

# FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL DIALOGUE

# 2



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**Publisher:**

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka  
Krfska 84, 78000 Banja Luka  
tel. ++ 387 51 432 753  
email: hcabl1@blic.net  
www.hcabl.org

**Prepared by:**

Sandra Srdić - Macanović  
Sanela Pašić-Delahmetović

**Translation:**

Aleksandra Petrić

**Prepress:** Maja Ilić

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# INTRODUCTION

One of the basic preconditions for fulfilling democratic process is individual participation of citizens in political and social changes. Only on that way, each citizen can have the responsibility and appreciate the accomplished results. Active citizen can use his/her right on participation on different ways - through voting right, engagement in various forms of community activities, and membership in municipality and governmental boards.

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, in cooperation with the local partners - Citizens' Association "Budućnost" Modriča, Youth Union Teslić, and Municipalities of Modriča, and Teslić, and with the financial support of the European Union, strives to strengthen communication between citizens and municipal authorities, and to improve rule of law and democratic procedures. In December 2004, in order to accomplish this objective, we started with the implementation of the project "From Local To Global Dialogue II".

Citizens were regularly informed about decisions and conclusions of the sessions of the Local Assembly of Modriča and Teslić, as well as the other activities of the Municipality Mayors and local authorities. Public discussions provided the opportunity for discussion with representatives of local authorities, and for citizens to receive answers on different actual issues.

During the period 2004/2006, we implemented following activities:

- Publishing of eight "Guides for Citizens" with information about municipality services and procedures. Guide was distributed to the citizens free of charge in their mail boxes, as well as through information points of the local municipality administration.
- Publishing of eight "Municipality Bulletins of Modriča and Teslić" with the most important information about activities in local administration classified in following columns: Cabinet of the Municipality Mayor, the Local Assembly, and actual events in the local community. Bulletins were distributed to the citizens through their mail boxes.
- Public discussions were opportunity for citizens to have direct communication with representatives of local municipality authorities, to receive answers and provide their opinion, recommendations, and objections on the work of local municipal administration. Topics for discussion on public meetings were following: Municipalities of Modriča and Teslić from the elections until today, the Local Assembly Modriča between the Law about Local Self-Governance and the practice, the Local Assembly Teslić and its authorities, Draft budget of Municipality

of Modriča for 2006, transparency in planning and implementation of the budget of Municipality of Teslić, cooperation of Municipality of Modriča with youth people and non-governmental organizations, and support of Municipality of Teslić in financing of projects of youth associations.

- Each public discussion was accompanied with the contact radio program that enabled citizens to give their suggestions to the guests from local municipality administrations, but also to receive answers on their questions.
- With the objective of identifying situation in Municipalities of Modriča and Teslić in relation to transparency and cooperation of local authorities and citizens, we conducted two field researches in each local community. First research was conducted with the objective of precise identification of level of communication and influence of citizens on decision making, and second field research was conducted with the objective of identifying progress that was accomplished during the implementation of the project.
- During the project implementation, we conducted continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Law about Local Self-Governance in the Municipalities of Modriča, Teslić and City Administration Banja Luka. Monitoring of the implementation of Law provided us information about positive experiences and issues in this field.
- In June 2006, we will organize Conference of the Municipalities of Banja Luka, Teslić and Modriča, which will gather around 50 representatives of local authorities, local nongovernmental organizations, and other interested groups. We will also invite the representatives of other local communities. The main objective of the Conference is to provide a space for exchange of experiences about the work of local municipalities and their cooperation with citizens, and to share positive examples from the practice in these municipalities.

In the upcoming period, we will make the efforts to transfer models of successful cooperation and two-way communication between local administrations and citizens also to the other local communities in Republika Srpska, and we will continue to work with the Municipalities of Modriča and Teslić. Brochure "From Local to Global Dialogue II," represents overview of the activities and results of the project, collection of introductory presentations of the representatives of the Municipal Administrations in Modriča and Teslić, questions and recommendations of the citizens, as well as the results of the field researches that were conducted in municipalities of Modriča and Teslić.

*Sanela Pašić - Delahmetović*  
*Program Coordinator*

MODRIČA

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL DIALOGUES



Mladen Krekić, Mayor of Modriča Municipality

## MODRIČA MUNICIPALITY - FROM THE ELECTIONS UNTIL TODAY

Mladen Krekić, Mayor of Modriča Municipality presented numerous activities implemented in the period of first six months of his mandate, with emphasis on establishing of contacts with foreign partners, in order to find fresh capital to improve extremely difficult economic situation in this municipality.

In relation to that, Mayor visited Austria, Germany, and Check Republic, where he went to visit big factories - such are "Inascheffler", "Adidas", and "Martin Bauer".

Furthermore, numerous contacts with international organizations and local subjects were used for introduction, presentation, and planning of future cooperation.

There are visible initial results within this short period, as follows:

- Adoption of the new Municipality Statute
- Adoption of the strategy for Local Economic Development of Modriča Municipality 2005 - 2009, and there are intensive activities of preparation of the City Plan "Modriča 2020",
- Public lighting system was set up in Berlinska street,
- Reconstruction of the sewerage system in Đuro Jakšić street,
- Reconstruction of damages and paving with asphalt of the city streets,
- Initiated works on building the bridge over river Bosna,

During the second half of the year, we are expecting implementation of numerous projects that we prepared in this period. The projects are related to development of economy, employment, encouragement and development of agriculture, education, health system, and infrastructure.

The Municipality wants to invest in its future - youth people, so we are providing scholarships

for 175 students, and Oil Refinery is providing scholarships for additional 155 students. We marked following priorities for upcoming period:

1. Development of agriculture, with support of 153.000,00 BAM from the municipality budget.
2. Employment, related to visits abroad where we networked local firms with foreign companies, in order to encourage production and employment of workers.
3. Reconstruction and building of communal infrastructure, where we expect larger investments during the second half of the year, after six month report about implementation of the municipality budget.

We devote special attention to the publicity of our work, and informing public about all activities of our local administration.

In that sense, we accomplished first results through opening of radio studio in Modriča. Municipality administration also created the official web page at the following address: <http://www.modriča.ba>, where all interested persons can find all information about the work of municipality administration and the most important events in the area of municipality. Related to communication with citizens - we established good cooperation for this short time, and Municipality Mayor had numerous receptions: elementary school students and their teachers, university students, private entrepreneurs, farmers, workers from abroad, and sportsmen. Municipality Mayor also has daily receptions for local citizens.

#### *Modriča, Serb Cultural Center, June 30, 2005*

At the public discussion organized at the end of June 2005, Mladen Krekić, Municipality Mayor presented the short report that focused on the results of six-month work of his Cabinet, and plan of activities for the upcoming period.

During follow up discussion, participants at the public discussion initiated numerous burning issues for the municipality, such are: organization of boards for local communities, lack of security in the area of Modriča, problem of choosing elementary school for children in Novo Naselje, transferring of property of some firms, sewerage system, and lightening of some settlements in the municipality. Municipality Mayor emphasized he was against the privatization, as many citizens also were against it, because it brought high unemployment and increased poverty of local population. He emphasized that he is searching for solution of this problem in contact with potential foreign investors.



Zijad Mujkić, President of the Local Assembly, Municipality of Modriča

## **MODRIČA MUNICIPALITY BETWEEN THE LAW ABOUT LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AND THE PRACTICE**

After organization of the local elections, the Local Assembly in Modriča was the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina that held its constituent session. Very good political preparation, respecting of the election results, tolerance, and essential task that all subjects involved in the local legislative governance are striving toward progress and prosperity of the municipality - all these preconditions contributed to the full support for all candidates for executive and legislative governance. Such orientation of local representatives, clubs of representatives, and political parties in the process of reaching agreement about all actual issues continued after the constituent session of the Local Assembly.

It is true that sessions of the Local Assembly are not immune from polemics and political disagreements related to the concept of strategic plan for economic development. However, it is certain that this represents reflection of parliamentary democracy more than we could say that this represents the consequence of personal interests, narrow views of political parties, or some other negative occurrences.

With adoption of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development of the Municipality in the Period from 2005 until 2009, New Regulatory Framework - Statute of the Municipality and Working Rules for the Local Assembly, Ethical Codex, and with implementation of the concrete tasks related to the Law about Free Access to Information, and Module "Partnership Between Citizens and Local Administration," we created necessary preconditions for legality, responsibil-

ity, publicity in the work, and strengthening position of the local administration as service of local citizens.

Following information is relevant for the functioning of the local legislative governance: sessions of the Local Assembly are organized once a month, topics and agenda are determined on the sessions of Staff of the Local Assembly, Working Program is the base for the work of the Local Assembly, and working bodies of the Local Assembly - commissions, boards, and councils are more or less successful in accomplishing their roles defined in the Working Rules of the Local Assembly.

Where is the place of Modriča Municipality in relation to the Law of the Local Self-Governance and the practice?

All positive aspects of this Law found their application in the practical solutions. However, it is certain that this Law has a lot of declarative statements and regulations, as it is the case in real life.

The Law about Local Self-Governance speaks about representation of the constitutive peoples in the municipality administration, public institutions, and public interest companies - according to the population census from 1991. This regulation sounds very democratic, humane, and righteous. However, according to the population census from 1991, this municipality has one third of Bosniaks - Muslims, out of 34.500 inhabitants. Croats were also represented with one third - precisely 10.650 inhabitants. Today, there are 3019 inhabitants of Bosniak nationality, and 150 inhabitants of Croatian nationality.

Therefore, regardless of a good will to implement this provision of the Law, we cannot do it, especially because of the fact that we cannot endanger rights of one nationality to harmonize the level of rights of the other nationality. The Law about Local Self-Governance will have to introduce changes in this and other segments.

*Modriča, Serb Cultural Center, September 22, 2005*

The public discussion under title "Between the Law and the Practice", was held in Modriča on September 22, 2005. Participants of the public discussion emphasized numerous burning issues in this local community. Zijad Mujkić, President of the Local Assembly emphasized that some of the representatives of this local legislative body are subordinating their mandates to the interests of their political parties, and they are not working in the interests of local community, as required by the Election Law.

Participants of this public discussion recommended strengthening cooperation between of the local municipality administration, and twenty-two local communities that exist in this area.



**Borislav Gvozden**, Chief of Financial Department, Municipality of Modriča

## **DRAFT BUDGET OF MODRIČA MUNICIPALITY FOR 2006**

On the public discussion about the draft budget of Modriča Municipality for 2006, participants learned about the most important items related to the implementation of the budget for 2006. Borislav Gvozden, Chief of Financial Department, Municipality of Modriča presented information about the planned budget revenues for 2005 in amount of 6.250.000 BAM. According to the estimations, it has been expected that budget revenues would reach the amount of 6.550.000 BAM, until the end of the year. The important information is that municipality administration is implementing obligations toward budget users according to the budget plan. Municipality administration also completely implemented obligations from the initial phase in the amount of 1.454.000 BAM. The most important expenditures from the municipality budget during 2005 were also presented.

After presenting information about the results in current year, citizens were informed about the Draft Budget for 2006. Chief of Financial Department presented the facts and difficulties in the planning of budget revenues related to the beginning of implementation of the Law about Tax on Additional Value - especially that there is no methodology for distribution of this tax, and current related to the amount that will be returned to the municipality.

