



Annual Report 2023

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HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, we organised **two summer schools for students** and young professionals. The first, “Planning the Cities of the Future,” offered an extra-curricular learning opportunity and hands-on work in small interdisciplinary teams on transport and spatial planning challenges, defined in cooperation with the City of Šibenik. The second, a STEM summer school for young people, focused on practical skills in robotics, new technologies, programming, drone operation and calibration, design thinking, and related topics.

Within the project “Urban STEM - for Future Cities and Communities,” we delivered **eight workshops in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools across Zagreb**, engaging 168 children and young people. The workshops introduced participants to people-centred urban design and showcased good practices from the EU and Croatia, with a focus on smart cities, transport and spatial planning, climate adaptation, sustainable mobility, and broader principles for building more sustainable cities.

ODRAZ also became a partner in two Horizon Europe projects: SPINE (budget €14.6 million) and SMC Net Zero, which supports small and medium-sized cities in implementing impactful decarbonisation measures.

We published a new handbook, “National Support for Developing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP),” highlighting the importance of national-level support and featuring examples from Slovenia and Croatia.

Finally, **the Director of ODRAZ was named a European Volunteering Ambassador for 2023** by the European Volunteer Centre (CEV).

1 PROJECTS

1.1 SUSTINEO - Through Collaboration, Participation, Research and Education to Sustainability

SUSTINEO aimed to connect and strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations, local governments and public research institutions to advance sustainable development. The focus was on building capacities for effective collaboration and joint action, supported by research and evidence-based policy guidance.

Key activities and results

- Research and evidence base: The project delivered three scientific studies, contributing to a stronger understanding of key dimensions of sustainable development in Croatia.
- Policy guidance: Based on the research and partner collaboration, SUSTINEO produced evidence-based policy guidelines covering:
 - improved governance for sustainable development
 - citizen participation in the design and implementation of sustainability policies
 - sustainable and participatory spatial planning
 - strengthening community-led local development
 - developing social innovation ecosystems
 - supporting social entrepreneurship

Events and stakeholder engagement

- Conference/meeting “Social Innovations for Local Sustainable Development” (Rijeka, 17 March) - 35 participants
- Discussions addressed how social innovations emerge, their sustainability impacts, and how to strengthen social innovation ecosystems. Two Rijeka examples were presented: the “Riperaj” project and the inclusion programme for vulnerable children “My Place Under the Sun.” (Cooperation: SMART Rijeka, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, CERANEO.)

- Roundtable “Dialogue on Sustainable Mobility and Participatory Spatial Planning” (Šibenik, 21 July) - 50 participants
- The project and the study “Sustainable Urban Mobility in Croatian Cities: status, problems and governance challenges” were presented, along with public-space improvement solutions developed by interdisciplinary teams during ODRAZ’s summer school “Planning Cities of the Future.” (Cooperation: Association “ZvoniMir” Knin.)
- Conference “Cooperation between Academia and Civil Society for Sustainable Development” (Zagreb, 27 October) - 56 participants
- Results of the three studies were presented, followed by a panel discussion: “How to contribute to achieving sustainable development in Croatia?”

Target groups

- Civil society organisations
- Local self-government units
- Public scientific/research institutions

Duration: 28 October 2020 – 27 October 2023

Total value: HRK 3,473,996.69

Funding: European Social Fund - thematic networks for socio-economic development and the promotion of social dialogue in the context of improving working conditions

Lead partner: ODRAZ - Sustainable Development of Community

Partners: Faculty of Political Science and Faculty of Law (University of Zagreb), CERANEO, SMART, Zelena Istra, DEŠA–Dubrovnik, Slagalica Foundation, Association of Cities in Croatia, ZvoniMir Knin, Croatian Rural Development Network (HMRR)

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/sustineo-through-collaboration-participation-research-and-education-to-sustainability/?lang=en>

1.2. Network for the Development of Digital Literacy

The project aimed to establish structured cooperation among key stakeholders involved in advancing digital literacy in Croatia. Activities include assessments, research, and the development of guidelines to support progress in: digital citizenship, digital education, the labor market and emerging occupations, and the development of digital talents and innovation.

ODRAZ contribution and key activities

Conference: “Empowering Older People and Vulnerable Groups for the Digital World” (Zagreb, 19 May)

- ODRAZ co-organized the event and contributed to showcasing good practices, including policy readiness for e-inclusion of people aged 54+ (Varaždin County example), information literacy programmed for older adults delivered by Zagreb City Libraries, and the Digi Academy educational digital platform for people with intellectual disabilities.
- A panel discussion “How to include the digitally excluded?” was moderated by Lidija Pavić-Rogošić. The event also marked the European Year of Skills. Bilateral meetings with representatives of civil society organizations and local governments, where the Digital Literacy Development Guidelines were presented.

Target groups

- Civil society organizations
- Local self-government units
- Stakeholders active in education, labor market development and inclusion

Duration: 29 October 2020 – 28 October 2023

Total value: HRK 3,598,871.35

Funding: European Social Fund – thematic networks for socio-economic development and the promotion of social dialogue

Lead partner: Telecentar

Partners (selection): University of Zagreb (FER; FOI Varaždin), University North (Koprivnica), Institute of Public Finance, Algebra University College, ODRAZ, Croatian Computer Society and other sectoral, education and employer organizations.

