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1st International Conference on Urban Planning ICUP2016 was successfully held in Niš, Serbia on 18th and 19th November 2016. Main topics of the Conference were: *Urban theory and practice; Development and planning problems; Links between planning, building and land; Urban regeneration; Land readjustment; Interaction between the natural environment and urban areas.* Conference gathered together a large number of professors, researchers and many professionals working in practice. As a result of the Conference, Conference Book of Proceedings was published with 41 scientific papers. During the Conference, round tables were organized where all participants could discuss the current issues in the field of urban planning and design. Urban planning process was contemplated on by professionals and researchers from both theory and practice. Different points of view and topics related to urban design, planning and its implementation, urban landscape, public-private partnership and smart cities were developed and discussed.

During two days, 10 Keynote speakers from different parts of the world gave lectures which were open for all participants. Keynote speakers and their affiliations at the time of the ICUP2016 Conference included: **Dr Ali A. Alraouf**, head of Capacity Building, training, research and development unit at Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) Qatar; **Prof. Dr Zorica Nedović-Budić**, Professor at Chair of spatial planning in the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin, Ireland; **Dr Alessandro Busa**, Center for Metropolitan Studies at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany; **Dr Hossam Samir Ibrahim**, working with municipal government of Qatar and consultation firms in Regional and Urban planning projects in Egypt, UK, Qatar, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **Prof. Dr Francesco Rotondo**, Associate professor of Urban planning and design at the Polytechnic University of Bari, Italy; **Dr Cristian Suau**, funding director of STUDIO POP, Scotland; **Dr Demetrio Muñoz Gielen**, IHS Institute for Housing and Urban Development Study of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands; **Dr Kosta Mathéy**, lecturer at different Universities in Germany, Cuba, Algeria and Egypt; **Prof. Dr Derya Oktay**, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Ondokuz Mayıs University, Samsun, Turkey; and **Dr Teo Keang Sood**, Professor of Law in the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore.

Thanks to different experiences and to different scientific and research fields of keynote speakers and participants, Conference themes were analyzed from different points of view, which resulted in interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach of complex urban planning issues. Beside professors and researchers at the Conference, numerous professionals were present. Therefore, one of the conclusions was that cooperation between science/research and professional practice is necessary in order to adopt and implement innovative solutions and to create and plan human friendly spaces according to anthropometric scale. Niš as the "host city" of the conference was an excellent research polygon for discussion, because it represents an example of the city with complex urban structure. It includes rich heritage areas but also new developing areas, thus providing a very attractive and vibrant ambient. Thus, the next conclusion was that inherited sites and built heritage can be used as a tool for city branding and can also help to improve development by learning on past mistakes and achievements. The following conclusion found that cities must be observed as the home to all residents, which must actively participate in its development and planning process, in order to present their real needs and to stop illegal constructions. Finally, it was concluded that public-private partnerships must be encouraged and promoted because it is not possible to develop and implement projects without mutual cooperation. By developing public-private partnership it is possible to achieve community wellbeing through encouraging investors to develop public spaces and community facilities.

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ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CITIZENS IN URBAN PLANNING OF MICRO PUBLIC SPACES

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ABSTRACT

Planning and design strategies for building with nature in urban areas, today also includes urban planning of micro public spaces. In it, the local government has an important role, which derives from the legal framework governing urban development. However, today's local authorities should listen to the citizens needs. Particularly in this area, relation and communication between local authorities and citizens, as well as other stakeholders, is crucial. In this paper, special attention will be focused on determining the concept of micro public spaces. Also, examples of good practice some of city authorities in planning and micro public spaces development strategies will be covered. Finally, we will point out the role of citizens and other stakeholders in urban planning micro public spaces.

Keywords: Micro Public Spaces (MPS), Local self government, local authorities, citizens, legal framework, urban politics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Planning and creating strategies for construction in urban environments involve today another important problem - regulation of *micro public space* (hereinafter: MPS). Many metropolises are paying more attention not only to arrangement, but also to clear definition of the term, as well as to the criteria included. In contemporary conditions of urban life, MPS becomes a real natural oasis in today's urban areas. The issue of MPS arrangement therefore becomes an important topic in the creation of urban policies. Certainly, in this process, at least as far as public space is concerned, local government has the most significant stake. Simply as their role is derived from the law and other regulations. Therefore, in the work of the local government, experts and professionals participate as public officials in many fields, including urbanization, urban planning and urban development. However, in this area both citizens and the public can be drivers and active participants in the process. And this leads to the question of civil participation.