Municipality Budget for 2006 has been planned in the amount of 6.800.000 BAM, which represents the increase of 4% in relation to the estimation of budget implementation until the end of current year. The amount of 670.000 BAM has been planned for budget users, 214.000 BAM for paying off the obligations, 1.560.000 BAM for investments in communal infrastructure, and 120.000 BAM of budget reserve.

The amount of 500.000 BAM is planned as investment for finishing works of the new building of Municipality Administration, while rest of the funds will be invested according to the Plan for Capital Investments, which will be adopted in the Local Assembly.

*Modriča, Serb Cultural Center, December 15, 2005*

For this public discussion, representatives of the municipality administration prepared projections for citizens to see how and in what purposes the municipality budget for 2005 has been spent, and what the plan for municipality budget is in 2006, with listed items/activities and costs for each of these items/activities.

The title of the public discussion was "Draft Municipality Budget of Modriča for 2006." Participants of the public discussion were seventy-six (76) women and men citizens. They asked a lot of questions, and developed several proposals, as follows:

- To plan higher financial support for Association of Pensioners for the next year,
- What criteria were used for selection of new associations/institutions, which received financial support from the municipal budget,
- When the lightening system will be finished in new settlement Polje II,
- When the certain part of the city will be paved with asphalt,
- How municipality administration plans to solve jammed sewerage system in the city.

Representatives of the local administration examined proposals presented on the public discussion, which resulted with increase of funds for certain items that were discussed.

Items that will receive increased financial support from the municipality budget are following:

- Sport - from 100.000 BAM to 150.000 BAM
- Association of Pensioners -from 22.000 BAM to 25.000 BAM
- For Center for Social Work
- For refugees and returnees
- For political parties, according to the legal decision



Bosa Novaković, Chief of Department for General Administration

## COOPERATION OF MODRIČA MUNICIPALITY WITH YOUTH PEOPLE AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modriča municipality area has very developed nongovernmental sector in all fields - youth, entrepreneurs, farmers, refugees and displaced persons, humanitarian associations, veterans' associations, employment, health, sport, education, and other fields.

Cooperation of Modriča municipality administration with youth people and nongovernmental organizations is progressing, which we prove also with the financial support to these organizations.

During 2005, we implemented following financial support:

- For all nongovernmental organizations	-	135.338,50 BAM
- For sports' associations	-	148.000,00 BAM
TOTAL	-	283.338,50 BAM

During 2006, we planned following financial support:

- Municipality Organization of Red Cross	-	26.000,00 BAM
- Municipality Association of Veterans	-	27.000,00 BAM
- Association of Pensioners	-	25.000,00 BAM
- Independent Bureau for Development	-	10.000,00 BAM
- Other nongovernmental organizations	-	79.000,00 BAM
- Sports' Associations	-	150.000,00 BAM
TOTAL	-	317.000,00 BAM

### What did the municipal administration do with regards to support to young people?

The Local Assembly Modriča created Commission for Youth Issues, and local municipality administration appointed officer for youth issues and nongovernmental organizations. Municipality Mayor of Modriča approved the project "Building of Support for Structures in Youth Sector," which should be implemented until 2007, in cooperation with the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The main objective of this project is to create environment open toward youth people, where youth people are considered as active members, and where they can participate in decision making for creation of better future in the municipality. Participants of the public discussion learned about implemented joint projects of nongovernmental organizations and municipality administration in 2005/2006 in the field of economy, agriculture, youth people, employment, education, health, local management, reconstruction and building of local infrastructure, sustainable return, prevention of narcomany, and other projects.

Municipality Mayor of Modriča supports every youth project and projects of nongovernmental organizations in the field of employment, construction, increasing quality of life and development Modriča municipality, and its citizens.

*Modriča, Serb Cultural Center, March 20, 2006*

After introductory presentation of Bosa Novaković, Chief of Department for General Administration related to short overview of work of nongovernmental organization in this area, and explained methodology of implementation for the projects, participants of the public discussion asked numerous constructive questions.

Citizens were interested to learn what are the future steps of Commission for Youth Issues and Nongovernmental Organizations, and if the criteria for application of the projects are the same for all. Youth people were also interested to learn if there is a possibility for municipality administration to check premises granted to local nongovernmental organizations, and to determine if this space has been adequately used, as well as to initiate creation of Youth Councils in the area of local communities.

RESULTS OF THE FIELD  
RESEARCH ABOUT LEVEL OF  
INFORMATION,  
COMMUNICATION AND  
COOPERATION OF CITIZENS  
WITH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION  
IN MUNICIPALITY MODRIČA

## SAMPLE

After the year (period March 2005 - March 2006) the field questionnaire was repeated within the Project of Examining Level of Information Provided to the Citizens, Communication, and Cooperation with Local Administration in Modriča municipality. The questionnaire was conducted in 2005 on the representative sample of 165 citizens, and in 2006 on the representative sample of 171 citizens.

The objective of this research was to determine ways and extent of information provided to citizens about the work of local administration, as well as types of communication and cooperation with local administration, and based on the results to develop the activities that will improve the work of local administration. The objective of repeated questionnaire after the period of one year reflects also through attempt to identify the effects that were accomplished in this direction (as the expression of citizens' views) within the observed time.

Questionnaire of the citizens is of special importance for identifying the situation and their active participation in improving information flow, communication, and cooperation with the local administration.

Questionnaire was conducted as anonymous, with the aim of acquiring objective picture of level of information of citizens, communication, and cooperation with local administration of Modriča municipality.

The sample of research was structured to respect following structures of population in Modriča municipality:

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Working status/status
4. Level of education
5. Domicile and refugee status
6. Zone of residence.

### 1. Structure of examinees by sex in the sample, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees by their sex

2005				2006			
No.	Sex	Number of examinees	%	No.	Sex	Number of examinees	%
1.	Male	56	34,0	1.	Male	62	36,3
2.	Female	109	66,0	2.	Female	109	63,7
	TOTAL	165	100,0		TOTAL	171	100,0

## 2. Structure of examinees by age in the sample, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees by their age

2005				2006			
No.	Age	Number of examinees	%	No.	Age	Number of examinees	%
1.	up to 20	5	3,1	1.	up to 20	8	4,7
2.	20 - 30	56	34,8	2.	20 - 30	46	27,1
3.	30 - 40	45	28,0	3.	30 - 40	54	31,8
4.	40 - 50	25	15,5	4.	40 - 50	29	17,1
5.	50 - 60	23	14,3	5.	50 - 60	20	11,8
6.	60 -70	7	4,3	6.	60 -70	13	7,6
	TOTAL	161*	100,0		TOTAL	170**	100,0

\*Information for four examinees are missing

\*\* Information for one examinee is missing

## 3. Structure of examinees according to their working status, or status, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees according to their working status

2005			
No.	Working status/status	Number of examinees	%
1.	Employed in the state owned company or public administration	32	19,8
2.	Employed in private company	67	41,4
3.	Employed in the international or nongovernmental organizations	6	3,7
4.	Self-employed	8	4,9
5.	Unemployed	32	19,8
6.	Pensioner	11	6,8
7.	Pupil/student	6	3,7
	TOTAL	162*	100,0

2006			
No.	Working status/status	Number of examinees	%
1.	Employed in the state owned company or public administration	29	17,1
2.	Employed in private company	60	35,3
3.	Employed in the international or nongovernmental organizations	11	6,5
4.	Self-employed	15	8,8
5.	Unemployed	30	17,6
6.	Pensioner	14	8,2
7.	Pupil/student	11	6,5
	TOTAL	170**	100,0

\*Information for three examinees are missing

\*\*Information for one examinee is missing

#### 4. Structure of examinees according to their educational level, as presented in the following chart.

Structure of examinees according to their educational level

2005			
No.	Educational level	Number of examinees	%
1.	Without school education	2	1,2
2.	Elementary school	15	9,1
3.	Secondary school	117	71,3
4.	Higher school or university	30	18,3
	TOTAL	164*	100,0

2006			
No.	Educational level	Number of examinees	%
1.	Without school education	1	0,6
2.	Elementary school	13	7,9
3.	Secondary school	111	67,7
4.	Higher school or university	39	23,8
	TOTAL	164**	100,0

\* Information for one examinee is missing

\*\*Information for seven examinees are missing

**5. Structure of examinees according their domicile or refugee status, as presented in the following chart.**

Schedule of examinees according to their domicile or refugee status

2005				2006			
No.	Category	Number of examinees	%	No.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Domicile	112	70,0	1.	Domicile	105	63,3
2.	Returnees	9	5,6	2.	Returnees	11	6,6
3.	Refugees and displaced persons	39	24,4	3.	Refugees and displaced persons	50	30,1
	TOTAL	160*	100,0		TOTAL	166**	100,0

\* Information for five examinees is missing

\*\* Information for five examinees is missing

6. Structure of examinees according to zone of their residence, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees according to their zone of residence

2005			
No.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Narrow city zone	69	42,3
2.	Suburban settlement	31	19,0
3.	Rural settlement	63	38,7
	TOTAL	163	100,0

2005			
R.br.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Narrow city zone	82	48,2
2.	Suburban settlement	33	19,4
3.	Rural settlement	55	32,4
	TOTAL	170**	100,0

\* Information for two examinees is missing

\*\* Information for one examinee is missing

## LEVEL OF INFORMATION

**T1. According to their level of information about the work of local administration, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees has poor information about the work of local self-governance bodies - the Local Assembly 35.2%, Municipality Mayor 34.6%, and some departments and their chiefs 38.1%.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees has middle level of information about the work of local self-governance bodies - the Local Assembly 38.8%, Municipality Mayor 40.0% and some departments and their chiefs 46.5%.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** It is visible that opinion of examinees in 2006 show signs of improvement in relation to the level of information about the work of local self-governance bodies.

**T2. According to the level of readiness (accessibility, kindness) of local administration (officers) to provide legally available information about the work of institutions of the local administration, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** In relation to the level of readiness (accessibility, kindness) of local administration (officers) to provide legally available information about the work of institutions of the local administration, we can conclude that opinion of examinees about all local self-governance bodies reflect only their partial readiness to provide information (the Local Assembly 39.9%, Municipality Mayor 40.0%, and some departments and their chiefs 39.1%), and high participation of opinion of examinees that readiness of local self-governance institutions to provide information weakly exists.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees believe that local self-governance institutions (personnel) show only partial readiness to provide information (the Local Assembly 38.3%, Municipality Mayor 32.5%), while examinees believe that chiefs of departments show weak readiness to provide information (38.9%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** We can conclude that there is no significant change in opinion of examinees in 2005 and 2006 in relation of readiness of local self-governance institutions to provide legally available information about their work.

**T3. According to estimation of examinees related to level of information about services (procedures) of the local self-governance bodies, they provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees (40.5%) responded they have partial information about services (procedures) of local self-governance bodies, and 34.8% examinees said they are poorly informed.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees (44.6%) responded they have partial information about services (procedures) of local self-governance bodies, and 28.0% of examinees believe they are poorly informed.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Small improvement is visible in 2006 in relation to 2005 in terms of level of information of examinees about services of local self-governance bodies.

**T4. According to the way of receiving information about the work of local self-governance bodies (the Local Assembly, Municipality Mayor), examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees receives information about the work of local self-governance bodies through television (57.0%), direct contacts (28.5%), newspapers (22.4%), and other ways (30.3%).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees receives information about local self-governance bodies through television (52.0%), newspapers (33.3%), direct contacts (26.3%), and radio (25.7%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Changes are visible, so participation of television and radio significantly increased.

