Children’s city council
City of Opatija

Participation of children in creating the budget for children
Society "Our Children" Opatija

- Society "Our Children" Opatija is a nongovernmental organization
- It deals with creating and organizing leisure time for children of preschool and school-age children (dance activities, Children’s city council, Children's Forum, art workshops, workshops for children with disabilities "Hummingbirds", a workshop for gifted children "Lights", summer activities, help for learning to children)
- It promotes children's rights in our community
How can children participate in Opatija?

• Children’s Forums
• Children's City Council
• Meetings children with Mayor
• Meetings children with County Prefect
• Meetings children with MPs
• Writing messages to adults
Children’s city council

- Children city council (CCC) is an activity that enables the children to have their and their friends’ opinion to be acknowledged by persons that make decisions about questions related to the life of Opatija's inhabitants, including children.

- Children city council (CCC) in Opatija is active since 2001.

- Children learn about children’s rights and children’s participation.

- Now is active 9th assembly.

- Mandate lasts 2 years.

- Council is chaired by the President (also a child).
The objectives of the Children’s city council

- Establishing a relationship of mutual respect, listening and communication between the child and the City
- Raising awareness about the city as a community of citizens
- Recognizing and acknowledging the rights of all groups of citizens
- Training children for exercising their right to express their own opinions
- Training children to make decisions for themselves and others
- Developing responsibility in children for the decisions they made
Elections for Children’s city council

- Candidacy
- Election campaign
- Election
- Secret ballot
- 2 children councilors form every class
Constitutive session and Election of Children’s mayor

• The first task of newly elected counselors is to elect a children’s mayor on a constitutive

• Counselors elect a children’s mayor by secret

• Children’s mayor follows the adult mayor in all protocols
Sessions of Children’s city council

• For each session we prepare in our every week workshops in the Society "Our Children” Opatija

• The mayor and president of CCC are present on the sessions

• 3-4 sessions per year

• The president of CCC presides at the council

• We feel free to ask questions and get answers to all questions

• We participate in creating important documents of City such as: Budget of the City of Opatija; urban plans, programs and initiatives in the field of health and social care, education, sports, culture and leisure and curricula planning of green areas and sports and recreational areas.

• At sessions there are also present representatives of one class of school, professional associates of the City o Opatija, councilors of the City council of Opatija and the media
How children participate in budget decisions?
Suggestions for a budget of City of Opatija

• Each councilor has a duty to ask their peers in the classroom what would they like in Opatija to improve for the lives of children in Opatija, to give proposals for City budget

• We visit the institutions, organizations, associations, NGO-s for children in Opatija and also ask them for proposals for improvement of children’s life in our city

• On our workshops we consolidate all proposals

• On session of Children’s city council we present children’s proposals for City of Opatija to adults who make decisions

• Following the adoption of the City budget, adults present to us children City budget (the part that relates to children)
YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR CITY BUDGET FOR CHILDREN

Please serious answers to the following questions, your suggestions will be presented at the session of Children’s city council of Opatija

- Please write what are your suggestions - what should be done for children in 2014 in the City of Opatija:

- Please explain every suggestion why do you think it’s important and useful for children in Opatija (what will it be achieved)?

- Name: ____________________
- Class: ____________________
Children’s proposals for City budget
Children’s proposals for City budget

- New city bus lines for Vetrniac
- We want a winter movie theater!
- Children’s playground Poljane
- Children’s theater Poljane
- Children’s playground Poljane
Children’s proposals for City budget which were realised

- Sports hall „Marino Cvetković”
- City bus
- Skate park
- Children beach „Tomaševac”
- 29 playgrounds for children
- Cabinet of rehabilitator for children with special needs and speech rehabilitator for children in Society “Our children” Opatija
- Removed barriers on pedestrian
Children city council’s budget

• “My arms grow bigger towards you, because I want to give happiness to you too”

• Competition for the allocation of CCC’s budget

• Budget amount: 12 000 kn (1500 EUR)

• Children vote for projects that will improve the quality of life for children in Opatija
Project’s realised by budget of Children’s city council

• “Suitcases of children's rights”
• School lockers
• Project “For safe children’s step” – protection of children in traffic
• Sexual education
• Children's signpots
• The picture book "Countess Anna“ on the local dialect
• Organised The first meeting of children’s councilors of Croatia, in Opatija
• Books for Libraries of School District
Children and adults in our town

• The mayor and president of City council are present on every session

• Children are involved in protocols that concern their lives
Projects of Children’s city council

- Each assembly of the Children's City Council works on its project
- We choose three projects on our workshop
- On our constitutional session we chose among those three projects one which we would like to work on
Projects of Children’s city council

- Let’s revive children’s playgrounds
- Sport child's right or exploitation of children
- 1,2,3 in touristic town we live
- Safe On The Net
- How do children live in Europe
- Ičići, Volosko and Veprinac of our desires

- “For happiness you need a friendly hug”
- Let’s sign children’s playgrounds
- Children and the media
- Marathon of tolerance and friendship
- From Facebook to coastal walkway
- The best children’s act
• We give suggestions for the national strategy for children’s rights

• Alternative report on children’s rights in Croatia

• Council for children of Croatia – advisory body to the Croatian government-representative in the council Karlo Škorić from CF Opatija

• Members of Network of young advisors of Children’s ombudsman
25 years of the UN Convention on Children’s Rights
Signing of solemn statement, 17/11/2014
Between City of Opatija and Children’s city council
Solemn statement that Opatija child friendly city is:

- The city in which children and young people grow up happy, healthy and confident and where they are respected as full persons,

- The city that encourages collaboration of all stakeholders in the city in order to promote the rights and welfare of children,

- The city in which the rights and interests of children are central to the adoption and implementation of the policies of our city,

- A city that builds partnerships between children and adults, recognizing in Opatija children valuable and important partner with whom together, organizing content that enriches the lives of children in Opatija

- The city in which is heard and respected children's thinking and a child's voice.
Thank you for you’re attention!

mail: dnd.opatija@gmail.com
F: Društvo „Naša djeca” Opatija