man in a red shirt is doing pull-ups on a bar. A woman in a yellow shirt is standing with arms outstretched. A woman in a red sports bra is doing a lunge with her hands raised. A man in a blue shirt is kneeling and holding a dumbbell. A woman in a purple top is jumping rope. The background shows a park with trees and buildings.

# SETTING UP OUTDOOR FITNESS AREAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KISELA VODA

**„Поставување фитнес зони на отворено  
во општина Кисела Вода“**

**"Ngritja e zonave të fitnesit në hapësira  
të komunës së Kisella Vodës"**

**Gorjan Churlinov  
- Party of the Vlachs -**



## Summary

*Gorjan's brief addresses the issue of outdoor fitness areas in the Municipality of Kisela Voda. In an online survey conducted with over 70 respondents, 95% of respondents believe there should be more open fitness centers in the Municipality that would be easily accessible to all citizens. To implement this initiative, Gorjan talked to councilors of the Municipality and experts who promised to raise the issue in the municipality council.*

We are aware that the 2020 COVID pandemic has changed many of our daily habits and activities, among other things, how and where we exercise, and effectively where in particular do we engage in physical activities. Due to the fact that during the pandemic, fitness and sports centers were closed and unavailable for the citizens, the need for such outdoor centers became increasingly more pronounced. In addition to being a consequence of the pandemic, a socio-economic factor is also at play, where a large percentage of the young population does not have the opportunity to allocate funds for daily and regular use of gyms and/or fitness centers, despite being the only opportunity for their healthy development, recreation and, to a great extent, socialization.

According to official data from the last census in 2021, the Municipality of Kisela Voda counts 61,965 inhabitants, of whom some 15% are youngsters aged 15-29 (9,844 inhabitants) and approximately 29% are people between the age of 30-49 (17,849 inhabitants). The Municipality of Kisela Voda houses three secondary schools, a student dormitory and several primary schools.

Currently, there are several outdoor fitness areas in the Municipality of Kisela Voda, in the following locations: Park Macedonia, Pripor, 11 barracks, Park Defenders, Park Dimo Hadzi Dimov and the park in the beer hall. However, all of the above locations are on the periphery of the municipality, in somewhat remote settlements. According to the questionnaire administered online to some 70+ respondents, 65% of the respondents do not use these outdoor fitness centers/zones due to the distance from their place of residence. Otherwise, 95% of the respondents believe that in the Municipality of Kisela Voda there should be more outdoor fitness centers/zones and these should be made easily accessible for all citizens.

### What change is needed?



The above need was discussed with the members of the Municipal Council, as well as with experts employed in the municipality in the field of sports and culture who are directly involved in such activities. The findings of the survey were also presented, i.e. the locations where citizens deem having fitness centers/outdoor areas most appropriate. A majority of the respondents noted that new outdoor fitness areas should be set up in the following locations: Rasadnik settlement, near the Pelagonija Student Dormitory, Kisela Voda playground, Park 11

Oktohvri and in the yard of high school Vasil Antevski - Dren. The municipality emphasized that the installation of an outdoor fitness zone is a severe financial burden; however the proposed locations by the citizens will be taken into account when planning the next budget of the municipality.

In addition, the councilors emphasized that they would put forward this issue at a session of the Municipal Council and would initiate setting up an outdoor fitness area at least in one of the above locations.

Alternatively, the Municipality of Kisela Voda resorts to setting up fitness devices when developing children playgrounds, however these are deemed insufficient.

The outcome of the interview with the sports expert/fitness trainer was that the idea for this initiative will have positive effects on the youngsters and that it would bring social and health benefits. The expert stated that despite having a number of fitness clubs where people can exercise, a large number of residents will use exclusively these parks and added that he himself sometimes conducts trainings there, concluding that it would be beneficial for each municipality to have more parks where young people can exercise and socialize.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Kriva Palanka

1. Lack of enough parking space in Kriva Palanka - Lina Rangelova (VMRO-DPMNE)

### АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

## LACK OF ENOUGH PARKING SPACE IN KRIVA PALANKA



**“Зголемување на паркинг местата  
преку поставување на катни гаражи“**  
**“Rritja e hapësirave të parkimit nëpërmjet  
vendosjes së garazheve shumëkatëshe“**

**Lina Rangelova  
- VMRO-DPMNE -**



## Summary

*One of the most significant problems residents of the municipality of Kriva Palanka currently need is more parking spaces. The problem is primarily due to many citizens living in residential buildings in the city center. Lina investigated the problem through a survey and meetings with municipal officials and councilors. Her policy brief offers solutions to this problem by introducing zone parking or a more sustainable solution, the construction/installation of a multi - storey parking garage.*

Kriva Palanka is a town in the north-east of the country, located in the valley of the Osogovo mountains on the two shores of the Kriva Reka. According to the 2021 census data, there are a total of 18 059 inhabitants and total number of 4 103 cars in the municipality.

One of the biggest problems currently faced by the citizens of Kriva Palanka is the lack of enough space for parking. The problem mainly results from the big number of citizens living in residential buildings in the city centre, without having their own garages and definitely because of lack of enough space. Therefore, vehicles are parked on public areas around the building, and some are also parked on the main street. The problem is further complicated as citizens who work in the central part of the city also park their cars there. They leave the cars during the day, despite the very small number of free parking spaces. The problem is further exacerbated as the local government stopped the traffic on the only street crossing the square. Previously there were two one-way streets where drivers could stop their cars shortly, if needed. However, due to the local government's urban plan, there is only one two-way street in the town. Local authorities are making other proposals, contrary to the promises they made. Decision was taken to introduce parking zones, so that citizens who want to use the parking space in the city will have to pay certain amount, which is to be additionally specified. This would be another burden on the citizens' modest budget in times of serious economic crisis, meaning that the local authorities would not focus solely on finding the necessary new parking space in the city.

### What change is needed?



One proposal that would only partially solve the problem is to introduce parking zones, with certain advantages for the residents and symbolic charges for all other citizens who can park their vehicles for limited period of time. This would tackle the problem created by many citizens who work in the central city and leave their cars for 8 hours despite the limited free space, but also ensuring certain advantages for the residents.