**T5. According to the way of receiving information about services and procedures in the work of local self-governance bodies (departments), examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees receives information about services and procedures in the work of local self-governance bodies (departments) through television (47.3%), direct contacts (29.1%) newspapers (20.0%), and other ways of receiving information (30.3%).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees receives information about services and procedures in the work of local self-governance institutions (departments) through television (29.8%), direct contacts (28.7%), and newspapers (23.4%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Disposition of media in the observed period is the same, but relative relations slightly changed, especially in the relation to the decrease of participation of television, as the way of receiving information about the services and procedures of local self-governance bodies.

**T6. Opinion of examinees related to availability of information from the local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year).**

No.	Opinion of examinees about availability of information in relation to the previous period	In relation to the previous period, availability of information is:				
		Very improved	Partially improved	Stayed the same	Partially worsen	Very worsen
1.		16	48	90	0	4
%		10,1	30,4	57,0	0,0	2,5

This represents general perception of examinees in relation to the availability of information from the local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period. Dominant opinion of examinees is that availability of information stayed the same as it was in the last year (57.0%), although we have significant number of examinees, which believe that availability of information partially improved (30.4%). This directs us to the conclusion that there are positive tendencies in this field.

## COMMUNICATION

**K1. According to the extent of their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** For all local self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor 38.9%, President of the Local Assembly 39.2%, the Local Assembly 35.3%, and departments (chiefs) 33.1%) largest number of examinees responded that their knowledge about possibilities of communication is average, and significant number of examinees believes that their knowledge is bad and very bad for all mentioned local self-governance bodies.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees responded that their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self governance bodies is bad (Municipality Mayor 35.2%, President of the Local Assembly 35.2%, and departments (chiefs) 42.2%), while there is significant number of examinees with opinion that their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies is average (in the case of the Local Assembly 34.6%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** In relation to 2005, we can notice that opinion of examinees directs on worsening of their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies.

**K2. According to the extent of their satisfaction with communication with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

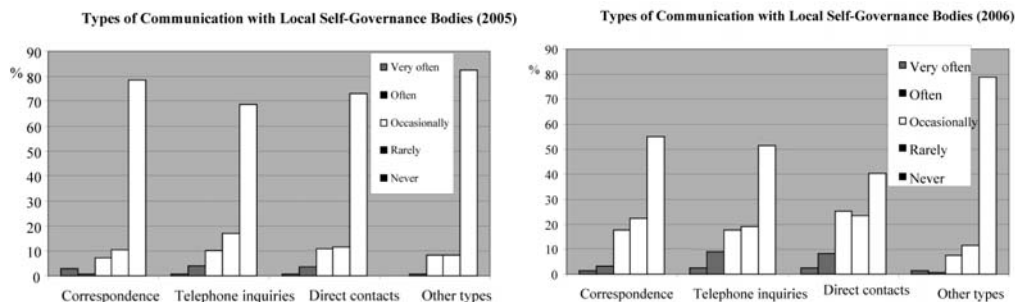
**2005:** Largest number of examinees believes they are averagely satisfied with their communication with local self-governance bodies - Municipality Mayor 39.5%, President of the Local Assembly 41.4%, and the Local Assembly 39.2%, while largest number of examinees believes they are unsatisfied with the communication with departments of local administration (38.3%).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees believes they are averagely satisfied with their communication with local self-governance bodies - Municipality Mayor 37.0%, President of the Local Assembly 39.5%, and the Local Assembly 42.0%, while largest number of examinees believes they are unsatisfied with the communication with departments of local administration (39.8%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** We can conclude that opinion of examinees about their satisfaction with communication with local self-governance bodies in 2006 remained pretty similar to the situation in the previous year.

**K3. According to types of communication with local self-governance bodies and frequency of their usage, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Collected information clearly show that there is very poor communication between local self-governance bodies and citizens in Modriča municipality, because majority of examinees responded that they are not using any of the presented types of communication (according to our findings complaint boxes and web site of the municipality do not exist), but also other types of communications are rarely used or not used at all.



**2006:** Majority of examinees responded that they do not use any type of communication with local self-governance bodies.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Despite previous conclusion, we can notice significant improvements in the observed period in terms of types of communication with local self-governance bodies, because all items reflect decrease of opinion -never, especially in relation to direct contacts (from 73.0% to 40.5%), as well as correspondence (from 78.5% to 55.1%), and telephone inquiries (from 68.5% to 51.3%).

**K4. According to the extent of opportunities to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees (37.7%) believes that they do not have opportunity to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies (34.6% examinees believe they have very few opportunities).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees (42.2%) believes they have weak opportunities to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies, with significant participation of those examinees that believe they have no chances to express their opinion (22.9%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** There are visible positive tendencies, because in 2006, largest number of examinees responded that they have weak chances to express their opinion, in relation to 2005 when largest number of examinees said they have no chances to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies.

**K5. Opinion about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year)**

No.	Opinion about communication in relation to the previous period	In relation to the previous period, communication is:				
		Very improved	Partially improved	Stayed the same	Partially worsen	Extremely worsen
1.		17	36	105	2	6
%		10,2	21,7	63,3	1,2	3,6

In general, opinion of examinees about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) show that communication remained the same (63.3%). However, we have significant number of examinees, which believe that communication partially improved (21.7%), which directs us to conclusion about existence of positive tendencies in this area.

## COOPERATION

**S1. According to the extent of information about possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** According to the responses of examinees about the extent of information for possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, we can conclude that majority of examinees believe information is poorly distributed (Municipality Mayor 45.2%, President of the Local Assembly 45.5%, the Local Assembly 46.8% and municipality departments 45.2%).

**2006:** According to the responses of examinees about the extent of information for possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, we can conclude that majority of examinees believe information is poorly distributed (Municipality Mayor 35.5%, President of the Local Assembly 38.9%, the Local Assembly 41.0%, and municipality departments 44.0%).

Comparison of 2005 and 2006: In 2006, situation is very similar as it was in 2005, but it must be noted that levels of participation decreased a little, so we can not say there is positive tendency in this area.

**S2. According to the extent of satisfaction with cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees responded they are dissatisfied with cooperation with local self-governance bodies - Municipality Mayor (41.0%), President of the Local Assembly (43.4%), the Local Assembly (44.1%), and municipality departments (44.8%).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees responded they are averagely satisfied with the cooperation with local self-governance bodies - Municipality Mayor (36.2%) and President of the Local Assembly (36.8%), while there is still significant number of examinees that are dissatisfied - the Local Assembly (38.0%) and municipality departments (43.2%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Positive tendencies are evident in relation to the Municipality Mayor and President of the Local Assembly, when we observe relative relations. The smallest change is visible in relation to the municipality departments (chiefs).

S3. According to the most frequent types of communication with local self-governance bodies and extent of their usage, examinees provided following answers:

2005						
No.	Local self-governance body	Opinion				
		Very often	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1,	Work in the local community	5	1	8	17	101
	%	3,8	0,8	6,1	12,9	76,5
2,	Advisory bodies	1	2	4	15	93
	%	0,9	1,7	3,5	13,0	80,9
3,	Direct contacts	3	2	15	23	92
	%	2,2	1,5	11,1	17,0	68,1
4,	Other types	2	2	7	17	100
	%	1,6	1,6	5,5	13,3	78,1

\* 24 examinees stated this type of cooperation does not exist

2005: From the previous chart, we can conclude that majority of examines never use any of the presented types of communication, even not the second one.

2006						
No.	Local self-governance body	Opinion				
		Very often	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
1,	Work in the local community	0	3	15	29	100
	%	0,0	2,0	10,2	19,7	68,0
2,	Advisory bodies	1	1	12	23	93
	%	0,8	0,8	9,2	17,7	71,5
3,	Direct contacts	4	8	34	38	68
	%	2,6	5,3	22,4	25,0	44,7
4,	Other types	2	2	12	25	90
	%	1,5	1,5	9,2	19,1	68,7

\* 24 examinees stated this type of cooperation does not exist

**2006:** From the previous chart, we can conclude that majority of examinees never use any of the presented types of communication.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** In 2006, situation is similar as it was during 2005 in relation to the types of communication, although we can notice certain improvements within all types, reflected through decrease of relative participation of response - never.

**S4. Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year)**

No.	Opinion of examinees about cooperation in relation to the previous period	In relation to the previous period, cooperation is:				
		Very improved	Partially improved	Stayed the same	Partially worsen	Extremely worsen
1.		18	35	103	2	8
%		10,8	21,1	62,0	1,2	4,8

Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) predominantly directs that cooperation remained on the same level (62.0%), although we have significant number of examinees (21.1%) with opinion that cooperation partially improved. This directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in cooperation of citizens with local self-governance bodies.

## EDUCATION

### F1. Opinion of examinees about necessity of their education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies

**2005:** Largest number of examinees (29.6%) believes they partially need education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, while 25.2% of examinees believe this education is unnecessary. It is visible that examinees are pretty much divided in terms of their opinion about this issue.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees (37.7%) believes they partially need education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, while significant number of examinees (30.5%) believes this education is necessary.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Change of opinion among examinees is visible in 2006 in relation to their responses in 2005. It is noticeable that opinion of examinees significantly changed in favor of opinion that these types of education are necessary.

### F2. Types of education aimed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies

Schedule of examinees according to their opinion about types of education needed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies.

In relation to the types of education needed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees predominantly prefer Role of citizens in democracy and responsibility of elected representatives (39.2%), and Citizens education and identifying problems (38.6%).

	Types of education	Number of examinees	%
a	Role of citizens in democracy and responsibility of elected representatives	67	39.2
b	Role of media in democratic society	26	15.2
c	Citizens education and identifying problems	66	38.6
d	Planning of the citizens actions	37	21.6
e	Communication skills	36	21.1

## CONCLUSIONS

1. General perception of examinees about level of information about the work of local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period dominantly reflects that the situation remained the same as it was in the last year (57.0%), although we have significant participation of examinees that believe level of information partially improved (30.4%). This directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in this area.
2. In general, opinion of examinees about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) reflects that communication remained the same as it was in the last year (63.3%). Here we also have significant participation of examinees that believe communication partially improved (21.7%), which directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in this area.
3. Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) dominantly (62.0%) directs us to the conclusion that cooperation generally remained the same as it was in the last year, with significant participation (21.1%) of examinees that believe communication partially improved. This directs us to conclusion about positive tendencies in cooperation with local self-governance bodies.
4. Change of opinion in terms of necessity of education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies is visible in 2006 in relation to 2005. It is noticeable that opinion of examinees significantly changed in favor of opinion that these types of education are necessary.

TESLIĆ

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL DIALOGUES



Rade Pavlović, Mayor of the Municipality of Teslić

## **TESLIĆ MUNICIPALITY - FROM THE ELECTIONS UNTIL TODAY**

I am speaking here as the Mayor of Teslić Municipality. I must sincerely admit - I am also not satisfied with the dynamic of solving the issues during these six or seven months after the elections.

Firstly, I am not satisfied because we lost around month and a half since the elections in waiting of the final verification of the election results, as this also happened in other municipalities in Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina. I believe it intolerable to lose so much time on formalities in this era of dynamics and quick changes.

