



Co-funded by
the European Union



GreenMove Project

„Transportation Infrastructure: Adopting a Holistic Approach to Societal Progress”

Mijo Dropuljić, Mayor, Municipality of Podstrana

Paphos, Cyprus, 02-05 March, 2026

Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union nor the administering body can be held responsible for them

ABOUT PODSTRANA

The Municipality of Podstrana is one of the most developed municipalities in Croatia, situated in the Split-Dalmatia County with 6 km of marine coastal area and 10.403 inhabitants on 11,7 km² of the territory.



PODSTRANA



ABOUT PODSTRANA

The palette of the landscapes of Podstrana is truly remarkable: the mountain peaks and the southern slopes of Perun hill, the seacoast and the banks of the river Žrnovnica.



Projects

- Our staff has all the references and experience for successful management and participation in the implementation of projects in various areas: social, touristic, ecological, educational etc. (cca 40 million euros of approved funds in the last 4 years).



New elementary school in Podstrana

The unique rural identity of Podstrana

The EU's rural areas are valued, among other characteristics, for their natural landscapes, varied food production, as well as the possibilities that they provide for a range of recreational activities and tourism.

In accordance with the above, **Podstrana is a dynamic space in which the synergy of traditional and urban features is visible.**



Mobility challenges

The last few years Podstrana has been facing huge bottle-necks in the traffic because of the expansion of the population and tourism (State road D8, on the section through Podstrana, has a daily flow of cca 50.000 cars, and in the tourist season more than 60.000 cars, and it is **classified as the busiest, and due to the inadequate condition of the road, also one of the most dangerous roads in the Republic of Croatia**).



Foto: Sasa Buric/Cropix



Foto: Nikola Brboleža/Cropix



Mobility challenges

1. Car dependency – most tourists as well as locals rely on private cars, which leads to traffic jams and parking problems, especially during the summer season
2. Poor transport infrastructure – road congestion
3. Poor maritime connections with other cities due to the lack of a port for embarking and disembarking passengers.



Foto: Nikola Brboleža/Cropix



Holistic Approach to reduce inequalities and combat stereotypes

Municipality of Podstrana is focused on supporting families, children, seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable residents through a **mobile subsidy**:

- Elementary School Students: free transportation to school financed by Split-Dalmatia County and free monthly bus ticket for extracurricular activities in neighboring cities.
- Secondary School Students: The Ministry of Science and Education covers 75% and the Municipality covers the remaining 25% of the full monthly ticket.
- University Students: Students pay €15 per month; the Municipality finances the difference to the full ticket price.
- Persons with disabilities and the most economically vulnerable citizens: Free monthly ticket year-round.
- Pensioners: full funding of the monthly ticket or co-funding, based on income and status thresholds.
- Municipality of Podstrana **finances transportation to the remote parts of the municipality** (such as Old Podstrana part, up in the hills) up to 7 times per day.



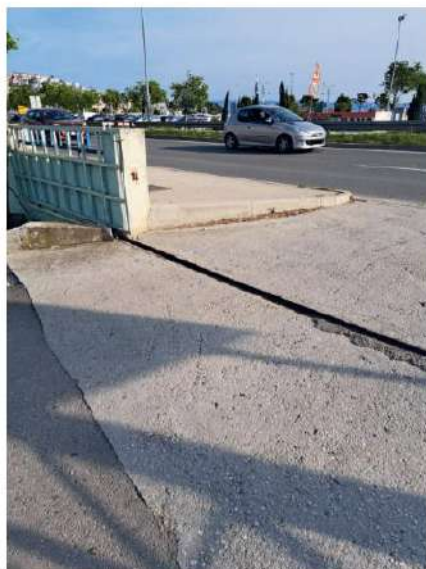
Holistic Approach to reduce inequalities and combat stereotypes

- In order to reduce the inequalities for people with disabilities in Podstrana, President of the local NGO for persons with disabilities (Mr Andrija Lipanović), the Mayor of the Municipality of Podstrana and local councilor, visited all the critical locations that present barriers to the movement of persons with disabilities. Together, they identified key obstacles and agreed on a timeline and phased approach to gradually resolve the issues.
- On this occasion, the Mayor was presented with the *White Book of Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in the Municipality of Podstrana*.