However, crucial long-term solution is to provide new parking space by constructing a multistorey garage. Depending on the financial capacity of the municipality, this can also be a modular garage. Modular garages will clear up the city traffic congestion, alleviate the access to economic and catering facilities,

and the homes of our fellow citizens, also by ensuring an additional effect, that is, provide sidewalks for pedestrians. In turn, the safety of pedestrians and other participants in traffic will increase, the flow of vehicles will be alleviated and the traffic culture will be promoted.

Survey with 456 respondents was carried out as part of the project, whereby 58% of the respondents stated that parking zones will not completely solve the problems with parking space, while 65% respondents stated regarding the second question that a multistorey garage would solve the problem. They offered several locations, and according to the citizens, a modular garage can also be installed on the street near the Inter-municipal center for social affairs. The survey results were presented at the meeting with the VMRO-DPMNE municipal councilors who share the opinion of the surveyed citizens, and promised to make an initiative with the Council of the municipality of Kriva Palanka. Also, additional efforts will be required to accelerate the construction of a third lane on the main street. All above-stated solutions, either separately or cumulatively can significantly contribute to resolving the long-lasting problem of citizens of Kriva Palanka.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Kumanovo

1. Use of the city library in Kumanovo Municipality - Vjollca Murtezi (Alternativa)

2. Inadequate road infrastructure for blind citizens in the Municipality of Kumanovo - Julija Dimitrievska (Levica)

3. Unlicensed carriers in the Municipality of Kumanovo - Milosh Ilievski (For Our Kumanovo)





USE OF THE CITY  
LIBRARY IN  
KUMANOVO  
MUNICIPALITY

**“Да ја направиме јавната библиотека  
во Куманово достапна за младите“**

**“Та бѣјмë bibliotekën publike  
нë Kumanovë më të arritshme për të rinjtë ”**



**Vjollca Murtezi  
- Alternativa -**



## Summary

*Challenge: The Municipality of Kumanovo has a single library, "Tane Georgievski" with minimal seating. Also, the library raised the membership price but introduced an additional daily fee. This resulted in a decrease in library attendance. Vjollca explored the problem in depth through the survey with students and stakeholder meetings. Her policy brief provides alternative solutions to overcome the challenge by reducing prices and more effectively involving the Municipality with concrete actions.*

Based on the 2021 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings, Kumanovo Municipality has a population of 80,953 inhabitants. Slightly over 10 per cent of these (9,889) are students attending secondary or higher education, and post-graduate studies. Given the substantial student population, there is an evident necessity for a city library that caters to their requirements for study resources, reading areas, and affordable prices.

The Municipality of Kumanovo hosts one library "Tane Georgievski" situated in the city center. In 2022, the library authorities implemented a new pricing scheme that increased the registration fee and introduced a daily fee for the use of reading area. The daily fee stands at 50 MKD, a significant shift from the previous period when the library was free to use. This new pricing policy has adversely affected the interest of students in utilizing the library's resources.

In an interview with an administrative employee of the library, we learned that the library's maximum capacity is 24 seats and there is insufficient storage space for published books. The interview also revealed that there has been a high level of student interest in the library, particularly during exam periods when the reading room is consistently at full capacity. However, after implementing a daily fee for library use, the level of interest has significantly decreased.

The library authorities submitted a request to the municipality for relocation and expansion of its capacity due to insufficient space; however, the municipality was unable to find a suitable location.

We obtained empirical data about the reasons for increased library usage by conducting an online survey among 75 students from the municipality of Kumanovo focusing on the obstacles they face and found that 24% of respondents used the library for borrowing books, 24% of respondents used it for studying, 1.3% used it for study materials, 25.3% for all the above reasons, and 25.3% did not use the library at all. The highest percentage of respondents (46.7%) indicated that their reason for not using the library/reading room is the introduced fee. Some 4.3% cited its remoteness as the main reason, 14.7% the conditions of the library (e.g., small capacity, noise, etc.), while 9.3% of the respondents do not use it for all the reasons mentioned above. Furthermore, 90.7% of the respondents indicated that they would use the library more if there would be no fee, while only 9.3% said that they would not use it at all.

Thus, it can be concluded that the primary issue with the city library is related to payment, whereas other significant factors include the capacity and conditions of the library.

## What change is needed?




To temporarily address the aforementioned challenge one option is **to suspend the fee for using the reading room spaces**<sup>13</sup>. Alternatively, the registration fee could be lowered from 250 to 150 MKD, and the daily fee for using the reading room could be reduced from 50 to 15 or 10 MKD.

We can propose various solutions to address the library's limited capacity issue. One option is to relocate the library to the House of the Pioneers, which has been out of use for several years and is owned by the municipality. Another suggestion, despite the need for a new facility with good conditions, is to establish multiple library branches in different neighbourhoods across the city to eliminate geographical barriers. For example, one possibility is to request ownership from the municipality of the ambulance premises in the "Neighbourhood of the Brave", an abandoned health care facility. The current location of the "Sami Frasheri" and the "Nace Bugjon" high schools, which are set to be moved near the barracks, and their construction is expected to start this year, could potentially be repurposed as a library and reading space, given their proximity to the city market.

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<sup>13</sup> A meeting was held on January 30, 2023, with the municipal councillor from Alternativa, Driton Sulejmani, to address this request, and he ensured his intention to raise this issue in the municipal assembly.



# INADEQUATE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BLIND CITIZENS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KUMANOVO

**“Вградување на звучни сигнали во semaфорите  
на најфреквентните локации во Куманово”**

**“Vendosja e sinjalistikës zanore në semaforët  
e rrugëve më të frekuentuara në Kumanovë”**

**Julija Dimitrievska  
- Levica -**



## Summary

*Julija's public policy brief addresses the problem of poor traffic infrastructure in Kumanovo, which creates difficulties for blind people. She had meetings with representatives of associations for people with special needs and representatives from the Municipality. The proposed solutions will be presented and discussed in the next meetings of the municipal council, whose competence is traffic at the city level.*

Kumanovo is a city with 75 000 inhabitants. According to the records of the association “Inclusiva” and the association “Persons who are blind” in Kumanovo, there are 110 blind persons. As they belong to a category of vulnerable persons, more attention will be required. Therefore, it is important to adopt a more serious approach to these issues.