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/digital-hr/?lang=en>

1.3. CLIMASUM - Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Urban Mobility

CLIMASUM focused on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), aiming to strengthen more effective and climate-neutral mobility planning in countries where sustainable mobility measures were less developed and the negative impacts of transport were more pronounced. Activities were implemented across Croatia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, enabling a transnational approach that reflected each country's specific needs and context.

Target groups

The project engaged a broad range of stakeholders: public authorities at local/regional/national levels, young professionals and students, civil society organisations, academia, businesses, and citizens/communities.

Key activities and outputs (highlights)

- [Workshop “The Future of SUMP in the region”](#) (Rijeka, 19-20 January) gathered 57 CIVINET Slovenia–Croatia–SEE network members and other stakeholders from Croatia, Slovenia, BiH and Serbia, focusing on legal frameworks and funding sources for SUMP development and implementation.
- [Study visit to Slovenia for the CIVINET Czech–Slovak network](#) (6-8 June) brought 20 representatives from Czech and Slovak cities and organisations to learn about active mobility support measures in Ljubljana and Maribor (organised by ODRAZ and the Transport Research Centre, Brno).
- [Workshop “An Innovative Approach to Sustainable Mobility”](#) (Maribor, 7 June) convened 61 participants, showcasing solutions from seven mobility start-ups (Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Latvia) and facilitating group work on city challenges and innovation ideas (in cooperation with the City of Maribor and REGEA / EIT Urban Mobility).
- [Thematic webinars](#) delivered knowledge exchange on:
 - Transition to a long-term sustainable transport system (17 May)
 - Climate and mobility (11 July)
- [ODRAZ Summer School “Planning Cities of the Future”](#) (Šibenik, 17–21 July) enabled 26 young professionals and students from multiple disciplines (civil engineering, geography, architecture, sociology, landscape architecture, transport, economics, geodesy) to work in interdisciplinary teams on transport–spatial

planning challenges and participatory public-space planning. Solutions were publicly presented for five selected locations in Šibenik.

- [Baseline analysis of sustainable urban mobility in Croatia](#) was conducted, alongside partner analyses for the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina, to inform proposed measures and recommendations.
- [Conference “Supporting Cities in Sustainable Urban Mobility Planning”](#) (Zagreb, 21 September) gathered around 50 participants (cities, universities, CSOs and other stakeholders). The event presented four thematic handbooks with recommendations for effective SUMP planning in Croatia, BiH and the Czech Republic and included a workshop on contributing to SUMP development in Croatia, aligned with European Mobility Week and the European Sustainable Development Week.

Duration: 1 October 2021 – 30 September 2023

Total budget: €387,778.31 (grant: €362,771.31)

Lead organisation: ODRAZ – Sustainable Development of Community

Partners: Centre for Environment (Banja Luka); Transport Research Centre (Centrum dopravního výzkumu, v. v. i.), Brno

Programme: Part of the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/climasum-climate-mitigation-through-sustainable-urban-mobility/?lang=en>

1.4 STEM for a Sustainable Future (2021–2023)

The project strengthened the capacities of civil society representatives, students and other young people through modern learning methods in STEM/STEAM, sustainable development, and critical and creative thinking. It also promoted STEM among young people and fostered stronger cooperation between academia and civil society.

Target groups

General public (with an emphasis on children and young people), students, and representatives of civil society organisations and partner education institutions.

Key activities and results

- [STEM School for Youth](#) (Šibenik, 11–14 April)
 - 20 young participants

- Interactive workshops mentored by ODRAZ, Radiona, Šibenik Polytechnic, and Zagreb University of Applied Sciences
- Topics included STEM/STEAM, programming, robotics, drone operation, makerspace, design thinking, and climate change
- Included an Open Day at Šibenik Polytechnic for the wider public
- [Guest lectures in secondary schools and universities](#), delivered by Magdalena Makar and Elizabet Gašparov, covering: “Superblocks model – a new concept in transport and spatial planning” (University North, Koprivnica)
- [STEM promotion lectures for students](#) (Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb) and for high-school pupils (VII Gymnasium, Zagreb)
- [Final conference “Connecting Education and Practice in STEM”](#) (Zagreb, 28 April), presenting project outcomes and discussing the value of CSO–education synergies for practical, competence-building activities.

Duration: 12 May 2021 – 11 May 2023

Total budget: HRK 1,587,320.19

EU contribution: HRK 1,349,222.00

Funding programme: European Social Fund – strengthening CSO capacities for STEM popularisation

Lead organisation: ODRAZ – Sustainable Development of Community

Partners: Zagreb University of Applied Sciences; Šibenik Polytechnic; Radiona (DIY culture development association)

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/stem-for-a-sustainable-future/?lang=en>

1.5 UrbanSTEM - for the Cities and Communities of the Future

UrbanSTEM strengthened the capacity of civil society organisations to popularise STEM and encouraged cooperation between NGOs and academic institutions. The project promoted an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to planning future cities, motivating young people to apply a science-based perspective to urban development.