In social and especially political science, civil participation is the subject of numerous scientific and expert analyzes. On the other hand, public administration in general, including municipal/city administration in modern conditions is an administration that "... listens the voice of the users", ..., and which is "exposed to the user's court", above all the citizens.¹

Civil participation creates crucial cohesion between citizens and public administration, which contributes to the development and improvement of a local, national and wider human community, and at the same time opens the issue of solidarity. This is also pointed out by one of the most famous contemporary theoreticians in the field of social sciences Jürgen Habermas: "**In complex societies, a deliberative education of thought and will, based on the principles of the sovereigns of the people and human rights, forms the ultimate instrument for the abstract and legally established, through political participation, the reproduced form of solidarity**".²

¹ Milenković, D., 2013. Javna uprava – odabrane teme, Fakultet političkih nauka, Univerzitet u Beogradu-Čigoja štampa, Beograd, Srbija., p. 298.

² Habermans, J., 2002. Postnacionalna konstelacija, Otkrovljenje, Beograd, Srbija, p. 81.

Policies of urban planning and MPSs are definitely fields where the interests and will of citizens and local government are overlapping. Living in harmony with nature and the natural environment in urban areas has become the main issue of the 21st century. On the other hand, through the relationship between the city administration and the citizens in this area, at the same time, it's been pointed to the necessity of including (and participation) between citizens and local authorities. At the same time, there is a good example that this cooperation can significantly contribute to the improvement of living conditions in modern, urban areas, especially in case of MPSs.

Urban development planning, especially in megalopolises and large urban areas, must be led by professionals, with as less as possible interference of the political factor. As policy interference is higher, it seems that success is less guaranteed. However, if together with local government professionals, citizens and other stakeholders are going to be involved, then urban planning begins to include their needs and priorities, as those who live and work in urban megalopolis have better insight into problems of a micro environment. In that sense, civil participation improves quality of urban planning and urban development in general, as well as regulation of the MPS.

2. PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Urban built environment refers to the features in urban environment made by human, ranging from buildings, parks, playgrounds, streets, infrastructure etc. Public open space is merely one aspect of this complex urban environment, yet play an important role within the urban context.³

Public open spaces accommodate a large number of everyday activities which emphasize the importance and attractiveness of the city public spaces.⁴

"Public spaces are a vital ingredient of successful cities. They help build a sense of community, civic identity and culture. Public spaces facilitate social capital, economic development and community revitalization. This is as true in the Global South as it is elsewhere in the world".⁵

As the quality of life in urban environments deteriorated with time, streets, residential homes and other public areas have become less and less a place where citizens gather, and became more of an alien space without any social content. A new understanding of citizen interest in the role of a public space customer, then, a new understanding of the cultural context and finally, a new understanding of social inclusion and the complex connection between the physical-urban environment and society as a whole, was necessary.

Urban political science is an intricate matter. It has sociological, political, archaeological, psychological and other markings. Today, urban political science is increasingly focusing on Theories of the relationship between space and society in urban environments, and specifically, public space and the connection between space and urban life.

Many famous authors, including Ghel 1987; Jacobs, 1992; Lynch 1990; Whyte, have given a significant contribution to changing the sociological relationship and physical environment. The complex relationship between space and society as a basic framework for the use of neighborhood public spaces and social activities related to space can be interpreted by Structuration theory of Anthony Giddens, 1984; and the Space Syntax Theory of Bill Hillier and Julian Henson, 1984. According to these theories, the society is structured and established through space.⁶

Lately, especially through United Nations projects, the question of multidimensional usage of public space is being popularized. Project for public spaces, realized by UN HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme) points to 10 basic possibilities to improve public space usage in today's urban environment:

³ Jayakody, R.R.J.C., Amarathunga, D., Haigh, R., 2016. The use of Public Open Spaces for Disaster Resilient Urban Cities, 12th International Conference of the International Institute for Infrastructure Resilience and Reconstruction, 05th – 08th August, 2016, University of Peradeniya, Kandy, Sri Lanka

