The Role of Trust in a Participatory Process

ANNA DOBROVA

The project described in this thesis is also accompanied by a short documentary film **"To the Table"**.

You are welcome to watch it online

vimeo.com/181523697

Password: **trust**

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Vienna | Austria

DIPLOMARBEIT

The Role of Trust in Participatory Process.

A contextual study of mass housing district in Kyiv.

ausgeführt zum Zwecke der Erlangung des akademischen Grades

eines Diplom-Ingenieurs / Diplom-Ingenieurin

unter der Leitung

Univ.Prof. DI Mag.phil. Dr.phil. Peter Mörtenböck

E264 Institut für Kunst und Gestaltung

und

DI Dr.-Ing. Gesa Witthöft

E280.6 Department für Raumplanung, Fachbereich Soziologie

eingereicht an der Technisches Universität Wien

Fakultät für Architektur und Raumplanung

von

Anna Dobrova

1129555

Wien am 07.01.2017

Abstract

Mass housing is an unique urban phenomena, evolved in the post-Soviet cities. Arguably, it creates a monotonous environment for living and thus has a negative influence on the community development. Although most of the population of Kyiv lives in the mass housing areas, very few multidisciplinary studies of life in this neighbourhoods exist. In the course of this thesis, the social life in mass housing districts was analysed and the hidden potential of its local communities was discovered, using artistic investigation based on Participatory Action Research. During the investigation, the author was working with the community of Obolon district in Kyiv by planning and implementing a project together with the inhabitants in their shared space. In the results of the investigation, the impact of intervention on the community is summarised, a possible adaptation of the methodology is discussed and a future potential of Participatory Action Research within the mass housing districts of Kyiv is evaluated.

Zusammenfassung

Der Massenwohnbau ist ein einzigartiges urbanes Phänomen, entwickelt in den post-Sowjetischen Städten. Diskutierbar ist, dass er eine monotone Lebensumgebung schafft und dadurch einen negativen Einfluss auf die Gemeinschaftsbildung hat. Obwohl die meisten EinwohnerInnen von Kiew in Massenwohnbausiedlungen leben, liegen nur sehr wenige multidisziplinäre Studien über das Leben in diesen Nachbarschaften vor. Im Zuge dieser Arbeit, wurde das soziale Leben in den Massenwohnbezirken analysiert und das verborgene Potenzial seiner lokalen Gemeinschaften durch künstlerische Untersuchungen, basierend auf der Methode der *Participatory Action Research*, entdeckt. Während der Recherche arbeitete die Autorin mit den BewohnerInnen des Bezirks *Obolon* in Kiew zusammen und hat ein Projekt mit diesen in deren gemeinschaftlichen Raum geplant und umgesetzt. Die Auswirkung der Intervention auf die Gemeinschaft wird in den Ergebnissen der Forschungsarbeit zusammengefasst. Weiters wird eine mögliche Adaptierung der Methodik diskutiert und ein zukünftiges Potenzial der *Participatory Action Research* für die Massenwohnbezirke von Kiew wird ausgewertet.

Table of Contents

Glossary

Artistic investigation. This term is introduced to define an approach to research the community of Obolon in the mass housing area in Kyiv. Although the author's method was partially based on *Participatory Action Research*, the technique was more experimental and artistic, which means more intuitive and less methodological. Further in the text the term is replaced simply by 'investigation' or 'research'.

Contact is the relation that randomly appears between people. In urban terminology, it is fundamentally the phenomenon which is extremely necessary for everything from the neighbourhood safety to a general sense of social well-being[1]. The more complex and multi-layered public space is, the more conducive environment it creates for the contact to happen. According to *Samuel R. Delany* *"contact is the conversation that starts in the line at the grocery counter with the person behind you while the clerk is changing the paper roll in the cash register"* [2].

Inquiry is a demand formulated by the researcher and community members. It is important to know how to go about inquiring into the matter to reach the goal of the investigation in the participatory process. *"The answer should be possessed before raising the question."* [3]

Intervention. Art or urban intervention is an interaction with an existing structure or situation, be it the audience, an institution, public domain or space. Here the author defines the final collaborative project with the community as an intervention.

Local Knowledge refers to a complex collective knowledge, experience, practices and representations that are maintained and developed by people with their history and interactions with everyday environment[4]. It can be the local perception of the place, language, culture and a view on the world.

Narrative. Informal and personal narratives of the communities provide unique information to analyse. *"A form of inspirational engagement during a long and often frustrating process – a device to help us develop a set of background ideas, an identity for a place – a 'there' for somewhere that was not there before."* [5] (pp. 74-77).

Networking. According to *Delany*[2], it is what people build 'horizontally' for professional relationships and within the circles of their interests (friends, school, university, work, hobbies, etc.). *Delany* compares *Networking* to *Contact,* the latter being something that happens randomly and 'vertically'.

Participation is a process of engaging or taking part in any kind of activity. *"Participation is something that you should start – and this is something you should not forget – it lasts forever."* [6]

Participatory Action Research is an approach to research in communities through the common project with the participants (pp.15-19).

Perception is personal ability to understand, see and interpret. *Gibson* tried to prove that the humans physically can perceive the information and environment as it is. However they don't, while each perception and understanding of the world depends on multiple patterns of an individual's knowledge, culture, education, background, experience, etc[7].

Scepticism. *David Hume*[8] defined scepticism as a philosophy of trust, based on doubt. Sceptics ground their knowledge on their personal observation as a way of knowing about reality. People trust and believe in facts which they can easily observe or check. The author is using this term describing the context of social changes in the post-Soviet society (pp. 40-44).

1.
Jane Jacobs "The Death and Life of Great American Cities", 1961.

2.
Samuel R Delany "..Three Two One Contact: Times Square Red" essay from "Giving Ground: The Politics of Propinquity" by Copjec, Joan, 1999 (pp. 27–28).

3.
Chevalier & Buckles "Participatory Action Research" 2013, (p.42).

4.
Food and agricultural organisation by United Nations, essay "What are local knowledge?" www.fao.org (accessed October 5, 2016).

5.
Chiles Prue "What if?...A narrative process for reimagining the city", from "Architecture and Participation" by Jeremy Till, 2000.

6.
Isabelle Doucet and Nel Janssens "Transdisciplinary Knowledge Production in Architecture and Urbanism: Towards Hybrid Modes of Inquiry", 2011.

7.
J.J. Gibson (1904–1979) "The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception", 1979.

8.
Davie Hume (1711–1776) was a Scottish philosopher, historian, economist, and essayist known especially for his philosophical empiricism and scepticism.

9.
David Throsby,
"Economics and
Culture", 2000.

10.
Francis Fukuyama,
"Trust: The Social
Virtues and The
Creation of Prosperity",
1996.

Trust could be seen as a global term on the city level and as a personal feeling on the level of individual. *David Throsby*[9], explaining Trust as the top of the social capital in the city, underlines three categories of Trust: **Institutional, interpersonal and environmental** (pp. 144-145). *High level* of environmental Trust, for example, defines the will of the citizen to take the active part in the life of his or her neighbourhood, the enthusiasm to take responsibility for the space shared with others and to invest personal time and resources, without fear. *Low level*, on the contrary, is when a person does not perceive oneself in his or her environment, does not understand her or his place, rights, features and principles of the environment functioning. In this work Trust is discussed as the main glue in any process. According to *Fukuyama*[10], Trust is a fundamental feature of the human society, confirmed both at the individual and social levels. Trust comes as a common sense of values and believes. Trust is important, because when people are surrounded by those who share their beliefs, they become more confident to take risks, more confident to experiment, explore and to take responsibility.

Users. People who use the space: inhabitants, customers, workers, etc. In comparison to a client, who commissions the building, a user is someone for whom the architectural space is created. Despite the ubiquity of this term in the architectural sphere, the author tries to minimize its usage in the thesis, because of its too general and impersonal meaning. Where possible, the term 'user' is replaced by 'actors', 'participants', 'people', 'target groups', 'audience', stakeholders', or similar expressions, which are suitable to the context.

Introduction

11.
Luís M. A. Bettencourt
"The Kind of Problem
a City Is", 2013, www.
santafe.edu (accessed
December 24, 2016).

The Modernism movement has left a massive residential heritage where more than one billion people live now worldwide[11]. In post-Soviet countries like Ukraine, the modernistic urban principles are still being used in planning new dwellings without any critical analysis and adaptation. Despite the stagnant material environment, cities have significantly changed within their society, economy and governance after the crash of the USSR in 1991. All these transformations are an interesting phenomenon to research, though there is the lack of multidisciplinary investigations of life in mass housing settlements, especially in Kyiv. Highlighting and understanding the life of the majority of the population could bring more contribution into the development of the city.

Here not only a theoretical approach, but a combination of methods is needed, by collecting not only quantitative data but practical as well. The initial information on how modernistic environment affects the life of post-Soviet society and vice versa is preserved in the local knowledge of the inhabitants. That is why the research techniques with community engagement in the process help to see not only the wider but, the deeper story. This thesis describes the attempt to study the neighbourhood in Obolon, one of the mass housing districts in Kyiv, by using different participatory practices. Due to the participatory approach, both sides (participants and researchers) benefit: researchers have the possibility to gather unique information for their investigation by acting with the community, and the community can plan and implement a project that is useful for them. The author was using several methodologies and approaches for her project between *Participatory Action Research* and *Artistic Investigation*. The implementation process showed the complexity of participatory methods, especially in the distinct society with high level of mistrust in Kyiv. The key issue in the project was the creation of trustful contact between the research group and participants.

In frames of the participatory project implemented with one neighbourhood in Kyiv, this thesis discusses two aspects:

1. What effect can be gained by applying the participatory approach in the investigation of the community in mass housing district in Kyiv?

2. Which role does the trust play in participatory research methods in institutional, interpersonal, and environmental categories?

Personal motivation of this thesis is to prove the importance of the modified *Participatory Action Research* methodology for the following studies of peripheral areas in the complex socio-spatial situation in post-Soviet cities. On the other hand, the goal is to analyse the participatory process regarding the trust concept and to set up individual rules, principles and ethics, based on personal experience and participatory action research for the further projects and investigations.

This thesis consists of seven chapters. It begins with the discussion about the new role of an architect with new socio-responsible tasks. The part about *Methodologies and Theoretical Background* will provide the reader with the history and varieties of participatory practices. The third chapter will shortly describe the particularity of the Soviet Mass housing phenomena and the changes in the post-socialistic society to bring the reader into the context of the researched area. At that point, the socio-spatial analysis of the studied district of Obolon in Kyiv explains the context of the area in frames of its history, modernistic spatiality and society. The central part of any participatory project is *The Process*, which describes the main challenges and phases of the work with the community before the final intervention. *The Intervention* itself is outlined in the form of a diary with less analytical language, as it is full of personal and humorous stories. Afterwards, the process was examined and analysed in attempt to understand the structure of the community, of the life in the mass housing area and the participatory process itself. In *Conclusion* part, the author discusses the sensitivity of the process and tries to figure out the fundamental principles of participatory approach for her further work.

The new role of an architect

"In Architecture new ideas are at least 50 years old."
Giancarlo de Carlo[12]

For the last decades, the attitude to the architecture has changed significantly. Each new generation of young professionals widens the field by bringing new disciplines in it. Architecture is no longer only the aesthetic discipline for designing buildings and environment. In the modern world, it would not survive without consideration of socio-political reality.

Historically, the architecture used to be a privileged profession as it needs a lot of learning time for serving the people, who were able to order the project and implement it. Architecture is still very dependable from the economy field. Forced into the race for budget and client satisfaction, both artistic and technological architectural discipline interrupted its connection with social transformation. The discussion about additional social tasks in architecture has started yet by some members of *CIAM*[13]. The participants of the Congress in different time were proclaiming to work not only with spatial and constructive aspects but to investigate social responsibility during the planning process.

One of the members of *Team X, Giancarlo de Carlo* challenged modernist doctrines by asking fundamental questions:

"What is architecture's public? The architects themselves? The clients who commission the buildings? The people – all the people who use architecture? If the third hypothesis is true – that all the people who use architecture are its public, and today this seems hard to resist."[14]

The point is that credibility of architecture disappeared when it took an elite position on the side of the client rather than of the user. 'Client-oriented' design can be one of the reasons for abandoned spaces, ghettos, gated communities, consumerist society, segregation and broken social networks. Architectural activity nowadays depends on transformations in the structures of society.

12.
The key figure in the discourse on participation in architecture. Giancarlo De Carlo's participation in the debate and ideology of *Team X* was the prelude for the development of his participatory design methodology and his promotion of architecture and design as socially responsible practices. www.spatialagency. net/database/ giancarlo.de.carlo (accessed June, 2016).

13.
Congres Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne, 1928–56.

14.
Giancarlo De Carlo, "Architecture's public", 1969.

15.
Giancarlo De Carlo "Architecture's public", 1969, essay from Blundell Jones Peter, Petrescu Doina, Till Jeremy "Architecture and Participation", 2005, p. 11.

"Architecture is too important to be left for architects only." [15]

To create qualitative and valuable space for people, a new task for an architect is to identify the real user's inquiry, which does not mean planning 'for' them only, but planning 'with' them. That is why the new concept of architectural quality needs growth and flexibility of the profession.

