

# **DiverCITY4 Initiative**

## **Minutes from the first series of workshops 12-13 of December, 2019**

*Language of workshops: English – without translation*

### **I. Title of the thematic area**

HOUSING

### **II. Thematic Leader:**

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## **DAY 1 of the workshops**

### **III. Participants of Day 1:**

1. Expert 1 - Jan Paweł Cieśla, Project manager, designer, responsible for innovation: first model apartment At home despite the age (PL)
2. Expert 2 - Anders Bohlin Borgersen, Welfare Department, Oslo Municipality (NO)
3. Expert 3 – Tryggv Thorhallson, lawyer, Icelandic Association of Local Authorities (IS)
4. The Observer – Joanna Held, (PL)
5. Additional attendees: Magdalena Baborska-Narozny
6. Team Leader

### **IV. Thematic Leader presentation (2 hours)**

1. preliminary presentation of the overall concept of the 3 series of workshops: specifying the desired final product, focused on publication and conference speech;
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation about housing trends in Poland – introduction to the main topics of workshop and their general background:
  - a. demographic
  - b. intra migration
  - c. historical
  - d. others (i.a. socio- and psychological trends)
3. discussion:
  - a. this part was completed by the knowledge of Mr Cieśla, with the focus on the Warsaw case among others,

- b. there were some questions put by the foreign experts about housing trends impacts and requests to refine some issues,
- c. comparing experiences and housing trends between countries of representatives was an important part of the discussion

**V. Expert 1: Mr Cieśła presentation (1,5 hours):**

1. presentation theme: problems and solutions within the residential blocks in Poland
2. elements of presentations:
  - a. general statistics about "prefabricate" architecture in Poland
  - b. crucial part of demographic statistics: less elder men – case to consider
  - c. elder people living conditions case study
  - d. examples of architectural solutions for "prisoners of upper floors" and other for all seniors
3. by explaining the problematic of flats Mr Cieśła focused mainly on his specialistic topic: living conditions problems generated by the socialist architecture for its main dwellers: seniors
  - a. there was speculated real demand on architectural solutions for elder society
  - b. the discussion was extended to the problem of general living conditions problems: who general need our help in socialist architecture, how it can be renovated
  - c. the team leader pointed out other kinds of problems included aesthetics ("pastels trend" – pl. "pastelozna" after elevation renovations, general aversion of society for the socialist architecture)
4. general conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> part:
  - a. the main part was programmed to explain the foreign experts all polish problems connected with the socialistic blocks of flats
  - b. it is needed to underline that this part of the architecture and urbanistic forms is untypical for the foreign experts' experiences
  - c. it was crucial to explain and to discuss all aspects connected with the underlined problems
  - d. we conclude some common problems as dysfunctional residential areas, e.g. demographic changes, lack a sense of local community (just general issues)

(after the lunch break)

strong discussion with the Team Leader of the Environment area: results of renewable energy sources implementations, in the law, economic and social areas; expanding the polish problematic with tenement houses and ecological awareness through our society

**VI. Expert 3 presentation (1,5 hours):**

1. presentation topic: programmes activating local communities
2. elements of presentations:

- a. households statistics for Oslo and Norway in general,
  - b. methods of activating local communities - examples
3. discussion:
- a. comments about the statistics results and comparing to the Iceland and Poland situation,
  - b. correlations between polish and Norwegian strong needs to be a homeowner and the contrast of Icelandic case
  - c. problems of immigrants dwelling areas and their living standards
  - d. typical group of tenants: polish, Norwegian and Icelandic examples
4. conclusion:
- a. the main issues of the presentations: immigrants, their lack a sense of locality and methods to activate,
  - b. this topic we should transfer to polish case of activating society living in a block of flats; there we should not concentrate on immigrants problems, but with a post-socialist society and short-term tenants,
  - c. methods to activate – which of them can we applied in the polish conditions, which we already have applied and which are not enough,