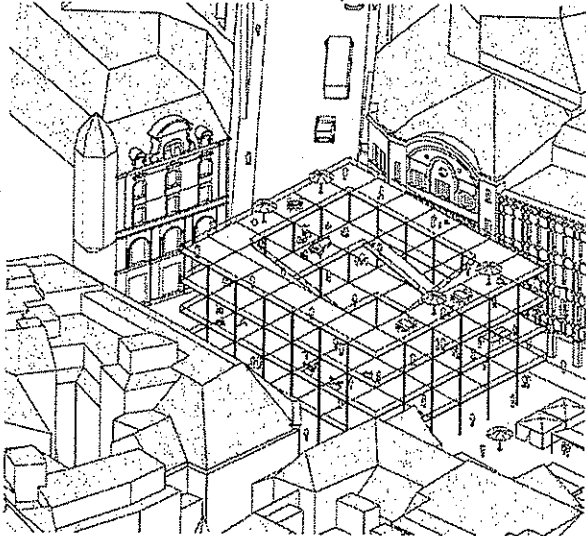
⁴ Gehl, J. 2011. *Life between Buildings: Using Public Space*. Island Press, Washington-Coveio-London.

⁵ Placemaking and the Future of Cities, 2012. *Project for Public Spaces*, UN HABITAT Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), <https://www.pps.org/article/placemaking-and-the-future-of-cities> [Accessed 20rd September 2018].

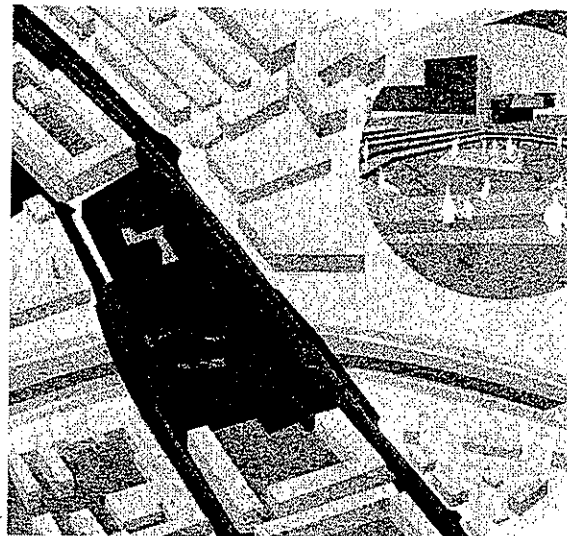
⁶ Vujadinović, M., A Topological 2016, Classification of neighborhood public open spaces: A Case Study of Novi grad – Podgorica, *Facta Universitatis, Series: Architecture and Civil Engineering*, Vol. 14, pp. 111-121.

- Improve Streets as Public Spaces
- Create Squares and Parks as Multi-Use Destinations
- Build Local Economies through Markets
- Design Buildings to Support Places
- Link a Public Health Agenda to a Public Space Agenda
- Reinvent Community Planning
- Power of 10
- Create a Comprehensive Public Space Agenda
- Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper: Start Small, Experiment
- Restructure Government to Support Public Spaces

At the end, many cities around the world have already conducted research and developed studies related to the potential use of public space in urban areas.⁷



Multiplied square
a new public structure on Marktplatz
CAESAR ZUMTHOR ARCHITEKTEN



NEW HOC HBERGERPLATZ
A communal space above the Viese River
FOCKETYN DEL RIO STUDIO

Figure 1: Potential appearance of parts of the public space of the city Basel⁸

The broadest frame of public space definition contains even spatially narrower categories. That pertains to Micro public Spaces.

3. MICRO PUBLIC SPACES

The term Micro Public Spaces (hereinafter: MPS) is still insufficiently determined. In any case, it's tightly connected with the before mentioned theories on the relationship between space and society.

What's to be labeled as a MPS is, therefore dependent of many factors. This concept can be interpreted in various ways by urbanization or architecture professionals, NGOs, politicians and more or less rigid legal norms, and even citizens themselves.

⁷Analysis Public Spaces – City of Adelaide, 2011.

https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/assets/documents/ACC_edited_Adelaide_PSPL2011_02_Public_Spaces.pdf [Accessed 17th September 2018]; Gathering Basel – Six strategies for public space, 2017. SaM Schweizerisches Architekturmuseum, *Forum Basel Exhibition*, 20.05.17-18.06.17, Basel, Switzerland

<https://static1.square.space.com/static/5703f93b9f72661a35f2f9be/t/5967dcbed2b857b20e830403/1499978989756/GATHERING-BASEL-BOOKLET-difusion.compressed.pdf> [Accessed 15th September 2018].

⁸Image: Gathering Basel – Six strategies, p. 2. [Accessed 15th September 2018].

