



MINIPART aims to identify the most appropriate participation methods tailored to all stakeholders in mining areas.

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IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN SPATIAL PLANNING OF MINING AREAS

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Improving participation in spatial planning of mining areas

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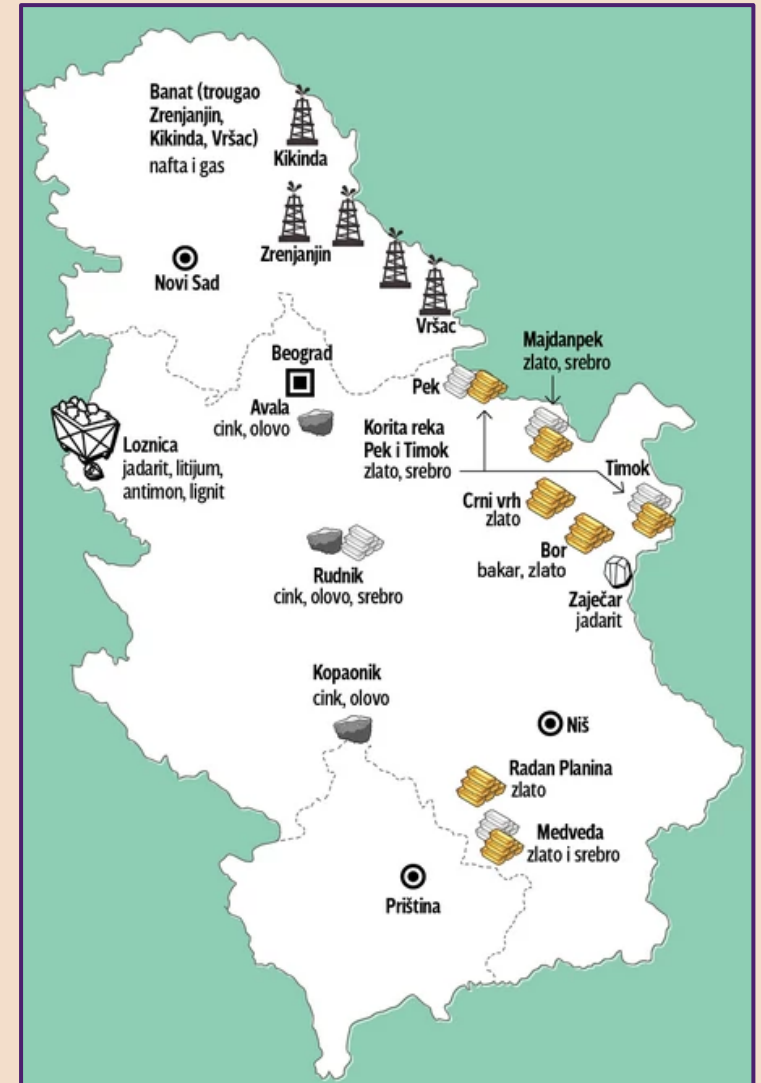
Institute of Architecture and Urban & Spatial Planning of Serbia



Improving participation in spatial planning of mining areas

Problem:

- Development in large-scale mineral extraction regions impacts the local community and environment, mostly negative (monofunctional economy; health problems; environment degradation; involuntary resettlement).
- Non-compliance with legislation?
- Opposition of communities & experts against mining in Serbia intensified since 2000s, local population's opinion often neglected.
- International Mining Companies





Objectives

IDENTIFY THE MOST APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION METHODS, TAILORED TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN MINING AREAS.



Source: Beta/Milan Obradović/MO

- (1) Compile comprehensive **repository** of examples of participatory planning in mining areas www.minipart.rs
- (2) **Engage all stakeholders** (citizens, mining industry, government, NGOs, environmentalists) actively in the identification of the best participatory methods through **interviews, surveys, and focus groups**.
- (3) Address the specific needs of **vulnerable groups** (women, ethnic minorities, rural populations, persons with disabilities, elderly, youth)
- (4) **Develop new or adapted approaches** for meaningful and inclusive community participation in mining planning and development.
- (5) **Disseminate** results to: national and local government, NGOs, citizens in Serbia and abroad, academia, professionals, and the general public.



Formal participatory methods in urban and spatial planning

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Traditional/formal participation

- **Positive:** legally binding (i.e. must be applied)
- **Negative:** modest scope, not inclusive, not inventive, not adjusted to local needs/specifics

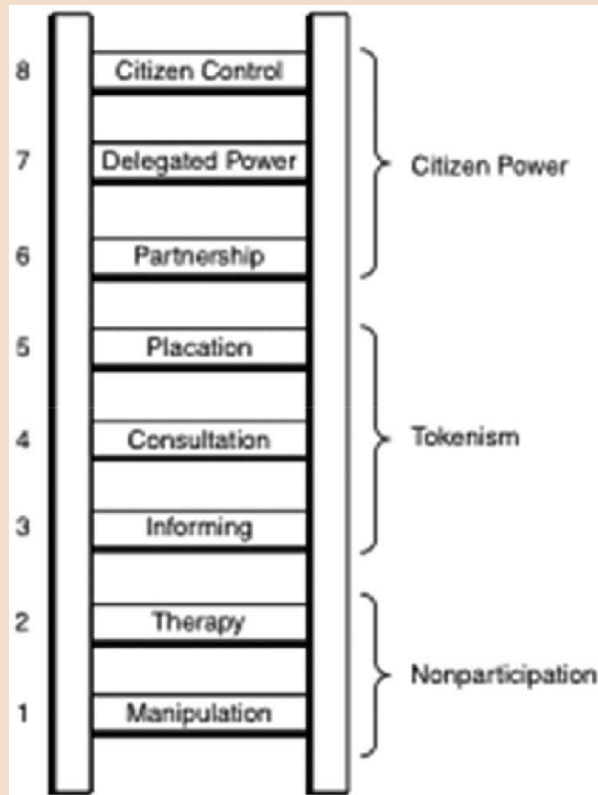


Source: <https://www.ekourbapv.vojvodina.gov.rs/rs/javna-prezentacija-nacrta-prostornog-plana-podrucja-posebne-namene-brane-na-tisi/>