Participatory architecture intends to break the barrier of 'hardly-received-knowledge' of this 'elite' field and to share them with the users, which means to trust them. This also means that an architect will have to share a credit with the users as well: *"to discover REAL needs of the users means exposing and acknowledging their rights to have things and their rights to express themselves"* [16]. The process plays a primary role in the participatory project, which brings not only results but builds the sustainable community and society.

16.
Giancarlo De Carlo "Architecture's public", 1969.

While society is rapidly changing, the human activities are mostly concentrated in economics, consumption, technological power and borders, the role of architecture could influence this paradox. Architects still have the possibility to choose which side to take – the side of the power ('client-oriented') structure, or the side of those excluded by it.

The process of participatory planning takes much more time as well as needs more knowledge and patience, while it goes far beyond the design process and pushes the author to collaborate and to communicate with the potential users of the space.

In this thesis, the author tries to discover how the participatory process works with and influences not on the project only but the architect himself.

University of Urbino. The concrete and masonry structures blend into the landscape topography of the site and a large number of communal and creative meeting spaces – open not only to the student community but also to the general public – act as a catalyst for the social life of the small Italian town. Project Architect *Giancarlo De Carlo* with *Kathy Mueller, Astolfo Sartori, Antonio Vecchi, Yasuo Watanabe, Carla Zamboni, Vittorio Korach*.

Figure 1. The Colle de Cappuccini student housing, the implemented manifestation of Giancarlo de Carlo. Source – Cesare Colombo.

Methodologies and Theoretical Background

Every practice could be described by a theory, but not every theory could be transformed into practice. This thesis is not built on the existing theories or concepts. The author used an experimental and artistic approach, partly based on the *Participatory Action Research (PAR)*. Nevertheless, it is important to discuss briefly related concepts of participatory practices and their development in order to locate this research in the academic context and also to argue, why some concepts should have been modified in this research context.

In the following section the basic principles and the short history of development of *Participatory Action Research* are explained, as well as the variations of the examples of participatory methods in other fields. Moreover, the variations of participatory methods in architecture and art are marked out. Apart from that, the challenges and problems of participatory processes are discussed, which pushed the author to think about the question of trust and the principles to use in the further work. The aim of this chapter is not to make the general introduction to *PAR*, but to give the reader a basic understanding of this investigation and to bring into varieties and experiments the author was using in her project.

What is Participatory Action Research (PAR)?

Participatory Action Research is a flexible methodology, whose main idea is to investigate not only 'on' or 'for' people, but also 'with' people. Investigation of this kind makes sense of the world through efforts to transform it, as opposed to simply studying human behaviour and world views.

PAR can be defined as a research process, where the situation in focus is studied through the creation of the collaborative project. As the result of this project participants formulate their inquiry under the facilitation of the *PAR* researcher.

Consequently, during participatory approach both sides (actors and researchers) benefit: researchers have a possibility to gather information for their work and participants can use the opportunity to implement the useful project for their community.

The advantages of this methodology over the more theoretical ones are split between theory and practice.
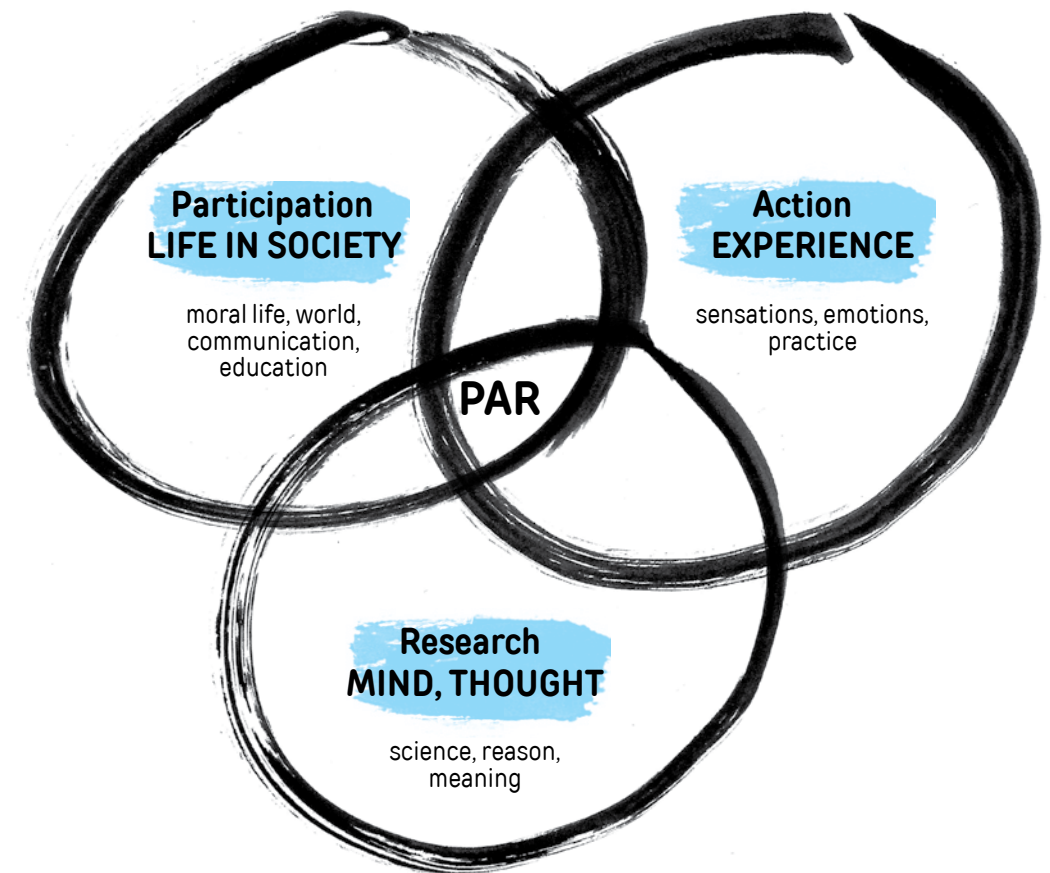
Participatory Action Research works in three accordant levels as illustrated in Figure 2:
social, as the reflection and action on the complex factors that currently shape the course of human interaction on a global scale;
experience, focusing on solving practical problems and strengthening the interconnections of self-awareness;
mind, trying to understand 'the social construction of reality' and to explore the phenomenology of knowledge, experience and society[1].

Through all the stages of historical development described above, it is seen that *PAR* has been formed as an expression of science, based on reflectivity and self-experimentation. Its tools have mushroomed from different community development techniques from psychology, sociology, education, community development and social movements.

1.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J, "Participatory Action Research", 2013, pp. 9–11.

Participation
LIFE IN SOCIETY

moral life, world, communication, education

Action
EXPERIENCE

sensations, emotions, practice

PAR

Research
MIND, THOUGHT

science, reason, meaning

Figure 2. Participation, Action, Research levels.

History of Participatory Practices

Participatory techniques and approaches are the product of the long lasting interaction between researchers in different fields of science, health service, government agents and local populations.

The key to understanding the roots of all kinds of Participatory practices lays in original ideas and practices developed by psychologist *Kurt Lewin*[2]. His approach to group dynamics and experiential learning was used for solving social problems. He coined the expression *"action research"*, defining it as *"comparative research on the conditions and effects of various forms of social action and research leading to social action"*[3].

His ideas were developed during post-war period into *Socio-technical analysis* at the influential *Tavistock Clinic and Institute* in London in the 1940s. By combining general medicine and psychiatry with *Freudian* and *Jungian* psychology and science, the institute tried to help British army face various problems, such as low morale, civil resettlement for repatriated prisoners of war and as a response of an industrial sector facing insufficient capital and low productivity problems. Organisational activity and interaction between patients presented many advantages, including more efficient communication, greater trust and better performance during accomplishing tasks.[4]

The efforts of the *Tavistock* to mesh personal growth (psyche) and institutional change (society) gave rise to a field of scholarly research and professional intervention known as **psycho-sociology**. Due to the further contributors and researchers of the *action research* and *psycho-sociological interventions*, sociology and psychiatry, the technique and theory have left the laboratories and clinics and began to be used in other areas.

In the 1960s active research started to be used in the **rural** and **community development** in the Global South. The primary goals were to use positive methods of scientific thinking and experimentation adapted to support rural participation and sustainable livelihoods. *Farming Systems Research and Extension (FSR-E)* was one of these kinds. The attempt of the organisation was to improve traditional agronomic practice and existing environment of poor farmers, isolated from innovative techniques. Participant observation and grouping of farmers by similarity in practices and circumstances to select possible influential points for changes were among the methods used. Despite the fact that *FSR-E* was used largely as a client-oriented approach, it still became the first example where farmers had access to the research process as main decision-makers.

Another field that should be discussed while studying the history of what we now call *PAR* was **education**. *Critical pedagogy* by *Freire*[5] was created to rethink adult education and to bring oppressed people to both literacy and political consciousness. With the focus on dialogue reflection and action, *Critical Pedagogy* was to overcome the relations of domination and subordination between the oppressors and the oppressed, colonisers and the colonised[6].

Orlando Fals-Borda[7] distrusted traditional academic science as it was. By developing his approach, grounded in community-based needs, knowledge and action learning, new scientific research method was created. Studying the communities in Latin America, he developed his approach, grounded in community-based needs, knowledge and action learning, his ethical conception united analysis and a practice through the idea of commitment.

Finally, the approaches described above came into the **public sphere**. In the 1970s, the French investigator of social movements *Alain Touraine*[8] blamed sociologists for being too theoretical. He proposed a *sociology of intervention* involving the creation of artificial spaces for movement activists concerned with particular problems and for non-activists affected by them to meet voluntarily and debate views with other concerned parties (experts, stakeholders, users, government, etc.).

2.
Kurt Lewin (1890 – 1947), German–American psychologist, known as one of the modern pioneers of social, organizational and applied psychology.

3.
Kurt Lewin, "Action Research and Minority Problems", 1946, pp. 202–203.

4.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J "Participatory Action Research", 2013, pp. 9–32.

5.
Pablo Freire (1921 – 1997) was a Brazilian educator and philosopher who was a leading advocate of critical pedagogy.

6.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J "Participatory Action Research", 2013, p. 26.

7.
Orlando Fals Borda (1925 – 2008) was a Colombian researcher and sociologist, one of the most important Latin American thinkers, and one of the founders of participatory action research.

8.
Alain Touraine (born in 1925) French sociologist, author of "The Self–Production of Society", 1977.

Participation in Architecture

9.
Cedric Price (1934–2003) from Jeremy Till *et al.*, "Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture", 2011.

10.
Lucien Kroll (born in 1927) is a Belgian architect well known for this projects involving participation by the future users of the buildings.

11.
John Habraken (born in 1928) – a Dutch architect who has researched mass housing and strategies for the participation of users and residents in the building process.

12.
Yona Friedman (born in 1923) is a Hungarian–French architect and theorist whose utopian projects deal with issues of urban planning, infrastructure and the empowerment of the user.

"Building is not necessarily the best solution to a spatial problem."
Cedric Price [9]

In architecture, participatory practices came as the answer to the *Modern Movement* failures. In the 1970s many architects were trying to find the balance of power between architect, client and user. *Lucien Kroll* [10], *John Habraken* [11] and *Yona Friedman* [12], the pioneers of the participatory architecture of that time, were experimenting and developing different approaches, including methods to involve future users in the design process, using workshops, consultations and through establishing neighbourhood offices. Apart from that in some approaches people could be involved not only in the design process but also in the construction. And finally there was a move towards flexible layouts that could be adapted to the user's needs.

From the 1980s - early 1990s architecture turned into a formal, self-referential manifestation. Architects realised their techniques and their design could be applied to different contents as well. While part of the Western world was enjoying the economic boom in the early 1990s, the new generation of architects was no longer willing to dwell on formal concepts. They became activists being involved in social, political and legal processes. They were receiving new knowledge and developing the new alternative non-populist mechanism of participation: community involvement, ethics of planning, spatial interventions, and temporary appropriation of urban structure. All of this started to cause changes not only on a small scale, but to the micro-political activities as well.

Although the methods differ, the architects share a common aim of empowering users to take control of their dwellings and spaces in a manner that allow their creative input, while not reducing the role of the architect to that of a mere technical facilitator.

Atelier d'architecture autogérée (*aaa* – Studio for Self-managed Architecture) is a practice based in Paris co-founded by architects, *Constantin Petcou* and *Doina Petrescu* in 2001. It is one of the example of architects–activists.
The project *Passage 56*, is the transformation of a disused passageway, located in a Parisian neighbourhood famous for its high density and cultural diversity, into a productive garden that minimises its ecological footprint through recycling, composting and use of solar panels. By means of a continuous participative process, the project was created and constructed with minimal cost, using recycled materials collected by the residents themselves. It was carried out in collaboration with a local organisation running youth training programmes in eco-construction and was partly commissioned by local government, fulfilling one of *aaa's* stated aims to influence local policy towards the reuse and development of leftover spaces in the city.

Figure 3. project Passage 56 by Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée Source – Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée.

Participatory Art

"All artists are alike. They dream of doing something that's more social, more collaborative, and more real than art."
Dan Graham [13]

Art is an alternative and effective language of communication and another tool to send a message to the society. Since architects have extended their practice beyond the planning-building process, artists have moved out of the galleries as well [14]. Furthermore, the first participatory interventions were organised mostly by art-related society, as for instance *the Situationists*, who were promoting the participatory art as *"paintings created en masse"* [15]. While working in public spaces artists have the possibility to collaborate with the city. Here the works of art are not simply brought and placed into space, but also created together with non-artistic audience such as citizens, regular folks, and community members, into the process.