Form the architectural viewpoint, MPS concept could be compared to what Hiller calls impermeable public open space: "The impermeable public open spaces belong to spaces that do not have access value as they do not connect the open and the closed spaces and they are not on every day used paths in terms of easier socialization, unless they have a specific function that will gather more users in one place. These are usually spaces that are not arranged or that are just treated by soft landscaping. Hillier defined them as "trivial islands" – they are out of pedestrian movement lines and they are not defined as islands in a spatial sense. If these places do not have a clearly defined purpose (children's playground, recreation, rest), they should be arranged so to give users a reason to stop or to spend some time in those spaces."⁹

The term MPS, observed from this angle is, however, slightly one-sided. That's why there's a need for it's broader, multidisciplinary definition, which includes the viewpoints of all the elements urban political science recognizes. Since this concept is not sufficiently determined, neither in scientific, not in professional literature, and not even in regulation in national legal systems, there's a need for its broader definition. That's why, perhaps, we should start from its negative determination – what, in fact, MSP isn't?



Figure 2: Public and private - View of the central tourist streets in Zagreb - Tkaličićeva Street Vineyard, public staircase and courtyards as the center of touristic events¹⁰

1. Firstly, it definitely isn't a yard in a private property of individual households in the residential parts of the city.

There's a clear distinction between public and private, although even this question can be a bit polemical.¹¹

2. MPS definitely isn't a space in any rural environment.

3. MPS also isn't the urban parts proclaimed as city parks as already existing city parks, not are they bigger squares as already arranged multipurpose units and spaces with public purpose.

⁹ Vujadinović, M., 2016. A Typological Classification of neighborhood public open spaces: A Case Study of Novi grad – Podgorica, *Facta Universitatis, Series: Architecture and Civil Engineering*, Vol. 14, p. 119.

¹⁰ Photos by author. Zagreb, Gornji grad – Medveščak, Tkaličićeva Street, 24.9.2018.

¹¹ A good example for this argument is the city of Zagreb. A part of the city center, more precisely the city quarter Gornji grad – Medveščak, is the oasis of the MPS. The whole part of the Gornji grad is a very original example of state care, as well as the care of local authorities and the city district about the preservation of the traditional urban and architectural of this part of the city and of Zagreb as a whole, whose origin is related to the XI century. How important is the public interest the old core of Zagreb, and how it's much more significant than the private interest of the owners of the property, show private properties that still house vineyards. How important this urban oasis is, shows the creation of a relatively new, specific cultural and tourist event called "Dvorišta", which has allowed citizens of Zagreb and tourists, for several years now, to visit these private estates, enjoy good music, drink and socialize, which is a good example of linking public and private interests. The goal of this event is that citizens, whenever they meet in Gornji grad, find entertainment and enjoyment in this micro-urban paradise, as well as a unique natural atmosphere in the vineyards. This manifestation is supported by both the private and public sector, and among others the Tourism Organization of the City of Zagreb and the city of Zagreb itself. After just a few years, this event is already considered as one of most successful manifestation held in the city of Zagreb. More information: Oživljena zagrebačka dvorišta: Nove zvijezde kulturne i turističke ponude grada Zagreba, Novi list, 22.7.2016.

http://www.novolist.hr/Kultura/Ostalo/Ozivljena-zagrebacka-dvorista-Nove-zvijezde-kulturne-i-turisticke-ponude-grada-Zagreba?meta_refresh=true [Accessed 26th September 2018].

4. MPS can only be spaces with a clearly defined purpose (playgrounds, places for recreation and relaxation which are abandoned and underutilized), and which can have not just one, but multiple different purposes.

Therefore, MPS can be determined as a urban, mostly public space, with a possible multi-practice usage for entertainment, rest, recreation, fun, satisfying citizens need for culture, or more specifically, socializing citizens with their urban environment. Those can be spaces between residential household, left behind green areas, small squares and playground with no special content, as well as various other spaces which hold a possibility of multidimensional public usage, which work to create a symbiosis between people and the space they live in, and which can, as such, be closely determined with regulation.

Here is a good example of a micro public space, which would be covered by the previous definition, and comes from one city in the United States. The City of West Hollywood has launched the latest of its new micro-parks 2017. Two Tiny Park spaces have been installed on the City's Eastside.¹² Another example is from the municipality of Gornji grad - Medveška, Zagreb. A small monument and park on one of the small squares that keeps the authentic features of this city district is an excellent example of arranging a micro public space.