I also believe that our election system significantly slowed down the procedure of determining the final election results because of the option of absence voting. Therefore, I suggested to the Election Commission and authorized institutions to correct some solutions in the election legislation, and to adjust the procedure to the modern trends.

Furthermore, it was very visible that great expectations from new mayors (to be elected directly by the citizens) were heated up in the public during the pre-election campaigns. Both local factors and the international community were acting in that direction, and they were doing it mostly without a support of real facts.

New elections were opened before the new Law about Local Self-Governance was adopted. In the time of elections, we did not know what relations will be, and what type of authorities will have new institutions.

Two months after the local elections, new Law about Local Self-Governance was adopted. It was clear that, despite of all expectations, authorities of local mayors were significantly reduced. It became visible that local mayors (elected directly by the citizens) were given less authority than previous local mayors (that were elected indirectly by the local assemblies).

This fact is the most obvious through the provisions about appointment of chiefs of departments in local administration. In the previous period, the local mayor appointed chiefs of departments, and he/she was only informing the local assembly about the results of the appointment.

With the new Law, these appointments were given in the authority of the local assembly. Local mayor does not have "a freedom" to choose his/her associates. He/she is responsible for the situation in all areas, and he/she cannot choose the associates. This issue is not important because of some vanity, or wish of a local mayor to have a personal power. It is important because of faster and more efficient organization of the work.

For the past four to five months, Teslić municipality is going through the procedures of appointing chiefs of departments in local administration. This is also happening in many other local communities. These procedures are not finished yet, and when we reach results, it is questionable if we would get people that will function as a good team.

However, regardless of the new circumstances, when I came on the position of Local Mayor, I was trying to establish fair cooperation with existing team of associates, and to solve those issues I can.

Here I must emphasize that I identified fair cooperation of employees in the local administration. This was very important to me, in order to have a possibility to solve all open issues, and to make up the lost time of two to three months around the local elections, when local administration was stagnating.

Immediately after the constituent meeting of the local assembly and assembly bodies, we initiated the campaign to adopt the municipality budget in the legal deadline before the end of the year. We organized good public discussion and we examined the budget, both in the form of draft document and as the official proposal. Regardless of certain differences in positions of the political parties, decision about the municipality budget was adopted with a high degree of consent in the local assembly, and I believe this will be the document of a good quality. With keeping of all good elements from the previous period, this year we emphasized some budget lines, having in mind the initiatives developed during the public discussions. Among other things, we planned following budget lines:

- 350.000,00 BAM for supporting investments in the private entrepreneurship and farming projects;
- 70.000,00 BAM for scholarships for high school and university students;
- 20.000,00 BAM for youth programs;
- 300.000,00 BAM for programs of local water supply systems.

Comparing to the situation in previous years, we increased the amounts for approximately 100% in these budget lines.

If we had more possibilities, I would vote for even higher increase of these budget lines.

This would be justifiable, especially in the budget line for scholarships for high school and university students, because we know how difficult the situation is in terms of possibilities for employment of youth people. However, with education and acquiring higher degree, youth people have better perspectives for a future.

The largest item in the municipality budget this year also goes to modernization and reconstruction of roads in the municipality area. We will make the effort to fully implement the planned budget item of 1.260.000,00 BAM during this year. With doing that, we will ensure continuity of investments from the previous period, but we will also initiate modernization, and pave with asphalt several new roads.

I am not satisfied with the fact that in this year we again needed to plan half million of BAM for sports hall. We were forced to do that, since we already invested three millions of BAM, and now it is necessary to place a roof to protect the object from further ruination. That investment was projected for over six millions of BAM. In this moment, we do not have a vision, as it was obvious that those people who started this project also did not have it - where we will find the financial means for finishing the sports hall. Furthermore, many other difficult questions are opened - Who will maintain this object? How this object will operate? Is it going to operate on profitable base? Alternatively, this would be the additional expense for the municipal budget. It is true that this investment was initiated based on the legal decision of the Local Assembly, but I believe this was not smart decision. Simply saying, I think this job was initiated, as it was "completely unprepared." I agree that Teslić needs sports hall, but this should be in adjusted to the size and possibilities of this municipality.

We can see the examples of some municipalities that solved this issue nicely and modestly, approximately with million BAM (Tešanj and Odžak, for example).

After my appointment on position of the Municipality Mayor, I insist on budget discipline and adjusting of the plans and expenditures with real framework. In that sense, I also insisted on the conclusion to conduct auditing of the budget expenditures in the period of past four years.

I would not prejudice some estimation, but certain climate of mistrust has been created. Therefore, it is the best that our citizens and taxpayers receive competent information - if the budget sources were spent for specific purposes and within legislative framework. In accordance with the adopted budget, we have a discussion in the Local Assembly, and we adopted the program of reconstruction and modernization of the road network in the area of municipality. We also adopted the program for building the water supply objects, and prepared the program of simulative measures for development of agriculture in the area of Teslić municipality. This program has four basic objectives, as follows:

- Stimulation of farmers to intensify agricultural production,
- Creating conditions for increasing of organized agricultural production,
- Directing of farmers toward production of goods, and
- Opening working places in the primary agricultural production.

For the implementation of these programs, it is necessary for us to realize planned budget incomes for this year - in total we planned 8.150.000,00 BAM.

Information about realization of planned budget incomes for the first quarter is not encouraging. However, I hope we will be able to realize planned budget until the end of the year.

In the first quarter of this year, we realized the income of approximately 1.435.000,00 BAM. This is more than in the same period last year, for approximately 243.000,00 BAM. However, comparing to the planned dynamics of the budget realization, this is for 28% less than we expected. I must emphasize that in the first quarter every year we are recording slow budget incomes, so I expect us to have more favorable trend in the upcoming period. I already mentioned at the beginning the systematic inconsistencies related to appointment of cadres in the administrative services of the municipality. We also have the open problem of reorganization and rationalization of the municipality administration. As the Municipality Mayor, I was obliged to adopt new regulations about systematization of working places in the municipality administration. I did that. These regulations are in the process of implementation, and we will need some time to implement it completely. In this process, I prepared records of existing personnel in the municipality administration, and identified certain irregularities related to usage of cadre resources. I am not saying that individuals are guilty because someone inadequately assigned them, could I claim neither that they are surplus, or they are bad professionals. However, in the process of solving of the complex issue related to rationalization of municipality administration, we would have to examine all circumstances.

Even more because the new Law about Local Self-Governance requires this from us. We already did a large part of the job through process of adoption of the new Municipality Statute.

We developed a draft Statute, and organized public discussion in local communities. I believe we are going in the direction of adopting a good Statute for Teslić municipality, and that we will accomplish that in the upcoming days. I am happy to see that we re-opened the process of public discussions after a long period of silence, and that we are encouraging good practices for citizens to participate in decision making about social affairs.

I presented myself to the citizens of Teslić municipality as the candidate of citizens' option, which values each person, and act responsibly toward all citizens.

In that sense, I will use every opportunity to promote image of Teslić municipality as the open and tolerant environment. If we act like that, I believe we could solve many inherited issues more easily, and we will go toward opening new perspectives of development. This is also life style and model for survival in modern world. In communication through democratic institutions, we have to learn to respect each other, to live in tolerance and valuing differences - if not, we will disappear. We must not condemn ourselves on extinction, but we have to have sense of responsibility for this generation, and future generations as well.

*Teslić, Hall of the Local Assembly Teslić, May 19, 2005*

The public discussion was held in Teslić, on May 19, 2005. This was the opportunity for Rade Pavlović, current Municipality Mayor to present his vision and program for development of this local community to the fellow citizens.

As priorities, Mr. Pavlović identified reviving of the prewar economic giant - Wood Industry "Borje", and assistance for development of small entrepreneurs through reducing of municipality taxes.

Citizens that participated on this public discussion praised Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka, which used the opportunity to present the project "From Local to Global Dialogue 2." According to the opinion of citizens from Teslić, activities of this project contributed to breaking of media blockade of this local municipality, which lasted for decades.



Radovan Dušanić, Secretary of the Local Assembly Teslić

## **LOCAL ASSEMBLY AS THE BODY FOR DECISION MAKING AND DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITY POLICIES**

### **I INTRODUCTORY NOTES**

As the basic territorial unit of local self-governance, municipality performs its functions through its bodies. In accordance with the Law about Local Self-Governance, municipality bodies are Local Assembly and Municipality Mayor. Municipality Mayor is bearer of executive governance in the municipality, which he/she implements through municipality administrative services. With this Law, Local Assembly is defined as the body for decision-making and development of municipality policies.

### **II COMPOSITION, ORGANIZATION, AND AUTHORITIES OF THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY**

#### ***1. Composition and Organization of the Local Assembly - In General***

Local Assembly is made of municipality board members, elected directly by the citizens in accordance with the Election Law on the period of four years. The Municipality Statute determines number of municipality board members, in accordance with criteria determined by the Election Law, and the basic criteria is a number of registered voters. The Local Assembly has its President and Vice President.

President of the Local Assembly represents the Assembly, schedules and presides with the Assembly meetings, and performs other duties determined by the Municipality Statute, and Regulations about the Work of the Local Assembly. Vice President of the Local Assembly replaces the President of the Local Assembly when he/she is absent. Municipality board members are electing the President and Vice President of the Local Assembly on the constituent meeting. Municipality board members are electing these two positions the membership of the Local Assembly, on the way determined by the Municipality Statute (in our case, with secret ballot). The Local Assembly elects and appoints the Secretary of the Local Assembly for duration of its mandate. Secretary of the Local Assembly provides expert assistance to the President of the Local Assembly in relation to the preparation of the sessions, and organizing of the work of Local Assembly and its working bodies. Secretary of the Local Assembly is also responsible for ensuring conditions for realization of rights and responsibilities of the local board members, publishing of general and other acts of the Local Assembly in the Official Gazette of the Municipality, and performs other duties determined by the Municipality Statute, and Regulation about the Work of Local Assembly. As a rule, Local Assembly forms commissions, boards, and councils, and can also create a temporary working bodies. Working bodies of the Local Assembly are examining proposals of decisions and other acts from the authority of the Local Assembly, discuss and study other issues from the authority of the Local Assembly, and can also act as proposer of the certain acts from the authority of the Local Assembly.

The Local Assembly appoints the members of the working bodies from the local board members and other persons.

As the basic form of their organizational work, the Local Assembly creates clubs of local board members from political parties, coalitions, and independent representatives.

### *"Identity Card" of the Local Assembly in Teslić*

The Local Assembly Teslić is composed of thirty-one (31) local board members, and its "political structure" (according to the political parties that are represented), looks as follows:

- Nine (9) representatives - Serb Democratic Party (SDS)
- Six (6) representatives - Socialist Party of Republika Srpska (SPRS)
- Five (5) representatives - Party of Independent Social Democrats of RS (SNSD RS)
- Three (3) representatives - Party of Democratic Progress RS (PDP RS)
- Two (2) representatives - Serb Radical Party "Dr. Vojislav Šešelj"
- Two (2) representatives - Party for B&H
- Two (2) representatives - Party for Democratic Action (SDA)

- One (1) representative - Social Democratic Party of B&H (SDP B&H)
- One (1) independent representative

National structure of the Local Assembly Teslić:

- Twenty- five (25) representatives of Serb people
- Six (6) representatives of Bosniak people

Gender structure of the Local Assembly Teslić:

- Twenty-nine (29) male representatives
- Two (2) female representatives

Age structure of the Local Assembly Teslić:

- Two (2) representatives - up to 27 years old
- Three (3) representatives - from 28 to 40 years old
- Twenty-four (24) representatives - from 41 to 60 years old
- Two (2) representatives - over 60 years old

Average age of the representatives in the Local Assembly Teslić is 45,5 years old.