Traditional/formal participation in Europe

- National legislation:
 - 1) provides detailed instructions, or
 - 2) leaves the possibility of elaboration at regional & local level
- Informing (printed/TV/online media, information board in city hall, sending info per mail, etc.)
- Public insight
- Public hearing / meetings
- Consultations
- Duration can be prescribed
- Comments (accepted/rejected with explanation)



Ladder of citizen participation (Arnstein, 1969)



Traditional/formal participation in Europe

- Combined with EIA/SEA consultations
- Early public insight (i.e. Serbia)
- Local advisory forums/citizen advisory panels (FKV), voluntary, organise advisory meetings for draft plan (Albania)
- No spatial planning on national level (e.g. Austria, Belgium, B&H, etc.)
- Registry – online info on draft planning documents, summaries of observations, proposals, public meetings

Conclusion: Formal participatory methods should not be used exclusively, but accompanied with additional ones (i.e. informal) depending on the specific situation, to provide a shift from manipulation to delegated power.



INFORMAL PARTICIPATORY METHODS

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Importance

- **(1) Inclusivity and Richness:** Informal methods often engage a broader range of people, including those who might not participate in formal processes. This inclusivity ensures diverse perspectives are considered.
- **(2) Building Social Capital:** These methods help build social networks and trust among community members, which can be vital community resilience. Therefore, they **(3) Enhance Public Consensus.**
- **(4) Improved Understanding of the Issue:** Leads to more informed and contextually relevant planning understanding and outcomes.
- **(5) Promptness:** Some informal methods can enable quick responses to emerging issues and demand less time for citizens to take part in planning.

To create more effective and inclusive planning strategies



Group gatherings

- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Brainstorming

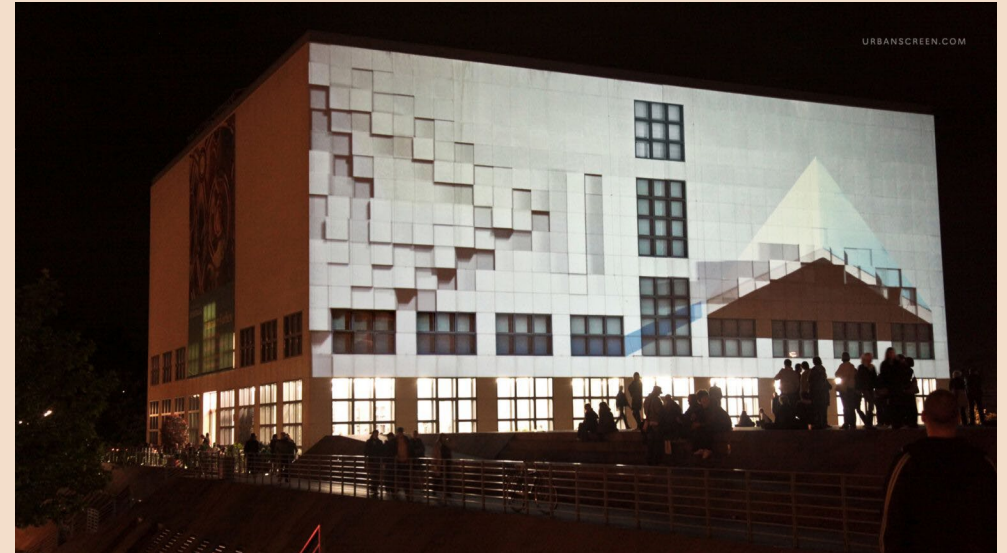


Source: AI generated (Copilot)



Real-life modeling

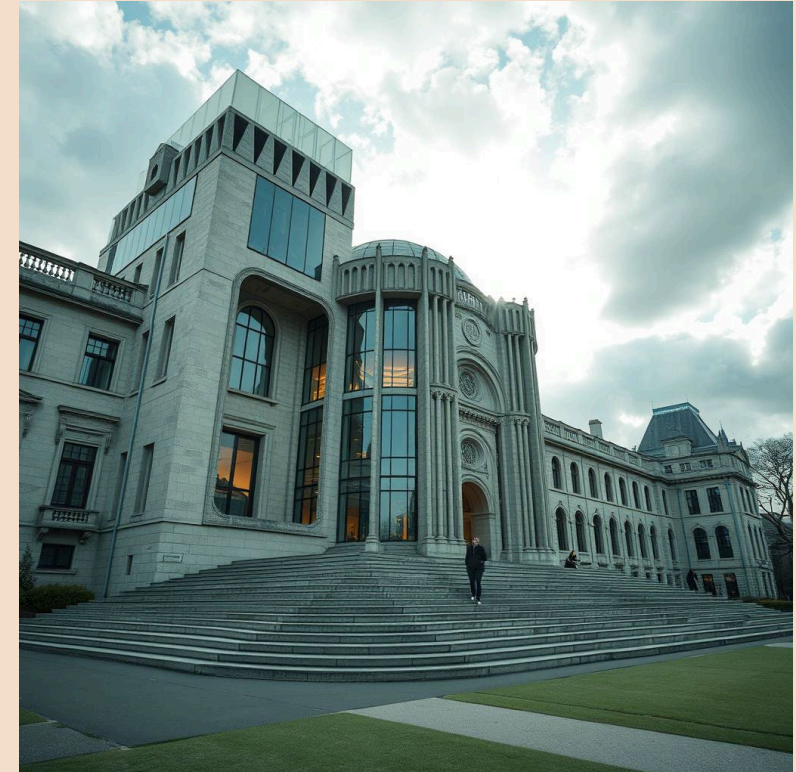
- 1:1 projections
- Holograms
- Virtual Reality