Figure 3: Photo by Garen Gary Srapyan Courtesy of the City of West Hollywood.¹³

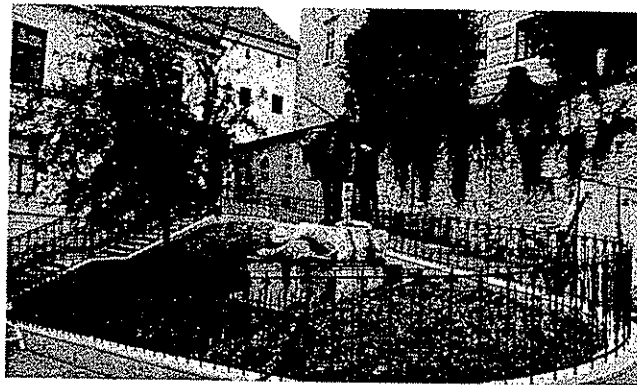


Figure 4: Municipality Gornji grad – Medveščak, City of Zagreb¹⁴

A space defined as such, mostly targets a relatively small number of citizens and other stakeholders, and can thus bring its own implications to the shape of citizen participation.

4. CIVIL PARTICIPATION AND MPS: Basic for Urban Contract

"Participation is the right to participate in community governance, a process allowing participation, influence and control of decision-making, but also learning about how to perceive, recognize, and accept different opinions, feelings, values and knowledge. Citizens' participation contributes to creation of an active citizenship, affects the development of skills and social awareness, and contributes to establishing new relationships and relocation of power and resources in management of local and urban development. An approach based on participation means an involvement of different stakeholders so their attitudes, opinions and problems are considered and included in the planning process."¹⁵

Civil participation implies participation in the process of formulation, adoption and implementation of public policy. Civil participation is been accomplished through the development of awareness for what are the concrete needs of citizens and how to meet these needs, through ensuring citizens' influence on the future of the local community, developing mutual trust between citizens and local authorities, providing support for

¹² City Thinks Outside the Box with Two "Tiny Park" Public Spaces, City of West Hollywood, 10.5.2017. <https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/6771/> [Accessed 27th September 2018].

¹³ Ibid., <https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/6771/> [Accessed 27th September 2018].

¹⁴ Photos by author. Zagreb, Gornji grad – Medveščak 24.09.2018.

¹⁵ Čolić, R., Mojović, Đ., Petković, M., Čolić, N., 2013. Vodič za participaciju u planiranju urbanog razvoja, Ambero Consulting, Beograd, Srbija. p. 18.

local activities and investments, as well as by increasing the participation of citizens in the implementation of joint projects.¹⁶

Contemporary urban planning practice includes different practice of participation within the overall planning process. There are two basic forms of civil participation: official/formal (defined by law, local government statute or other legal acts); and informal forms of consultation and negotiation, which are not explicitly prescribed, which can be applied by authorities depending on their needs and situation. Therefore, participation can be marked as a formal (compulsory) and informal (alternative).¹⁷

Nowadays, as standard forms of formal participation we can identify public insight and public debate. These instruments of participation are normatively prescribed as binding forms in the field of urban planning. In addition, this is been indicated by the general regulation in the field of environmental protection, which established an integral environmental protection system in the Republic of Serbia.¹⁸ The law also includes citizens' participation in adoption of all planning documents and programs, including those related to spatial and urban planning. Spatial and urban plans, i.e. other plans and programs must be subject of public insight. The public has a right, in accordance to the law, to participate in the decision-making process on the strategic assessment of the impacts of spatial and urban plans, i.e. the assessment of the impact of projects on the environment while public presentation of projects and public discussion.¹⁹

Informal participation includes civil participation that is not legally binding, but express possibility and aspiration of broader circle of actors to get involved in the decision-making process. Some of these forms, especially important for the organization of the micro public space, are informal collective actions, neighborhood initiatives, neighborhood councils etc. In addition to obligation of informing citizens on the initiatives of local authorities and citizens' right to submit petitions, these forms can be crucial when it comes to the use and different purposes of MPS.

Therefore, citizens' participation, as well as information and good communication of local authorities with citizens and other stakeholders can be crucial for the regulation of micro public space.

Stakeholders are able, via informal participation, to take an active part in decision-making related to use of MPS, through dialogue with local authorities, especially joint meetings, round tables, as well as self-organizing of larger neighborhood buildings, streets, city districts etc.

Urban art movements, non-governmental organizations, specific art studios are also important actors having an influence for the purpose of the micro-public space. They are increasingly trying to design and implement projects that define the possible purpose and use of MPS.