The scope of problems these people face on daily basis is enormous. However, the biggest problem is that their safety is endangered while they move around the city. This challenge is further extended, given that the category of visually impaired persons can also be added to the category of blind persons.

“Lack of sufficient road infrastructure in the city, and digging holes on the streets, lack of designated paths, lack of adequate road signaling at intersections and of special vehicles, endangers the safety and is life-threatening for blind and visually impaired persons who move around the city,” said the representative of the association “Inclusiva”.

### What change is needed?



Given the above-stated problems, there are several options to ensure safe and secure movement of blind persons:

- designating an appropriate path for movement with curbside directions for persons who are blind and visually impaired,
- incorporating audible signals into traffic lights,
- special platforms in buses and the like.

However, given the financial capacity of the municipality, as well as the viability of the above proposed measures, the stakeholders believe that efforts should be initiated with installation of sound signals on the traffic lights at the busiest locations, such as the traffic light at the intersection of Boulevard “Treta makedonska udarna brigada”, across the city market. The traffic light at this intersection, located in the city centre, is one of the busiest locations, because the market is visited daily by blind and visually impaired people. Also, there are schools and cafes in this area that blind and visually impaired people visit during leisure and recreation time.

From consultations with representatives of the municipality of Kumanovo, responsible for the city traffic, information was obtained on the amount of financial resources needed to install the so-called sound signal module on traffic lights. The amounts range from approximately 100 to 130 euros."

Even though it is impossible to consider and resolve all problems of blind and visually impaired people in a short period of time, making effort to find solution to this problem will also serve as good incentive and motivation for this category of persons to acquire their rights and opportunities. The problem will be discussed at the party level and there are great chances that it will be also presented to the Council of the municipality of Kumanovo. This will ensure that Kumanovo becomes a better living place for them, and the ways in which the city deals with these kinds of problems will be an excellent example for the other cities in our country.

**UNLICENSED  
CARRIERS IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF  
KUMANOVO**

**TAXI**

**“Лиценцирање на таксисти  
без соодветна дозвола за превоз“**

**"Licencimi i taksistëve  
pa leje të rregullt transporti"**

**Milosh Ilievski  
- For Our Kumanovo -**



## Summary

*Milos' public policy brief deals with the problem of illegal taxi drivers in Kumanovo. Within his community engagement framework, he talked to various stakeholders about this problem: wild carriers, inspection services, the Municipality, and citizens. As the most appropriate solution to this problem, the brief proposes the inclusion of local self-government by granting certain financial assistance (subsidies) for licensing illegal transporters.*

The Municipality of Kumanovo is one of the largest municipalities in the country with over 100 000 inhabitants, which currently houses some 37 000 registered cars. As such, the municipality has been facing the issue of unlicensed taxi drivers and carriers for several years. There are a total of 60 licensed taxi drivers in the city, with significant percentage of them carrying out taxi transport without the required permit/license. There are several reasons for the lack of licencing of carriers. One of the reasons is the lack of sufficient financial resources to pay the necessary fees for obtaining a license. Thus, by circumventing the legal provisions, they also circumvent the fees. In addition, the legislation requires that<sup>14</sup>, if licensed, the ownership of the vehicle is transferred to a legal entity, thus rendering significantly higher fines compared to the fines for non-licensed vehicles in personal ownership. In the last few years, the Municipality of Kumanovo, as the second largest municipality in the country, faces lack of adequate staffing, with only one road traffic inspector who fails to deal effectively with the large number of unlicensed carriers.

### What change is needed?



In terms of dealing with the network of unlicensed individual carriers operating outside the legal framework, we propose the following solutions:

- involving the local self-government by providing financial assistance to subsidize half of the costs necessary to obtain a license;
- increasing the number of road traffic inspectors, in order to enhance control of unlicensed taxi carriers, which affect the safety of citizens;
- raising the awareness of all unlicensed carriers for the need of obtaining a license and register as a legal entity, as well as explaining the benefits that they will be granted after obtaining a license.

To discuss the issue, interviews were conducted with a variety of stakeholders that take interest in this problem, including in-depth interviews with three unlicensed carriers (aged 50), relevant inspection services, two representatives of the municipal administration and councillors, and a group of citizens. The resulting suggested solutions to the problem imply involvement of the local self-

<sup>14</sup> Law on Road Transport (Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia no.68/04 and 275/19)

government in terms of providing financial assistance to subsidize the licensing cost for carriers.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Lipkovo

1. Illegal landfills in the Municipality of Lipkovo - Herolinda Ramadani (Aliance for Albanians)





ILLEGAL LANDFILLS  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY  
OF LIPKOVO

**„Решение за дивите депонии  
во општина Липково“**

**“Zgjidhje për deponitë e egra  
në Komunën e Likovës”**

**Herolinda Ramadani  
- Alliance for Albanians -**



## Summary

*The Municipality of Lipkovo has been facing the problem of wild landfills for years, regardless of the multiple promises of the authorities about possible solutions. For this reason, Herolinda decided to investigate this problem and try to offer the best solution. She conducted a poll with 50 citizens, where 88% answered that they are aware of the existence of landfills, 76.5% believe that the municipality is responsible for these landfills. In contrast, 17.6% believe that local businesses are to blame, and the rest believe that the citizens are to blame. At a meeting with some of the municipal councilors, it was promised that the problem of landfills and the research results would be put on the council's agenda, and a possible solution would be sought.*

For years, the Municipality of Likovo has been dealing with the issue of illegal landfills, yet no action has been taken to date to address this longstanding problem. Despite promises to find a solution, citizens are losing hope. The management of landfills falls under the purview of the public municipal enterprise "Pisha," however the public perceives that this entity has not made any noticeable progress in this area, despite receiving support from the municipal budget.

The residents of Negushtak and Orlanca have taken the initiative to relocate these hazardous landfills, however their vocal campaigns have failed to elicit a response from the responsible authorities.