Art projects can highlight the social issues of the surroundings, the environment and the reality. Over the last decade, it has become common to understand participatory movements as art. Art can now be a meal, a free school, an immigrant services community centre, a dance party, or a collectively designed park [16]. In contrast to scientific techniques art allows the author to be free for experiments and to reflect on the situations personally and *in situ*. It results in an art based on first-hand experience, and preferably over a long duration (days, months or even years). Artists are careful not to make any social claims for their art, though participants in their works often make the case for the positive value in their community.

As an illustration, the Czech artist *Katherina Seda* usually works with socially oriented experiments aimed at diverting their participants from entrenched stereotypes or social isolation. Using their own (provoked) activity and novel use of everyday means, she attempts to generate a permanent change in their behaviour (Figure 4).

13.
Dan Graham (born in 1942) quote from Douglas Barrett "After sound: toward a critical music", 2016.

14.
Jeremy Till *et al.*, "Spatial Agency, Artists and Spatial Practice", 2013.

15.
Guy Debord (1931 – 1993), founder of situationism.

16.
Michael Kelly, "Encyclopedia of Aesthetics", Participatory Art, 2014.

During her research in the village author had found that the inhabitants live with certain amount of scepticism, talking about their life in the village, saying "there is nothing here". Besides Katerina found that almost all of the inhabitants have the same things to do on Saturday. For one certain date she suggested the social game for the inhabitants: to do all their usual weekend activities at the same time.
"And so the people got up out of bed, went shopping (everyone bought the same thing for a symbolic subsidised price), then swept the walkway, had a lunch of tomato sauce and dumplings, went for a beer and all turned out their lights at the same time. This simple game helped show people that something big can happen in a small town: you just have to do it together."
Kateřina Šedá

Figure 4. "There Is Nothing Here" (2003) project by Kateřina Šedá.
Source – Kateřina Šedá.

The art historian *Claire Bishop* debates that the participatory art manifests itself in two questions:

"If a project takes the form of a useful social service is the value of calling it art?"

"And, if the aspiration of a participatory art project is social good, should it be judged on the basis of instrumental results without reference to what is traditionally considered aesthetic value?" [17]

17.
Claire Bishop "Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship", 2012.

18.
From the conversation of Thomas Hirschorn and curator Peter Eleey for Walker Art Centre in 2010.

One of the reasons why this thesis mentions art as part of the methodology lies in the answers to these questions above. First of all, it can be useful for the author to call a project 'art' to gather resources. Secondly, and here *Hirschhorn's* comment deserves attention: *"I am an artist and not a social worker"* [18], because it refers so directly to the strategy of bringing art (project) into life. Participants, perceiving the project as an artistic one would not expect the solution to all their problems from above. There is a very different psychological frame if a community member says, *"I am participating in an experimental art project"* than if that member were to say, *"I am receiving social services"* even if the activity (housing, education, gardening) seems exactly the same. The goals of social participation and community creativity can be reached more efficiently by calling certain project art and, instead of passive recipients of service, to work with a group of active participants.

Apart from that, museum audience is excluded from the art process as they can see its summary and documentation only, which aesthetic value often falls short. On the other hand, by choosing the too complex visual and communicational language, the artist risks losing the main non-artistic audience, for whom it would be hard to read the message and to be involved.

The author of this thesis considers art as another tool for the *Participatory Action Research*. With responsible, respectful and ethical, behaviour artistic approach can help to create trustful environment during the project.

Thomas Hirschorn has produced a series of such monuments to great philosophers —*Spinoza, Bataille, Deleuze, Gramsci* — in the public spaces of poor neighbourhoods in different cities. In the process of creating such work, Hirschhorn has enlisted individuals living near the monument sites, paying them to assist him (though not to collaborate, *per se*, in the artwork). To him it seems much more honest to say coexistence than collaboration. Built by residents of the community, each *Monument* is the temporary home to a daily newspaper, a computer room, a lounge, an exhibition space, a stage, a radio station, and a space with daily lectures.

Figure 5. Thomas Hirschhorn's Bataille Monument at *Dokumenta 11*, Kassel, Germany. Source – Florian Kossak.
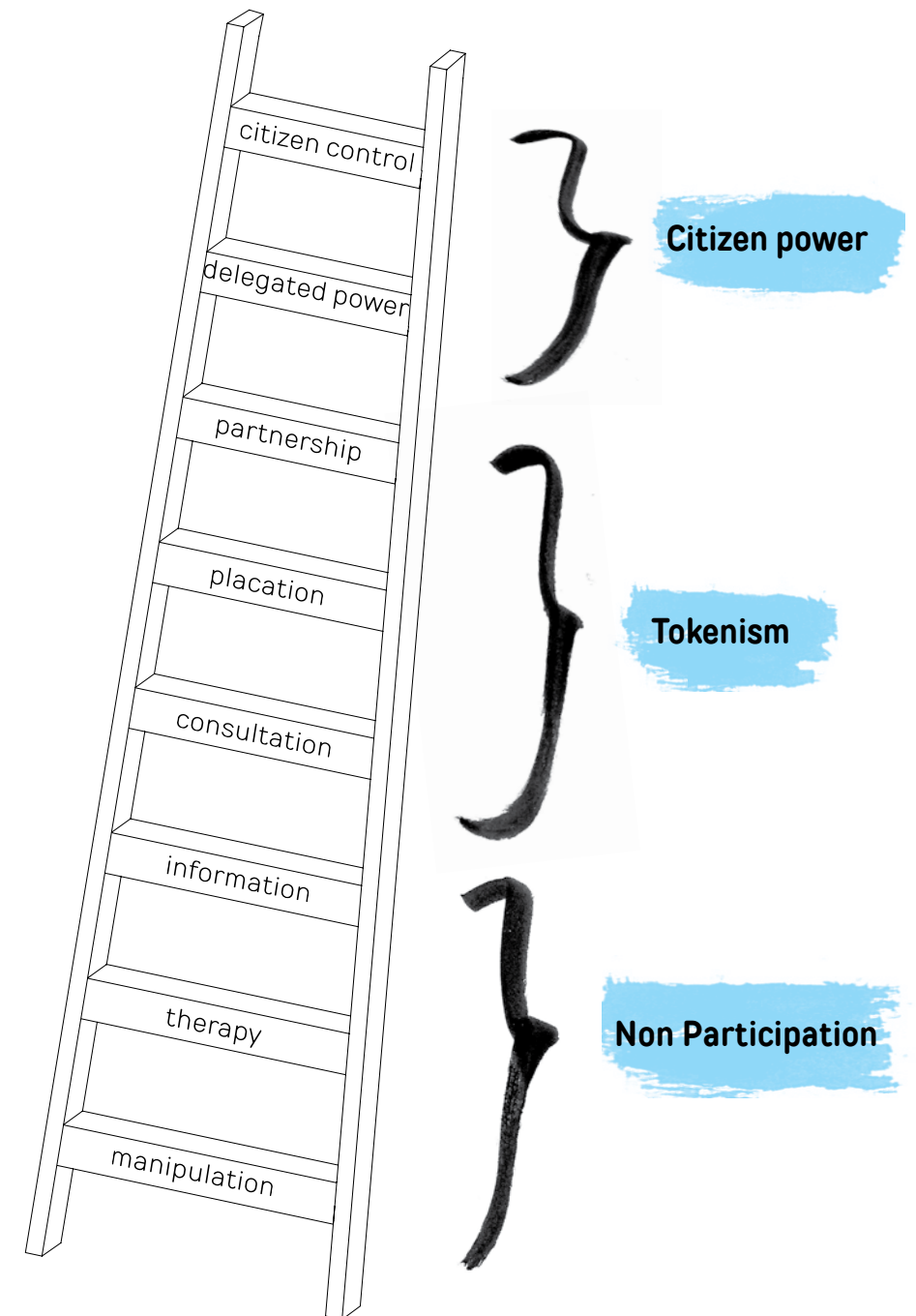
Challenges of Participatory Practices

In all participatory methods, there are levels of involvement ranging from token participation to full control of the process by citizen participants. These levels are described in *Sherry Arnstein's* most-quoted article about the *Ladder of participation*, where she sets out a hierarchy of participatory control [19] (Figure 6).

On the bottom of the ladder is **manipulation**, when the planners are not interested in a participatory process at all. *Carole Pateman* [20] calls it 'pseudo-participation' – this covers techniques used to persuade employees to accept decisions that have already been made. For this, the visibility of activity is created 'to cure' or 'to educate' participants and to implement already prepared ideas afterwards. Unfortunately, this kind of 'therapy' is treated quite often. Next step is a consultative phase when, again, the participants are already invited as the experts, who have their voice, but with no guarantee will be heard. The most sustainable art of participation is on the top of *Arnstein's Ladder*, where the participants become the decision-makers or even the partners. It seems that all these levels can be appropriately used in different situations. It is crucial to determine what level of participation is right for the situation and to clarify it to the participants.

Pateman contrasts his 'pseudo-participation' with full and partial participation:

Full participation – means equal power of each member of the process to determine the outcome of the decision. It is an ideal, but an almost impossible one to achieve in architecture because in this case each party has to be transparent and respective to each other's knowledge.

Partial participation means no equal power in the decision-making.

19.
Sherry Arnstein, "The ladder of citizen participation", 1969.

20.
C.Pateman, "Participation and Democratic Theory", 1970, p. 25.

Figure 6. Ladder of Participation by Sherry Arnstein.

citizen control

delegated power

partnership

placation

consultation

information

therapy

manipulation

Citizen power

Tokenism

Non Participation

One of the primary challenge of 'full participation' is **time**. It can take longer for a diverse group to make decisions and come to conclusions, than for an individual or small group.

The participatory process is also an educational process for all the parties and can cause a lot of **misunderstandings** at the beginning. Members of the target group may not have required technical knowledge or experience and may need to understand some theory or past practice to see what the planners actually mean. Some may need new skills in order to participate fully in the planning process. The organisation, on the other hand, may need to learn more about local culture, political issues, and community history to tailor the intervention to the community and avoid past errors [21]. Education takes time as well.

The local knowledge and inquiries of the participants detected during the research can undoubtedly bring the project to **unexpected results**.

If the community has its previous experience of failed attempts at communication or unsuccessful problem solving, divisions and conflicts in the community or just basic mistrust may appear and complicate the task of creating a participatory planning process. Needless to say, the process can be stopped at any moment, as the community might easily refuse to accept the organisation of the project. When there is no trust between the organisation and the community, participatory process is not appropriate.

In spite of all challenges and complexities, participatory approach is often the most effective and inclusive way to plan any public project. When the agreement and common understanding is found, the researchers can get the community support of the intervention, and unique information about community history, politics, and past mistakes, respect and a voice for everyone. It can be successfully implemented, depending on the primary goals.

21.
Participatory Approaches to Planning Community Interventions, www.ctb.ku.edu/en (accessed December 20, 2016).

Researcher's position

The project described in this thesis was to test the *Participatory Action Research* method in the contest of mass-housing residential areas in post-Soviet cities, whose context is described in the following chapters. However, the social conditions of these regions with high level of mistrust and alienation generate the passive or even defensive behaviour of the participants to any initiatives coming from the outside in the community.

That is why the research method here needs to be more flexible and adapted to the situation. The author tried to combine different tools and methodologies not only from *PAR* but also from the art field. Since *multi-methodology* is a significant contribution to frame and understand the appropriate inquiry process. This allowed the researcher to define her role in the community to be more opened and to build the question of the research *in situ*, based on the process of acquaintance with participants. Regular meetings with simple observations, listening and discussion sessions, without almost any particular exercises, enabled the author to access the stories and archives kept only inside the community. Although it was quite challenging to build the trustful connection with the inhabitants, when it happened – it helped to build the local team for the collaborative project and get the information and knowledge needed for the research.

Mass housing and socio-spatial change in post-Soviet society

"This is because the socialist city is based on an entirely different set of laws, namely: class equality in the Soviet society; the absence of ownership of land, a system of State-planned economy and demand for the best living conditions for the masses. All these factors offer unprecedented opportunities to create a ceaseless perfection of our cities. Socialism has completely changed the urban life. Originating from an instrument of socialist oppression, the city has undergone a transformation to become a hub of freelance and creative work, a place of equality and friendship for its inhabitants."
Boris Svetlichny, 1964[1]

Socialist urban planners believed that together with the state they were building the real innovative equal world for the new humans. However, those beliefs in Soviet socialism differed from western models by being created in frames of the state-planned economy in the totalitarian way. This political, philosophical and economic ideology was possible only in state-run society and economy through exclusion and oppression of private sector initiatives and civil society engagement.

This part of the thesis discusses the spatial and social paradigm of mass housing phenomena, specifically in the Soviet and post-Soviet context. It tells how the historical, political, economical and social changes have affected the contemporary spatial situation of mass housing residential areas.

## Particularities of Soviet mass housing (1955-1991)

1.
p.31
Boris Svetlichny was a deputy chef of Gosplan during Khrushev era. His dreams of communist city as new stage of human settlement are described in his articles "City of the Future", 1954. Here he is quoted in: Meuser & Zadorin, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, pp. 145–149.