Key activities and results

- **“Design a City of the Future” workshops (Zagreb):** Eight age-appropriate workshops were delivered in kindergartens and schools (incl. OŠ Ive Andrića, OŠ Jordanovac, DV Utrina, Prirodoslovna škola Vladimira Preloga, and Škola za medicinske sestre Mlinarska), reaching 168 children and young people. Topics included people-centred urban design, smart cities, transport and spatial planning, climate challenges, and active/sustainable mobility.
- **Guest lectures at universities:** Delivered to approximately 40 students outside STEM fields, organised with partner academic institutions (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb; University North). Lectures introduced contemporary concepts such as the superblocks model and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs).
- **Final conference (Zagreb, 21 April):** Presented project results and good practices in non-formal STEM education; ODRAZ activities were showcased (interdisciplinary workshops, summer school format, and “Design a City of the Future” workshops).
- **Handbook for STEM education providers:** A practical guide with activities to support teaching and workshops on sustainable development, sustainable urban mobility, transport–spatial planning, environmental protection, and climate (link to be inserted).

Duration: 12 May 2021 – 12 November 2022

Total budget: HRK 1,878,790.17

Funding: European Social Fund – strengthening CSO capacities for STEM popularisation

Lead partner: DOOR – Society for Sustainable Development Design
Partners: ODRAZ; Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences (University of Zagreb); Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (University of Zagreb)

More info: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/urbanstem-for-the-cities-and-communities-of-the-future/?lang=en>

1.6 Youth Can Do Everything - From Trust to Work

This project introduced a new approach to engaging inactive young people (aged 15-29) who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) and were not registered as jobseekers. Through cooperation with a wide network of local stakeholders, the project supported participants in building confidence, skills and pathways into the labour market.

Key results

- 2 NEET centres established
- 64 participants engaged in project activities
- 24 job-shadowing placements delivered
- 15 soft-skills workshops implemented
- 7 labour market information workshops delivered
- 4 social mentors engaged
- 6 participants received entrepreneurship support
- 41 education programmes completed

Duration: 14 July 2021 – 14 July 2023

Total budget: HRK 1,798,557.87

EU co-funding (ESF): HRK 1,652,694.83

National co-funding: HRK 145,663.04

Funding programme: European Social Fund – “Find Me!” (outreach and education activities for inactive NEET youth)

Lead: Institute for Labour Market Development

Partners: ODRAZ and a broad coalition including schools, local action groups, civil society organisations, the City of Zagreb, development agencies, adult education providers, and local offices of the Croatian Employment Service (Zagreb and Krapina).

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/youth-can-do-everything-from-trust-to-work/?lang=en>

1.7 Mobility in my Neighbourhood - Solutions for Women's Safe Mobility

This project gathered evidence on mobility and safety challenges faced by women and other vulnerable groups in the Folnegovićevo naselje neighbourhood (Zagreb) and explored their specific needs through a participatory approach. The aim was to improve community understanding of barriers related to public space use and public transport, particularly for vulnerable residents.

Key activity: A community meeting, “Mobility in my Neighbourhood” (Folnegovićevo naselje local council, 16 February) brought together around 40 participants - local residents, neighbourhood representatives, and relevant city offices and organisations - to identify problems in getting around the neighbourhood and propose practical improvements.

Lead organisation: ODRAZ – Sustainable Development of Community

Duration: September 2022 – March 2023

Total budget: HRK 25,000.00

Funding: City of Zagreb

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/kretanje-mojim-kvartom-rjesenja-za-sigurnu-mobilnost-zena/?lang=en>

1.8 New projects

1.8.1 SPINE – Smart Public Transport Initiatives for Climate-Neutral Cities in Europe

SPINE is one of the European Commission's largest projects funded under Horizon Europe (Climate, Energy and Mobility). It focuses on scaling innovative smart public transport solutions to help European cities cut CO₂ emissions and improve the sustainability and performance of public transport. A multidisciplinary consortium of 39 partners from 16 countries will support cities in implementing advanced technologies and strategies. ODRAZ participates alongside the City of Šibenik as the Croatian partners.

Duration: January 2023 – December 2026

Lead: Inlecom

Funding: Horizon Europe; total project funding €17,020,514.25 (approved budget referenced: €14.6 million)

More info: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/spine/?lang=en>

1.8.2 SMC Net Zero – Achieving Net-Zero through Innovation in Small and Medium-Sized Cities

SMC Net Zero is an 18-month Horizon Europe project that supports small and medium-sized cities in building and strengthening local innovation ecosystems for the net-zero transition. It develops a “satellite network” of innovation stakeholders—bringing together public authorities, SMEs, academia, civil society and investors across Europe—to accelerate the development and uptake of climate-neutral solutions.

Consortium (7 partners): BABLE Smart Cities, ODRAZ, Smart City Cluster, Southern Regional Assembly, BLOXHUB, We Build Denmark, Urban DNA

More info: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/smc-net-zero/?lang=en>

1.8.3 ENGAGENet – Network for Socially Engaged Research and Collaboration

ENGAGENet establishes a transnational network for joint research on spatial planning and urban governance, with a strong focus on stakeholder communication models within planning processes. The project explores active urban planning as a component of open and participatory city governance, aiming to develop practical models for more effective planning and clearer stakeholder roles. ODRAZ participates alongside academic partners and cities, including the City of Zagreb.