One of such projects is Urban Living Room. Eddy Kaiser, one of the artists behind the infamous Flying Grass Carpet, has launched a new project, before few years - The Urban Living Room. The Urban Living Room is a small living room in public space. Completely painted blue, the projects aim to give people a more homely experience in public space as well as stimulating spontaneous meetings and conversations. The aim of the Project is to support dialogue and connection in public realm. The Urban Living Room is collaboration between Kaiser's Studio ID Eddy and the Powerboat Theater collective. Powerboat will organize small events and happenings when the small blue living room pops up at a spot.²⁰

¹⁶ Milosavljević, B., 2006. Građansko učešće na lokalnom nivou, Stalna konferencija gradova i opština - SKGO, Beograd, Srbija, pp. 3-18.

¹⁷ Čolić, R., Mojović, Đ., Petković, M., Čolić, N., 2013. Vodič za participaciju u planiranju urbanog razvoja, p. 21.

¹⁸ Milenković, D., 2006. Pravo zaštite životne sredine, Viša politiehnička škola u Beogradu, Beograd, Srbija pp. 59-132.

¹⁹ Zakon o zaštiti životne sredine, „Službeni glasnik RS“ br. 135/04, 36/09, 72/09, 43/11, 14/16, par. Art. 81.

²⁰ The Urban Living Room. PoP Up City, 2012. <https://popupcity.net/the-urban-living-room/> [Accessed 30th September 2018].



Figure 5: Eddy Kaiser – Project Urban living room: Small living room in public space, Rotterdam 2012.²¹

However, the most important of all is to understand the role of local authorities and local public administration. In the essence and according to legal framework, it is a key player in this process.

That's why local authorities must understand the need to revive MPS. Following, local authorities must provide relevant information for the organization of the MPS. Local authorities need to listen to the needs of citizens including creation of micro-social environment as part of public space, having an importance for local community. Last but not least, the local authorities must follow the artistic, cultural and modern tendencies in the urban planning of the MPS.

Dialogue between local authorities and different actors, in any form, is crucial. However, it can also depend on the characteristics of the MPS. When it comes to MPS where there is open access to a large number of citizens, local authorities are more interested in creating, financing and realizing the process of space socialization. When this is not the case, there is a less impact of politics, but then problems of financing and realization are possible.

Any case, local authorities must engage in a dialogue with citizens and other actors, making a form of "urban contract", in order to improve urban planning and find new ways of using the MPS. That's why MPS today becomes an important issue of urban politicalology.

5. MPS – Short Case Study at the City of Belgrade

The organisation of the MPS in the city of Belgrade has been lasting for several years now. It seems, however, there is no planned way to resolve the use of MPS. It often happens that the MPS arrangement is result of single actions of particular city municipalities or city itself, i.e. municipal and city administrations, rather than the systematic way of resolving the socialization of public space in the city. However, a short survey shows that things are changing now.

It also happens that municipal/city authorities do not enter into considerable dialogue with citizens. It happens that individual, sometimes hasty solutions also cause negative reactions among citizens. It comes even to formal or informal connection of citizens leading to local protests of tenants in particular streets or city districts, or making petitions and proposals to administration.

However, this should not be reduced to the negative examples there is definitely. These examples can be considered as positive forms of civil participation, which later lead to numerous good examples in where local city authorities, in cooperation with citizens, have significantly improved use of MPS in their communities. It is certain that open micro-public spaces take more attention of citizens. In this respect, city authorities should take into account that the arrangement and specification of the purpose of such spaces cause a general public reaction, and therefore require a wider participation of citizens and other actors rather than unilateral decisions.

In addition, any action in the central city area provokes greater sensitivity of citizens, meaning that wider participation and consultation with different actors become necessary.

²¹ Ibid.

A good example of the symbiosis of citizen participation and city authorities in Belgrade is the arrangement of MPS in Macvanska Street and the renaming of a part of the street into the street of the famous Belgradian writer and painter Momo Kapor. The arranging of MPS was completed after a strong initiative by the citizens, especially the famous water polo player Slobodan Soro, one of the tenants in this street. Process began with a protest and petition of tenants in August 2015, demanding relocation of an old and neglected gas station and surrounding barracks, and bringing this space into a new purpose. After the modification of the detailed regulation plan, the project bureau Zelenila Beograd made a preliminary solution for this urban pocket based on the results of neighboring workshop. That's how Momo Kapor Square is been emerged, which was completed and solemnly opened on December 28, 2016.²²