Short online voting (1)

- Visual questionnaire



Source: AI generated (Copilot)



Short online voting (2)

- Closed-end questions
- Open-end questions



Source: AI generated (Copilot)



Downsides

- **(1) Could Require Skills and Expertise:** Not many local governments have high experts at their disposal.
- **(2) Could Cost More:** Application of new technologies and hiring high experts increases expenses.
- **(3) Could Require Longer Preparation Time:** More complex representations, gathering of the focus groups, and results analysis require significant time resources.
- **(4) Could Prolong Discussion Time:** More knowledge and understanding on the topic increases friction between policymakers and other stakeholders.

Conclusion: The government needs to be clear about what they want and transfer the message top-down.



CONCEPT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

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Meaning of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

CSR is the process by which companies, in close collaboration with various stakeholders, integrate: **social, environmental, ethical, consumer and human rights** into their business and core strategy (Caroll, 1979).

Business, apart from wealth creation, has responsibilities for social issues created by business or by other causes.

So-called "pyramid of CSR" consists of four kinds of responsibilities:

- (1) economic (*Be profitable!*),
- (2) legal (*Obey the law!*),
- (3) ethical (*Be ethical!*),
- (4) philanthropic (*Be a good corporate citizen!*).



The early steps in evolution of CSR

1850-1920 Abolition of child work.

1920-1940 Philanthropic vision evolved.

1944 The Declaration of Philadelphia (the foundation document or conceptualizing CSR).

1953 Howard Bowen was the first author who used this term - paper: "Social Responsibilities of the Businessman".

It was shown how company management can act with social values.

1950-1960 Keith Davis introduces the CSR Golden Rule: "The CSR of companies is proportional to the social power that they hold".

1960-1980 Milton Friedman claims that "the sole purpose of a firm is to make money for its shareholders".



Theories of CSR

Source: Gariga & Mele (2004). Corporate social responsibility: mapping the territory. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 53, 51-71.

Instrumental theories	Maximization of shareholder value Strategies for competitive advantages Cause-related marketing	Integrative theories	Issue management Public responsibility Stakeholder management Corporate social performance
Political theories	Corporate constitutionalism Integrative social contract theory Corporate citizenship	Ethical Theories	Normative stakeholder theory Universal rights Sustainable development The common good

CSR and mining

Stakeholder theory in mining

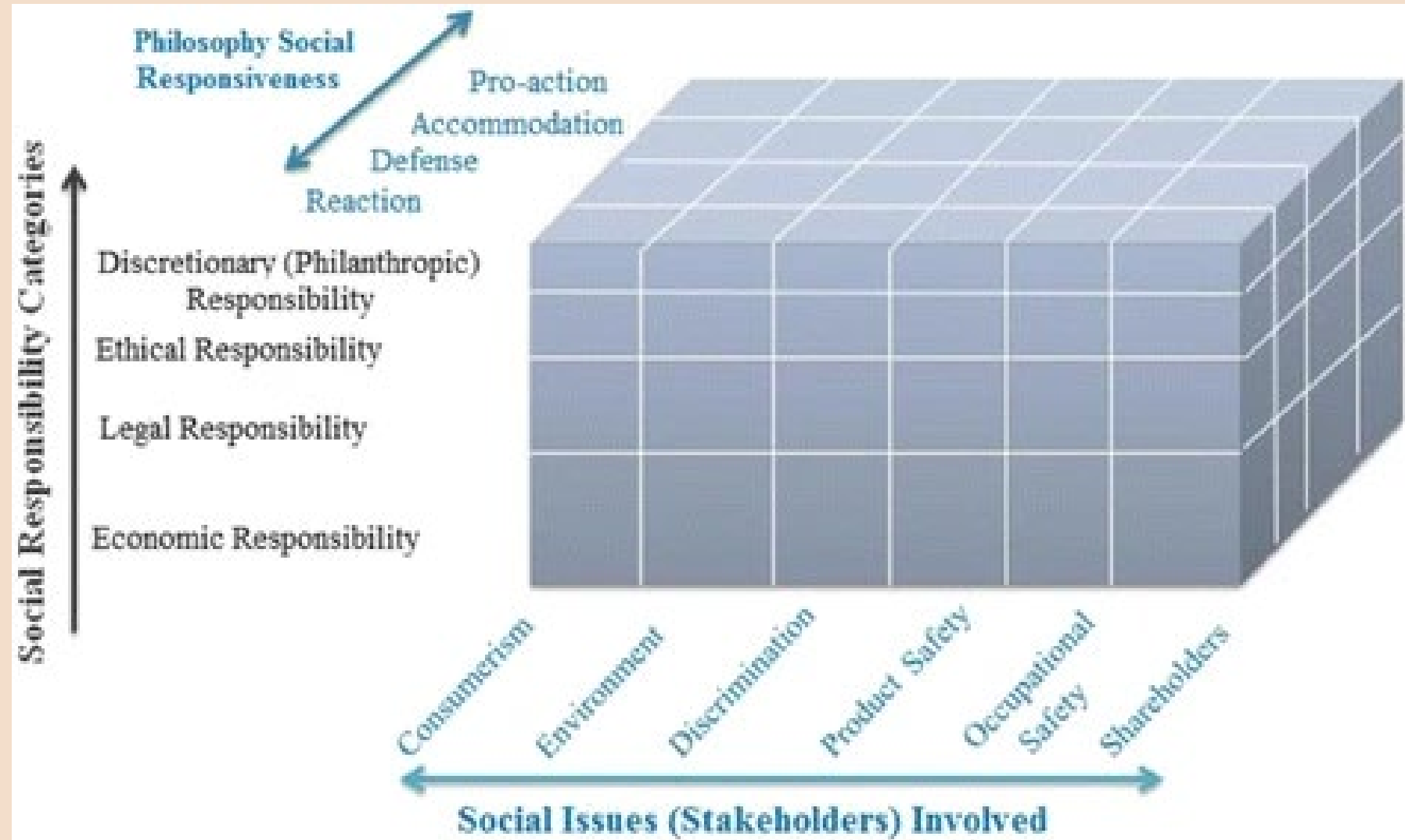
- Evaluating literature within the scope of stakeholder theory, it can be noticed the existence of various stakeholders.
- These stakeholders are sometimes aligned with each other.
- They have different perspectives and interests.
- The importance of the CSR criteria decreases in order: (1) legal; (2) economic; (3) ethical; (4) environmental; and (5) philanthropic.