Duration: September 2023 – April 2024

Lead: Department of Geography, Faculty of Science (PMF), University of Zagreb

Funding: UNIC – the European University of Post-Industrial Cities; €8,150.00

1.8.4 GREENCO - Education for Green Transformation of the Construction Sector

GREENCO focuses on developing digital and green skills among young people training for careers in the construction sector, supporting faster and higher-quality green transformation of the industry. ODRAZ leads Work Package 6 (Dissemination, Communication and Sustainability), aiming to increase project visibility nationally and internationally, support uptake of results, and build synergies that integrate sustainability and green building themes into education and everyday practice.

Duration: 1 September 2023 – 31 August 2026

Lead: Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Zagreb

Funding: Erasmus+ KA2 (Strategic Partnerships – Higher Education); €1,040,020.00

Official site: <https://www.greenco.grad.hr/>

More info: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/greenco-education-for-green-transformation-of-construction-sector/?lang=en>

2 PROGRAMMES

2.1 CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-Southeast Europe Network for Sustainable Urban Mobility

CIVINET Slo-Hr-SEE is a network of cities and mobility stakeholders working on sustainable urban mobility planning and transport management across Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Its core purpose is to share knowledge and transfer good practice in sustainable urban mobility. ODRAZ has served as the Network Secretariat since its establishment in 2013, while the City of Zagreb coordinated the network until the end of 2024.

Membership

- 12 new members joined the network.
- Total membership: 231 members, including 47 from Slovenia, 101 from Croatia, 34 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 34 from Serbia, 9 from North Macedonia and 6 from Montenegro.

Key events organised by the Network

Workshop “The Future of SUMPs” (Rijeka, 19–20 January)

Brought together 57 participants (network members and stakeholders from Croatia, Slovenia, BiH and Serbia) to discuss the legislative framework and funding sources for the continued development and implementation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs). (Held within the CLIMASUM project.)

10th Anniversary Conference “Cities for Climate Neutrality” (Ljubljana, 22–24 March)

- Gathered 150+ participants from network countries, with additional guests from across Europe.
- The programme included the ProSUMP sustainable mobility workshop, meetings of the Network’s governing bodies and the 10th Annual Assembly, thematic presentations and panel discussions, pitch sessions, study visits to good practices, and a screening of Why We Cycle?.

- The event also facilitated exchanges between CIVINET Slo-Hr-SEE and CIVINET Greece-Cyprus (in cooperation with the City of Ljubljana and projects ProSUMP, CLIMASUM and UrbanSTEM).

Study visit to Slovenia (6-8 June)

Hosted 20 representatives from Czech and Slovak cities and NGOs (CIVINET Czech-Slovak network), showcasing active mobility support measures in Ljubljana and Maribor. Organised jointly by ODRAZ and the Transport Research Centre (Brno) as the secretariats of the two CIVINET networks.

Workshop “Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Mobility” (Maribor, 7 June)

Focused on innovation and project preparation, featuring solutions from seven mobility start-ups (from Croatia, Slovenia, Germany and Latvia) and interactive group work on city challenges and potential innovations. Conducted in cooperation with the City of Maribor and REGEA (EIT Urban Mobility), with participation from the CIVINET Czech-Slovak network.

8th CIVINET Forum “On the Road to Climate-Neutral Cities” (Sarajevo, 12-13 October)

Attended by around 100 participants (network members, students and other stakeholders). Special attention was given to CIVINET cities participating in the EU Mission “100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030”—Sarajevo, Zagreb, Ljubljana and Velenje—and included field visits to good mobility practices in Sarajevo (in cooperation with Canton Sarajevo, the City of Sarajevo and the City of Zagreb).

Thematic webinars

- [Transition to a long-term sustainable transport system \(9 May\)](#): Featured the European Economic and Social Committee’s perspective on the transition (with emphasis on the social dimension), lessons learned from leading European cities, and examples of planning and implementation from Leuven; attracted 60+ participants from multiple countries, in cooperation with the EESC.
- [Climate and mobility \(11 July\)](#): Focused on liveable public spaces in the context of climate mitigation, sustainable mobility, and inclusive transport-spatial planning; attracted around 50 participants from several network countries.

Representation and networking at international events

ODRAZ/Network Secretariat contributed to European knowledge exchange through participation in:

- “CIVINext Generation” workshop (Leuven, 30 Jan -1 Feb) for CIVINET secretariats, co-developing tools to support the long-term success of CIVINET networks.
- CIVITAS Fast Track final conference (Budapest, 16-17 May), where the network was presented in a Marketplace pitching session and ODRAZ showcased related EU projects (CLIMASUM, SMC Net Zero, SPINE).
- Urban Mobility Days (Seville, 4-6 Oct) and the POLIS annual conference (Leuven, 29–30 Nov), strengthening cooperation with other CIVINET networks and EU project partners.
- ZIRP 2023 (Zagreb, 7-8 Dec), enabling exchange with international experts and supporting the positioning of students and young professionals in the mobility field.