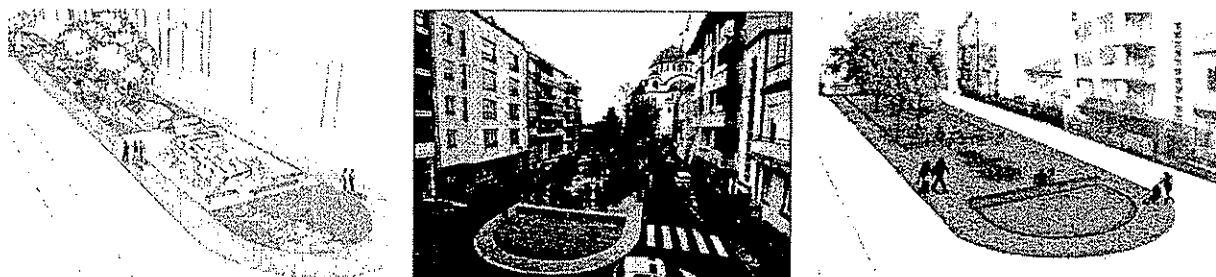


Figure 6: Start and the end: Conceptual three-dimensional solution and photos from opening Momo Kapor Square 28.12.2016²³

There are also many other examples where initial conflict or misunderstanding led to cooperation between citizens and local authorities. At this point, we enter into the field of contemporary social theories, above all Jürgen Habermas, Niklas Luhmann and Manuel Castells on the relations of conflict and cooperation in society, that is, the relation of interaction.²⁴ It seems this relationship is very present when it comes to urban politics, characterized by mentioned sociological and psychological features. It also concerns local authorities and its relationship with the citizens. According to the information issued in September 2017 by then city manager and current Deputy Mayor of the city of Belgrade, Mr. Goran Vesic, in 2017 the city of Belgrade has allocated 600,000 RSD for the organization of parks and small urban pockets, and from 2014 to September 2017, 20 projects were realized, while additional 17 projects should be realized by the end of 2017.²⁵

Shortly in October 2017, then Mayor of Belgrade and current Minister of Finance Mr. Mali announced that the budget of the city of Belgrade would provide around 200 millions RSD in 2018 for inclusion of citizens in proposal and realization of ideas and projects for the arrangement of small parks, districts and street.²⁶

At the level of urban municipalities that are part of central city zone, similar projects have been implemented more often, but even deserving, not always under scrutiny of general public. One example is

²²Stanari mačvanske traže park a ne pumpu i barake. Večernje novosti, 10.08.2015. <http://www.novosti.rs/vesti/beograd.74.html:562768-Stanari-Macvanske-traze-park-a-ne-pumpu-i-barake> [Accessed 2nd October 2018]; Idejno rešenje Skvera Mome Kapora prema sugestijama građana – realizacija na proleće 2016, E-kapija, 21.12.2015, <https://www.ekapija.com/news/1316243/idejno-resenje-skvera-mome-kapora-prema-sugestijama-gradjana-realizacija-na-prolece-2016> [Accessed 3rd October 2018]; Otvoren skver Moma Kapora, Politika, 29.12.2016. <http://www.politika.rs/sr/clanak/371095/Otvoren-Skver-Mome-Kapora> [Accessed 3rd October 2018].

²³ Photos and images: Otvoren skver Moma Kapora, Politika, 29.12.2016. <http://www.politika.rs/sr/clanak/371095/Otvoren-Skver-Mome-Kapora> [Accessed 3rd October 2018]; Sećanja, crteži i priče – ovako će izgledati skver Mome Kapora, Blic, 21.12.2015.

<https://www.blic.rs/vesti/beograd/secanja-crtezi-i-price-ovako-ce-izgledati-skver-mome-kapora/86tr4p2> [Accessed 4th October 2018].

²⁴ Pusić, E., 2007. Javna uprava I društvena teorija, Društveno veleučilište u Zagrebu – Pravni fakultet Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, Zagreb, Hrvatska. pp. 1-17.

²⁵ I Vračar dobija novi izgled, Mondo/Tanjug, 6.9.2017. <http://mondo.rs/a1038643/info/Beograd/I-Vracar-dobija-novi-izgled.html> [Accessed 4th October 2018].