Three key stakeholders involved in mining

1. Mining company
2. Government
3. Other social stakeholders:
 - civic society,
 - academic community
 - local competitors



The Three-domain model of corporate social performance; Carrol, 1979





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Criteria and sub-criteria applicable to mining

LEGAL

- To comply with the EIA report and relevant legislation,
- To comply with the occupational safety law,
- Not to operate with uninsured workers;
- To be in communication with government agency authorized for inspection.

ECONOMIC

- To create employment and invest in human capital,
- To contribute to the economy through payments to the state,
- To stimulate the local market and to prevent migration,
- Profitability.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Not to adversely affect air, water, and soil components,
- Not to impact negatively on the social aspects,
- Not to negatively impact the ecosystem,
- To minimize the possible impacts of cyanide, other chemicals and wastes on environment and public health.

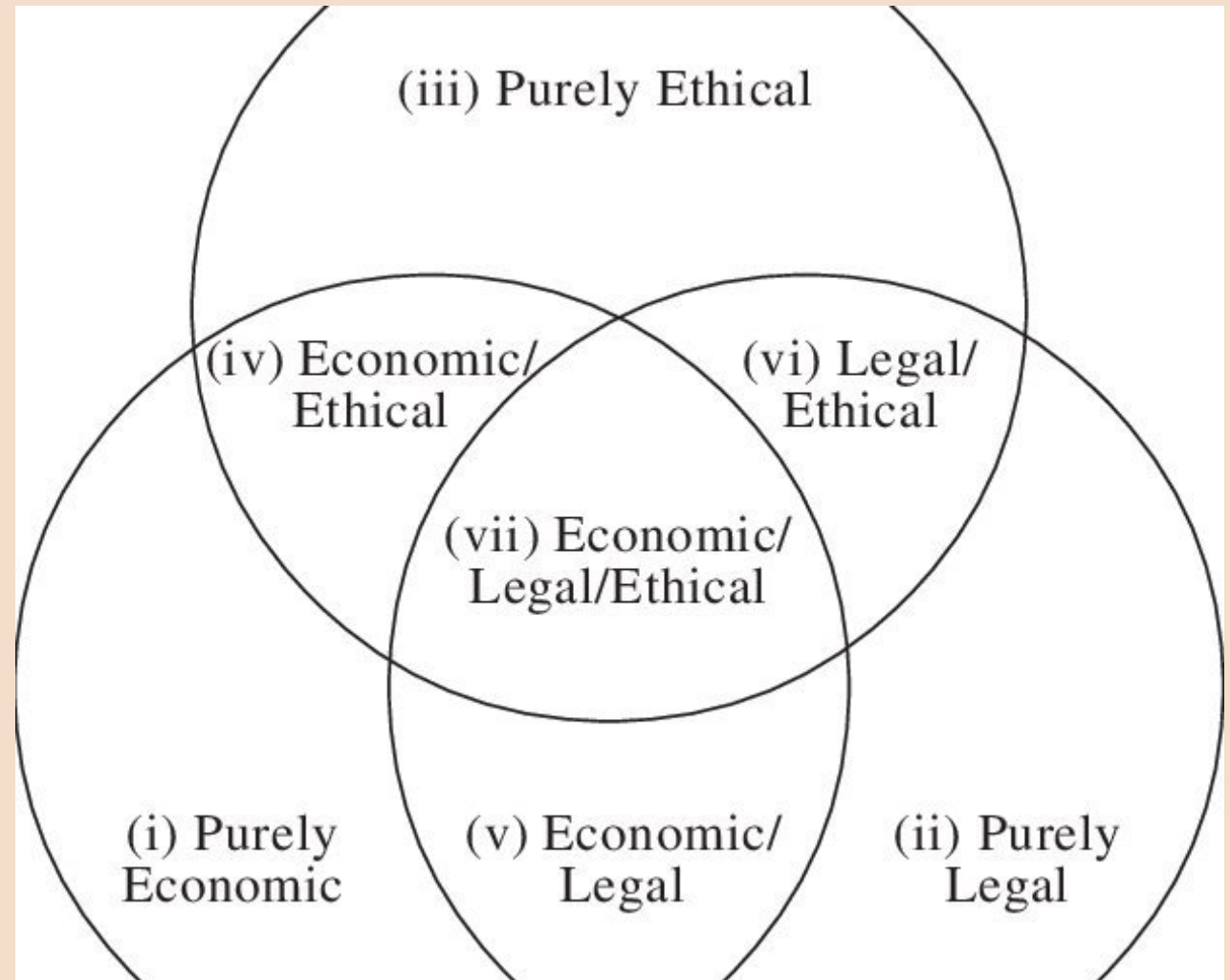


Significance of criteria

LEGAL aspects are the most important to **government**; ECONOMIC and ENVIRONMENTAL to **mining companies** and **other social stakeholders**, respectively.

Source: Okan, Peker, & Demirelli (2015). A Corporate Social Responsibility Framework for Mining Sector Using Analytic Network Process. Int. J. of Business, 8(12).

The ideal situation occurs when various domains of CSR intervene, according to the model of Schwartz and Carrol (2003).





Challenges of Participation in the Mining Area of Majdanpek, Serbia: An Analysis of Secondary Sources on Community Engagement in the Local Context

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Majdanpek: mining town

- Mining in Majdanpek and its surroundings has a tradition over 7,000 years (Neolithic sites of Rudna Glava and Praurijsa).
- "cradle of ancient Europe" ; cradle of mining
The discovery of the prehistoric Rudna Glava mine (3800-3200 BCE – the oldest mining site in Europe) disproved the theory that the Near East was the cradle of mining.
- Mining was resumed in Majdanpek around 1850.
- The mine was reopened after the WW2 (urbanisation and modernisation during socialist Yugoslavia)
- After the transition: restructuring of mine and mass layoffs

Serbia is becoming increasingly attractive to foreign companies, not only due to the cheap labor force, but also because of the extremely low mining royalties and "flexible" legislation in the areas of human and labor rights, as well as environmental protection (Krstic, 2022).



Source: Jankovic, M., 2022, Vreme.



Mining today: Local issues

- *Serbia Zijin Copper* bought the gold and copper mine in 2018.