Communication and outreach

The Network regularly informed members, stakeholders and media through the website civinet-slohr.eu, the CIVINET Info e-newsletter, and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) - sharing updates on activities, funding calls, event announcements, and good practices from across the EU.

Secretariat: ODRAZ

Financial support: CIVITAS Elevate, City of Zagreb, and the CLIMASUM project

More information: <http://civinet-slohr.eu/>

2.2 Promotion of the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)

The European Sustainable Development Week was marked from 18 September to 8 October across Croatia and Europe, aiming to increase the visibility of activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ODRAZ served as the national coordinator in Croatia, while the initiative is coordinated at European level by the ESDN Office (Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business).

ODRAZ actively promoted ESDW through its website, social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn), the eODRAZ newsletter, and media outreach. During the campaign, the ESDW online platform recorded 5,144+ events from 28 countries, [including 78 events from Croatia](#). More information: www.esdw.eu

2.3 Local Development Network (MLR)

The Local Development Network (MLR) has operated since 2004 as an informal network dedicated to information exchange in the field of sustainable local development. The network brings together 680 members, with balanced representation from the civil society and public sectors, and a smaller share from the business sector.

Members participate in ODRAZ events, receive relevant updates, connect with each other, and exchange examples of good practice.

2.4 Institutional support from the National Foundation for Civil Society Development (2021–2023)

ODRAZ received three-year institutional support (2021–2023) from the National Foundation for Civil Society Development. This support helped ODRAZ maintain organisational stability, focus more effectively on implementing projects and activities, and enabled staff to contribute on a voluntary basis to various councils and advisory bodies.

More information: <https://www.odraz.hr/projects/all-projects/institutional-grant-of-national-foundation-of-civil-society-development-2021-2023/?lang=en>

3 EDUCATION

Designing and delivering non-formal learning is a core part of ODRAZ's mission. It focuses on improving knowledge and skills, shifting attitudes, and strengthening the capacity to implement sustainable development at the local level.

In 2023, ODRAZ delivered 19 trainings and workshops, two webinars, and two summer schools, including:

- Five “Design a City of the Future” workshops (Urban STEM)
- Workshop “The Future of SUMP’s in the Region” (CLIMASUM, CIVINET)
- Four training blocks on Local Sustainable Development and CSO capacity building in Šibenik-Knin County (LAG More 249)
- Intensive one-day training “Community Placemaking” (KLIK - Križevci Climate Innovation Center)
- Workshop “Sustainable Development and Social Services” (Komarevo Rehabilitation Centre)
- Sustainable development workshop as part of the “Croatia Volunteers” campaign/event
- Workshop “An Innovative Approach to Sustainable Mobility” (CLIMASUM, CIVINET)
- Training on Local Sustainable Development and capacity building for youth and CSOs (Parents’ Association of Children with Developmental Disabilities “Pčelice”, Gospić)
- Three workshops for VG Čistoća employees
- Workshop within the modular training programme Real Mayors: The role of citizens in urban mobility projects (REGEA)
- Webinar “Transition to a Long-Term Sustainable Transport System” (CLIMASUM, CIVINET)
- Webinar “Climate and Mobility” (CLIMASUM, CIVINET)
- STEM Summer School for Youth (STEM for a Sustainable Future)
- ODRAZ Summer School for Young People “Planning Cities of the Future” (CLIMASUM)

4 PUBLICATIONS

4.1 National Support for Developing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs)

Prepared within the CLIMASUM project, this handbook highlights the role of national-level support for developing and implementing SUMPs, drawing on examples from Slovenia and Croatia. It includes:

- an overview of Slovenia's national support framework for SUMPs
- guidance for establishing a national support framework in Croatia
- reflections on legislation, funding opportunities, and implementation good practices
- recommendations for effective monitoring and evaluation of SUMP planning and plans in both countries

Link: https://www.odraz.hr/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Nacionalna-podrska-izradi-SUMP-ova_Web.pdf

4.2 Analysis of Opportunities and Limitations of LAG Action in Croatia

Produced within the SUSTINEO project, this scientific paper presents research findings on the contribution of Local Action Groups (LAGs) to sustainable local development in Croatia. The study provides key results and practical guidance for decision-makers to improve the current system.

Link: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/438206>

4.3 Guidelines for Developing Sustainable Public Policies

Developed during the SUSTINEO project, these evidence-based guidelines support public policy development in the areas of:

- improved governance for sustainable development
- citizen participation in policy design and implementation
- sustainable and participatory spatial planning
- strengthening community-led local development
- development of social innovation ecosystems

- support for social entrepreneurship

More info: <https://www.odraz.hr/projekti/svi-projekti/sustineo-suradnjom-sudjelovanjem-istrazivanjem-i-edukacijom-za-odrzivost/>

4.4 Sustainable Mobility Policies: Overview of Global and European Initiatives

This professional paper reviews key UN and EU policies and measures related to sustainable (urban) mobility and outlines the core features of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP).