**VII. Expert 4 presentation (1,5 hours):**

- 1. presentation topic: short-term rental – problems and law solutions, examples of good management in housing association
- 2. elements of presentations:
  - a. general statistics about Iceland and the area of residential demand
  - b. general impacts of the actually housing market situation
  - c. short-term rental problems
  - d. short-term rental solutions
- 3. discussion:
  - a. what we understand by the short-term rental: 2 types – tourists (“very short-term”) vs. students and posted workers (“longer sort-term”),
  - b. experiences exchanges in the field of long-term rental (Polish – Norwegian – Icelandic): problems (mainly),
  - c. considering the question: should we eliminate the short-term renting or learn how to live with them in a harmony
- 4. conclusion:
  - a. strong dependency on the short-term rental is connected with the ability to finance our own home; in the Iceland case, there has started strong changes after the financial crisis in 2008, when many families lose their home and have started to live on rent. Lack of housing has ceased to be stigmatic and has started to open a new trend: live on rent;

- b. a big problem is a short-term rent created by the tourist's groups and "Airbnb" and commons; there was an important part of the discussion around law solutions and regulations, the essence of NGO activity and public-private partnership.

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## DAY 2 of the workshops

### **VIII. Participants of the Day 2:**

1. Expert 1 - Jan Paweł Cieśla, Project manager, designer, responsible for innovation: first model apartment At home despite the age (PL)
2. Expert 2 - Anders Bohlin Borgersen, Welfare Department, Oslo Municipality (NO)
3. Expert 3 - Tryggiv Thorhallson, lawyer, Icelandic Association of Local Authorities (IS)
4. Team Leader

### **IX. Thematic Leader introduction (15min.):**

1. general scheme of this day meeting
2. brief speech about provided materials: morphological types of residential areas in Wrocław, areas of block housing in Wrocław, local demography and urban types of socialist residential areas review
3. trip programme + map

### **X. Trip (2 hours):**

1. two iconic of polish socialist architecture: Trzonolinowiec, Galerowiec with Mezonety
2. Piłsudskiego Street – a post-war main retail street in Wrocław (and its typical architecture)
3. Zielińskiego Bazaar – a type of an example of retail structure born after the 1990s and still vital
4. Good examples of modernizing socialist residential areas (part of residential between Grabiszyńska Street and Powstańców Śląski Street)
5. The bad side of socialist residential areas; problems in the ground between Powstańców Śląski Street and Komandorska Street.

### **XI. After trip discussion and summary (45 min):**

- a. what we exactly mean by the polish aesthetic problems with blocks of flats: individual decorations on balconies, antennae on the building facades, huge car parks problems,
- b. how we start to change local space and what what the citizens need more
- c. new topic: electronic and hybrid cars vs governmental and local governmental funding, needed infrastructure in elder residential areas.

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## General summary

Our meeting was related to learn polish issue of block of flats problematic.

We generate and agree 3 fundamental problems:

- short-term tenants (especially students)
- lack of a sense of locality, local community
- quality standards of living: aesthetic, local space improving standards, accessibility, especially for seniors.

We also divide our problematic in a 3 sectors:

- economic and social (responsible person: Anders Bohlin Borgersen),
- legal (responsible person: Tryggiv Thorhallson),
- architectural (responsible person: Jan Paweł Cieśla).

In the on-line discussion, we will try also to extend this cooperation with the help of Mr Mync, absent of the 1<sup>st</sup> part of Workshop.

In the next 2 months (January – February of 2020) we are planning to cooperate and generate the results of the problems from the above.

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## General schedule of the second part of the workshop

### 1. 1<sup>st</sup> DAY:

- discussion and summary of the first part of the workshop theme by developing the solutions for the housing blocks (socialist housing)

### **Second theme panel: Theme: upgrading standards of living in the new housing estates created by private developer market**

- short presentation for introduction of problematic
- presentation about polish good examples: WUWA I and WUWA II
- trip to the WUWA II and to an example of a typical contemporary housing estate with lower conditions of urbanist standards
- the discussion:
  - o What kind of problems in this area we have noticed?
  - o Polish and foreign experiences in this field.
  - o What we can do to change the reality?
  - o How in expert's countries the government solve such problems?
  - o How we can solve the problem in the field of economics, law, architecture?

strong emphasis will be placed on: economic and legal influences, as well as upgrading architectural standards.

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2. 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY:

- brainstorming and other forms of activating
- discussion: finding solutions for the emphasized problems
- summary of the second part of the workshop theme by developing the solutions for the typical contemporary residential areas.