- A report by the National Institute of Public Health from 2019 documents that pollution in this area is life-threatening.
- the publication "Improving the Management of Contaminated Sites in Serbia" defines Majdanpek as an ecological black spot
- *"for all malignant tumors except skin cancer, there is a significantly higher risk of illness for both men and women"* (Čubrilo Filipović, 2022).

Ecological issues (water restrictions, air, water and earth pollution)

Health issues

Demographic issues (population exodus)

Labour rights violations of miners

Conflicts between local community and Zijin company



Source 1: Marko Popović, Flickr.com

Source 2,3: dw.com



In the absence of participation: Local conflicts and community engagement

Local activist groups

- Majdanpek.info (engaged local community media)
- Ne damo/Nu dau (We don't give)
- Ekoloski ustanak (Ecological Uprising)
- Evropski Majdanpek (European Majdanpek)
- Ne damo Staricu (We won't give up Starica)
- Društvo mladih istraživača iz Bora (Society of Young Researchers, Bor – headquarters of ZiJin)

Activists of We won't give up Starica





Activist camp: protest on Starica mountain (2022)

- Starica mountain: a symbol of Majdanpek
- A hydrogeological collector for the water supply of the entire area
- Without warning, the Zijin company detonated rocks from one of the peaks of this mountain in June 2022
- Citizens organized an activist camp at the top of the mountain trying to prevent further blasting
- Arrests, police brutality against the activists
- Zijin lost the court case



Source 1: Udruženje građana Ne dam

Source 2: Mitrović, N., 2022, BBC News na srpskom.



Mine blockade (2023)

- Union of miners employed by the Chinese company Serbia Zijin Copper started the protest
- The miners set up a tent near the filtration area and blocked the access to the mine with cars
- Several dozen trucks from the Chinese company were blocked or forced to change their route
- The protest lasted only one day



Source: majdanpekinfo.rs



In the absence of participation: Instead of a conclusion

"It can't go on like this, by force, completely ignoring the people. We used to have resorts, sports fields, a ski resort, a swimming pool, a hotel... This makes no sense, except for the investor. We are all left with pollution and destruction, as if they want to push us out" (Čubrilo Filipović, M., 2022).



"We want to know if we need to move because of the mine" (Đukić Pejić, J. 2022).

"The goal is to finally find out what the boundaries of the mine are" (Čubrilo Filipović, M., 2022).

"The people of Majdanpek have always lived next to the mine, it is an integral part of our life. But I think it is unacceptable that in the 21st century we do not have any information. I think we deserve to know what's in store for us" (Đukić Pejić, J. 2022).

Source: Mitrović, N., 2022, BBC News na srpskom.