Link: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/309794>

4 PUBLIC POLICIES

Since its establishment, ODRAZ has actively contributed to the development and monitoring of public policies in areas aligned with its mission, including sustainable development, rural and urban development, sustainable urban mobility, civil society development, public participation, lifelong learning, and education for sustainable development. ODRAZ representatives participate in both permanent bodies and ad hoc working groups at the European, national, regional and local levels.

4.1 European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

ODRAZ Director Lidija Pavić-Rogošić is an active member of EESC Group III (Civil Society Organisations). In 2023 she regularly participated in plenary sessions in Brussels, section meetings (agriculture/rural development/environment; transport/energy/infrastructure/information society; external relations), and working groups drafting EESC opinions. She also served on the Group III Presidency and held additional roles in EESC-related advisory structures, including the EU–Chile Joint Consultative Committee, EUROMED Monitoring Committee, and the Western Balkans Monitoring Committee. She represented the EESC in the Rural Pact Coordination Group established by the European Commission (DG AGRI and DG REGIO).

In addition to Brussels-based work, she supported EESC outreach and communication in Croatia—engaging with civil society, organising events, cooperating with young people through the programme “Your Europe, Your Say”, and delivering interactive lectures in schools. Magdalena Makar served as her deputy.

EESC engagement in 2023 (key figures):

- 9 plenary sessions
- 41 meetings of sections and other bodies
- Participation in: 1 EUROMED civil society summit, 1 EU–Chile Joint Consultative Committee meeting, and 1 Western Balkans civil society summit
- 77 website posts covering EESC activities and opinions

Lidija Pavić-Rogošić also took part in a number of EESC and related international events, including meetings and conferences in Priština, Uppsala, Alexandria, New York, Santiago de Compostela, Thessaloniki, and Santiago de Chile, contributing to discussions on topics such as rural development, sustainable development (SDGs), food sovereignty, Western Balkans cooperation, and the just transition.

4.2 Other advisory bodies and working groups

ODRAZ representatives also contributed through membership in additional national and local advisory structures, including:

- Working group monitoring active labour market policy measures (deputy member) - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić
- Zagreb County Local Employment Partnership - Ksenija Vorberger
- Management Board of the City of Zagreb Local Employment Partnership - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić
- National Rural Network - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić
- Council for Civil Society Development (deputy member) - Marina Vojković
- Zagreb Urban Agglomeration Partnership Council - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić
- Working Group "Connected Croatia" - Goran Lampelj
- Supervisory Board, Croatian Volunteer Development Centre - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić
- Management Board, Europe's People's Forum - Lidija Pavić-Rogošić

5 ADVISORY SUPPORT / SELF-FINANCED ACTIVITIES

In 2023, ODRAZ delivered a range of advisory and capacity-building services on a self-financed basis, supporting civil society organisations, local stakeholders and public utilities through training, facilitation and strategic planning processes.

5.1 Key trainings, workshops and advisory engagements

Local Sustainable Development & CSO Capacity Building (Šibenik–Knin County; Vodice, March–May)

ODRAZ delivered four two-day workshops for members and volunteers of LAG “More 249” and other interested CSOs in the county. Topics covered included: sectors in society, public participation in decision-making, cross-sector partnerships, community organising, good governance and crisis management, and social capital for sustainable development. Trainers: Lidija Pavić-Rogošić, Elizabet Gašparov, Magdalena Makar, and Goran Lampelj.

Intensive One-Day Training “Community Placemaking” (Zagreb, 28 March)

36 participants attended a 6-hour intensive programme introducing placemaking tools and methodology for creating people-centred public spaces. The training was delivered by Placemaking Europe, with support from KLIK – Križevci Climate Innovation Laboratory and ODRAZ.

Placemaking Workshop (Šibenik, 19 July)

A dedicated workshop for participants of ODRAZ’s summer school “Planning the Cities of the Future”, introducing placemaking and practical tools for public-space assessment and improvement. Using the Place Game tool, participants evaluated a selected site and proposed concrete improvements. Organised by ODRAZ in cooperation with KLIK.

Sustainable Development and Social Services (Majur, 10–12 May)

A three-day training on applying sustainable development principles and the SDGs in the provision of social services for persons with intellectual disabilities. Trainers: Elizabet Gašparov and Magdalena Makar.

Local Sustainable Development Training for Youth and Youth CSOs (Gospić, 12–13 September)

Participants explored sustainable development and the SDGs through interactive work, presentations and discussion. Climate change was addressed through the EN-ROADS simulation model, enabling participants to take on stakeholder roles and discuss possible climate pathways. Trainers: Elizabet Gašparov and Magdalena Makar.

Strategic Planning for VG Čistoća Ltd. (Velika Gorica, November–December)

Through a facilitated workshop process with company staff, ODRAZ supported review of existing obligations and documents, identified improvement opportunities, and defined key elements for the VG Čistoća Strategic Plan 2024–2030. Facilitators: Lidija Pavić-Rogošić and Elizabet Gašparov.