*"Illegal landfills in these municipalities are a real environmental "bomb". You can find almost everything in it, such as construction debris, plastic, glass bottles, toys, and even food waste. It is scary that these landfills often burn, while the hazardous smoke generated from these sites, which frequently catch fire, poses a severe health hazard to the residents."*

*"The problem falls under the purview of the Municipality because we clean the garbage in the village. Since the start of the new year, garbage has been collected only four times from the village. Consequently, the locals resort to burning the waste."*

*"We are sleep-deprived due to the foul stench emanating from the landfill. My house is a mere ten meters from the landfill. The entire village is reeling from the garbage crisis, it has never been like this. Do we have a municipality or not - I think we don't",* were the sentiments of the locals.

According to an online survey of 50 citizens, 88% of respondents are aware of the presence of illegal dumps. Of those surveyed, 76.5% believe that the Municipality is accountable for the existence of these landfills, 17.6% attribute it to local businesses, and the remaining respondents attribute it to the citizens.

### What change is needed?



After conducting consultations and surveys with the local community, recommendations were put forward to address the issue of illegal waste dumping.

The community expressed a collective need to take immediate action to ensure a healthy living environment and the responsible authorities should act swiftly to tackle the problem.

During the survey, citizens were asked to suggest possible solutions, and over 70% recommended the following options:

1. regular cleaning of dumpsites by the municipal enterprise;
2. awareness campaigns for citizens;
3. more frequent inspections and imposition of high fines by the municipal inspectorate; and
4. improving the waste management services in the Municipality of Likovo by the municipal enterprise "Pisha".

During consultations with the councilors of the political party Alliance for Albanians, who also confirmed citizens' concerns regarding the problem, a decision was made to put the issue and proposed solutions on the agenda of the upcoming Municipal Council sessions in an attempt to find a swift solution.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Makedonski Brod

1. Introduction of E-services in Makedonski Brod - Sonja Jovanovska (LDP)

### АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# INTRODUCTION OF E-SERVICES IN MAKEDONSKI BROD



**„Воведување е-услуги  
во Македонски Брод“**

**"Vendosja e e-shërbimeve  
në Makedonski Brod"**

**Sonja Jovanovska  
- LDP -**



## Summary

*This brief addresses the problem of introducing e-services in the Municipality of Makedonski Brod. To identify this need and the possible solution, Sonja conducted a survey among citizens, almost all of whom responded positively to the need to introduce e-services. To implement this initiative, she met with representatives of the Municipality, i.e., the Mayor, a legal officer, and an advisor, who promised to take the necessary steps to introduce e-services in the Municipality.*

A small percentage of local self-government units in the Republic of North Macedonia have introduced e-services. The Municipality of Makedonski Brod is among those which have recently stagnated in the process of digitalization of services. Digital technology is one of the most important tools for bridging the gap between institutions and citizens. In addition, citizens will benefit from the introduction of electronic services in that it will reduce waiting time at the counter and they will be able to complete administrative issues faster online.

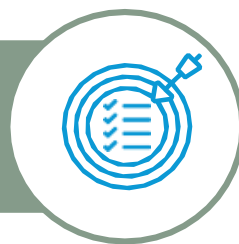
Makedonski Brod is one of the smaller municipalities in the Republic of North Macedonia, which according to official data from the 2021 census has a total population of 7 141 inhabitants, spread out in 51 settlements.

With the new website, the municipality is more open and transparent to the citizens; however the main problem that residents of the municipality of Makedonski Brod currently face is the digitalization of the municipality, especially for the citizens who live in more remote settlements.

In order to scan the opinion of the citizens in the Municipality of Makedonski Brod, a survey was conducted through an online questionnaire, which was shared through the social networks.

The entire representative sample of 43 respondents (100%) saw the need to introduce e-services in the municipality, which identified the lack of available services online as a problem. Of the total number of respondents, 97.7% believe that if the municipality had available e-services, they would be used by a wider scope of citizens.

### What change is needed?



The problem was also discussed with representatives of the municipality, the legal affairs officer in the municipality, one of the councilors and the mayor, who also agree that the need for introduction of digital services is a challenge that they will focus more on in the future.

In an interview with the above stakeholders, the following solutions to this problem were proposed:

- Introduction of e-services on the website of the municipality;
- Software solution for the establishment of e-services;

- Mobile application for e-services of the municipality.

In addition, according to the results of the survey, citizens believe that the municipality should offer them at least the following services online:

- Report a problem/ask a question - 63% of respondents;
- Collection of bills/taxes - 53.5% of the respondents;
- Sign up for...Participate in/- 39.5% of respondents.

With the independent councilors, as well as with the councilors from other political parties in the Council of the Municipality of Makedonski Brod, it was discussed and agreed that this issue should be placed on the agenda of one of the next sessions of the Council and that the above solutions should be proposed to the Council, the Mayor and the administrative services of the municipality.

Offering e-services provides for greater transparency and introduction of practical solutions that facilitate the everyday life of citizens and, most importantly, once these solutions are enabled and integrated, sustainability in their management and maintenance should be ensured.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Prilep

1. Protection against violence against women and girls with disabilities in the Municipality of Prilep - Natali Kitanoska (SDSM)

2. Youth centre in Prilep - Hristijan Tuneski (VMRO-DPMNE)



# PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRILEP



**“Непријавување насилство врз жени  
и девојчиња со попреченост“**

**"Mos raportimi i dhunës ndaj grave  
dhe vajzave me aftësi të kufizuara"**

**Natali Kitanoska  
- SDSM -**



## Summary

*Natali addresses the problem of non-reporting violence against women and girls with disabilities in her public policy brief. She explored the problem in depth through interviews with persons with disabilities on the territory of the Municipality of Prilep and the Centers for Social Work employees throughout the territory of the Republic of North Macedonia. The brief also offers solutions to the problem, such as training for staff working with women with disabilities in disability centers, conducting educational campaigns to raise awareness, etc.*

Data from the Centre for Social Work (CSW) in the Municipality of Prilep shows that the number of reported cases of domestic violence is on the rise (50 cases were reported in 2014; 142 cases in 2015; and 162 cases in 2016), which indicates increased awareness and trust in the institutions. Unfortunately, this is not the case when it comes to violence against women and girls with disabilities. This category of male and female residents of the Municipality of Prilep do not report cases of experienced violence to the Centre for Social Work, thus preventing timely institutional response and implementation of preventive measures.