2.
Rem Koolhaas,"What Ever Happened to Urbanism?" In, "S,M,L,XL, Eds B.Mau, R. Koolhaas", pp. 959–971.

3.
Meuser & Zadorin "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, pp. 145–159.

Resulting from a combination of architecture and social policy, the mass housing era has left a significant print on urban planning all over the world, but especially in the former Soviet Union. Nowadays Soviet mass housing is usually blamed as a failure of modernism [2] for the most monotonously built environment in the history of mankind, which influences the culture and everyday life of nearly all Soviet and post-Soviet citizens. Architectural and urban society starts to admit that Soviet mass housing is a contradictory, but unique phenomena [3].

Being part of the state reconstruction plan after the Second World War, new residential areas for tens of thousands of families have covered up hundreds of hectares around the old cities. Or else the entirely new cities were appearing with enormous pace countrywide. New typologies of the urban and architectural planning were transformed from the *Stalin's* neoclassical 'superblocks' planning system into the socialist 'microdistricts' and districts. While 'superblock' still had a traditional quarter structure with the semi-public space inside its inner yard, subsequent *Khrushchev* period with its first generation of industrial prefabricated mass housing series (1958-1963), designed buildings in the rows (for the easier accessibility for the cranes) (Figures 7-8). Up to 80 hectares of such rows of houses created the 'microdistrict' (Ukr.: *мікрорайон*), the basic elements of the city in the former USSR. Residents of micro-districts always had to always have typical public service facilities to support the needs of all: secondary schools, pre-school establishments, grocery stores, personal service shops, cafeterias, clubs, playgrounds, and housing maintenance offices. All the buildings were planned following the precise regulations on accessibility and distance requirements. Each facility had to be located within walking distance: 500 meter limit as the farthest distance from any residential dwelling. In the absence of private property, all space within the microdistrict was public space.
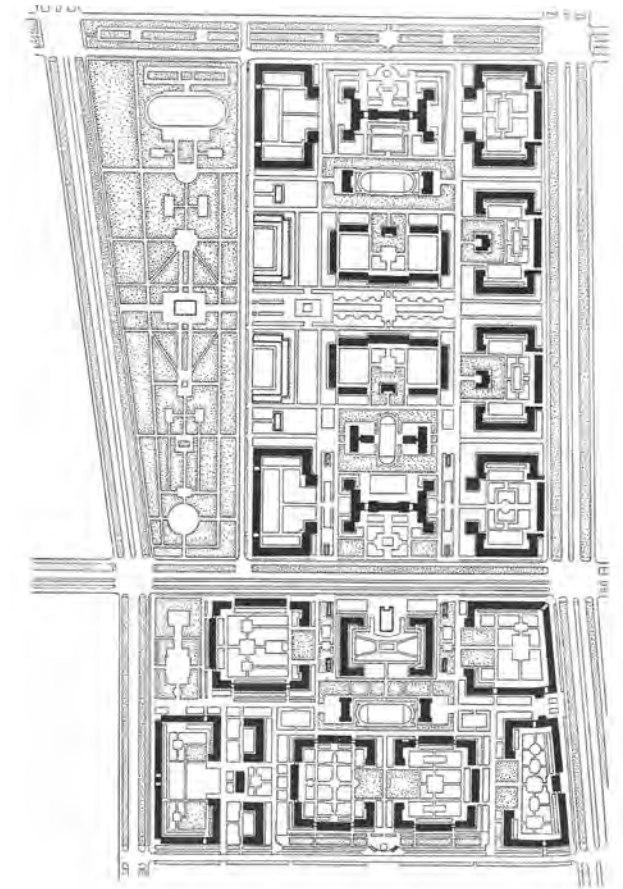
Figure 7. (top) The example of the 'superblocks' planning in residential buildings in Moscow of 1956. Source– Meuser *et al.*, 2015

Figure 8. Sight plan of microdistrict 1 in the Tashkent, 1966 Social infrastructure is situated in the center of microdistrict. Source– Meuser *et al.*, 2015

With each generation of the mass housing series, architects and constructors were developing and improving the typologies of the houses and *the Construction Norms and Rules* (*Строительные нормы и правила СНиП – SNiP*). These rules were taken in form of a decree and were adopted by the Council of Ministers of the USSR; therefore, modifying any detail in construction was equal in time and complexity as to modifying the state law. That is why, in the period from 1955 to 1991, the SniP for mass housing have been fully reconsidered only three times in total and, therefore, were created I, II, and III generations of Soviet mass housing4. As illustrated in Figures 9-11, the differences between the series were significant.

The whole factories were building residences for their employees. That is why the quantity and speed of mass housing production was so efficient and relevant to the priorities of the state[5]. The primary stakeholders of mass housing in the Soviet Union were: the construction of housing by the state, housing cooperatives (all alliance of state administrations and institutions) and individual mass housing (state enterprises, such as agricultural production or industry, which constructed houses for their workers)[6].

Each family, based on the working place, had the right to receive appropriate apartment for a symbolic price from the state. Such direct top-down housing policy in the socialist countries was used as an important argument for advantages of socialism over western capitalism. Indeed, the social geography in the socialist countries was more equal, although it had a lot of hidden contradictory factors. Besides the equality, ingrained in the Soviet Union ideology, the social classification and segregation still existed and was underlined by resettlement principles. For instance, there have been privileged houses for academics only, ingenious, or social services and so on.

4.
Meuser & Zadorin, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, p. 21.

5.
Michael Gentile, "The 'Soviet' factor: exploring perceived housing inequalities in a mid-sized city in the Donbas, Ukraine. Urban Geography, 36:5", 2015, pp. 696–720.

6.
Meuser & Zadorin, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, p. 13.

Figure 9.
Generations of Soviet mass housing:
First generation (1958–1963) maximum 5 storey-building.
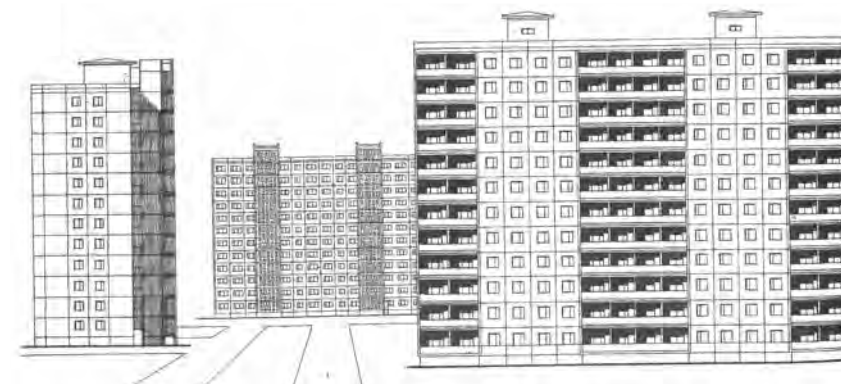
Figure 10. Second generation (1963–1971) 9 and more storey-building.
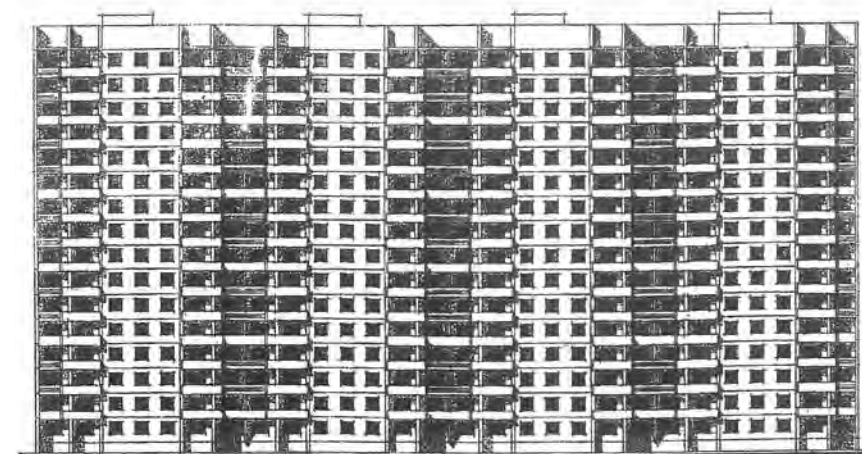
Figure 11.
Third generation (1971–1985) 16 storey-building.

Fourth generation (1985–has never been finished and implemented).

Source– Meuser & Zadorin, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015.

Close to the 1980s planners realised that the existing system needed adaptation and had to be more opened not only to the efficient prefabrication but to the people as well. They started to develop alternative proposals: more public spaces in human scale; less car access; public services closer to the dwellings (for instance, a community centre in the house maintenance office near or inside each house); more common functions for the neighbours in the houses; green summer public spaces on the rooftops of the high-rise buildings. These ideas and adaptations were meant to be the part of the fourth generation of mass housing series[7].

The projects of the honourable Ukrainian architect *Joseph Karakis*, clearly represented the ideas and vector of that era of architects, who were trying to humanize the monotonous environment and to come up with more alternative typologies. In 1977 *Karakis* was criticising the urban development of the new district in Kyiv, *Obolon*, as its typology was not variable enough for its unique natural environment (this area became the researched area of this thesis. Its detailed description is given on pp. 46-77). He suggested totally innovative urban strategy and housing typology, whose main accent was, uncommonly, on the residents' perception of their dwelling. However, the architect's proposal was too irregular for the *Soviet Construction Norms and Rules* and was not taken into consideration during the planning process.

"The cascade, pyramid shape in terms of the residential building increases twice the usual visibility of the street than in a standard building, and creates intimacy for the residents to stay on their balconies or verandas. This important psychological factor in the current rules for the design of the dwelling should be taken into account. If physically, permanent contact with nature today is unreal from the apartment, the psychological connection must always remain."

Joseph Karakis in his report for "The Dwelling of the Nearest Future."[8]