Educational structure of the representatives in the Local Assembly Teslić:

- Fourteen (14) representatives - University degree
- Seven (7) representatives - Advanced degree (bellow University level)
- Seven (7) representatives - High school degree
- Three (3) representatives - Three years of high school

President of the Local Assembly is Mr. Mile Brkić, representative of the Party of Independent Social Democrats, and vice President of the Local Assembly is Mr. Murat Kopic, representative of the Social Democratic Party of B&H. Secretary of the Local Assembly is Mr. Radovan Dušanić.

In accordance with its Working Regulations, the Local Assembly created following permanent working bodies:

1. Commission for Verification of Mandates and Mandate Issues
2. Commission for Elections and Appointments
3. Commission for Regulations
4. Commission for Religious Issues
5. Commission for Awards and Recognitions
6. Board for Social Supervision and Petitions
7. Board for Regional and International Cooperation
8. Council for sport, and
9. Council for Culture.

In accordance with the provisions of the Operating Procedure of the Local Assembly, this local legislative body has three clubs of representatives, as follows: SDS Representatives Club, SPRS Representatives Club, and SNSD Representatives Club. According to the Operating procedure clubs of representatives can be created from at least five representatives, regardless if they come from one political party or they represent different political parties that have less than five representatives in the Local Assembly, if they decided to organize joint club of the representatives.

### *Authorities of the Local Assembly*

Authorities of the Local Assembly, as the decision making and policy making body of the municipality are mostly determined through the Law about Local Self-Governance. Its Article 30 regulates that "the most important" authorities of the Local Assembly are following:

- Adopts Municipality Statute,
- Adopts decisions and other acts, and gives their authentic commentaries,
- Adopts municipality budget and final annual account of the budget,
- Adopts economic plan, development plan, and investment programs,
- Adopts development, space, and urbanism plans and programs,
- Adopts program of management of the construction land,
- Adopts implementation plans,
- Adopts decisions and other acts about performing functions from the field of culture, education, sport, health, social protection, information, crafts, tourism, services, and environmental protection,
- Adopts decisions about communal taxes and other public incomes, when it has authorization by the Law,
- Adopts decisions and other acts in the area of civil protection, in accordance with the Law, and undertakes measures for functioning of the civil protection,
- Adopts decisions about acquisition, management, and disposal of the municipality owned property,
- Adopts decisions about determining names for the streets, city squares, and neighborhoods,
- Adopts decisions about usage of municipality symbols,
- Adopts decisions about membership of the municipality in the union of municipalities, and joining of the other unions and organizations,
- Adopts plans for usage of public spaces in the area of municipality,
- Adopts decision about granting the status of honorable citizens, and determines rights and responsibilities from such decisions,

- Adopts decisions about awards and recognitions,
- Elects and resolves from the authority of the President of the Local Assembly, Vice President of the Local Assembly, Deputy Municipality Mayor, Secretary of the Local Assembly, and members of the permanent and temporary working bodies of the Local Assembly,
- Establishes the expert service for the needs of the Local Assembly and its working bodies,
- Adopts decisions about getting into debt of the municipality,
- Adopts the Operating Procedure,
- Examines annual report about the work of the Municipality Mayor, and develops the official opinion about the report,
- Makes decision about initiating recall of the Municipality Mayor, in accordance with the law that regulates election of the Municipality Mayor,
- Founds firms and institutions of communal and other activities for performing work from the interest for the municipality, and manages these firms and institutions in accordance with the law,
- Announces public loan and self-contribution,
- Announces referendum,
- Provides opinion about methodology for determining fees for performing tasks, and
- Performs other activities determined by the Law and Statute.

Municipality Statute mostly took over above described provisions on authorities of the Local Assembly. However, it should be mentioned that this does not represents "final list" of the authorities of the Local Assembly, but, as the legislator says, only "the most important authorities." This practically means the Local Assembly can also acquire additional authorities through special laws.

## WORK OF THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY AND ITS DECISIONS

### *Work of the Local Assembly*

Municipality Statute and Working Regulations of the Local Assembly are determining the methodology for work, calling of the sessions, developing agenda, decision making, and other issues of importance for the work of the Local Assembly and its working bodies. The Local Assembly works through its sessions organized in the secular environment. Session of the Local Assembly and its decisions are valid if majority of total number of representatives is present (in our case this means sixteen representatives must participate in the Local Assembly session in order to make valid decisions).

President of the Local Assembly calls the sessions of the Assembly on his/her own initiative, on suggestion of the Municipality Mayor, or the initiative of at least 1/3 of the representatives. Invitation for the Local Assembly session is distributed to the representatives at least seven days before the session. Together with the invitation, representatives are receiving the draft agenda for the session, and written materials related to the proposed agenda items. In exceptional cases, President of the Local Assembly can schedule the session within the period shorter than seven days, and to present the draft agenda on the session directly. In this case, he/she is obliged to inform the representatives about reasons of scheduling the session within the period shorter than seven days.

At the beginning of the session, Local Assembly adopts the minutes from the previous session. Draft agenda of the session is proposed by the President of the Local Assembly, and adopted by the representatives at the beginning of each session. After adoption of the agenda, representatives are examining and discussing each item of the agenda, prior making decision about it, except if the Working Regulations of the Local Assembly regulate that decision about some issue can be made without examination and discussion, or representatives make decision not to discuss some issue directly at the Assembly session. As a rule, Local Assembly makes decision about some issue on the agenda through public voting, except in cases when the Municipality Statute regulates secret voting for some items. The Local Assembly makes decision about the issues of its authority with majority votes of total number of representatives. In exceptional cases, regulated by the Municipality Statute, the Local Assembly can decide with 2/3 majority of votes from the representatives.

According to the current Statute of Teslić Municipality, Local Assembly decides with 2/3 majority of votes of the representatives in the following cases:

- Adoption of the Municipality Statute and its changes,
- Providing opinion about changes of Municipality borders, and
- Announcing of the Municipality referendum.

The Local Assembly works on the basis of its Working Program, which is usually adopted for the period of one calendar year - since the beginning of the year. Working Program consist of activities and tasks of the Local Assembly as regulated by the Constitution, laws, Municipality Statute, and determined development policy of the municipality, as well as other activities in solving issues related to the local community. However, it should be emphasized that Working Program represents the open document, because the practice enforces the need of Local Assembly to deal with numerous issues that could not be programmed and determined in advance.

Since the constituent session of this Local Assembly, it held 10 working sessions (9 regular ses-

sions and 1 special session). Representatives discussed 117 agenda items, or average 11,7 items per session.

### *Decisions of the Local Assembly*

In accordance with the Law about Local Self-Governance and Municipality Statute, the Local Assembly adopts following decisions/acts: Municipality Statute, decisions, conclusions, recommendations, resolutions, and operating procedure.

Proposal for adoption of the decisions/acts of the Local Assembly can be made by the Municipality Mayor, any representative in the Local Assembly, working bodies of the Local Assembly, and at least 1000 voters from the municipality area. Initiative for adoption of decisions/acts of the Local Assembly can be also made by citizens and citizens' associations. The Initiative must be submitted in written form, and has been accompanied by at least 500 signatures of the voters.

Since constituent meeting of this Local Assembly, this body examined and adopted following decisions/acts:

- New Statute of Teslić Municipality,
- 24 decisions (including also changes and amendments of the previously adopted decisions),
- 55 conclusions
- 59 special decisions
- 5 Programs (including Working Program of the Local Assembly).

In majority of cases, initiator of the decisions/acts was the Municipality Mayor. In only two cases, representatives examined acts initiated by the permanent working bodies of the Local Assembly (Commission for Rules and Regulations, and Council for Sport).

### *Publicity of the Work of the Local Assembly*

Sessions of the Local Assembly and some of its working bodies are public, and interested citizens can attend, according to the conditions determined by the Working Procedure of the Local Assembly. Currently, we are working on development of new Working Procedures for the Local Assembly, and this issue will be regulated in more detail.

As the exception, the Local Assembly and its working bodies can held a closed session - session without a public presence, when they discuss the issues that are closed for the public, in accordance with the special regulations, and based on the previously adopted decision of the Local Assembly that public should be excluded from the session.

In the work of this Local Assembly, there were no cases of the closed sessions. Beside representatives, regular participants at the sessions of the Local Assembly were the Municipality Mayor and its associates, representatives of the Office of High Representative, and occasionally representatives of the OSCE, representatives in RS People's Assembly from the area of Teslić municipality, journalists, and representatives of some nongovernmental organizations. Local media receive regular information about scheduling of the Local Assembly sessions, draft agenda, and written materials (TV "Channel 3", printed media - "Svitanje", "Vidici", "Glas Komuna", Radio "Studio-M", Radio "Džungla" and other media).

Citizens are informed about scheduling of the Local Assembly sessions through public information placed on the bulletin board of the municipality, seven days before the session.

Publicity of the work of the Local Assembly is implemented also through regular information about the work of the Local Assembly provided to the media. After the Local Assembly sessions, information is placed on the official web page of the municipality, occasional printing of the municipality informational bulletin, with information about important issues discussed by the Local Assembly, etc.

Adopted decisions/acts of the Local Assembly are regularly published in the Official Gazette of the Teslić Municipality, which is printed in 110 copies and distributed to all local communities, public institutions, political parties, and other users.

*Teslić, Hall of the Local Assembly Teslić, August 19, 2005*

On August 19, 2005, Youth Association Teslić and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka organized public discussion under title "The Local Assembly and its Authorities." The objective of this public discussion was increasing knowledge of citizens about the work of Local Assembly. Participants of the public discussion were twenty-five (25) women and men citizens of Teslić.

Introductory speaker was Mr. Radovan Dušanić, Secretary of the Local Assembly Teslić. He introduced participants of the public discussion with authorities of the Local Assembly, and emphasized the fact that this body has twenty-nine (29) male representatives, and only two (2) female representatives, and that only two (2) of thirty-one (31) representatives are less than 27 years old. After the introductory presentation, citizens had the opportunity to point on some issues, and request solutions for these problems from the authorized local officials. Key problems that were identified at this public discussion were following: solving the issue of collective center, reviving production in sections of the Wood Industry "Borja", reconstruction of the sport center, reconstruction of the city beach, problems of floods in suburban areas, and problem of high unemployment rate of population in Teslić.



**Borka Pavlović**, Head of Financial Department, City Administration of Teslić Municipality

## **RATIONALE OF THE BUDGET REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2006**

Through the draft budget for 2006, planned revenues are 8.350.000 BAM, which is 2 % more than planned revenues for 2005. Planning of revenues on this level is based on existing dynamics of income revenues, and transfer to new taxation system through introducing value added tax (VAT), which increases the general rate of tax on circulation of products and services. This budget plan has been developed in accordance with the Guidelines and Recommendations for Adoption of Municipality and City Budgets for 2006, adopted by the Ministry of Finance.

a) Revenues that are completely belonging to the municipality budget are following:

- Tax on income from agriculture and forestry,
- Tax on land and property,
- Tax on inheritance and gifts,
- Tax on sale of real estate and rights, and
- Tax on profit from games on chances.

