

# The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

## Example of the City of Rijeka



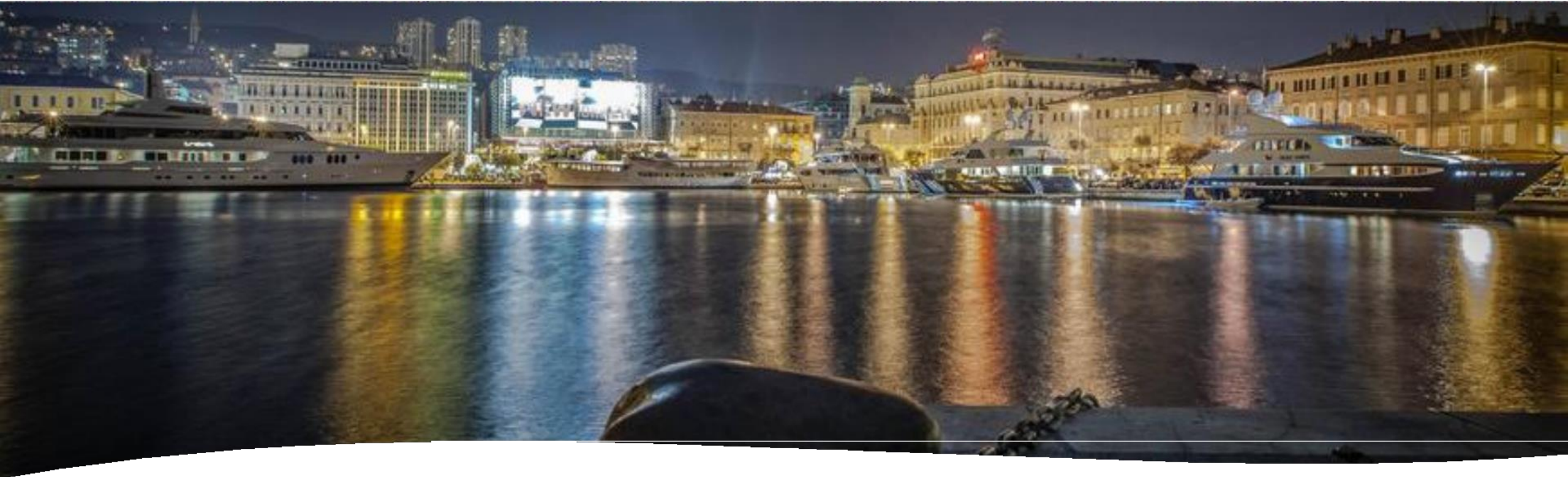
## The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- The City of Rijeka has developed different models in order to include citizens in **decision-making processes**, budget creation and monitoring the work of public authorities.
- **Promoting transparency** in city administration implies releasing large quantities of information, as well as two-way communication with citizens on all important issues that influence city life.
- the City of Rijeka has been continuously encouraging the **development of civil society and voluntary work**.



## The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- **Local boards**
- Citizen participation in budgeting and budgetary spending in the territory of the city of Rijeka, namely **participatory budgeting** in which citizens can include themselves in the activities of public administration, is enabled in Rijeka through three models:
  1. **Small municipal interventions**
  2. **The local partnership programme of Rijeka**
  3. **Educational budget game – Proračun(ajme)**



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- Section „**Say it out loud**” on Rijeka web portal – citizens directly participate in increasing the quality of their life
- The **Open Data Portal** of the City of Rijeka enables cooperation between academia, entrepreneurs and local government



## The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- Consultations with the interested public or **E-consultations** are carried out in respect of those general acts, which adoption or amendments directly lead to the realisation of citizens' needs or determine other issues in the interest of the general welfare.
- the sessions of the Rijeka City Council are public.

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- The City of Rijeka, with a number of projects endeavours to **strengthen youth participation** in a democratic society.
- By introducing **Civic Education** in elementary schools, the City of Rijeka promotes non-violence, tolerance and solidarity and understanding life in civil society.
- **Youth Council of the City of Rijeka** is an advisory body of the City of Rijeka (supporting the rights, needs and interests of young people in Rijeka).
- Rijeka has been implementing the project titled **“I THINK GLOBALLY, I ACT LOCALLY – ACTION DAY”**. The goal is to provide a possibility for young people aged between 14 and 19 to develop the abilities necessary for active participation in decision-making processes at the local level.

An aerial photograph of Rijeka, Croatia, is overlaid with a complex digital network of white lines and nodes. A semi-transparent city map is visible in the background. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar. The text 'The involvement of citizens in the development of the city' is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, there are three bullet points in a smaller white font. Several Croatian words are scattered across the map: 'motivacija' (top center), 'ekonomija' (middle right), 'okoliš' (bottom right), 'života' (bottom left), and 'gradani' (left side).

# The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- Besides being the most transparent city in Croatia, **Rijeka is the most advanced digital city in Croatia**
- This is characterized by the emphasis on openness and communication with citizens. Its management is oriented towards clear communication, openness and **participatory management** (the largest number of open data sets, quality visualization tools and participative budgeting).
- The vision of the city is the transformation of the urban area, environment and economy through the widespread development and adoption of **modern ICTs**. The aim is to stimulate innovation, create jobs, empower citizen engagement and improve the quality of city life for all citizens, businesses and visitors.