REAL MAYORS Programme - Module “Role of Citizens in Urban Mobility Projects” (Zabok, 21 November)

ODRAZ contributed as lecturers to the introductory module of the REAL Mayors modular programme on urban and peri-urban mobility. The session focused on citizen engagement, dialogue on needed changes, and practical tools for involving citizens in city strategies and projects, including sustainable urban mobility. Participants included representatives of several towns in the Zagorje area. Lecturers: Lidija Pavić-Rogošić and Magdalena Makar.

6 INFORMATION (COMMUNICATION)

ODRAZ uses digital communication tools—e-newsletters, websites and social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube)—to share news and key messages quickly with stakeholders, the wider public and the media. These channels are used to communicate ongoing projects and activities, as well as broader topics central to ODRAZ’s mission.

6.1 Websites

[ODRAZ website \(www.odraz.hr\)](http://www.odraz.hr): 190 posts published

Content is organised through sections such as News (calls, trainings, events and policy-related updates), EESC News (reports from EESC plenaries and activities), Our Topics (priority thematic areas), Publications (33 ODRAZ manuals and professional publications available online), and Multimedia (videos, event photo galleries and media coverage).

[CIVINET Slo-Hr-SEE network website \(civinet-slohr.eu\)](http://civinet-slohr.eu): 138 posts published

The site features announcements, EU good practices, country updates, and highlights from CIVINET members’ activities in the field of sustainable urban mobility.

6.2 E-newsletters

- **eODRAZ**: 12 issues published in 2023, sharing project updates and regular information on events, calls and key topics related to civil society and sustainable local/rural development. Circulation: [to be added] recipients.
- **CIVINET Info**: 10 issues published, informing members and media about network activities, upcoming events, and EU examples of good practice in sustainable urban mobility. The newsletter reaches 800+ subscribers across six countries, including a significant number of journalists.

6.3 Social media

ODRAZ channels

- Facebook: 12,725 followers; 387 posts (as of 31 Dec 2023)
- Instagram (@odraz_odrzivirazvojjednice): 1,212 followers; 155 posts
- LinkedIn: 438 followers; 83 posts
- YouTube: 48 videos available (including webinars, hybrid events, animated and short educational films)

CIVINET / Sustainable Mobility in Cities channels

- Facebook: 6,412 followers; 297 posts
- Instagram: 260 followers; 162 posts
- LinkedIn (CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-South East Europe): 601 followers; 92 posts

6.4 Media cooperation

To increase visibility of ODRAZ topics and activities, ODRAZ worked continuously with the media. In 2023, ODRAZ-related themes generated **76 media mentions**, most of them on online news portals.

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) published an **interview** on its website (eesc.europa.eu) **with ODRAZ Director Lidija Pavić-Rogošić**, in which she discusses the role of rural communities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7 OTHER ACTIVITIES

In 2023, ODRAZ staff actively contributed to public dialogue, professional exchange, and capacity building through guest lectures, panel participation, workshops, and high-level international forums. Key contributions addressed youth well-being and resilience, sustainable, smart and inclusive mobility, people-centred urban transformation (including the superblocks model and placemaking), and rural policy and the EU's Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas. ODRAZ was represented at national events in Croatia and at international gatherings in Sweden, Egypt, the United States, France, Spain and Belgium, including participation in the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and EU-level rural policy discussions.

7.1 Guest lectures and active participation in events

- Participation in a stakeholder forum on evidence-based solutions co-created with young people (Zagreb, 21 February).
- Presentation at the 4th Transport Community Social Forum on the role of civil society in sustainable, smart and inclusive mobility (online, 8 March).
- Guest lecture on the superblocks model at a student conference on liveable housing and cities (Zagreb, 25 March).
- Panel participation at the conference on Environmental Democracy, focusing on sustainable cities and greener urban transformation (Zagreb, 25 March).
- Contributions to workshops and conferences on sustainable agriculture, green rural development and the Rural Pact, including EUROMED-level engagement and high-level rural policy events (Banja Luka, Uppsala, Alexandria, Sigüenza, Brussels).
- Participation in Placemaking Week 2023 with inputs on placemaking practices and learning from South East Europe (Strasbourg, 26–28 September).
- Guest lecture at the Department of Geography (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb) on the superblocks concept, including student group work (Zagreb, 17 November).
- Participation in the European LEADER Congress (Brussels, 18–19 December), contributing to discussions on the future of LEADER/CLLD and rural development.

7.2 Support & Volunteering

ODRAZ supported the national campaign “Croatia Volunteers 2023 - Small Contribution, Big Impact!” (15–20 May), with a focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ODRAZ contributed as a partner organisation, delivered a sustainable development workshop for primary school pupils (6th grade), and produced a short video message promoting volunteering.

In recognition of her long-standing volunteering engagement, **ODRAZ Director Lidija Pavić-Rogošić was named a European Volunteering Ambassador for 2023** by the European Volunteer Centre (CEV).

7.3 Participation in Other Meetings, Events and Workshops

In 2023, ODRAZ staff continued professional development and policy engagement through a range of trainings, monitoring committees, network meetings, conferences and study visits. This included participation in a CSO Leadership Academy (effective communication, online collaboration, and online campaigning), regular involvement in Monitoring Committee meetings for the Competitiveness and Cohesion Programme 2021–2027 and the Integrated Territorial Programme 2021–2027, as well as participation in key European and international mobility and skills events.