In order to gauge the actual situation and to conduct a more in-depth research, surveys were administered to employees of the Centre for Social Work and women with disabilities. According to the women with disabilities, they mostly experience physical, psychological, sexual, economic violence and hate speech. They identify themselves as women who are dependent on their family or partner and indicate that they are often faced with violence, but are either not aware of the reporting procedures, fail to receive an appropriate response or have encountered unsuitable protocols. They also underlined that they are not equally involved in the policy-making structures, and therefore most often their needs with regard to this issue are overlooked. Although the new Law on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls mandates institutions to respond promptly and appropriately, women with disabilities fall outside the group of women who report violence. According to surveys with Centre for Social Work employees, in 2021 there were only five reported cases of domestic violence against people with disabilities, while in 2022, the number of reports has decreased across the country. This is not an indication that violence does not occur, but rather a warning sign that women are not encouraged to report it. According to official data from the last Census in 2021, a total of 2,886 women with disabilities live on the territory of the Municipality of Prilep, while the Centre for Social Work has not recorded any violence against these women in 2022. In order to inspect the actual situation in the municipality, an interview was conducted with a councillor of the Municipality of Prilep to discuss possible plans for raising awareness in terms of reporting violence against women with disabilities. Responding negatively to the inquiry, the councilor stated that such an issue has never been raised at any local council session in the municipality.

## What change is needed?



Increased awareness of the need to report violence against women and girls with disabilities serves to prevent violence and to protect victims from secondary victimization inside or outside their families. The interviews with the councilor from the local self-government of the Municipality of Prilep, with the employees of the CSW as well as with persons with disabilities, showed that this category of residents do not receive adequate direction or education on how to report or how to identify violence.

In order to raise awareness of violence against persons with disabilities, trainings on gender sensitivity and prevention of violence against women and girls in several sub-groups are needed. The victims would have to undergo education and awareness training as well as the staff working as first responders either at home or in institutions. Education and awareness is also needed for medical staff since they also comprise a significant part of the first responders team.

Initially, the education and awareness would be most appropriate if implemented through an educational campaign aimed at raising awareness of violence. Of particular importance would also be the conduct of training in primary and secondary schools by experts on this issue, given that children who have witnessed such acts often suppress their experience and never approach the professional services.

These proposals were communicated to a councilor of the Municipality of Prilep.



YOUTH CENTRE IN  
PRILEP

**„Прилеп со младински центар“**

**"Prilepi me qendër rinore"**

**Hristijan Tuneski  
- VMRO-DPMNE -**



## Summary

*This public policy brief addresses the issue of the Youth Center in Prilep. After several meetings with various stakeholders, through the process of requesting access to public information, Hristijan provided a list of facilities within the competence of the Municipality that are responsible for a youth center. In cooperation with the Youth Officer in the Municipality, it was agreed that the establishment of the Youth Center should be a priority.*

According to official data from the 2021 census, a total of 69 025 inhabitants are registered on the territory of the Municipality of Prilep. Of these, 11 452 (16.6%) are young people aged 15 to 29 with relatively comparable male to female proportion (5 885 or 51.4% male to 5 567 or 48.6% female).

General problem in the municipality of Prilep, as well as in the Republic of North Macedonia, is the emigration of young people in recent years, seeking better life quality and living conditions abroad. In general terms, there are many factors contributing to this problem. However, the question is: "What should we do for the young people who remain in the country to keep them here?", and at the same time to propose positive measures. In the Municipality of Prilep, there is a shortage of public places or so called Youth Centres where young people would be able to socialize, have fun and educate themselves.

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, enacted on January 14, 2020, mandates each municipality to establish a Youth Council, which would mirror the working policies of the Municipal Council<sup>15</sup>.

### What change is needed?



The establishment of such a centre would inevitably contribute to the interaction of young people in Prilep and activate them in specific segments of social life. There are several ways to establish this institution, for example, establishment of the Youth Centre through the Local Youth Council in the municipality as its founder.

This option was also considered at a meeting with the local youth officer in the Municipality of Prilep, which will contribute to the already started process of selecting a new composition of the local Youth Council. A meeting was also held with the initiative board (composed of members of several youth organizations which gravitate towards the territory of the Municipality of Prilep) for the establishment of a youth assembly that will later be the founder of the final Youth Council.

Through a request for access to public information, the Municipality sent a list of free facilities within the jurisdiction of the Municipality, which can be adapted to

<sup>15</sup> Youth Participation Law, <https://www.pravdiko.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Zakon-za-mladinsko-uchestvo-i-mladinski-politiki-16-01-2020.pdf>

the needs of the youth centre. The available locations that correspond to the needs of the centre were reported to the youth officer at a meeting at which it was agreed that after the establishment of the Local Youth Council (expected in April) the priority would be the establishment of the Youth Centre. Through participation in the Community Forum, organized by the UNDP, it was proposed that one of the activities should be the reconstruction and refurbishment of an already existing facility for the needs of the youth centre.

The proposed solution for the establishment of a Youth Center is suitable and feasible in that it will continue to cater to the interests and needs of youngsters and will offer something new for the city of Prilep.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Radovich

1. E-services in the Municipality of Radovich - Maja Uzhevskva (SDSM)

2. How to revive the cinema culture in Radovich!? - Marija Krsteva (SDSM)



# E-SERVICES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RADOVISH



**“Воведување е-услуги  
во општина Радовиш”**

**“Vendosja e e-shërbimeve  
në komunën e Radovishit”**

**MaJa UzhevskA  
- SDSM -**



## Summary

*Maja's brief addresses the problem of citizens' accessibility to municipal services. The main task of the digitalization of the services of the Municipality is easier and faster access for the citizens. To define the problem and see possible solutions, she conducted a survey with 80 citizens, over 90% of whom answered that the municipality needs the introduction of e-services. Almost all respondents agreed that digitalization is the best solution and offers faster and more efficient access to services. The most requested services are paying bills, reporting problems, and asking questions.*

The Municipality of Radovich is a relatively small municipality that administratively meets the needs of about 28 000 inhabitants. In its territorial borders, there are problems that have been on the agenda of several local government offices for years. One of the specific problems faced by the citizens of the Municipality of Radovich is the lack of digitalization of the services offered by the Municipality. A need has been established that all paper-based services of the local self-government unit should also have the option to be received in an electronic form. For some of the services, the digitization procedure has been initiated, and for some it has been completed; however, residents are not familiar with those possibilities.