CHALLENGES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE MINING AREA OF MAJDANPEK, SERBIA: THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LOCAL POPULATION

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Preliminary research results

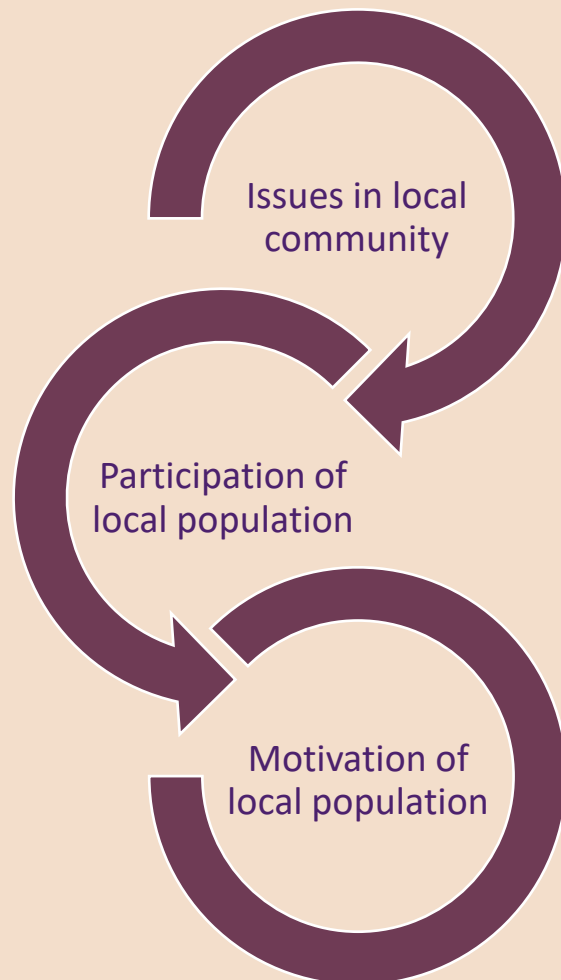
- Citizen polling: July – August 2024
- Random sample, N = 300
- Bor, N= 230
- Majdanpek, N =70
- The sample includes both urban and rural municipalities.



Source: Eko straža Majdanpek



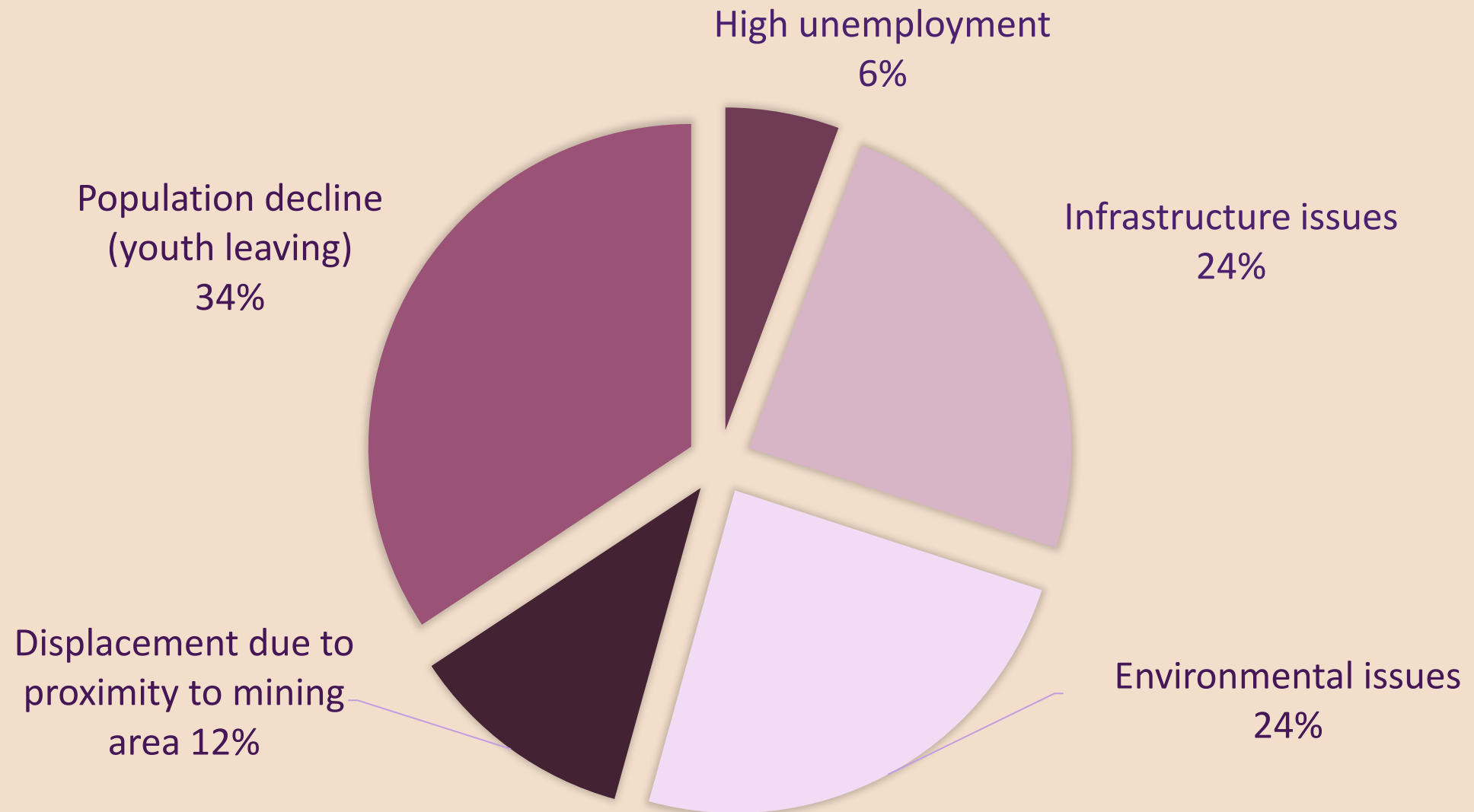
The perspective of local population in Majdanpek



