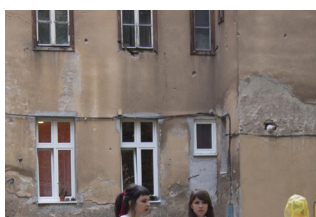


One of the most destroyed benches was picked for the intervention. Through a long process which followed, this bench was first made into the temporary wooden structure and later turned into the brick made Maria's Bench which is now the most visible remaining of the intervention.



During the construction of the Maria's Bench we received few direct individual threats ("I will throw you a grenade!") but luckily with no consequences. One significant result is the fact that Maria's Bench "survived" i.e. the fact that it was not destroyed (since in majority of cases public structures of a similar kind would often get vandalized or destroyed). The ultimate fate and status of the Bench remains to be settled, since it was constructed without a permit, and we have initiated a process of making it officially recognized.



Our involvement in this space, and our direct assistance, helped local community (LC) to bring focus to this location which resulted in an project application submitted to municipal authorities. The direct involvement through meetings also helped the LC to broaden the reach of their vision for the neighborhood which now, according to their plan, designates 4 strategic sites: Marindvorsko, a nearby open zone "Hastahana", "Crni vrh", an elevated green area with a great potential, and a boulevard "Franca Lehara".