Holistic Approach to reduce inequalities and combat stereotypes

- **The White Book of Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in the Municipality of Podstrana** – the book with clear instructions which parts of the road infrastructure need to be improved to be accessible for the people with disabilities.



Slika 1.
Ulica Strožanačka cesta,
Potrebno je ugraditi jednu rampu na izlazu kod
restorana Gloria



Slika 2.
Ulica Strožanačka Cesta
Potrebno je ugraditi jednu rampu na ulazu kod
restorana Gloria



EU-Funded Projects that showcase impact on societal progress

- In order to promote accessibility and equality for all our citizens, Municipality of Podstrana organizes and finances transportation to school for the children with disabilities. Through the EU project „Korak po korak” („Step by Step”), a **vehicle adapted for people with disabilities was purchased**, which is used even after the project implementation period to provide social services to the residents of the Municipality of Podstrana.
- The project's objectives:
 - to provide non-institutional social services of psychosocial support, counseling and assistance, support in inclusion to the most vulnerable groups of society in the Podstrana municipality, which directly helped them increase their mobility and reduce social exclusion;



EU project „Step by step” - Vehicle for people with disabilities



EU-Funded Projects that showcase impact on societal progress

- By implementing project activities: providing the services of a mobile team, social mentor and individual work activities, beneficiaries were given the opportunity to participate equally with other community members in all important social segments.



EU-Funded Projects that showcase impact on societal progress

One of the main capital projects in Podstrana in the last few years: *The eco sustainable development of the coastal area in Podstrana* included a bicycle path constructions, energy-efficient lighting and a coastal promenade construction.

The project encourages cycling as an alternative mode of transport with zero CO2 emissions, which contributes to the overall reduction of negative environmental impact.

Cycling affects the reduction of transport costs, traffic congestion, parking costs, energy costs **and improves the fitness and health of the population.**



EU-Funded Projects that showcase impact on societal progress

In the last few years we built around 6 km of bicycle-pedestrian paths and almost entirely connected the coastal area of Podstrana with bicycles paths. Alongside the promenade we planted cca 600 tamaris trees.

The project was divided in a couple of phases and the overall investment (cca 5 million euros) was financed from different sources, including EU, national, regional and local funds.



EU-Funded Projects that showcase impact on societal progress

The Municipality of Podstrana implemented the public bicycle system in Podstrana as part of the EU funded project: **“Biraj biciklu! (Choose a bike!)”**

Within this project, the City of Split and 7 partners – cities and municipalities from the Split Urban Agglomeration placed 41 stations with a total of 242 bicycles.

The system allows for simple and quick bicycle rental, ideal for short trips or transportation to work. The system is available in more than 300 cities worldwide.

The total value of the overall project "Choose a bike!" was cca 1,8 milion euros.

• Registration: cca 90.000 users

• Rentals: 1.300.000

• Driven: 5.600.000 km and 400.000 h



Conclusion

Strengthening transportation infrastructure in Podstrana requires more than isolated road improvements or expanded transit routes—it demands a holistic, forward-thinking strategy that aligns mobility with social, economic, and environmental progress.

As a growing coastal community near Split, Podstrana's transportation **planning must balance tourism, local commuting needs, environmental preservation, and long-term urban development.**

By integrating sustainable transport options, modern traffic management systems, pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly networks, and improved regional connectivity, the municipality can enhance quality of life while supporting economic vitality. Investments in public transportation links, reduced congestion along the Adriatic corridor, and environmentally conscious planning will not only address current mobility challenges but also prepare the community for future growth.

Ultimately, **adopting a holistic approach to transportation infrastructure in Podstrana is an investment in societal progress—strengthening accessibility, promoting sustainability, fostering economic resilience, and creating a more connected and inclusive community for generations to come.**



Thank you for your attention