²⁶ Poziv beograđanima – konkuriši za uređenje parka, kvarta, ulice, Večernje novosti, 22.9.2017 <http://www.novosti.rs/vesti/beograd.74.html:687044-Poziv-Beogradjanima-Konkurisi-za-uredjenje-parka-kvarta-ulice> [Accessed 4 October 2018].

reconstructed park in Braće Jerković area in Vozdovac municipality in 2017. Public green space inside the housing block between Mestroviceva, Jovan Bjelić and Braće Jerković streets, thanks to the employees of JKP "Zelenilo - Beograd", received a completely new look in May 2017, and afterwards became again meeting place for tenants and children of this quarter.²⁷



Figure 7: Braće Jerković –Small Park between buildings in the city residential area²⁸

Any case, city of Belgrade is increasingly following new trends in arranging and improving the purposes and content of the MPS. This process must continue in the future and get a systemic character.

6. CONCLUSION

Although the issue of arrangement of MPS is the subject of numerous scientific fields and expert discussions, urban politicology is able through its multidisciplinary approach to unify urban, architectural, legal, sociological and psychological elements. Therefore, numerous future studies of the relationship between urban life and urban development, especially in urban areas, depends on the very development of this approach.

A short study has shown that the city of Belgrade as a mega polis, in the last fifteen years also participated in specific sociological experiment of adaptation of urban areas to the needs of citizens, and reduction of so-called "urban alienation" that follows their development.

This is increasingly reflected in the renewal and adjustment of MPS purpose to the everyday needs of citizens for socializing, meeting, reducing the sense of alienation and satisfying various cultural, sports, recreational and other contents.

However, from all above mentioned, we could draw a few conclusions.

The first would be that systemic solution is necessity. Some *ad hoc* attempts have significantly reduced lack of system and structure in this area, but such measures are unsustainable in the long term. Meaning, method of determination the priorities of reconstruction and renovation, raising awareness of the need for public participation, budget planning for the costs of MPS regulation, ways of collecting and sending information on the needs of citizens etc., seeks an establishing of clear system for arranging small urban spaces. It is also necessary to significantly improve the legal framework, especially when it comes to further definition of the concept of MPS.

Citizens' consultations and participation are crucial for the socialization of MPS. Citizens know best what their needs in the public space are, especially in their streets, quarters or neighborhood. Dialogue in local city and municipality administration is necessary and should not lead to hasty urban solutions, without respecting true needs of citizens for different contents in the MPS. In any case, this is a relationship that can have, from a theoretical standpoint, different outcomes: conflict with local administration; cooperation with local administration; as well as a relationship of permanent conflict and cooperation that will lead to a new higher value - socialization of the MPS.

In the concrete case of the city of Belgrade, we can notice that it is necessary to encourage cooperation with actors, and this should have a special priority in the future. For example, architectural studies are not

²⁷ Novi kutak za mališane u Braće Jerković, Blic, 16.5.2017. <https://www.blic.rs/vesti/beograd/nov-kutak-za-malisane-u-naselju-brace-jerkovic/qpedhfc> [Accessed 4th October 2018].

²⁸ Author of photos: Gradsko zelenilo – promo 2017. <https://www.blic.rs/vesti/beograd/nov-kutak-za-malisane-u-naselju-brace-jerkovic/qpedhfc> [Accessed 4th October 2018].

significantly recognized as potential partners of the City of Belgrade in this process. Realized projects mostly arise from urban and architectural solutions of Gradsko Zelenilo; so a significant stimulus would be if other architects would be involved in the planning of architectural solutions. There is not enough knowledge about the possible participation of private sector in financing and reconstruction of the MPS through financial support. Citizens' associations, especially when it comes to the needs of children and the elderly, could also participate more significantly, especially in creating conceptual designs for organization of MPS. Finally, some forms of public-private partnership in the organization and socialization of MPS could also come into consideration in the future.

Self-sustainability is a special problem. It is still common that renovated MPSs soon become abandoned and not enough utilized places. One of the reasons is there are no other contents that would follow the significant use of MPS. For example, renovated small parks between buildings become quickly filled with garbage because there is no coordination for utility services. Momo Kapor Square and other renovated small squares, especially in the summer months, could be a gathering places for painters and writers, classic music performance etc., but this requires connecting associations and citizens, professional associations of writers and musicians as well as new urban incentives. Frequently renovated public spaces are an easy target for vandals, and for better prevention of such phenomena, better cooperation between police and local community is necessary. In the long term, renovated MPSs become what they used to be: neglected and ugly places even more frightening to citizens, which stop being places of their urban socialization.

The role of local authorities and citizens in the process of urban planning of micro public space, as been proved, is crucial. However, there are still many open questions to be answered. In any case, in the city of Belgrade, the process that been started, should be continued in the future.

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