Key participation highlights

- Capacity building (CSO Leadership Academy): training on effective communication, online collaboration, and creating successful online campaigns.
- Policy monitoring: multiple meetings of the Monitoring Committee for major national/EU programmes (in-person and online).
- Networks & dialogue: participation in an ALF network meeting and an EESC Western Balkans Monitoring Committee meeting with Kosovo civil society organisations (Pristina).
- Mobility & innovation: attendance at the CIVITAS Fast Track final conference (Budapest), an EUKI study tour (Brussels), the POLIS Network conference (Leuven), and ZIRP2023 (Zagreb).
- Digital skills: participation in the ALL DIGITAL Conference: “Skills for Digital Tomorrow” (Zagreb).

- Civil society sector milestone: attendance at the 20th anniversary celebration of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development.
- Platform governance: participation in the CROSOL network assembly (online).

Additional training

ODRAZ team members also completed additional training programmes through education vouchers, including:

- Project Management Assistant (Magdalena Makar)
- Online Marketing and Branding (Elizabet Gašparov, Ksenija Vorberger)

7.4 Collaboration / Partnerships

ODRAZ cooperated with a broad range of partners across civil society, academia and education, public institutions, business, and other key stakeholders. Partnerships supported knowledge exchange, joint project delivery, capacity building, and policy dialogue in areas such as sustainable development, sustainable urban mobility, civic participation, STEM/digital skills, and community resilience.

Civil society organisations

Collaboration included NGOs and networks from Croatia and the region, such as environmental and development organisations, civil society support centres, rural development networks, mobility and cycling initiatives, youth/student groups, and thematic platforms (e.g., partners from Zagreb, Rijeka, Osijek, Pula, Knin, Dubrovnik, Ljubljana, Banja Luka, and Serbia).

Universities, schools and kindergartens

ODRAZ worked with universities and faculties, polytechnics, secondary and primary schools, and kindergartens, supporting guest lectures, workshops, non-formal education formats, and student engagement—particularly around urban planning, mobility, sustainability, and STEM.

Public sector

Cooperation included cities and municipalities (e.g., Zagreb, Šibenik, Varaždin, Koprivnica, Križevci, Poreč, and partners in Slovenia and Serbia), county-level authorities, public transport operators, cultural institutions, and specialised institutes and agencies (e.g., mobility research bodies and regional energy agencies).

Business sector

ODRAZ partnered with companies and innovation actors (consulting, ICT, HR, electronics, and innovation hubs), as well as European organisations active in mobility and urban innovation ecosystems.

Other stakeholders

Engagement also included European and international networks and institutions (e.g., EIT Urban Mobility, ESDN, and the World Bank) to strengthen learning, visibility, and alignment with broader European and global agendas.

7 ODRAZ TEAM

PRESIDENT

Višnja Jelić Múck, M.Arch.

EMPLOYEES

Pavić-Rogošić, dipl. ing. arch., Director

Goran Lampelj, dipl. ing. traff., Project Manager

Marina Vojković, univ. bacc. rel. int., Office and Finance Manager

Ksenija Vorberger, grad. social worker, Information Programme Manager

Elizabet Gašparov, mag. polit., Project Associate

Magdalena Makar, mag. geogr., Project Associate



EXTERNAL ASSOCIATES

Predrag Brlek (University North, Koprivnica)

Slaven Gašparović (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Department of Geography)

Ante Klečina (Varaždin County / University North)

Mladen Maradin (Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Department of Geography)

Petar Mišura (City of Šibenik)

Eric Mulholland (ESDN - European Sustainable Development Network, Vienna)

Aljaž Plevnik (Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana)

Marko Slavulj (Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb)

VOLUNTEERS

Petra Grgasović

Goran Pavić

Petar Ribarić

Branka Tokić

Ana Vrbica

Lorena Zvonarić

8 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	
Type of income	SUM (€)
Income from the provision of services	37.729,70
Financial income (incl. Exchange rate differences)	0,73
Grants from the state budget	519,58
Grants from local and regional government budgets	5.940,00
Grants from the state budget for EU projects	259.872,07
Donations from foreign governments and international organizations	15.185,19
Income from companies and other legal entities	34,926.61
Income from companies and other legal entities for EU projects	35,585.46
Income from reimbursements/refunds	3,469.67
Other unspecified income	51,53
Total income	530.460,14

EXPENDITURE	
Type of expenditure	SUM (€)
Gross salaries	129.454,98
Other employees expenditures	15.726,07
Health insurance contributions	16.709,38
Employee compensation, business travel, transport	17.483,51
Fees paid to non-employees and business travel expenses	19.447,18

Service costs (telephone, rent, promotion and information, professional/intellectual services)	60.466,12
Materials, energy and office supplies expenses	5.616,99
Refreshments and meals during events and trainings; memberships and participation fees	21.145,71
Amortization	9.516,83
Financial and other non mentioned expenditures (incl. bank charges)	757,19
Current donations and transfers of funds to project partners	193.787,66
Other expenses	388,38
Total expenditure	490.500,00
<i>Surplus for 2024</i>	72.313,62 €