Namely, there is a field on the website where citizens have the opportunity to ask the mayor a question online, a novelty which was introduced in the term of office of the incumbent mayor. Also, on the same website, in the service field, a drop-down menu lists several options, including e-services and e-approval for construction.

In terms of e-services, several types are offered which, in reality, cover a large range of services, however simple and important services are omitted. These include: issuance of decision on property tax; decision on inheritance and gift tax, decision on tax on real estate sales, decision on reimbursement of overpayment of debt or wrongly paid debt; decision on utility fee for company name; utility fee for use of music, advertising and announcements; request for property tax payment attestation, permission to install telephone, telegraph, and other cable lines; request for final certification of issued construction permit; request for confirmation of auxiliary facility, greenhouse or primary processing facility; request for expropriation of construction land owned by the Republic of North Macedonia; request for issuance of certificate for cadastral parcel; notification on completed facility, and other services.

In order to explore this problem in more detail, a survey with several questions was administered to a sample of 78 respondents - residents of the Municipality of Radovich. Respondents believe that the Municipality needs digitalization. The most severe need is the electronic payment of bills, which is considered to increase the transparency of the municipality and, should this be provided, they would use those e-services. In an interview with the coordinator of the advisory group of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM), it was concluded that this problem has not been put on the agenda thus far.

## What change is needed?



According to the conducted survey, the Municipality of Radovich has a severe need for digitization of additional services, which was confirmed by 92.1% of the survey respondents. The most pressing need is considered to be the service “Collection of bills” and “Report a problem/ask a question”.

There are several alternative solutions to this problem, including:

- Development of a separate billing platform;
- Modification of the existing website with additional services;
- Mandate the creation of electronic identity and make all e-services available to every citizen.

The fastest way to achieve this goal is to modify the existing website and add additional services. At the moment, it is the most efficient and cost-effective solution, because it would upgrade the already developed software and add additional services on that basis.

Alternatively, this could be linked to the Public Revenue Office, in the tax section, with special administrative institutions in the section of fees and bills. This would create additional jobs to cater to the conduct of online services, in addition to the more traditional services. According to the regular budget distribution practice, it is possible to implement this solution by rebalancing the budget and categorize this solution into the expenditure section.

All respondents expressed positive support for this change, thus the solution to the problem of full digitalization in the Municipality of Radovich would be of mutual benefit. The effect would be increased transparency of the municipality, time efficiency and effective and efficient cooperation between the citizens and the municipality.

# HOW TO REVIVE THE CINEMA CULTURE IN RADOVISH!?



**“Како да се оживее  
кино-културата во Радовиш?”**

**"Si të ringjallet kultura  
e kinemasë në Radovish?"**

**Marija Krsteva  
- SDSM -**



## Summary

*Marija addresses the problem of city cinema in the policy brief, i.e., the outdated technology for film projection. By improving the conditions of cinema, it aims to improve the overall cultural life in Radovish. For this problem, Marija met with councilors and representatives of the Municipality, who will submit a request for a budget rebalance, which will provide more significant financial resources in the field of culture.*

The Municipality of Radovis, under the auspices of the cultural center Aco Karamanov, implements several programs in the field of culture, such as Gazelles modern ballet performances, screenings of children's, European, Serbian and Macedonian films, stand-up shows, summer cinema, art workshops and theatrical performances. Given the above, one can see that the entire cultural activity takes place in the cultural center Aco Karamanov.

Namely, in Radovis there was no cinema screening from 1997 to 2018. Thanks to the efforts of the employees of the cultural center Aco Karamanov, in 2018, when Isabella Angelova was appointed director, screening of films was introduced "through the back door" in the cultural center. The current director, after realizing that there is no screening canvas in the building on which films can be projected, on her own initiative made a canvas that is still being used today. Currently, there are projections of animated films, as well as of Macedonian, Serbian and European films, but not films for which distributors require additional conditions to be met based on concluded contract. One such condition is the possession of DCP Player. In addition, the technology in the cultural center is outdated, that is, there is a lack of special sound equipment.

In the past year, i.e. in 2022, films were projected usually twice to three times a month, and sometimes also once a month.

Based on the e-survey conducted in the form of a questionnaire, one can conclude that out of 102 respondents, 20% of them answered that they never visit the cultural center, 35% that they visit it very rarely, and 31% that they visit it sometimes. Additionally, 50% of the respondents stated that at the moment not enough films are being projected and that there is not enough diverse offer. The above problems are of financial nature, such as insufficient investments in the cultural center and equipping it with the necessary equipment as well as insignificant amount allocated for these purposes.

In the 2023 Budget of the Municipality of Radovish, a total of 11 521 343 denars have been allocated for culture, or specifically intended for 4 programs, that is, librarianship, musical and stage-artistic activity, cultural manifestations and works, and capital expenditures in the municipality with the least amount provided, or only 65 000 denars of the total amount, for the purchase of necessary equipment. As a comparison, "Samun em Tatlia", is one event that is held in the municipality of Radovish, and 9 000 000 denars are needed to be organized.

### What change is needed?



To solve this problem, one measure is to reconstruct the cinema hall or construct a separate facility intended solely for screening of films - cinema, unlike the current multifunctional cultural center. Such a solution would also require complete equipping of the building, solely to serve the function of cinema. However, continuous efforts will be required in the long term given the required amount, i.e., lack of financial resources for such a solution. In addition, other measures in the form of a temporary solution are proposed, such as:

- procurement of DCP Player - a technological device that provides security and connections with film distributors, given that possessing this device is one of the conditions when concluding contracts with distributors.;
- purchase of special sound equipment;
- new employment, i.e., tackling the shortage of human resources, that is, staff for selling tickets, sound engineers and the like.

These findings are also confirmed with the results of the above-mentioned survey, in which 62% of the respondents believe that it is optimal to project films once a week, while 99% of them believe that the citizens of the municipality of Radovich will develop a habit of visiting the cultural center if better and more frequent screening of films is provided.