7.
Meuser & Zadorin, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, p. 13.

8.
Junakov Oleg (2016) Architect Joseph Karakis. Kyïv: Almaz publishment Translation from Russian by Anna Dobrova.
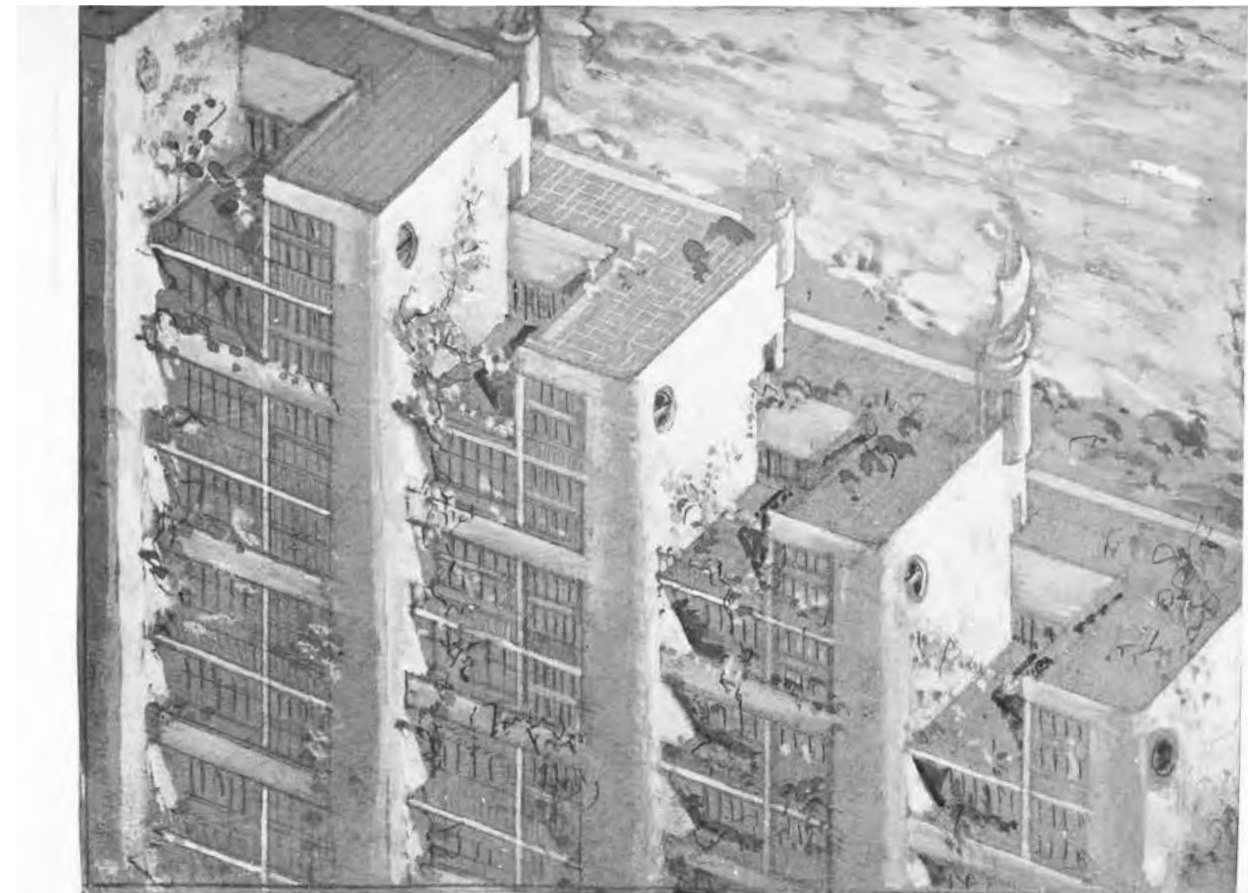
Figure 12. Photo from Scientific and Technical Report of 1977 "The Dwellings of the Nearest Future" Joseph Karakis for Research Institute of the theory, history and future challenges of modern architecture.
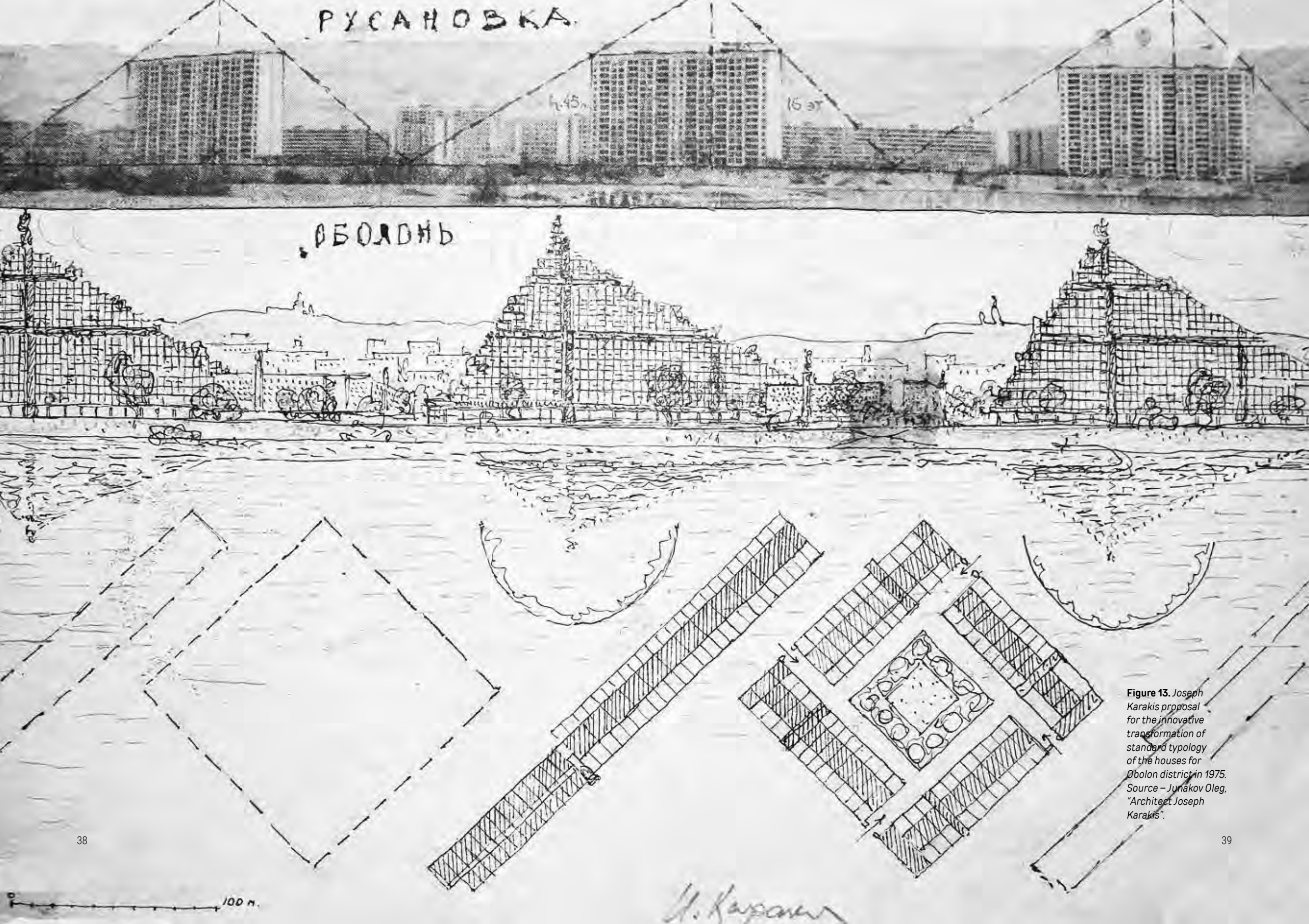
РУСАНОВКА.

ОБОЛОНЬ

Figure 13. *Joseph Karakis proposal for the innovative transformation of standard typology of the houses for Obolon district in 1975. Source – Junakov Oleg, "Architect Joseph Karakis".*

Socio-spatial change in post-Soviet society

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, spatial development of the post-Soviet cities was frozen. The country could not see the upgraded fourth generation of mass housing series, which were meant to appear in the 1990s. Economy and governance of the post-Soviet cities have had no resources to adapt and improve outdated urban situation till today. Moreover, all those construction industries, which managed to survive in the new economy of free market, doing well by continuing to produce the new settlements using old typologies of second and third generations of mass housing[9].

Therefore, the cities and life environment have stuck between the Soviet past and former contemporaneity of the western countries. Post-Soviet city spaces ended up with a capitalistic make-up.

However, according to *Doreen Massey*, Space is *"a multiplicity of duration, the dimension of multiple trajectories and simultaneity of stories-so-far"*[10]. It is hard to disagree that despite the lack of visible material changes in the spatial situation of the post-Soviet cities, space still has changed significantly with time. Massey relates processes and changes in urban space to natural science. Everything is related: social changes cause physical transformations and, conversely, physical space influences on social space.

From this point of view, *Massey* calls it *"billiard-ball view of the world"* and here are the main social-spatial changes that happened in the post-Soviet society:

First of all, the **transformation of traditional social classification** occurred. Those resettlement systems by different social classes were transformed as well as people's primal statuses and professions were changing. This created an interesting mixture of different classes in the neighbourhoods.

9.
Meuser Philipp & Zadorin Dimitrij, "Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing. Prefabrication in the USSR 1955–1991", 2015, p. 441.

10.
Doreen Massey "For space", 2005, p. 24.

The music video, filmed in Troeschina, one of the isolated micro district of Kyiv, transfers the best the relations between the time and space in the post–Soviet city. While the surrounding remains stuck in the past, the society goes forward, forming its own unique culture. Nowadays Kyiv's periphery attracts and inspires more and more creative people from all the world to research. In comparison with the centre of the city, which reminds more and more ordinary western environment, the 'sleeping districts' remain the vivid representation of the recent complicated history of the Eastern Europe.

Figure 14. This image from the music video "Kamikadze" by the Danish singer MØ Source – Sergii Rustenko.

The deficiency of non-residential space and facilities (cultural centres, cinemas, banks, shops, libraries, etc.) quickly created the gap between the cultural centre and mass housing settlements, involuntary transforming them into a mono-functional periphery, so-called 'sleeping districts' or 'ghettos'. Covered with permanent greyness and abundance, microdistricts became unattractive environments to live. As people got the freedom to choose the place of inhabitancy, they started to move. The social relationships, built in decades, were broken, there was no urgent need to know new neighbours and to build new networks.

Additionally, the era of long-expected **freedom of private sector** has started. Despite the complicated and at the same time non-organised bureaucratic process, people were trying to protect the 'roof over their heads' in those uncertain times of socio-economical transformations. **The uncontrolled privatisation and informal business** began as the government did not have time to deal with appropriate reforms and regulations. As a result nowadays 96% of the Ukrainian housing stock is in a private property, situation that makes the government non-competitive stakeholder on the real estate market. Moreover, privatisation was happening with the focus on residential space, while public areas, semi-public and common facilities slowly ran down. Due to that, **public facilities and space became unreliable** without any owner and turned into randomly occupied spots for everyone and for no one at the same time[11].

Because of **institutional malfunction**, Ukrainian government is trying to establish the cooperative relationships with the residents, suggesting them to create *OSBB* (*Ukr.: ОСББ*)[12] or *Housing Cooperative* (in further text – *Housing Coopyrative*) to let the community become the owner for the semi-public area inside and around the building. This means that such communities become responsible for all the renovations and in partnership with the municipal services can work on maintenance of the shared space inside and outside the building.

11.
B. M. Renaud "Housing Finance in Transition Economies: The Early Years in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union", 1996.

12.
OSBB – Association of co-owners of apartment buildings. It's a non-profit legal entity in Ukraine created by the owners of residential and non-residential premises for common use, maintenance and management of their home and local area, as well as for legal registration of their property rights at home and local area.

● Shared zone ● Private zone
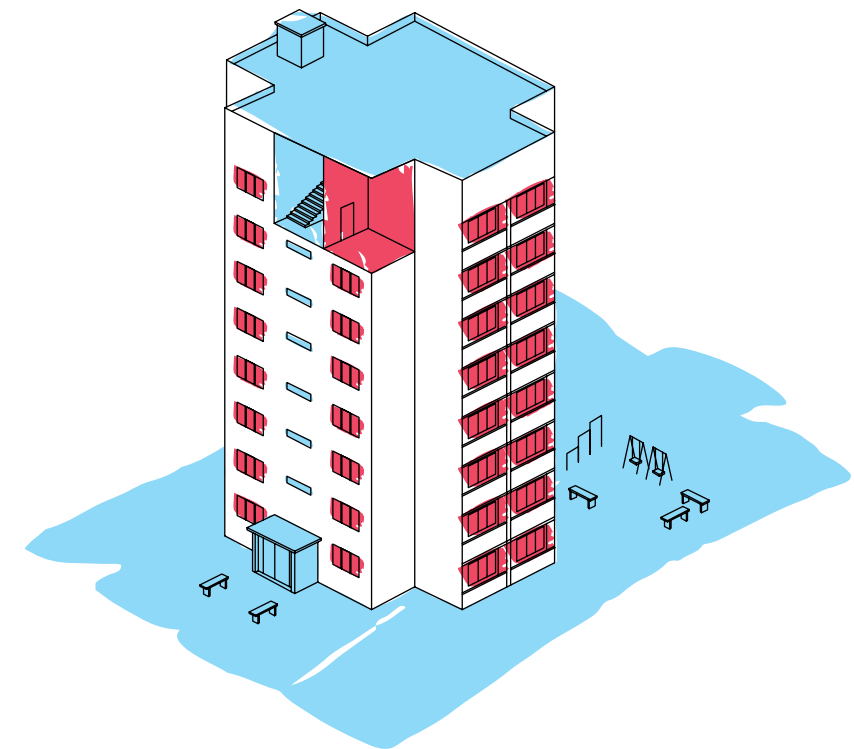
Figure 15. Housing Cooperative explanation scheme.

However, proposed financing scheme makes sense only in case when the initiative comes from the bottom-up. According to the survey[13], over 60% of owners of private apartments in mass housing areas are ready to invest their own funds and time into the reconstruction of their homes. Still, this optimistic statistic partially quickly offsets by inflation or crisis in the insecure Ukrainian realities. Moreover, this scheme can exclude the neighbours with the lower income. That is why this process became not very popular in Ukraine, as it needs a lot of personal input, work and compromises to build the community and to become responsible for their shared space.

To conclude, post-socialistic society has been living through a lot of economical, political and social challenges. **Extreme level of institutional and interpersonal mistrust** is the natural effect of the past 26 years. However, the economical and political instability leave no choice to the people to unite for cooperation and defence. Slowly, the space is changing, getting the owner in face of not the individuals or the state, but the community.

13.
Initiated by the civil network "Opora" www.oporaua.org/zhytlo (accessed October, 2016).

Prejudice and research interest

It is understandable why many people blame Soviet Mass Housing era for creating the most inhuman monotonous environment in the history of mankind, as it became one of the source of criminalisation and alienation of the society.

Of course, it is impossible to disagree with that, if to look at what was built and is being erected in numerous cities of the former USSR. Along with today's typology of the outskirts, the gap between the quality of life and consumption is definitely inappropriate. At the same time most of the population lives in those so-called 'sleeping districts' in almost all post-Soviet cities (for instance, 80% of Kyiv population live in the microdistricts).

The main prejudice about life in these predominated areas of post-Soviet cities is:

Nothing is going on at such places designed to sleep.

Samuel R. Delany in his fascinating essay about contact and networking assumed that *"the best city neighbourhoods are those that look as little as cities as possible. The best the city can produce is the boring, boring suburb."*[14] Post-socialistic adaptation of socialistic environment is a unique and absorbing phenomenon of the transformation of the formal regulated urban space that has turned into the informal organism.

14.
Delany S.R, "...Three, two, one, contact: Times Square Red", 1998.

Unfortunately and unfairly, there is still the lack of *multidisciplinary* research (which is meant by complex studies of spatial, social, economic, transport and government situation) of life in mass housing districts of post-socialistic cities and especially in Kyiv. Consequently, this question became the first approach to the research topic of this thesis. Choosing one of the neighbourhoods in Kyiv, the author was trying to investigate the structure of the community, their responsibilities and relations with the public space they share, as well as the activism and willingness to be the change for their society and space.

Obolon district in context

This chapter deals in particular with the overall concept of the researched area in Kyiv, which is the Obolon district. Starting from the location and administrative division in the city, it progresses towards the historical and socio-spatial circumstances in the neighbourhood. This data is based on historical archives, mapping, spatial analysis, and on the sociological investigation of the communities in Kyiv made by the analytical centre CEDOS. Additionally, stories and observations revealed during the participatory project from the residents of the researched neighbourhood have been added in this study. The author uses this information to identify original and novel links between spatial configurations and sociological developments.

