

SMALL TOWN EUROPEAN DEBATES NETWORK



Local debate

Small towns want to be forever young



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
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Local debate

LAG Zagorje
towns want
10 people
Municipality
County and
representa
In order to
we were us

The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. The main video area shows a landscape with hills and a sunset. To the right, a grid of participant thumbnails is visible, including Matija Krizman, Hrvoje Novak, Bojan Bjelja, Petra Vdović, Kristina Marusic, Marko Brozović, Lidija Paš, Jelena Knjaz, Boris Krizman, and Karlo Pasariček. On the far right, the 'Participants (10)' list shows names and status icons. Below this, the 'Chat' window displays a message from Matija Krizman to Everyone at 11:05 AM, containing a link to a survey: <https://app.sli.do/event/wN4oTmPmBxWitQuj9D1hG4>.

Local youth policy

- ▶ Participants were introduced to the city's local youth policy:
- ▶ Youth participation
- ▶ It is necessary to include young people in decision-making processes because of the quality of decision-making, because they themselves know best what their problems are and how to solve them.
- ▶ With the aim of actively involving young people in the work of the local community, the City of Pregrada established the Children's City Council and the Youth Council.

Local youth programme 2021-2025



- ▶ The City of Pregrada has its own strategic document focused on young people, which is the result of joint work of youth associations and representatives of the city administration.
- ▶ It is the most important local document that responds to the needs of young people and anticipates measures and activities that will be implemented in Pregrada in order to increase the standard of living of young people.
- ▶ Local Youth Program is divided into four main thematic units within which it should be developed with proposed activities, funding proposal and implementation deadline necessary for the realization of each goal.

Local youth programme 2021-2025

- ▶ The main determinants of the programme: <https://www.pregrada.hr/sites/default/files/Program%20za%20mlade-web.pdf>

1. YOUTH ACTIVISM

Goal: encouraging youth participation

2. HEALTH CARE

Goal: improving of health and health lifestyle

3. HOUSING, FAMILY AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Goal: enable young people to gain independence early and start their own families

4. WAYS OF SPENDING FREE TIME, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Goal: provide conditions for quality spending of free time

Push factors

- traffic isolation
- lack of public transport – people are car dependent
- less jobs in rural areas – lack of opportunities for young people with higher education
- smaller salaries
- lack of activities for young people to spend their free time (cinema, theatre, sports centers, etc.)
- slow Internet connection



Pull factors

- lovely nature/ecology („Pregrada without plastic”)
- safeness/security (less crimes than in the big cities)
- community – knowing your neighbours, friendly atmosphere, people helping people, volunteerism
- tourism (or great potential for development of tourism)

razvijena infrastruktura u ruralnom području

sigurnost, ekologija, blizina gradova

Blizina zagreba

Centar za mlade

turističko rekreacijska suprastuktura

Krajoлик

Zajednica

javni prijevoz

Internet

Priroda

Slobodan prostor

sadržaj za kvalitetno provođenje slobodnog vremena

What young people need/want to stay in Pregrada?

- ▶ Housing support
- ▶ More activities (cultural, sport, etc.) and spaces/facilities to spend their spare time (youth centre/space, cultural centre, cinema)
- ▶ Better connectivity (public transport, Internet connection, cycling paths)
- ▶ More information about possibilities for youth

What are we doing to keep young people in Pregrada?

- ▶ Increasing participation in decision-making processes (Children's city council, youth advisory board/youth council, participatory budgeting, youth organisations, encouragement of volunteering)
- ▶ Expansion of the kindergarten, working hours adjusted to working parents (from 5.30 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- ▶ Development of broadband Internet
- ▶ Financial support to youth employment measures
- ▶ Improving healthy lifestyles –development of sports infrastructure
- ▶ Digitalization of city administration
- ▶ Transparency

Immigrants



- ▶ Migrant workers (working in textile industry and construction)
- ▶ Employer provides them with service information
- ▶ Not included in community – we should think about ways to include them

Thank you for your attention 😊

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