Source: <https://serbiannews.ca/vesti/protest-zbog-miniranja-starice-u-majdanpeku-sledeci-korak-blokada-gazele/>

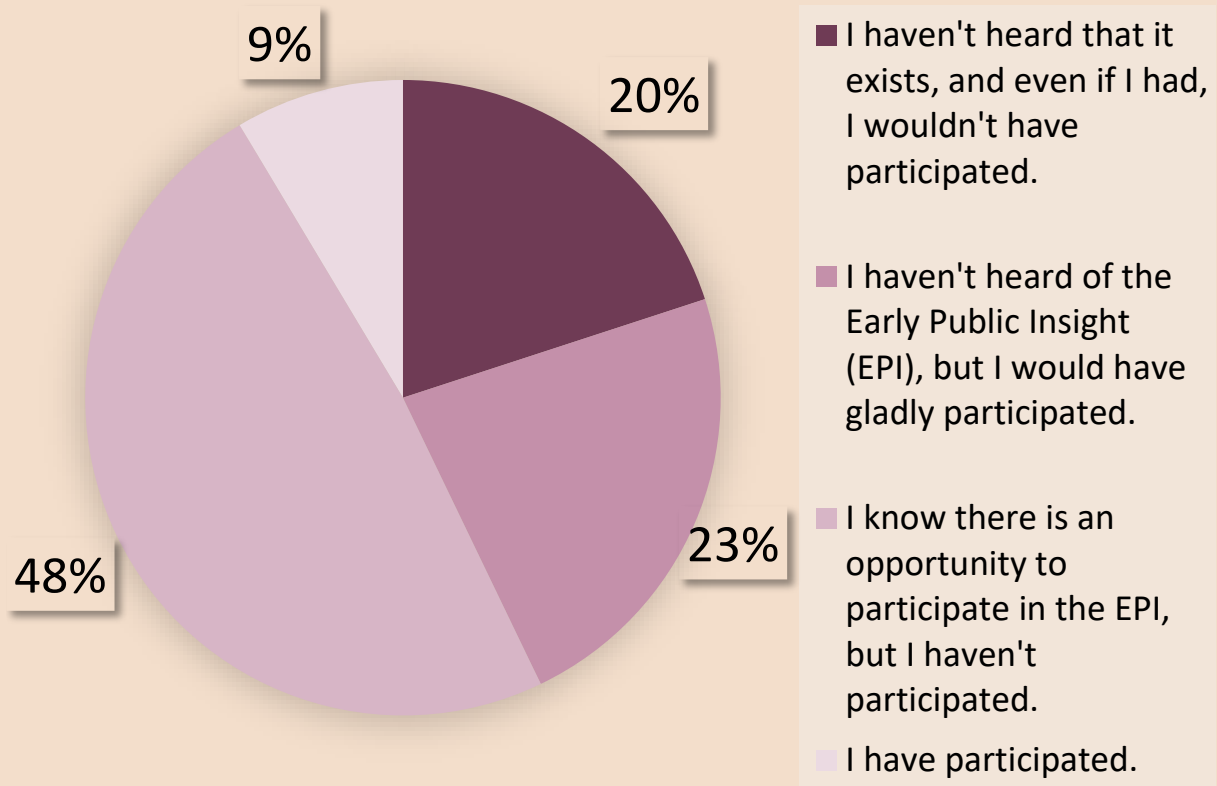


The issues that concern citizens the most in their local community

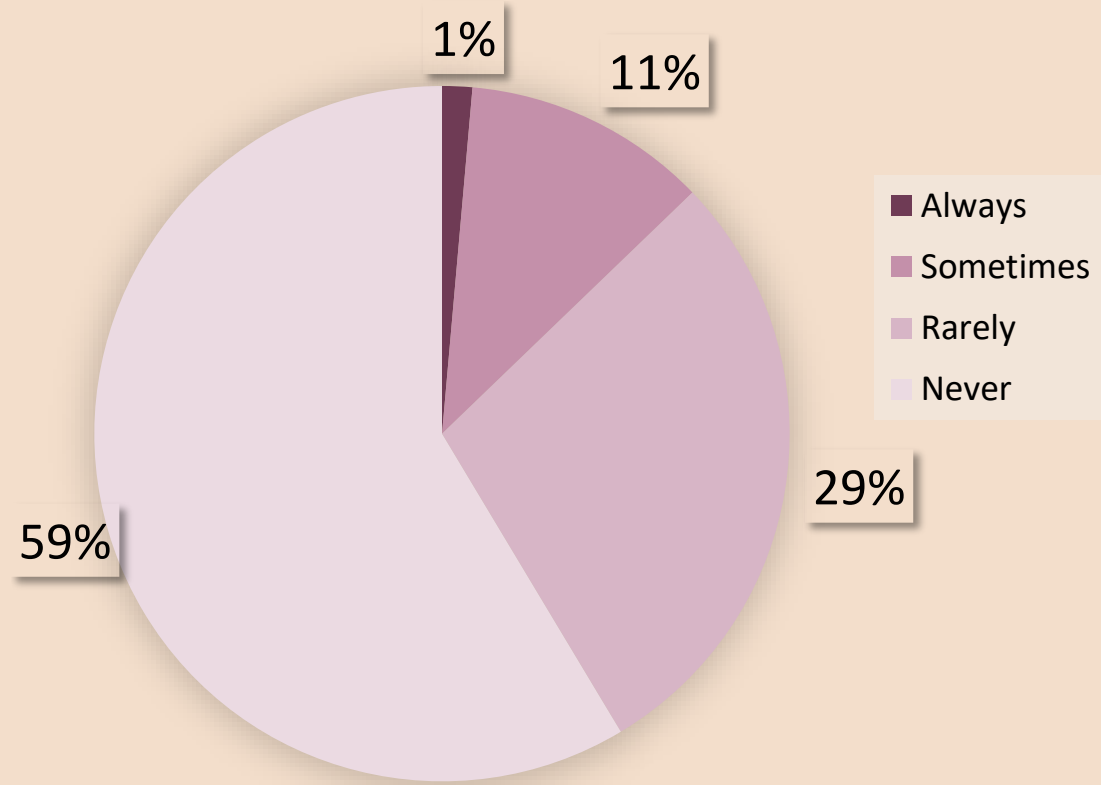




Citizen participation in the 'early public insight' of a planning document

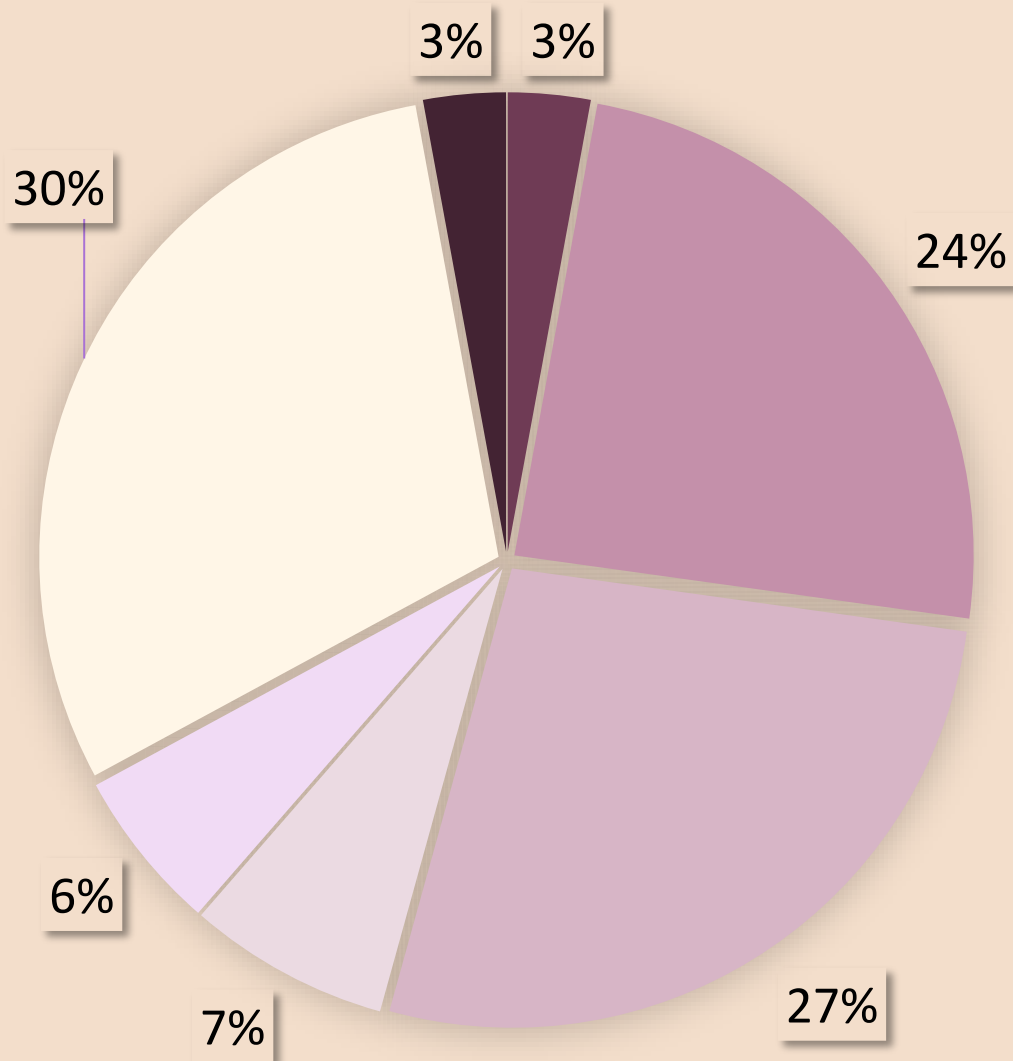


How often do you feel that your suggestions are taken into account by the local authorities?





The key reason why citizens do not participate more in the process of creating planning documents?



- Lack of interest
- Lack of information
- Lack of expertise in the given field
- The absence of feedback/response
- They do not believe they can make a difference
- Something else



Instead of a conclusion: additional findings

- Poor information of citizens about development plans
- Low level of activism and membership in organizations
- Motivation to participate in the creation of planning documents is driven by the desire to improve the community
- Citizens prefer to be informed about plans via websites and local community meetings
- Poor assessment of the contribution of almost all stakeholders to solving the problems caused by mining: the least contribution from experts and scientists, the greatest contribution from citizens
- Of the participatory methods, citizens prefer public discussions and workshops and least prefer comments on internet forums, internet portals and social networks



Thank you for your attention

Project partners:



ИНСТИТУТ ЗА АРХИТЕКТУРУ И УРБАНИЗАМ СРБИЈЕ
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