These incomes are paid on account for collecting public revenues of the municipality, and the bank does clear out on the benefit of the account of the municipality budget every day.

b) Revenues that are divided between the entity budget and municipality budget:

- Tax on circulation of products and services in ratio 60:40 %,
- Tax on personal income of citizens in ratio 75:25 %,
- Excise on oil derivatives in ratio 92,5:7,5 %. These 7,5 % are divided between municipalities through correlation coefficient, where municipality of Teslić participate with 2,68 %, municipality of Banja Luka 8,01 %, municipality of Doboj 3,38 % etc. Criteria for distribution of these funds are following: length of local roads, area of the municipality, and number of inhabitants.
- Tax on circulation of excise products in ratio 60:40 %. These 40 % is also divided between municipalities through correlation coefficient, where municipality of Teslić participate with 1,07 %, municipality of Banja Luka 8,06 %, municipality of Doboj 2,40 % etc. Criteria for distribution of these funds are following: number of inhabitants on December 31, 2002, and sum of collected taxes on circulation of excise products from January 1, 2001 until July 31, 2003.

These incomes are paid through the public revenues account, and percentages of incomes for each municipality are automatically clear out on the benefit of the accounts of the municipality budgets.

It should be mentioned that municipality of Teslić stayed in the group of middle developed municipalities, where tax and services revenues are divided between the entity budget and the municipality budget in ratio 60:40 %. Non-tax revenues are proposed on the level of 1.665.900 BAM, which represents decrease of 22% in relation to the plan for 2005. Non-tax revenues make 20% of the municipality budget.

Non-tax revenues are divided as follows:

a) Revenues that are divided between the entity budget and municipality budget:

- Special entity tax on oil derivatives is 0,15 BAM per liter of fuel, and it is divided in ratio 33,33:6, and 67:60 %. The amount of 6,67 % is divided through correlation coefficient between municipalities, as well as excise on oil derivatives with application of the same criteria,
- Compensation for change of purpose of agricultural land in ratio 50:50 %,
- Compensation for usage of the mineral raw materials in ratio 30:70 %,
- Expropriated material benefit and means acquired from sale of the expropriated objects in the authority of Market Inspection Team of RS in ratio 70:30 %.

b) Revenues that completely belong to the municipality budget:

- Municipality administrative taxes that are paid on all petition requests, decisions, certificates, notarizations of signatures, notarizations of transcripts, and various sanitary certificates on the basis of the Decision about Administrative Taxes.
- Municipality communal taxes that are paid on the basis of Decision about Communal Taxes for each sign, occupation of public surfaces, keeping game devices in caterer objects, keeping music, and temporary stay of guests (residence tax),
- Municipality compensations - on the basis of distribution of city construction land, compensations for arrangement of city construction land, and compensation for renting of the municipality business spaces,
- Compensation for woods is paid in 10 % of value of sold wooden assortments, with the price on tree stump,
- Other municipality non-tax revenues (compensation for exploitation of gravel from riverbed, compensation for cut wooden mass in private woods, etc.

Since non-tax revenues are originating from certain municipality decisions, their collection depends directly from engagement of all departments of local administration.

In the past several years, new approach is effective for determining and collection of tax obligations. This means that, instead of determining type and extent of tax obligation by the tax institution, tax payer has the possibility to voluntarily report his/her obligation, and its extent. This principle is still not active in the practice, so these revenues (property taxes) are several times smaller than we expect.

In 2006, we did not plan revenues from grants or donations on any basis.

Following is the expenditure plan for municipality budget of Teslić for 2006:

- Funds for work of municipality administration in amount of 2.107.900 BAM, which represent increase of 43% in relation to 2005. This increase is related to the item of gross salaries and payments - it does not represent high increase of salaries but includes twelve salaries in full amount. This was not the case in previous period - before we were planning eleven salaries, and one salary was settled through re-programming items. Furthermore, it should be mentioned that increase of compensations for hot meals, regress, and other assistances is caused by obligation for engagement of interns - volunteers that have rights for these compensations, and during the previous period they were not receiving it. Some other important expenditure in the municipality administration include funds for running costs in amount of 180.000 BAM - here we planned building of reception hall, which would create conditions for increasing quality of services for clients, and our municipality would solve

the issue of lack of reception hall. During 2006, we will conduct preparations for transfer to safe-deposit box business, for which we need to create conditions through acquiring equipment and training of personnel. The estimated amount of 50.000 BAM was determined by the Ministry of Finance of Republika Srpska.

- Funds for roads are planned in amount of 1.300.000 BAM, and this represents increase of 3% in relation to 2005. Funds for management of local roads were proposed in amount of 300.000 BAM, and they are directed to financing of road service, Spring and Summer season reparation of local and non-categorized roads, as well as Winter road services,
- Funds for building of roads are planned in amount of 1.000.000 BAM, program of local water supply system 200.000 BAM, program for organization of construction land 546.600 BAM, program of common expenditures 400.000 BAM, and funds for encouraging economy 350.000 BAM - these are budget items that have provisional amounts planned, and they will be prepared during the first quarter. The Local Assembly adopts special programs for each of these items.
- Proposed funds for financing of the Center for Social Work in amount of 430.000 BAM, municipality veterans' association 28.000 BAM, return of more or incorrectly paid public revenues 25.000 BAM, budget reserve 120.000 KM, scholarships for high school and university students 80.000 BAM, Red Cross 43.000 BAM, Serb Cultural and Educational Association "Prosvjeta 40.000 BAM, People's Library "Danilo Kiš" 15.000 BAM, financing sports associations 246.000 BAM - these items are increased in relation to the last year, according to percentages provided in chart overview of the planned revenues and expenditures. It should be emphasized that amount of 20.000 BAM through financing of sports' associations is planned for marking 80 anniversary of the Soccer Club "Proleter" Teslić.
- Planned funds for financing of the Secondary Co-educational School "Jovan Dučić" 58.000 BAM, Secondary Co-educational School "Nikola Tesla" 53.000 BAM, obligations related to re-program 246.600 BAM, payments per court decisions 20.000 BAM, space planning documentation 200.000 BAM, funds for reconstruction and returnees 283.000 BAM, fire station 91.000 BAM, financing of the Health Center 50.000 BAM, costs of management of private woods 10.000 BAM are planned in less amounts than in the last year. It should be mentioned that we planned less funds for supporting secondary school education, because Ministry of Education of Republika Srpska took over the obligation for financing of hot meals.
- Planned funds for budget users: Day Care Center "Palčić" 75.000 BAM, costs for service taxes 7.000 BAM, costs for payments traffic 10.000 BAM, costs for financing of local com-

munities 42.000 BAM, costs for protection of veterans and people with disabilities 260.000 BAM, elementary schools 30.000 KM, funds for supporting youth programs 20.000 BAM, financing of political parties 80.000 BAM, funds for civil defense program 20.000 BAM, public media 50.000 BAM, and financing Sports Center 500.000 BAM - these funds are kept on the level from the previous year.

- Planned funds for financing compensations for the Local Assembly representatives, and compensations for Municipality Mayor and President of the Local Assembly in amount of 149.200 BAM.

*Teslić, Hall of the Local Assembly Teslić, November 18, 2005.*

The public discussion held in Teslić on November 18, 2005 was the opportunity for local citizens to learn about Draft Municipality Budget for 2006, and methodology for distribution of funds. The key objection of citizens to the local municipality authorities was related to lack of attention for financing of elementary schools and development of municipality infrastructure. Citizens that participated on this public discussion emphasized that amount of 8.350.000 BAM, which has been planned for these two items is almost insignificant. Citizens also insisted on active participation of their representatives in development of the municipality budget.



**Borislav Predojević**, Chief of Department for Economy and Social Affairs of Teslić Municipality

## **SUPPORT OF TESLIĆ MUNICIPALITY IN FINANCING OF PROJECTS OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

Law about Youth Associating of RS is one of the most valuable products of the People's Assembly of Republika Srpska, although it faced numerous critics, mostly from youth people. Value of this legal project reflects not only through the fact that its provisions offered legal and institutional framework for activities of youth people in this entity, but also through indication of changes in social environment and relation toward youth people, which make future of our country, so the care for them will not only be of declarative nature.

We should remember that this Law provides possibilities for youth people in Republika Srpska (from 16 to 30 years old) to actively participate in all fields and processes that are important for life of a social community through different forms of territorial, structural, and interests associations, and to finally change their position of unsatisfied observers and become active subjects. It is true that this Law does not allow to the youth associations to directly participate in pre-election campaigns, neither to provide public support to political parties and candidates, but it offers possibilities for youth people to actively participate in youth policy, and development of strategies for solving youth issues in Republika Srpska. Above all, this relates to the issue of youth education, their upbringing, and cherishing of moral, esthetic, cultural, and sport values, complete physical and psychological development of a personality, building of awareness

about humanistic values, personal and social responsibility, social and health responsibility, employment, ecology, and other accomplishments of modern civilization.

Although legislators regulated the crucial responsibility of the Secretariat for Youth and Sport of Republika Srpska for implementation of proclaimed policies and objectives, authorities in local municipalities also have the responsibility in this field. City and municipality authorities are required not only to actively participate in strategic planning and development of the youth policy, but also to secure necessary financial support for realization of youth policies in the official budgets. However, regardless of a good will that preceded adoption of this Law, its implementation will not come easily and quickly. Long standing and evident lack of care for youth people provoked their reasonable discontent and spontaneous reaction visible through a real flood of numerous nongovernmental organizations that are engaging youth people. Of course, this should not be observed as something bad, because democratic societies are showing their democracy through development of so called nongovernmental sector. Republika Srpska advocates for such concept, at least declaratively. However, nongovernmental sector in Republika Srpska, as well as democracy, are still in their infancy, and it seems that this sector represents one very heterogeneous group of chopped associations - many of them have secret program objectives, not only for their members, but also for their founders.

During the war, and immediately after the war, greater number of nongovernmental organizations emerged in the area of Teslić municipality - among them, only one with youth orientation. That was Youth Union Teslić, which was founded by the group of young fellow citizens with objective of awaking a wish among their peers, and mobilizing groups ready to work on solving the issues related to life and work of this association. In cooperation with similar associations from Federation of B&H, especially in the close neighborhood (Zenica-Doboj Canton), and with the assistance and financial support of the international donors, they implemented several smaller projects of humanitarian and educational character. Recently, similar organization was founded in the area of Kamenica village.

Amateur Radio Club, Esperanto Association, and Scouts Club are youth associations with a longer tradition in Teslić. They were founded as branches of similar associations on the level of Republika Srpska, and their work in the area of our municipality is almost invisible. The main reasons for that are lack of financing, poor organization, and lack of motivation. These issues also influence the work of Environmental Association "Ekotes", and Serb Falcon Association "Sveti Petar Cetinjski." However, these two associations are occasionally organizing certain manifestations.

