

# CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

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### MENTOR CRITIQUE FORM

Your thoughtful and honest appraisal will be most helpful. We appreciate your input and will try to implement as many of your ideas as possible. Continue comments on the back if necessary.

The IPF program pairs each Fellow with one or two mentors who are Soros foundations network-affiliated (usually Open Society Institute and Central European University), as well as one 'external' mentor who is an expert in the field working outside the Soros foundations network. Mentors should: 1) Work with Fellows to devise a brief policy paper in their field(s) of expertise based on a lengthy research paper written over the course of the fellowship year, 2) Maintain contact with Fellows at least once every six weeks or so by telephone, fax or e-mail to discuss the development of projects, 3) If feasible, meet with Fellows at least once during the fellowship year to discuss the project, 4) Facilitate Fellows' contact with other relevant experts and participation in appropriate meetings (IPF has discretionary funds to support Fellow attendance at relevant events), 5) Complete brief mid-term and final critique forms supplied by IPF to provide the program with feedback regarding the Fellow's progress.

Your name, position

**Stephen Davies, Vice President, Project for Public Spaces**

Name of Fellow you have assisted

**Mirna Karzen**

#### **1. What, in your opinion, have you and your Fellow/program/project gained from your cooperation thus far?**

In my last report, I described the initial progress that Mirna had made, and how we had assisted her in developing a community based approach to public space development in Croatia. This year, she has used the materials and training we provided, and taken a great deal of initiative and expanded the program to four other cities and two municipalities, in addition to the other progress she reports in her activity report.

We continue to see potential for a much larger expansion of the project. This year, we are working in Serbia and initiated a cross border proposal for placemaking and greenways along the Serbian border with NGO partners that Mirna helped identify. The funding for this project looks very likely and could set the stage for an expanded effort next year. I plan on doing additional training in Croatia this fall, and PPS is also seeking funds to create a regional capacity building effort in Central Europe and the Balkans. Mirna would be an important member of this regional effort. This could help Mirna institutionalize her efforts in Croatia and provide a way to begin to implement projects in other communities as she has done in Rijeka.

**2. Do certain areas of this Fellow’s work need improvement? Which areas?**

Mirna’s work continues to be outstanding.

**3. In your opinion, does your Fellow’s project make a significant contribution to the field?**

Yes. Mirna is demonstrating great leadership and taking this effort to other communities. In doing so, she is helping the actually “create the field” in Croatia and demonstrate to other countries how it might apply internationally.

**4. Would the project be important to other countries in the CEE/fSU region?**

Yes. Every country and region in CEE could benefit from the model this project creates. We are now working in or have received active interest in developing a public paces in the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro.

**5. Could the proposed policy research make an impact on the policy environment in specific countries or regions? (Policy makers, experts and policy research community)**

Yes. We continue to think that this project addresses many other policy issues, particularly in terms of developing the NGO sector and democracy building activities. Working to improve public spaces is a concrete activity that brings together diverse parties in a non-threatening way and allows visible results to be obtained – all replicating democratic processes.

**6. Is the timetable for the project realistic?**

Yes.

**7. Could the project benefit a large number of people?**

Yes. As we have said before, public spaces affect everyone, and the potential benefits are enormous.

**8. Does the Fellow show evidence that he/she can think strategically about the relevant project and/or field?**

Mirna continues to work at the highest levels from this perspective.

**9. If the Fellow were to re-apply for continued OSI funding for follow-up work associated with the project, would you support continued funding?**

Absolutely.

**10. Are there other appropriate funders that may support the project?**

Yes. Possible funders include the Balkan Trust, which is likely to fund implementation of public space programs in Serbia. There are many international aid funders who are attracted to these kinds of projects since they are so specific, yet have broader impacts.

**Recommendations for other potential senior contacts for this Fellow:**

**Additional Comments (Please comment on your Fellow's work and all aspects of the IPF program using the back of this sheet):**