Figure 16. Obolon district plan from 1970 on the background Planners from *"Promstroyprojekt"* (*Ukr.: «Промстройпроект»*) and architects from municipal workshop *"Kyiv Project"*(*Ukr.: «Киевпроект»*): *Kulchitskiy G.S., Paskevich Y.A., Sluzkiy G.M, Chlebnikov Z.G., Filenko L.I. Engineers: Maerchuk L.I., Braker L.B.*
Source – City Government Office *"Kyiv Project"*

Location

The city of Kyiv is located in the centre of Ukraine, on the river Dnieper, which splits the country as well as its capital into two almost equal parts. Currently, Kyiv is divided into ten districts (Figure 17), which are artificial to a large extent. The areas are marked this way for administrative purposes, and local government of each district regulates quite a big territory and unites approximately 150-300 thousand of residents. However, the citizens perceive their neighbourhood in a much smaller scale, so the official districts do not reflect the 'natural' borders.

Obolon is located on the northern side of Kyiv. The district is well connected with several important highways. Various bus, tram lines and, what is more important, the underground line integrate Obolon in the public transport network and make this district accessible and well connected to the central part of the city.

The area of Obolon is 110.2 km² and it performs more than a mono-functional residential function. On its northern part, it hosts several huge factories, such as *Obolon Joint Stock Company*, one of the major Ukrainian beer producers. This zone separates the residential area with the vast forest, which includes the former recreational town of *Pushcha-Vodytsia*. Moreover, the river Dnieper along the whole eastern part of the district and a network of the lakes make Obolon very attractive for many citizens from all over the city.

Obolon district unites four smaller major neighbourhoods or so-called micro-districts, which used to be official administrative units or villages. Data obtained in the previous research of local communities[1] proves that regarding territorial identities, in Obolon has eight micro-communities: *Minsky, Priorka, Kurenivka, Heroiv Dniepra, Minska, Obolon, Naberezhna, Prirechnaya* (Figure 18).

1.
According to "The study of social capital, development of local communities and urban space in Obolon district of Kyiv", by CEDOS (Analytical centre), 2016.
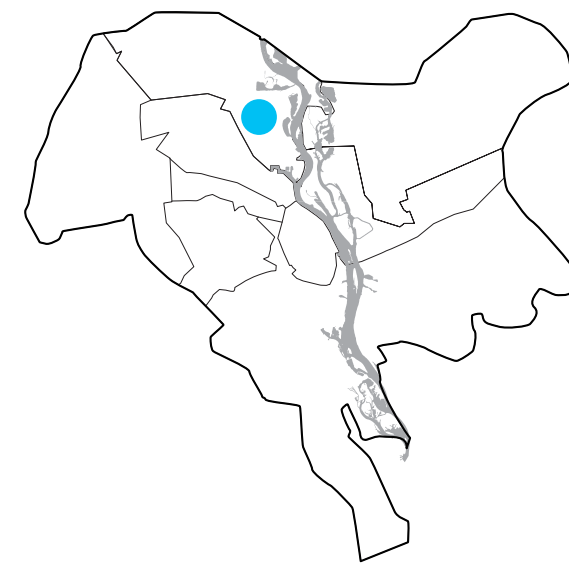
Figure 17. Obolon district on the Kyiv map.

Figure 18. Obolon district explanation map. Data: Google Maps, Aerodata International Surveys, Digital Globe.

History of Obolon district

Originally Obolon (*Ukr: Оболонь*) was a historical area in the north of Kyiv located on the right bank of the river Dnieper. The name comes from the words of ancient *bolon* – which means water meadow, due to its landscape, which dominated there till the middle of the XX century. Because of the regular flooding, people could not settle there for a long time up to the middle of the XIX century, when agriculture, fishing, crafts and trade began to develop. Due to this, the first transport network in Kyiv has reached Obolon area as well – first by the river (the first large harbour was built in 1897) and then by the tram to *Pushcha-Vodytsia* in 1904.

The mass housing residential area in Obolon was planned as part of the housing program following the reconstruction period after the Second World War. The very first response to the acute housing problem was the massive construction of so-called *Khrushchevka*, panel or brick 2-5-storey houses, in which many residents of Kyiv could get their own apartments for the first time. The demand for housing was relatively high, considering that the population of Kyiv was rapidly growing. That is why in 1967 the government included in the new master plan of the city the construction of the new residential areas, one of which was the Obolon [2] (Figure 15, p. 47).

Taking into consideration the nature of the Obolon area, annually flooded by spring floods, the first task for the engineers was to develop a reliable protection of the new district from the Dnieper spills. To this end, the coastline of 4-5 meters was raised and further was strengthened with concrete slabs. Besides, the planners took into account the proximity of an array of potentially dangerous Kyiv water reservoir, called *Kyiv Sea*, located on a hill towards the district on the north. It was intended that even in case of destruction of the dam of the Kyiv Sea, the height of the first wave would not exceed one meter, and the excess water weight would go in the shortest time possible.

2.
www.my-obolon.kiev.
ua/istoriya/obolon-v-
period-sssr (accessed
August, 2016).

Figure 19. Former river village Obolon 1910. Source – original photo from Obolon comunity members.

During the design process, architects and engineers applied unique honeycomb shape for the urban stamps instead of the traditional cross-street method. Each 'cell' was provided with schools and kindergartens, shops and supermarkets, sports fields and gardens, as well as many other necessary facilities for the convenience of residents (Figure 23, p. 59).

The construction of the Obolon residential district started in 1968. The first two residential micro-districts were completed in 1975-1977. Due to the composition of the soil at that time, the majority of the buildings were at most nine and sixteen stories high and little greenery was planted in comparison to other new districts. Deficient connection with other parts of the city made the area not very attractive for the new residents at the beginning.

When in 1980 there were already 150.000 of people inhabiting Obolon, the metro line was constructed and connected the district with the city. In the 2000s the second development period started in the eastern part of the area. The new apartment buildings were already higher and had 22-25 storeys. This area is much more expensive now, due to the proximity of the recreational zone along the river, which has made the district more prestigious.

Afterwards, nowadays it is possible to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of these methods in a more balanced way. The rational methods, which modernist designers utilized, were in many cases the answers to the social and spatial challenges.

Figure 20. Historical photo of the building of new microdistrict Obolon in 1970s.
Source – Vladimir Falin, from the book "Ukrainian art of the sixties" edited by Lisaveta German and Olga Balashova.

Figure 21. Historical photo of the first residents of new microdistrict Obolon in 1987. This photo shows the sandy abundance of the area at the beginning. The residents remember their first impression like life in the desert. First few years a lot of wild animals were visiting the district from the forest nearby.
Source – Vladimir Falin, from the book "Ukrainian art of the sixties" edited by Lisaveta German and Olga Balashova.
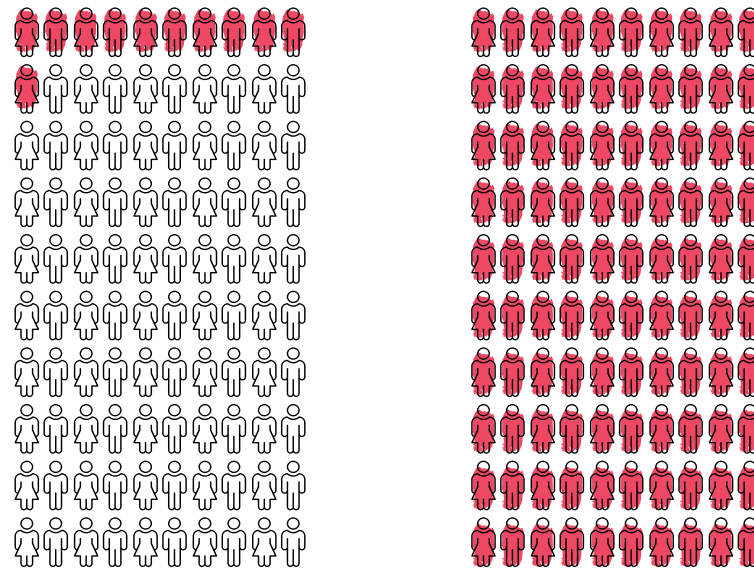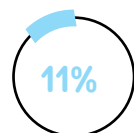
Social conditions

The socio-economic circumstances, as well as the educational and demographic situations are an integral part of the public domain. This analysis maps the array of facts about the social situation in Obolon, as well as the identity of the residents and their attitude to their neighbourhood community [3].

With around 320.062 inhabitants (State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2016) [4] Obolon contributes to a substantial part of the population of Kyiv (around 2.908.088, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, October 2016).

Socio-demographic conditions:

3.
The represented data is based on "The study of social capital, development of local communities and urban space in Obolon district of Kyiv", CEDOS (Analytical centre), 2016.

4
State Statistics Service of Ukraine, October, 2016.

11% of the Kyiv population live in the Obolon district

52.9% women
47.1% men

Age of the inhabitants

11% 0–9 years

9% 10–19 years

60% 20–49 years
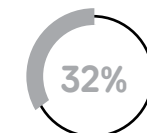
32% 50–70 years
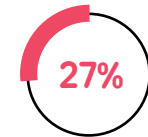
Income level
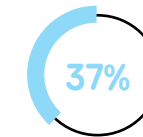
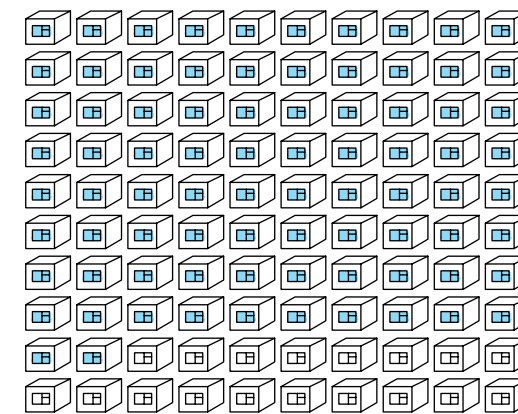**37%** low income: can hardly afford basic needs
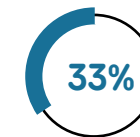
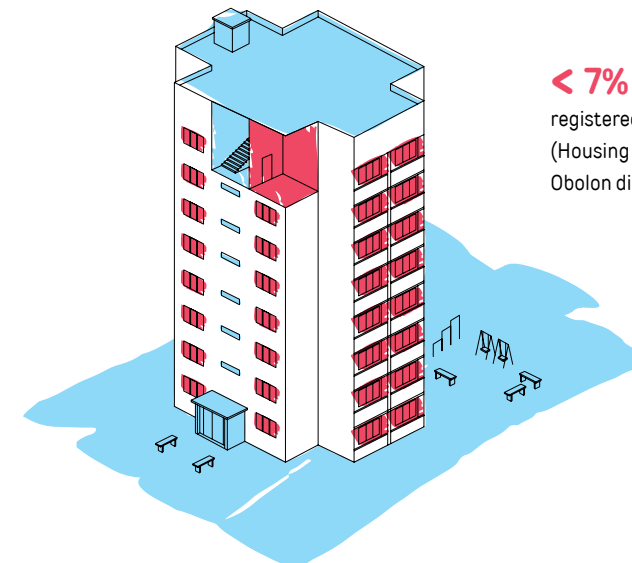**33%** medium income: surely can afford basic needs

27% high income: can afford more than just basic needs

>63% of the residents have finished high level education

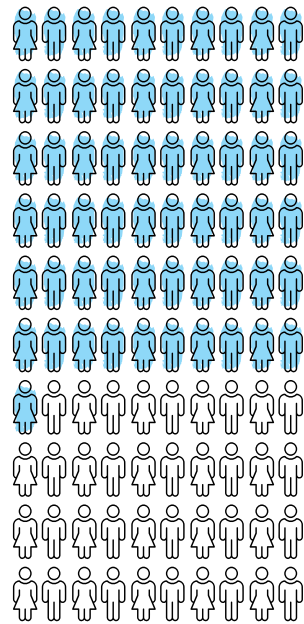**82%** of the residents are the owners of their apartments

58.8% of the residents have been living in this district for more than **18 years**
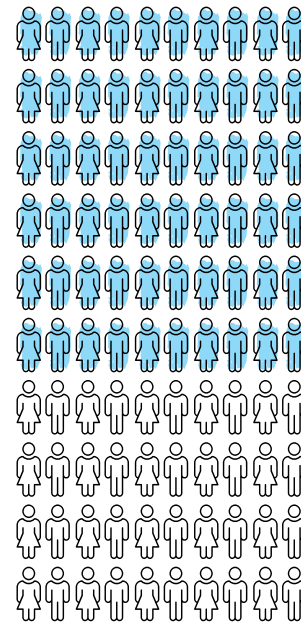
< 7% of houses are registered as OSBB (Housing Cooperative) in Obolon district

51% of the children and youngsters were not born in Kyiv

50% of the parents of the residents where not born in Kyiv

>82% Almost all of the residents in Obolon district identify themselves as Kyiv citizens, despite their background and time they actually live in the city.

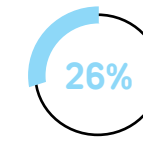**>52,5%** Most of the residents do not want to change their place of living.

Dissatisfaction in the quality of life in the neighbourhood
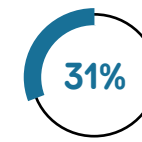
26% on the district scale

31% on the street scale

47% on the house scale

The reason people like to live in Obolon
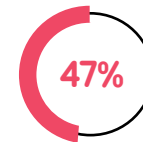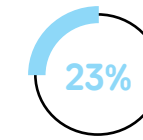
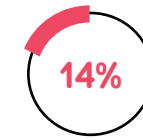23% it is my home district
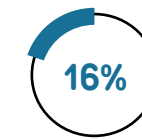
16% it is quit and silent

14% it has recreational area

The district is quite young and is still growing. The latest massive construction of new residential area here was in 2000s and single projects randomly appear today. However, a certain extend of residents have been living in Obolon for more than 18 years, among which there is considerable amount of first settlers. Most of the real estate in this district is privatised as was described above (p. 40) so most of the population live in their own apartments or are renting their property, although, renting market is informal in Ukraine.