The most visible form of youth organizations in the area of Teslić municipality are certainly youth sections of political parties. However, these groups of youth people, which exist within almost all political parties, are neglected by the Law about Youth Associating of RS. This Law mainly regulates the work of those youth groups that are working outside of political sphere. It seems that there will be no space for "free lancers" among these groups. The Law requires that voice of youth population should be heard prior defining of global strategy and guidelines in the areas of youth policy development, as well as to identify subjects of this policy. In other words, clubs, unions, centers, associations would have to confirm their legitimacy in order to be considered as serious and equal partners to the entity and local official institutions in solving youth issues. Beside registration managed by the Basic Court in the residence of the District Court, youth associations have the obligations to file in the special register within Secretariat for Youth and Sport of RS or authorized department of municipality administration, depending on territorial level of their work. With doing this, youth associations are acquiring the right not only to participate in decision making about key youth issues, but also to apply with certain projects and participate in allocation of entity and municipal budgets.

Unfortunately, experiences of Teslić municipality show that youth associations did not seriously consider this obligation to register according to legal requirements, because until now only two associations submitted requests and needed documentation for registration. According to one conclusion of the Local Assembly, adopted on the last year session when information about actual youth issues in Teslić municipality, this could seriously endanger accomplishment of objectives determined in the municipality plan for allocation of budget sources by local authorities. The amount of 30.000 BAM, which was planned in projection of municipality budget for supporting youth programs, represent one of the rare budget items that increased for 50% in relation to the previous period. Unfortunately, this amount represents only 0,33% of total revenues that are planned until the end of this year.

If these few percents planned for youth initiatives within the municipality budget represent measure of care of local authorities for youth people in Teslić, we could say that youth people are still completely marginalized social group in this local community. However, it would not be fair to blame only local authorities for this situation, because it seems that the fault is equal on the other side. Previous experiences show that modest budget sources planned for youth people where implemented in modest amount, because youth people simply did not have good ideas and requests for activation of these funds. Precisely, neither one youth organization that works in Teslić municipality applied with concrete program, and requested financial support from the municipality budget for its implementation. This is certainly disturbing fact,

especially if we consider that Program for Using of Funds for Work of Youth Associations is just entering legislative procedure on the local level, and should be adopted very soon. According to this Program, budget funds will be used only for financial support of concrete, socially justifiable, and financially completely transparent projects in this field. All initiatives out of this framework could not count on financial support from this source.

*Teslić, Hall of the Local Assembly Teslić, February 15, 2006*

Public discussion held in Teslić on February 15, 2006 undoubtedly showed that youth people in this local community want changes, and want to participate in it.

Youth people participants of this public discussion had direct conversation with Borislav Predojević, Chief of Department for Economy and Social Affairs, and learned about the procedure for acquiring financial support from the municipality budget for some of their programs and activities.

Teslić municipality allocated 30.000 BAM of the municipality budget in 2006 for financial support for projects of youth associations.

RESULTS OF THE FIELD  
RESEARCH ABOUT LEVEL OF  
INFORMATION,  
COMMUNICATION AND  
COOPERATION OF CITIZENS  
WITH LOCAL ADMINISTRATION  
IN MUNICIPALITY TESLIĆ

## SAMPLE

After the year (period March 2005 - March 2006) the field questionnaire was repeated within the Project of Examining Level of Information Provided to the Citizens, Communication, and Cooperation with Local Administration in Teslić municipality. The questionnaire was conducted in 2005 on the representative sample of 295 citizens, and in 2006 on the representative sample of 300 citizens.

The objective of this research was to determine ways and extent of information provided to citizens about the work of local administration, as well as types of communication and cooperation with local administration, and based on the results to develop the activities that will improve the work of local administration. The objective of repeated questionnaire after the period of one year reflects also through attempt to identify the effects that were accomplished in this direction (as the expression of citizens' views) within the observed time.

Questionnaire of the citizens is of special importance for identifying the situation and their active participation in improving information flow, communication, and cooperation with the local administration.

Questionnaire was conducted as anonymous, with the aim of acquiring objective picture of level of information of citizens, communication, and cooperation with local administration of Teslić municipality.

The sample of research was structured to respect following structures of population in Teslić municipality:

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Working status/status
4. Level of education
5. Domicile and refugee status
6. Zone of residence.

### 1. Structure of examinees by sex in the sample, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees by their sex

2005				2006			
No.	Sex	Number of examinees	%	No.	Sex	Number of examinees	%
1.	Male	176	59.7	1.	Male	152	50.7
2.	Female	119	40.3	2.	Female	148	49.3
	TOTAL	295	100.0		TOTAL	300	100.0

**2. Structure of examinees by age in the sample, as presented in the following chart.**  
Schedule of examinees by their age

2005				2006			
No.	Age	Number of examinees	%	No.	Age	Number of examinees	%
1.	up to 20	14	4.8	1.	up to 20	83	27.7
2.	20 - 30	102	34.8	2.	20 - 30	46	15.3
3.	30 - 40	87	29.7	3.	30 - 40	51	17.0
4.	40 - 50	46	15.7	4.	40 - 50	66	22.0
5.	50 - 60	14	4.8	5.	50 - 60	32	10.7
6.	60 -70	26	8.9	6.	60 -70	17	5.7
7.	70 and more	4	1.4	7.	70 and more	5	1.7
	TOTAL	293*	100.0		TOTAL	300	100.0

\*Information for two examinees are missing

**3. Structure of examinees according to their working status, or status, as presented in the following chart.**

Schedule of examinees according to their working status

2005			
No.	Working status/status	Number of examinees	%
1.	Employed in the state owned company or public administration	83	28.2
2.	Employed in private company	54	18.4
3.	Employed in the international or nongovernmental organizations	2	0.7
4.	Self-employed	7	2.4
5.	Unemployed	105	35.7
6.	Pensioner	27	9.2
7.	Pupil/student	16	5.4
	TOTAL	294*	100.0

**2006**

No.	Working status/status	Number of examinees	%
1.	Employed in the state owned company or public administration	48	16.0
2.	Employed in the private company	65	21.7
3.	Employed in the international or nongovernmental organization	2	0.7
4.	Self-employed	12	4.0
5.	Unemployed	53	17.7
6.	Pensioner	29	9.7
7.	Pupil/student	91	30.3
	TOTAL	300	100.0

\*Information for one examinee is missing

**4. Structure of examinees according to their educational level, as presented in the following chart.**

Structure of examinees according to their educational level

**2005**

No.	Educational level	Number of examinees	%
1.	Without school education	14	4.7
2.	Elementary school	24	8.1
3.	Secondary school	234	79.3
4.	Higher school or university	23	7.8
	TOTAL	295	100.0

**2006**

No.	Educational level	Number of examinees	%
1.	Without school education	8	2.7
2.	Elementary school	35	11.7
3.	Secondary school	226	75.3
4.	Higher school or university	31	10.3
	TOTAL	300	100.0

### 5. Structure of examinees according to their domicile or refugee status, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees according to their domicile or refugee status

2005				2006			
No.	Category	Number of examinees	%	No.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Domicile	270	91.8	1.	Domicile	227	75.7
2.	Returnees	3	1.0	2.	Returnees	32	10.7
3.	Refugees and displaced persons	21	7.1	3.	Refugees and displaced persons	41	13.7
	TOTAL	294*	100.0		TOTAL	300	100.0

\* Information for one examinee is missing

### 6. Structure of examinees according to zone of their residence, as presented in the following chart.

Schedule of examinees according to their zone of residence

2005			
No.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Narrow city zone	89	30.2
2.	Suburban settlement	70	23.7
3.	Rural settlement	136	46.1
	TOTAL	295	100.0

2006			
No.	Category	Number of examinees	%
1.	Narrow city zone	81	27.0
2.	Suburban settlement	106	35.3
3.	Rural settlement	113	37.7
	TOTAL	300	100.0

## LEVEL OF INFORMATION

**T1. According to their level of information about the work of local administration, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** The largest number of examinees has medium information about the work of local administration - the Local Assembly 39.7%, Municipality Mayor 50.8% and individual departments and their chiefs 44.7%.

**2006:** The highest number of examinees has medium level of information about the work of local administration - the Local Assembly 30.3%, and Municipality Mayor 32.0%. The highest number of examinees stated that their level of information about the work of municipality administration departments is very bad, and this type of opinion is also present about the above mentioned bodies of local administration.

**Comparison with 2005 and 2006:** It is noticeable that questionnaire in 2006 shows slight increase of information level among citizens related to work of the Local Assembly and the Municipality Mayor, while decrease of information level among citizens is present in relation to the work of municipality administration departments (chiefs of departments).

**T2. According to the level of readiness (accessibility, kindness) of local administration (officers) to provide legally available information about the work of institutions of the local administration, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** In relation to the level of readiness (accessibility, kindness) of local administration (officers) to provide legally available information about the work of institutions of the local administration, we can conclude that the Local Assembly shows only partial readiness (45.4%), Municipality Mayor shows weak readiness (41.0%), as well as some departments and their chiefs (37.6%).

**2006:** Estimation of level of readiness (accessibility, kindness) of local administration (officers) to provide legally available information about the work of institutions of the local administration for the Local Assembly (36.0%) and Municipality Mayor (34.7%) is partially visible, with significant contribution of opinion that this readiness weakly exist. Furthermore, examinees believe

that readiness of departments (chiefs) of local administration to provide legally available information weakly exists.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** It is visible that opinion of examinees about expressed readiness of the Local Assembly and departments of local administration to provide legally available information partially aggravated, while it slightly improved in relation to the Municipality Mayor.

**T3. According to estimation of examinees related to level of information about services (procedures) of the local self-governance bodies, they provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees (39.7%) responded that they are poorly informed about services (procedures) of the local self-governance bodies, and 33.9% of examinees have almost no information.

**2006:** Largest number of examinees (44.7%) responded that they are poorly informed about services (procedures) of the local self-governance, and 25.0% of examinees have almost no information.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** According to responses of examinees, we can see improvement in relation to their level of information about services (procedures) of the local self-governance bodies during the observed period.

**T4. According to the way of acquiring information about the work of local self-governance bodies (the Local Assembly, Municipality Mayor), examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees receives information about the work of local self-governance bodies through direct contacts (45.1%) and through television (36.3%).

**2006:** Largest number of examinees receives information about the work of local self-governance bodies through direct contacts (45.1%) and through television (67.0%), newspapers (25.7%), direct communication (25.3%) and radio (23.7%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Way of acquiring information about the work of local self-governance bodies changed, with dominance of television as source of information.

**T5. According to the way of receiving information about services and procedures in the work of local self-governance bodies (departments), examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** Largest number of examinees receives information about services and procedures of the local self-governance bodies (departments) through direct contacts (45.1%) and through television (35.9%).

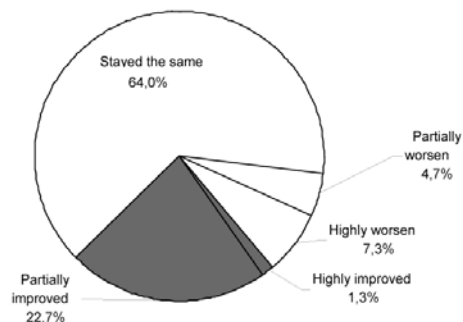
**2006:** Largest number of examinees receives information about services and procedures of local self-governance bodies (departments) through television (56.7%), direct contacts (26.0%) and radio (21.7%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Here we also see changes in the way of acquiring information about services and procedures in the work of local self-governance bodies, so there is dominant role of television.