The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- **The Center of Competence for Smart Cities** was a three-year project of national importance and at the same time the largest development project in Croatia in the field of information and communication solutions, aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens.
- The goal was to solve the challenges that cities face, such as transport, energy, ecology, infrastructure, resource management, etc. In the innovation cluster that should make Rijeka the smartest city in Croatia, 20 partners were gathered.



Center  
of Competence  
for Smart  
Cities



SmartRI



## The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- In the period from 7 to 17 April, 2021, more than 600 citizens of Rijeka were able to directly join the CEKOM project (Center of Competence for Smart Cities) by choosing one from the two offered visual solutions of a, which will be located at one of Rijeka's location. **multifunctional info point**





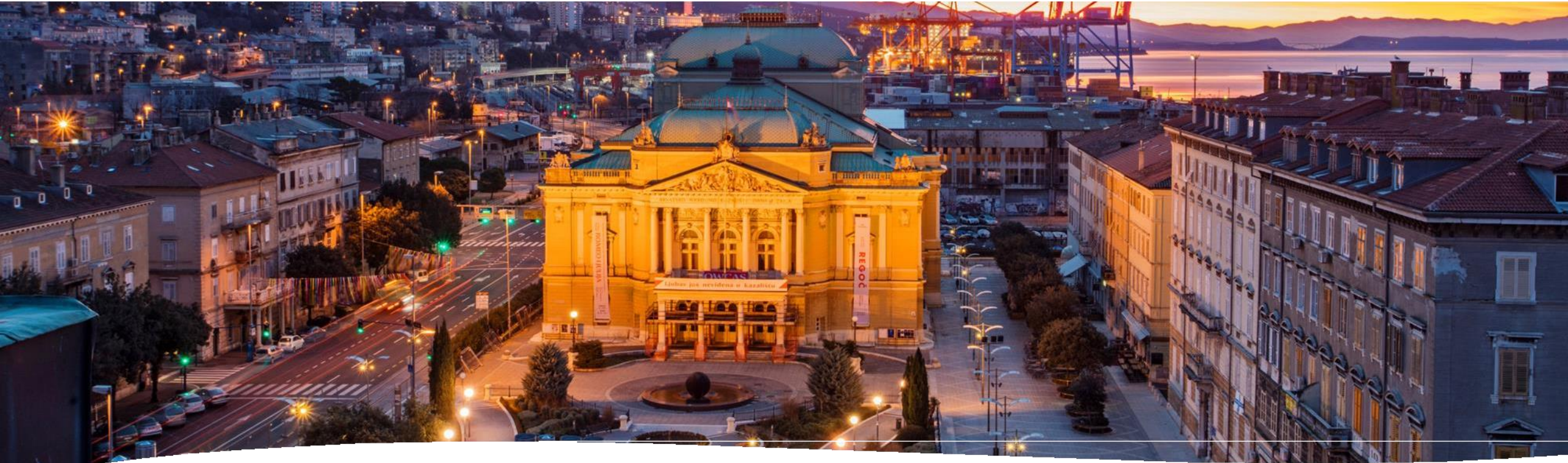
# The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- Conference “Smart Citizens for Smart Cities” was organized to inform citizens about the course of the project and the possibilities of their active involvement in the project CEKOM for Smart Cities.
- **citizens’ participation in the smart city system is one of the most important roles for the good functioning of a smart city.**
- We wanted to encourage citizens to become active participants in the smart city movement, under the assumption that a person living in a city, through everyday situations that they encounter, can have a better insight into problems prevailing in their quarters, community and city, on the whole.

# The involvement of citizens in the development of the city

- Through **the Urban Laboratory**, we have initiated two-way communication with citizens. The first step of this communication was to involve citizens in **the testing of our future products and services** in order to get feedback on the results of the project.
- From December 1st 2022 until the 1st of March 2023 153 citizens of Rijeka came to our two Test and Demonstration centres





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- **RIJEKA 2020 – European Capital of Culture project** involved citizens through different flagships and programs:
  1. **27 NEIGHBORHOODS** connected 27 local communities with 27 European neighborhoods with a goals of strengthening local communities by strengthening human resources
  2. **Participatory programme** through the following activities:
    - a) **Citizen’s council**
    - b) **Civil initiatives**
    - c) **Green wave**
    - d) **Volunteers**



## Citizen's council

Citizen's council reviews project submissions submitted by the citizens. Citizens can apply as initiatives or as NGO's and suggest projects which they find important for the city. Citizen's council members are chosen by a random lottery drawing. Through this process, the citizens oversee all aspects of civil engagement in the participatory program.

# Civil initiatives activities

- Establishing new community collaborations and providing citizens to network through various cultural and artistic practices.
- Including a wider community in solving social problem through cultural and artistic actions.
- Improving city life quality through a more diverse socio- cultural activities.



# Green wave project activities:

## 1. Greening the city owned public spaces

*Examples: growing medicinal and eatable herbs; development of urban gardens; realization of creative solutions for urban vertical gardens; landscaping parks and children's playgrounds; supporting biodiversity; cleaning actions; accessing mobiliary on more locations; more benches*

## 2. Ecological-educational actions in public space

*Examples: recycling, composting, permaculture planting, biodynamics, new garbage disposal tactics, biodiversity enhancement, using herbal knowledge in hygiene use, cosmetics, etc.*



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HEIsCITI - HEIs as Innovative Triggers of Sustainable  
Development in European Cities in Post Covid-19 era