First, at the meeting with the coordinator of the group of councilors Simona Cvetanoski, and then at the meeting with the other councilors at their coordination meeting, the councilors expressed a positive attitude towards the initiative and its further elaboration that would finally result in implementation.

Our final goal, in cooperation with SDSM councilors in the Council of the Municipality of Radovich, is to submit a request for a budget rebalance, that is, more financial resources for capital expenditures in the field of culture to be requested, in order to procure the necessary technology and successfully provide screening of larger and more diverse number of films, after concluding a contract with distributors.

## Community engagements in the City of Skopje

1. Lack of parking spaces in the City of Skopje - Marija Milosevska (VMRO-DPMNE)

### АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ



LACK OF PARKING  
SPACES IN THE CITY  
OF SKOPJE

**„Недостиг на паркинг  
места во Скопје“**

**Mungesë e parkingjeve  
në Shkup**

**Marija Miloshevska  
- VMRO-DPMNE -**



## Summary

*Marija's public policy brief addresses the problem of the lack of parking lots in Skopje. For this challenge, she conducted a survey with more than 800 citizens from all municipalities in the City of Skopje, about 80% of whom reiterated the need for more parking lots in almost every settlement of the capital. Marija also met with councilors from VMRO-DPMNE of the City of Skopje, who promised that together and in coordination with the municipal authorities, they would pledge to launch a process for the construction of mounted or multi-storey garages in Skopje's settlements.*

Overpopulation is one of the biggest problems that citizens of the City of Skopje are currently facing. Over the years, the city of Skopje has become a city with a million citizens, especially during the working week from Monday to Friday. This is confirmed by the 2021 population census data, but also by the factual situation that residents of the city face in everyday life. According to the census, 526 502 inhabitants live in the capital, and 171 171 households and 213 850 apartments are registered.

This results in continuous growth of population and of the number of vehicles, leading to lack of sufficient parking places for vehicles, posing a major challenge for inhabitants of Skopje.

There are several reasons leading to shortage of parking spaces, such as the above-mentioned growth of population, that is, people are concentrated in residential buildings in which they have not provided their own garage space; people whose workplace is in the central city area and use their own means of transport to get to work on daily basis, as well as citizens who visit hospitals, banks, catering facilities and other service providers in Skopje.

### What change is needed?



To identify a suitable solution, the possibility of installing new modular parking garages or multistorey garages outside the central city area was explored in details in order to clean up the traffic congestion and enable free access to the economic facilities.

A survey was conducted in which 805 respondents participated. The results of the survey are as follows: 78% of the respondents believe that the construction of new multistorey or modular parking garage outside the central city area would solve the problem with lack of parking spaces in the City of Skopje. On the question which municipality would need this type of parking, according to 33.7% of the respondents that is the municipality of Aerodrom, 32% - Kisela Voda, 30.8% - Chair, 1.4% - Karposh, 0.7 - Gazi Baba 0.6% - Butel, and 0.4 - Gjorce Petrov. 83.4% of all respondents stated that if such parking facilities existed, they would use them.

A meeting was also held with representatives of the Group of municipal councilors of VMRO-DPMNE and the coalition, and it was highlighted that citizens expect from the city authorities to solve the problem, as supported with the survey

results. They expressed support for citizens' opinion and made a pledge, in coordination with the municipal authorities, to initiate the process of constructing modular and multistorey garages in the Skopje settlements.

The Development Plan for the maintenance, construction and management of public parking spaces in the area of the City of Skopje for the period 2023-2025 was submitted at the last session of the Council of the City of Skopje in January 2023. This development plan refers to undertaking activities related to maintenance, construction and management of public parking spaces in the area of the City of Skopje, as well as increasing the capacity of stationary traffic in public parking lots and public parking areas, managed by PE City Parking – Skopje. Among others, this development plan envisages that PE City Parking – Skopje has a plan to install modular multistorey garages in several locations in the city, such as Chair, Aerodrom and Kisela Voda.

Installation of modular multistorey garages would increase the number of places intended for parking in one area, as well as reduce the time needed to find free parking space, reduce pollution and preserve the environment. This will generate an additional effect, that is, sidewalks will be available to pedestrians meaning that their safety and safety of other traffic participants as well as flow of vehicles will improve, and traffic culture will be promoted.

# Community engagements in the Municipality of Strumica

1. Establishment of public transport lines in Strumica - Andon Stojkov (SDSM)

## АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINES IN STRUMICA



**“Воспоставување на јавен превоз  
во Струмица”**

**“Vendosja e transportit publik  
në Strumicë”**

**Andon Stojkov  
- SDSM -**



## Summary

*The Municipality of Strumica did not have public transport until 1972 when this service for the citizens was interrupted due to unsustainability. Andon's initiative aims to reintroduce this service to the citizens of Strumica by raising the awareness of responsible institutions and officials. The idea was followed by an in-depth research, which consisted of a survey of over 140 respondents and meetings with various municipal officials, including the mayor. All respondents agreed that Strumica needs public transport that will operate in the city area and cover the surrounding villages. The municipal leadership promised that for this goal, a working group would be formed to consider all possible options and present the most appropriate ones for the municipality of Strumica.*

The Municipality of Strumica consists of the town and 25 settlements, with a total population of 54,676 inhabitants, of which, according to official data from the 2021 census, 35,311 live in the town. A total of 12,519 passenger and other vehicles are registered in Strumica, with an average age of 15 years, participating in the road traffic. Overall, there are 67 companies licensed for taxi transport, with a fleet of some 200 vehicles.

Strumica benefited from an elaborate public transport until 1972, however due to unsustainability, it ceased to function. At the moment, Strumica will benefit from public transport in that it will help alleviate traffic congestion in the central city area, and will provide easy and accessible mobility of the vulnerable categories, such as people with lower socio-economic status who cannot afford a vehicle, elderly people, women who do not own a vehicle, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable categories of people.