**T6. Opinion of examinees related to availability of information from the local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year).**

General perception of examinees in relation to the level of information by the bodies of local self-governance in comparison to the previous period dominantly directs toward the fact that level of information stayed the same as it was during the previous year (64.0%), although we have significant participation of examinees, which estimate that level of information partially improved (22.7%). This directs us to conclusion that this issue reflects positive tendencies.

**Availability of Information about Services of Local Self-Governance Bodies in Relation to The Previous Period (2006/2005)**



## COMMUNICATION

**K1. According to the extent of their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** For all local self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor 42.2%, President of the Local Assembly 41.8%, the Local Assembly 51.7%, Departments (Chiefs) 45.6%) the largest number of examinees responded that their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies is very bad.

**2006:** For President of the Local Assembly (31.7%), the Local Assembly (31.3%), and Departments (Chiefs) (30.7%) examinees responded that their knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies is bad, and for the Municipality Mayor (29.3%) medium.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Visible improvement is obvious in relation to level of knowledge about possibilities of communication with local self-governance bodies during the observed period.

**K2. According to the extent of their satisfaction with communication with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

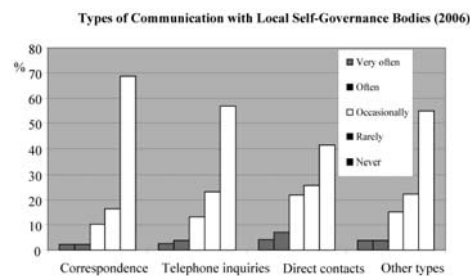
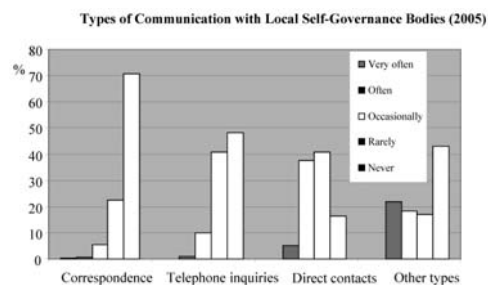
**2005:** The largest number of examinees is extremely unsatisfied with the communication with all local self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor 41.6%, President of the Local Assembly 41.6%, the Local Assembly 50.9%, Departments (Chiefs) 45.1%).

**2006:** The largest number of examinees is unsatisfied with the communication with all local self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor 33.3%, President of the Local Assembly 35.3%, the Local Assembly 36.7%, Departments (Chiefs) 35.3%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Despite conclusion that 2006 also shows dissatisfaction of citizens with communication with local self-governance bodies, we can notice improvements in this field in relation to the previous period for all local self-governance bodies.

**K3. According to types of communication with local self-governance bodies and frequency of their usage, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** The chart shows that examinees are rarely using, or do not use at all presented types of communication with local self-governance bodies. Partially we can separate direct contacts and telephone inquiries which are anyway rarely used.



**2006:** According to responses of examinees, we can notice majority of them do not use presented types of communication with local self-governance bodies.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** We can conclude that situation is still very negative and similar to the situation in the last year, where situation slightly improved in relation to the complaint boxes, suggestions and remarks, and usage of Internet.

**K4. According to the extent of opportunities to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

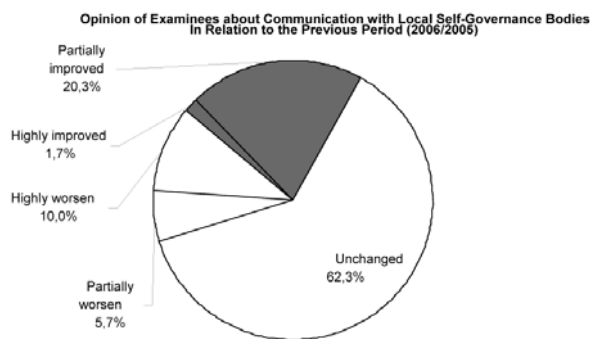
**2005:** The largest number of examinees (44.9%) believes they had only few opportunities to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies.

**2006:** The largest number of examinees (34.7%) believes they had weak opportunities to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies, where we see significant participation of those examinees who believe they had no chances to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies (34.3%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Having in mind the entire picture of provided answers during the observed period, we can conclude that there is no significant change in possibilities of examinees to express their opinion about the work of local self-governance bodies.

**K5. Opinion about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year)**

Generally, opinion of examinees about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) reflects no change in the communication (62.3%). Here we should mention that significant number of examinees believe this communication partially improved (20.3%), which directs us to conclusion about existence of positive tendencies in this area.



## COOPERATION

**S1. According to the extent of information about possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** According to answers of examinees about extent of information about possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, we can draw following conclusions: in relation to the Municipality Mayor (49.7%) and President of the Local Assembly (50.5%) extent of information is very bad, while in relation to the Local Assembly (34.8%) and Departments (36.9%) extent of information is bad.

**2006:** According to answers of examinees about extent of information about possibilities of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, we can conclude that in relation to all self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor (32.7%), President of the Local Assembly (40.0%), the Local Assembly (37.7%) and Departments (39.3%)) extent of information is above all very bad, with significant participation of opinion that extent of information is very bad.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Despite estimation of situation in 2006, we can conclude that there are positive improvements in relation to the extent of information about possibilities for cooperation with local self-governance bodies, especially in relation to Municipality Mayor and President of the Local Assembly.

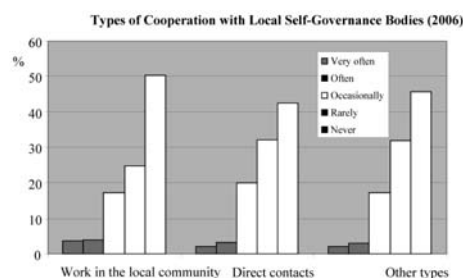
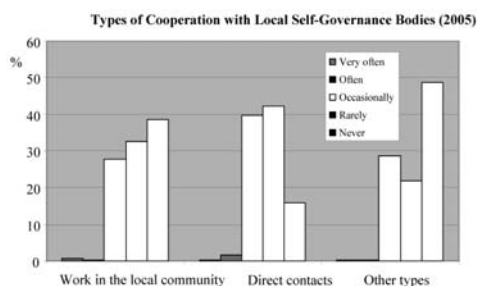
**S2. According to the extent of satisfaction with cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees provided following answers:**

**2005:** According to the largest number of answers, satisfaction with cooperation with local self-governance bodies is as follows: expressed dissatisfaction in the case of Municipality Mayor, (44.5%) President of the Local Assembly (42.3%) and Departments (39.7%), and partial satisfaction in the case of the Local Assembly (32.9%)

**2006:** For all local self-governance bodies (Municipality Mayor 34.3%, President of the Local Assembly 40.3%, the Local Assembly 39.0%, and Departments 37.0%), examinees provided answers that they are unsatisfied with cooperation with these institutions.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** Cooperation of local self-governance bodies with citizens remained at unsatisfactory level. However, improvements are visible in relation to all self-governance bodies, except the Local Assembly, where we identify worsening of the situation.

**S3. According to the most frequent types of communication with local self-governance bodies and extent of their usage, examinees provided following answers:**



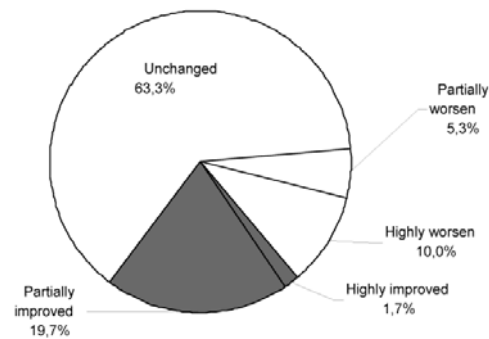
**2005:** The chart shows that majority of examinees do not use work in the local community (38.5%), advisory bodies do not exist, and direct contacts are used very little (42.2%) or occasionally (39.8%).

**2006:** The largest number of examinees rarely or do not use presented and other types of cooperation with local self-governance bodies.

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** In relation to the types of cooperation with local self-governance bodies, we identified worsening of the situation in comparison to the previous period.

#### S4. Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year)

Opinion of Examinees about Cooperation with Local Self-Governance Bodies  
In Relation to the Previous Period (2006/2005)



Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) dominantly (63.3%) reflect that this cooperation generally stayed the same, where we have significant participation (19.7%) of opinions that this cooperation partially improved. This directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in cooperation with local self - governance bodies.

## EDUCATION

### F1. Opinion of examinees about necessity of their education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies

**2005:** Largest number of examinees (61.8%) believes they need education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies.

**2006:** Examinees believe that education is partially needed (29.0%), where we have significant participation of opinions that education is needed (27.7%) and much needed (22.0%).

**Comparison of 2005 and 2006:** In relation to the necessity of education aimed for establishing communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, situation is similar to the previous period, but we have increased number of examinees, which believe that education is partially needed, and much needed.

### F2. Types of education aimed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies

	Types of education	Number of examinees	%
a	Role of citizens in democracy and responsibility of elected representatives	194	64.7
b	Role of media in democratic society	6	23.0
c	Citizens education and identifying problems	129	43.0
d	Planning of the citizens actions	125	41.7
e	Communication skills	66	22.0

In relation to the types of education needed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees predominantly prefer Role of citizens in democracy and responsibility of elected representatives (64.7%), Citizens education and identifying problems (43.0%), and Planning of the citizen's actions (41.7%).

## CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this research was to determine ways and extent of information provided to citizens about the work of local administration, as well as types of communication and cooperation with local administration, and based on the results to develop the activities that will improve the work of local administration.

1. General perception of examinees about level of information about the work of local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period dominantly reflects that the situation remained the same as it was in the last year (64.0%), although we have significant participation of examinees that believe level of information partially improved (22.7%). This directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in this area.
2. In general, opinion of examinees about communication with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) reflects that communication remained the same as it was in the last year (62.3%). Here we also have significant participation of examinees that believe communication partially improved (20.3%), which directs us to conclusion that there are positive tendencies in this area.
3. Opinion of examinees about cooperation with local self-governance bodies in relation to the previous period (previous year) dominantly (63.3%) directs us to the conclusion that cooperation generally remained the same as it was in the last year, with significant participation (19.7%) of examinees that believe communication partially improved. This directs us to conclusion about positive tendencies in cooperation with local self-governance bodies.
4. In relation to the types of education needed for establishing better communication and cooperation with local self-governance bodies, examinees predominantly prefer Role of citizens in democracy and responsibility of elected representatives (64.7%), Citizens education and identifying problems (43.0%), and Planning of the citizen's actions (41.7%).



**Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka**

Krfska 84, 78000 Banja Luka

Telephone: + 387 51 432 753

Fax: + 387 51 432 752

Cell + 387 65 615 535

e-mail: [hcabl1@blic.net](mailto:hcabl1@blic.net)

[www.hcabl.org](http://www.hcabl.org)

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka was founded on August 16, 1996, as the local non-governmental organization. Since that period, it has been actively involved in promotion, strengthening, and networking of the civil initiatives on local and regional level.

**Mission:** Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka is the organization that encourages accomplishing of autonomy and freedom of women and men citizens, through involvement of neglected social groups in democratic processes, especially women and youth people.

**Vision:** Society of equal opportunities for all.

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka accomplishes these objectives through the activities in three program areas:

1. Strengthening positions of civil society organizations and transforming public governance in services for women and men citizens
2. Implementing programs for gender equality
3. Creating preconditions for more intensive involvement of youth people in public life.