When the residents correlate themselves with the particular territory, they are physically and emotionally related to a particular neighbourhood. More than half of the residents do not want to change their place of residence, the district and the city, despite their high level of dissatisfaction of life quality in their neighbourhood. Additionally, people are more judgemental to their smaller neighbourhood than to the district as the whole.

Figure 22. Explanatory schemes on pp. 54–57.

Urban framework of the district

The regular urban structure of Obolon, as illustrated in Figure 22, is orderly on the plan. On street level, the consequent similarity of typologies (residential houses and public facilities) results in a rather homogeneous environment. The main clues of orientation are thus roads, edges and specific features of buildings.

Urban Stamps

As the district has been already built as the third generation of mass housing series, the houses were build in the rows and innovative hexagonal form. The urban stamps edges are defined by the roads around them.

Urban stamps have mainly residential function and used to be equipped with all needed public facilities. However, not all the planned necessary public facilities survived. What remained in the researched area are: kindergarten, sports facilities, grocery shops and workshops appeared informal. House maintenance office that should serve this area has been illegally privatised by the developers and is situated now in the school in the bordering neighbourhood.

Figure 23. Scheme of Obolon district with its urban stamps.

Public spaces and public facilities

In this section, the main public spaces are determined that serve not only the whole district but the city as well.

Being situated on the bank of the river, Obolon is a popular recreational zone for all Kyiv residents. The riverside is fortunately mostly opened for public and is full of cafés, restaurants, entertainment facilities, beaches and nature. Over time the district became attractive for different social classes; that is why some of the territories converted to private areas as, for instance, golf club, yachting club, etc.

According to the traditional modernistic planning norms, each microdistrict of Obolon has typical public service facilities to support the needs of all residents: secondary schools, pre-school establishments, grocery stores, personal service shops, cafeterias, clubs, playgrounds, and housing maintenance offices. Nevertheless, some of the facilities do not serve anymore or have changed their primary purpose.

During the last decade, the central public spaces were built near the main transport hubs. Those are the two big shopping malls, called 'Dream Town 1' and 'Dream Town 2'. They attract citizens from the whole city as well.

● Education ● Commercial ● Administrative ● Recreation ● Religious

Figure 24. Scheme of public spaces and facilities in Obolon district.

Pryrichna urban stamp

The studied area, *Pryrichna* urban stamp, is situated near the waterfront on the northern-east side of the Obolon micro-district. This area has several types of building typologies; mostly they are the block houses built in the rows. However, there is one speciality that makes this stamp so unique. The housing is made of 4 blocks, which is one of the longest residential buildings in Kyiv. To give an illustration of the scale of this building, here are some numbers:

4 residential sections, which are divided into blocks with separate entrance each (12 residential blocks in total)
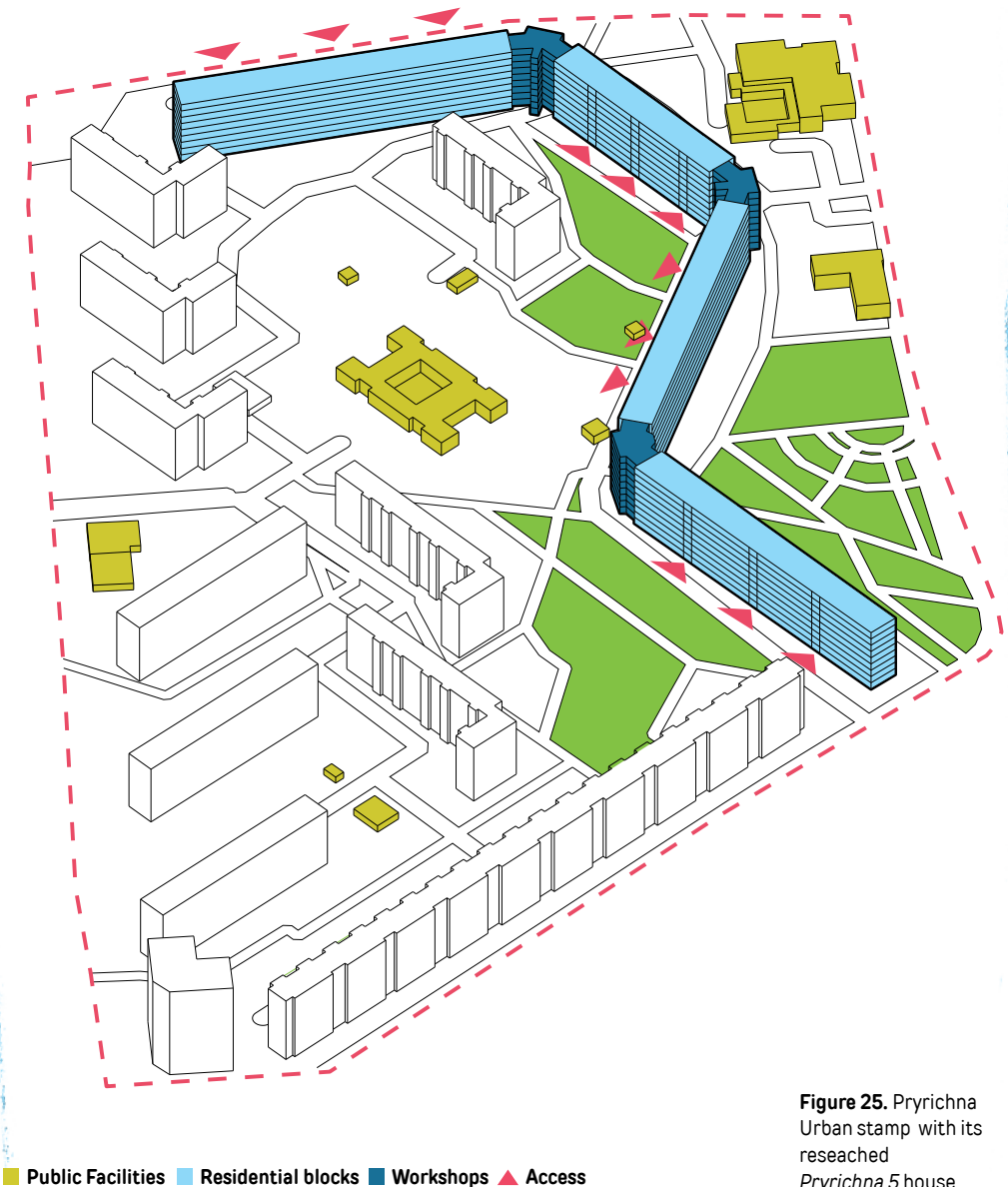
825 apartments

approximately 2300 residents

The house stands on the border of the urban stamp and, due to its hexagonal shape, the neighbourhood has its inner and outer public spaces. Additionally, the entrances to the blocks of the house have different orientation: three of them are oriented in the inner yard, but the northern one is accessible from the bordering street of the urban stamp and spatially is perceived as another building, which creates several neighbourhoods in one house.

The building belongs to the third generation of the mass housing typology and has more than just a residential purpose. It has three connecting sections, which were planned as the artistic workshops and offices. However, till now, only one part belongs to the Union of Artists of Ukraine and is successfully rented to the artists. Other sections were privatised and transformed into the residential apartments or offices.

The spatiality of the house of *Pryrichna 5* (in further text – *Pryrichna 5* community*)* and its scale attracted the researchers to investigate the public space and community it creates in details.


Figure 25. Pryrichna Urban stamp with its reseached *Pryrichna 5* house.

■ **Public Facilities** ■ **Residential blocks** ■ **Workshops** ▲ **Access**

Situational approach of the chosen area

The situational analysis proceeds by carefully analysing various components of the neighbourhood. Here the important elements of the public space of the researched area are highlighted and described regarding its spatial conditions and social behaviours towards it. Moreover, those are the places, which were investigated even later during the work with the community and became major spots for the intervention.
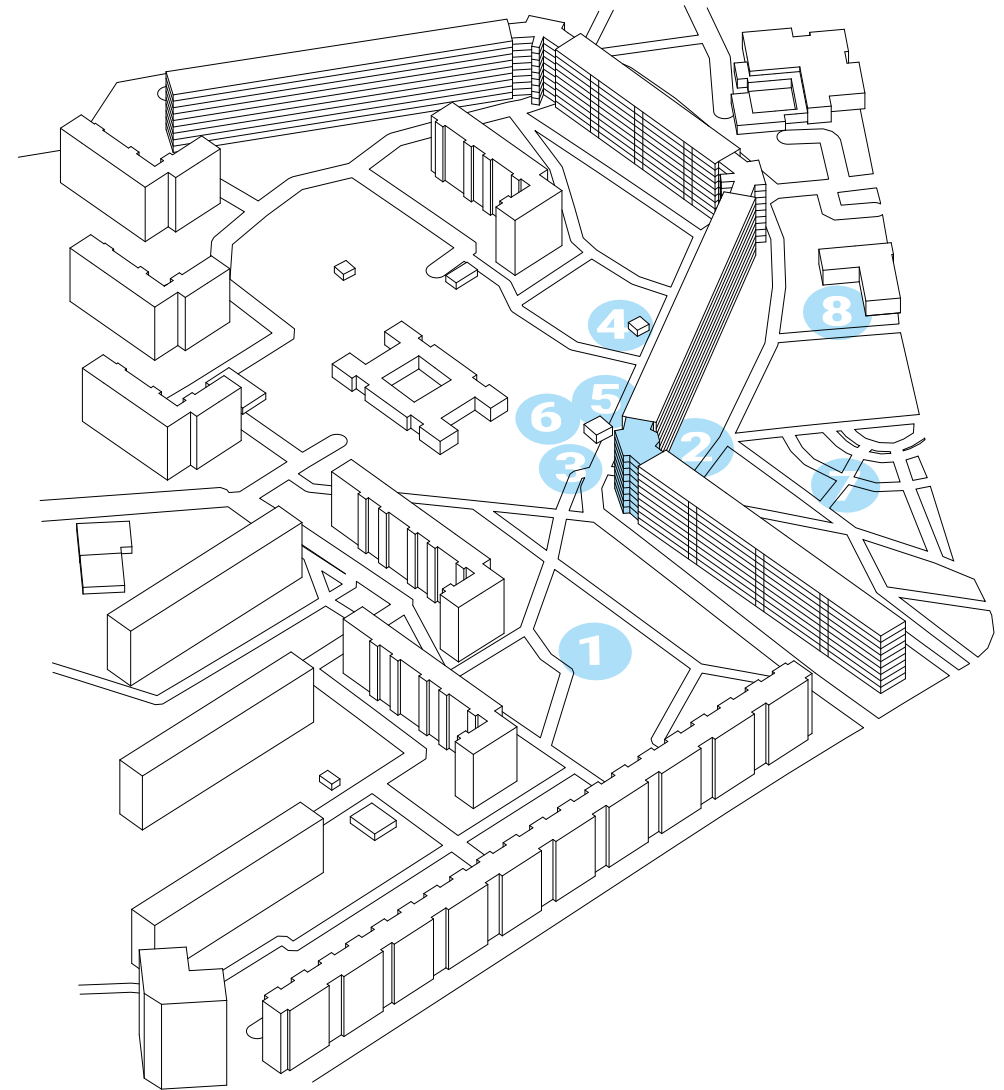
Figure 26. Scheme for the situational approach.
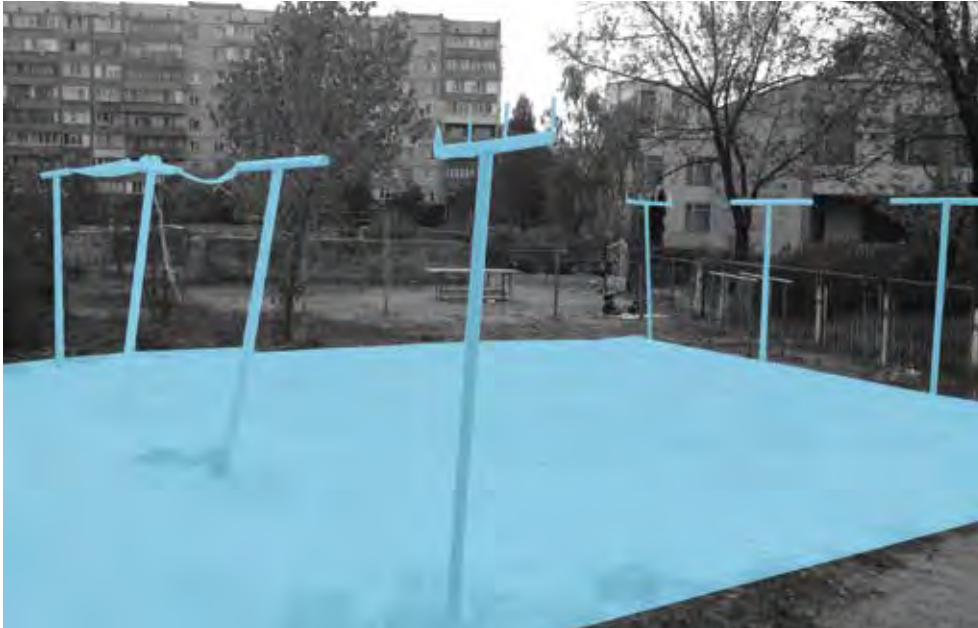
Figure 27.
Source – author.