In a survey administered to over 140 respondents, all responses (100%) to the question whether the Municipality of Strumica requires public transport, were positive. In addition, to the question which areas are in dire need of public transport, such as the town (central area and periphery) or the surrounding settlements, all respondents (100%) said that it is the town and the surrounding settlements. In addition to benefiting the citizens who live in Strumica, the public transport would also serve the citizens of the surrounding settlements, which fall under the jurisdiction of Municipality of Strumica. One of the largest settlements in the vicinity of Strumica, the village of Bansko, is also severely affected by this problem.

### What change is needed?



In order to solve this issue, which has been singled out as a significant problem by the citizens, as well as to contribute to the preservation of clean air and clean environment, interview was conducted with the Mayor, Kostadin Kostadinov, and a survey with the citizens. Both indicated that the Municipality of Strumica is in need of public transport.

The problem could be addressed through the following 5 individual stages that would take place simultaneously or in parallel, as follows:

1. Procurement of buses:

- According to the interviews conducted with relevant experts, the overall amount of finances required for procurement of a dozen electric buses is 12,000,000 denars.
- 2. Mapping of lines and bus stations (stops):
  - Filming of the streets to map the connection lines and bus stops.
- 3. Setting up bus charging locations:
  - Fast (during the day - during a break);
  - Slow (at night when buses do not operate).
- 4. Pricing:
  - Determining the initial price (price for one ride, annual ticket and free ticket for students and pensioners).
- 5. Hiring of bus drivers and ticket controllers.

Citizens believe that the price of a ticket should not exceed 20 denars, and that there should be a possibility for obtaining a monthly ticket with benefits. A total of 68% of the respondents believe that there should also be a possibility to buy a ticket on the bus.

In interviews with the mayor, municipal officials and councilors it was noted that in the near future the municipality will begin the process of introducing public transport in Strumica which will take into consideration the analysis outlined above and the results of the surveys. A working group will also be set up to contribute with putting forward constructive proposals and possible solutions to the above problem.

## Community engagements in the Municipality of Chair

1. Lack of parking space in Chair Municipality – Esra Demiri (DUI)

### АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



АКАДЕМИЈА ЗА  
ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ИЗРАБОТКА НА  
ДОКУМЕНТИ ЗА ЈАВНИ ПОЛИТИКИ



ПРАШАЊА/ПРОБЛЕМИ ВО  
ЛОКАЛНИТЕ ЗАЕДНИЦИ



СОСТАНОЦИ  
СО ЗАЕДНИЦАТА



ИЗЈАВИ НА  
УЧЕСНИЦИ

# LACK OF PARKING SPACE IN CHAIR MUNICIPALITY



**„Зголемување на бројот  
на паркинг места во Општина Чаир“**

**“Rritja e numrit  
të parkingjeve në Komunën e Çairit”**

**Esra Demiri  
- DUI -**



## Summary

*In recent years, the Municipality of Chair has experienced urban chaos in traffic due to insufficient parking spaces for vehicles. One of the reasons for this situation is the large number of new buildings (high-rises) in the Municipality, with the need for more parking lots. To this end, Esra conducted a survey with 211 respondents, of which 48.3% believe that the construction of multi-storey parking garages is the best solution to this problem. As part of her engagement with the community, she also met with municipal councilors, who promised to raise the issue in the municipal council.*

The Municipality of Chair is the most densely populated municipality in Europe according to the population density index (residents per square kilometer of land area), with a total of 16,193 people/km<sup>2</sup>. According to official data from the 2021 census, the municipality houses a total of 62,586 inhabitants, with a proportionate gender ratio of 31,032 male and 31,554 female inhabitants. In addition to the officially registered permanent residents, the municipality houses over 6,389 temporary residents.

The high index of population density has been reflecting on many segments of the quality of life in the municipality, including on the urban traffic conditions. It appears that the high density index has exacerbated the problem with the lack of public parking areas. Citizen complains about the lack of parking spaces remain unaddressed by the local authorities and are regularly met with excuses. According to the local residents, the lack of parking spaces causes traffic delays and accidents, citizen disputes, and other urban hurdles, including vehicles parked on the sidewalks, which hinders the free movement of citizens and restricts access for people with physical disabilities, parents with children, cyclists, and pedestrians in general.

This issue has worsened due to several factors including illegal constructions, granting of permits for construction of buildings that do not provide parking spaces, and in general, the lack of parking spaces in the municipality. All of the aforementioned was confirmed by a representative sample of more than 200 residents of this municipality, who participated in a survey conducted for the needs of this project.

According to 99% of the respondents, the lack of parking spaces is a major issue for the residents of Chair Municipality. While 83.7% of the respondents claim to have been repeatedly alarming the relevant authorities about this problem, no action has been reported to have taken place thus far. Meanwhile, 16.3% of the respondents have never complained to the relevant institutions with regard to the problem due to the belief that their complaints would remain unaddressed as has been the case on numerous occasions in the past.

Except for the construction of parking space above the green market and the expansion of existing parking areas in some neighborhoods, the municipality has not fully complied with its promises to address this issue. Residents were promised that construction of five multi-level garages/parking lots would begin a year ago, however the works have not commenced yet. According to the Municipality of Chair, the investment has not been activated yet because the amendments of the Foreign Investment Law have not been placed on the agenda

of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. Meanwhile, the Municipality informed that it has begun the procedure for amending the Detailed Urban Plan (DUP), i.e., the definition of three locations for multi-level garages.

### What change is needed?



The survey provided several options to the respondents as to what the municipality could do to solve this problem. A total of 48.3% of the surveyed citizens believe that the most effective and efficient option to solve the problem is the construction of multi-level garages. The expansion of the existing parking areas received a total of 26.8% of the vote as the second most popular option among citizens. While 24.9% of the citizens believe that underground parking places would be a feasible solution to the problem, this appears to be a more complex investment at the moment.

In summary, it is clear that finding an immediate solution to the problem is of high importance and that the relevant institutions should place it high on their agenda. This conclusion was shared by the councilors - representatives of the political party Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) in the Municipality of Chair, who expressed their explicit endorsement to the document's conclusions and committed to put this issue on the agenda in upcoming sessions of the municipal council.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**



**SUPPORT TO  
ELECTORAL REFORMS**

ПОДРШКА НА ИЗБОРНИ РЕФОРМИ  
MBËSHËTETJE E REFORMAVE ZGJEDHORE