

PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL SPATIAL PLAN (NSP) FOR THE STATE ROAD OTIŠKI VRH-HOLMEC



GOAL

Redesign the public participation process after local residents and communities expressed their objection to the building of the new state road Otiški vrh-Holmec

KEY CHALLENGES

- Engaging communities constructively to address concerns and find common solutions for all interested groups
- Building and maintaining trust

“Deep and honest” involvement

- External institution, Regional Centre for the Environment, designed public participation process
- Regional consultations in the form of workshops and public hearings to synchronize state and local communities interests, explain participatory process set expectations
- Increased communication with local communities and residents
- Active role of local communities
- Involvement of spatial planning and environmental assessment experts, architects and other experts at workshops

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KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Participation in project's initial phases is key to solutions, public interest and acceptance
- Informing public at **each stage** how the participatory process will look in a clear, well-structured way to manage expectations
- Changing political decisions during project risks losing trust.

