

MINIPART PROJECT - PUBLIC OPINION AS A GUIDE FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SPATIAL PLANNING OF MINING AREAS

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▲ Pollsters' training for the survey conduction



◆ Workshop with focus groups in Bor



Project partners ▼



ИНСТИТУТ ЗА АРХИТЕКТУРУ И УРБАНИЗАМ СРБИЈЕ
Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia



External collaborators ▼



Science Fund
of the Republic of Serbia

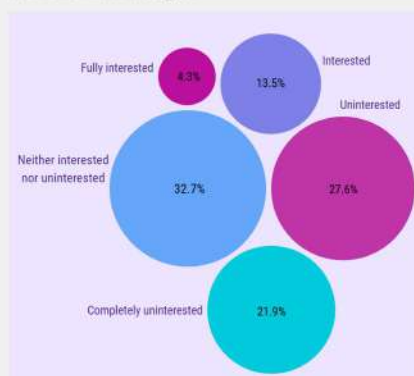
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Public Perceptions of Participation in Planning Processes: Insights from Bor and Majdanpek

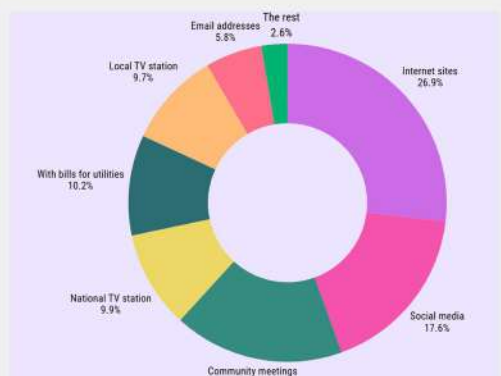
A survey was conducted on a random sample of 300 respondents in the City of Bor and the Municipality of Majdanpek in 2024. The survey explored residents' perceptions of participation in planning processes, focusing on their behavior, understanding, engagement, and attitudes toward specific participatory methods and procedures.

Focus Group Workshop – Engaging Underrepresented Voices

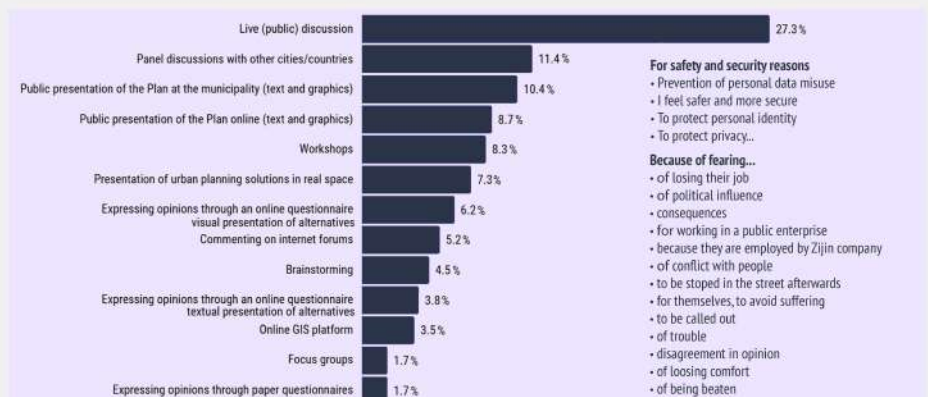
A workshop with focus groups was held at the Technical Faculty in Bor, involving 26 participants guided by 12 moderators. The event engaged specific population groups whose needs are often overlooked in public participation processes – women, youth, persons with disabilities, rural residents, ethnic minorities, and elderly. Moderators and participants tested digital participation methods through the application developed within the MINIPART project.



▲ Readiness to participate in planning processes



▲ The most suitable ways to obtain information



▲ The most suitable participatory methods

▲ 19% prefer anonymity

- For safety and security reasons**
- Prevention of personal data misuse
 - I feel safer and more secure
 - To protect personal identity
 - To protect privacy...
- Because of fearing...**
- of losing their job
 - of political influence
 - consequences
 - for working in a public enterprise
 - because they are employed by Zijin company
 - of conflict with people
 - to be stopped in the street afterwards
 - for themselves, to avoid suffering
 - to be called out
 - of trouble
 - disagreement in opinion
 - of losing comfort
 - of being beaten

Published articles ▼



Conferences attended ▼

International conference on public policy and public administration ICPPPA-25, 1-2 January 2025, Salvador, Brazil
Sustainability, Quality, Digitalization and Current Research Conference, 4-6 April 2025, Barcelona, Spain
5th International Conference on Urban Planning ICUP 2025, 10-11 April 2025, Niš, Serbia
Planning and Normative Protection of Space and Environment, 24-26 April 2025, Vršac, Serbia
Urbanism and Sustainable Development, 29-31. May 2025, Srebno Jezero, Serbia
New Divisions, Struggles, and Solidarities in South East Europe, 13-14 June 2025, Belgrade, Serbia
International Forum on Urbanism (IFoU) – IFoU25 Lisbon | Future Living, 1-4 July 2025, Lisbon, Portugal
International Scientific Conference "Population and Environment: Challenges and Perspectives", 24 October, Serbia

Development in regions with high mineral exploitation creates significant, predominantly negative changes in the local community and the environment. Within the framework of the MINIPART project – Improving Public Participation in Spatial Planning of Mining Areas (2024-2027, #7598, Science Fund of the RS), qualitative and quantitative methods, interviews, and focus groups were combined, a database was formed, and the website www.minipart.rs was created. Research was conducted to examine the perception of the local population in Bor and Majdanpek regarding participation in planning processes, focusing on their understanding, engagement, and attitudes toward certain participatory procedures. The goal is to determine the most suitable and acceptable methods of public participation and to develop recommendations for improving participation practices in mining areas of Serbia.

Results indicate a significant level of disappointment and distrust among respondents toward both institutions and participatory processes. Only a small number had taken part in public hearings, mainly due to the belief that individual voices are neither heard nor capable of influencing outcomes. Respondents expressed a preference for using the internet to access information and share opinions. They favored participation methods they were already familiar with, particularly those involving face-to-face communication. In Eastern Serbia, the divide between the majority population and national minorities does not play a significant role, as national minorities generally have good command of the official language. The differences between men and women are shaped and reinforced by the patriarchal structure of society. Much greater adjustments are required when addressing differences between older and younger residents, as well as between urban and rural populations. In this regard, participants emphasized the importance of maintaining analogue and face-to-face methods of stakeholder engagement, while continuing to develop digital forms of participation. The combined use of both approaches enables broader inclusion and better reflects the diverse needs of the population.