1. A huge space between the blocks at the beginning of the house. People used to shorten their pedestrian way here, which is seen in multiple trodden paths in different directions. Alongside its perimeter, closer to the buildings and water access, some inhabitants created small gardens. In the middle of the space is the sports playground; however it is rarely used, because of the lack of shadows around. Due to the classical modernistic inhuman scale and uncomfortable feeling inside, this space was mistakenly chosen as the meeting point with the residents for the research at the beginning. This decision attracted a lot of angry neighbours for the first session, due to some gossips about the development of another high-rise building at this side.

In conclusion, this space appeared perfect for an information stand with the news about the project.

Figure 28.
Source – author.

2. One of the sections of the house is the workshop for artists. Because of the separate entrance, oriented to the outer side of the building, artists used to have not so much contact with the other inhabitants. However, some of them were supportive to the project and took an active part in it, willing to become part of the community as well.

3. The typical infrastructure in the courtyard: shared space to dry the clothes. With new equipment, such as a drying machine or more compact devices for this procedure inside the apartment, such exterior grounds are staying abandoned or have another purpose (mostly they are occupied by kids as an alternative playground). In case of the neighbourhood of *Pryrichna 5*, this place became the meeting point for the neighbours to discuss actual problems, as it is visible from many flats and is situated in front the most active part of the building and near the grocery shop. It is not provided with the furniture to sit because in this case it could be occupied by unwelcomed people, who might create noise. The meetings are taking place with the small chairs, residents bring from home.

4. Informal 'multifunctional centre'. It is known among the neighbours as security office for informal parking in the empty place behind it, a workshop for cars, motorbikes and all sorts of devices. Handymen, two brothers who own this workshop, supplied it with the electricity from their apartment on the 9th floor of the house in front.

Figure 31. Frontside of the shop.

Figure 32. Backside of the shop.
Source – author.

Figure 33.
Source – author.

5. The informal grocery shop, which has extended its area illegally by a pedestrian road. Due to this, the road became quite dangerous for pedestrians, since while leaving the shop they cannot see the cars, and the car drivers cannot see pedestrians as well. There were already few accidents with the kids and this problem is actively discussed between the neighbours. However, the shop is still gladly used by the same neighbours.

6. The area behind the shop became a favourite spot for the after-work 'chill', caused by its perfect invisibility from the windows of the house and the closest accessibility to the shop with its alcohol drinks. The wall of the kindergarten creates conditions to sit on it, and the store kindly provides this 'secret' place with rubbish bins and sometimes takes the litter away. Here the researchers usually could the members of the male population of the community.

Figure 34.
Source – author.

7. The small park works as the public space not only for the *Pryrichna 5* neighbourhood but for the residents of the whole district as well, while it is situated outside the building closer to the river front. The residents have chosen this place for the future intervention.

Figure 35.
Source – author.

8. On the same side with the park there are also a children playground and an abandoned former housing maintenance office. The story of this area with the park and the housing office is described on the following pages.

The narrative of the community

This story was not visible during the first observational part of the research. During the participatory research process, the inhabitants of the house shared their narrative about the 12-year defence of the park and the housing maintenance office (Figure 35). This story was almost not spotlighted in any media. However, it was documented by the active participants from the house[5].

In the year 2000, while the residents of *Pryrichna 5* were focused on their private goods, the territory around was slowly privatised and was changing its owners. It was still that post-Soviet era of intensive legal and illegal privatisation, as was discussed before (pp. 40-43). The park near the housing maintenance office (Figure 36), which used to serve the residential building, was fenced and then demolished under the pretence of building the new 'modern park'. However, in 2003 the massive construction dug for the new high-rise residential building that appeared behind the fence (Figure 37-38).

The residents of *Pryrichna 5* began to protest not only because of the fear to lose the view of the river, and even not only because of the fully occupied and destroyed park, but also because of cracks, which have appeared in some of their apartments. The new construction was entirely inappropriate in the already organised urban context; moreover, the building site was too close to the existing house and to the underground water, which caused the damage of the residential building.

The protesters were blocking the road for the construction machines (Figure 39) but also were trying to find some fair support from the government by going to the courts and prosecutor's offices.

As a result, in 2007 the development started by the construction company *"Kyiv State Building Trust"* (*Ukr. "Трест Київмістобуд"*) was officially declared illegal one by the local courts of the Obolon district. The building process was stopped; however, the constructed pit with groundwork was not demolished, and the former park was transformed

Figure 36. These photos show the view from the balcony from the fresh built house. Here is seen the new park yet without trees and parts of the buildings of housing office with sport playground near it. 1989.
Source – archive of the residents of *Pryrichna 5*.

into another abandoned construction site of the city for the next five years.

In 2012, before the new local elections in the districts administration, one of the politicians decided to use the situation in his favour and found the budget money to demolish the construction site, fill the pit and to restore the promised park with children's playgrounds for the inhabitants. As expected, that made him the head of the district afterwards.

However, the residents continue their fight for the housing office building till nowadays. Originally the building was planned to serve 30 houses in the area and especially the house of *Pryrichna 5*, as the biggest building in the neighbourhood. Additionally, the office used to have extra space for community meetings, workshops and educational purposes. Now it stays abandoned, and its function moved to the kindergarten in another urban stamp, and residents pay the rent for this office to be there.

This is the typical example of transformations in the post-Soviet society. The most popular process, which can unite neighbours, is the protection of their property or favourite public spaces (park, playground, market, transport hub, etc.). Kyiv, as most of the others post-Soviet cities, still does not have any mechanism of communication with citizens, even such basic one like informing. Due to the widespread unauthorised construction, inconsistent with the residents, the citizens naturally became mistrustful and sceptical to any initiatives and changes. That is why all the changes are perceived aggressively by people even if they have good intentions6. And the citizens with their experience, as described above, have every right to react like this.

6.
The Centre for Society Research in Ukraine (CEDOS) in 2013 have published its research of the protests unauthorised development. Some of the protests against became professionalised and organised by development companies or the politicians as the mechanism to attract the attention of people and change their point of view. This created additional fears, alienation and passiveness in the society to their right in the city.
www.mistosite.org.ua/uk/articles/mova–antyzabudovnyx–protest (accessed October 2016).

Figure 37. Construction side. Source – archive of the residents of *Pryrichna 5*.

Figure 38. Protesters are blocking the machines. Source – archive of the residents of *Pryrichna 5*.

The story of such conflict in the city describes the context of the entry point of the participatory research project of the thesis. There are not so many (or not enough) reliable initiatives, which work with the neighbourhoods in mass housing areas in Kyiv. As a consequence, the society may not be ready to participate in any kind of community building projects. High level of mistrust and disillusion generate not only defensive behaviour but also alienation and passiveness to political responsibility and self-organisation.

The Process

The process of the intervention in the community of *Pryrichna 5* in Obolon district is a journey without clear destination. The process of developing this project was a research on its own, while it consisted of learning, finding, exploration and understanding of the community and vice versa.

The following chapter analyses the process of the Artistic Investigation in a more theoretical way.

Learning in Action

The first idea of the project and initiative was ambitious and naive at the same time: in perspective, it should have had a substantial impact on the life in the environment of mass housing areas, structure of governance and state programs. The aim was to create a platform not only for dialogue but also for collective actions. Communication here was a tool for participation and action; social engagement was a base of political responsibility. The goal was to introduce the new patterns of cohabitation, based on self-organization and active participation instead of passive waiting for downstream benefit from the governmental organisations, by practising different initiative scenarios at a public space of the neighbourhood's courtyard.

As a symbolic instrument to invite neighbours from the neighbourhood to the common activity, the modular table, called *connecTABLE*[1], was used. Referring to the traditional culture of conversation, dinner time and family atmosphere, we have imagined a long table as a symbolic place for communication. The table with different playful and educational activities for dwellers in the form of the neighbourhood festival could be a precedent for people's connection. During the festival, people could create, entertain, and learn better their community by doing simple things like having dinner together, doing sports, playing with kids, improving infrastructure with their own hands or taking part in the local forum.

However, the attempts to implement this idea, due to the lack of experience, showed that the vector of the project should be changed. It was transformed into this investigation to find the real demand of the community, before starting any event in the unknown neighbourhood.

1.
With this general idea, the project *connecTABLE* has won the architectural ideas–competition *"User Generated Kyiv"*, organised by the most outstanding architectural platform in Ukraine *Canactions* in 2014. In the wake of all the political and social changes in the country, this prize was the first sign about the new values in Ukrainian society, that turned in the new direction – the social one.

Figure 39.
The creation of the connecTABLES
Source – author.

Inquiry

Inquiry examines and explains facts and situations. To find appropriate information *"the answer should be possessed before raising the question"* (p. 6). There were three questions the organizers wanted to investigate as well during the process:

1. Definition of the borders of the neighbourhood.

2. Formal and informal interpretation and perception of the activities and infrastructure in the common public space, as well as the interrelation between the activism in the community and their living environment, in frames of the small area of chosen 'urban stamp' in Obolon district.

3. How does the participatory process work? What is the starting point and how the participants would accept the initiative group, which comes from the outside to the community?

Additionally, to test these questions, the goal was to reveal the real needs of the community and their inquiry. During the process of the problems exploration and the solutions finding, the new questions could appear, which would give more fulfilled answers on the primal research questions.

Grounding and Uncertainty

Uncertainties and fears based on the lack of the previous experience were restraining the beginning of the study. However, this time was used for the self-education, by starting the crowd-funding campaign, organising thematic seminars with experts, and visiting different educational workshops to get essential skills for work with the community. One of such training was *Active Citizens*, held in Kyiv by the *British Council* a social leadership training program that promotes inter-cultural dialogue and community-led social development. The program teaches facilitators to initiate the social action in their local communities. Some tools of their method are similar to those *Chevalier*

2.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J, "Participatory Action Research", 2013.

and *Buckles* describe in their methodology to *Participatory Action Research* [2].

Due to this learning phase, the central principle for the project confirmed itself: **in order to maintain the chosen principle of social inclusion, no fixed event format should be forced on the target audience.**

Besides, this time was used for choosing the neighbourhood and afterwards for spatial observation of the selected area, which was helpful for the following process. It took some time to do the first step and to introduce ourselves to the community.

The main fears were concerning **the rejection of our initiative in the community, an amateur behaviour of the researchers and unsolvable problems of the community, which could be easily explored**.

Planning

The primary plan of the process was roughly designed in the following scheme:

- to introduce of the initiative to the community;

- to find the common interests with the community and to create a working group with the neighbours;

- to define the problems and needs of the neighbourhood and transform them into a common project;

- to support the participants in the final implementation of the common project.

Fact finding and listening

Don't ask "What's the problem?"
Ask "What's the story?"
That way you'll find out what the problem really is.
John Forester[3]

Narrative as an entry point

Dolores Hayden says that narratives *"locate us as part of something bigger than our individual existences, make us feel less insignificant, sometimes give us at least partial answers to questions. Memory establishes us as part of a family history, community as part of city building and nation making."*[4] Narratives help to connect residents with urban landscape history and foster a stronger sense of belonging.

David Harvey, the cultural geographer, warns that the popular approach to regeneration in *"The New Urbanism"*[5] with its concepts of neighbourhood and community and urban village, is regrettably inadequate to deal with unemployment and poverty because it often lacks the narratives of history, collective memory and identity that make a place.

Understanding and exposing the existing narratives for a city or a community allows creating new stories and raising those issues that remain covered[6]. Narrative of the community and the city is a shared process. It demands a willingness to listen and learn, to focus on a 'shared authority' and to be at the core of the engagement with the community. It takes lots of research, community involvement and inventive mapping to find those narratives.

It was quite challenging to identify the point of entry into the community. How to determine the key actors, problems and goals that bring them together? How can the problem be named, when we do not define the goals that have not yet been met? How to start the conversation and on which language to interest people, being an absolute stranger for them?

3.
John Forester,
"The Deliberative
Practitioner:
Encouraging
Participatory Planning
Processes", 1999, p. 19.

4.
Dolores Hayden, "The
Power of Place: Urban
landscapes as public
history", 1997, p. 227.

5.
David Harvey in "The
New Urbanism"
discusses new
urbanism as proposed
by Peter Katz, Leon
Krier, Prince Charles,
Urban Villages Forum
and others. D.Harvey,
'The New Urbanism
and the communitarian
trap', 1997, pp. 68–9.

6.
Chiles Prue, "What
if?...A narrative process
for reimagining the
city", 2000.

The story of the community of Obolon (p.74-77) became the ideal perfect **entry point** for the investigation. Willing to hear and listen to the witnesses of the long-term process, about their successes, challenges and failures, allowed the researchers to understand the structure of the community, their inquiries and possible shared interests in the project.

Here are the essential points being heard and found in the narrative of the community:

1. Due to the 12 years of permanent protests against unauthorised construction in front of the house, the active group of residents was build, who are being fighting and working together till nowadays.

2. In spite of the fact that construction of the house was stopped, its groundwork caused damage to the inhabited house, because of its proximity to the building and the proximity of underground water to the sandy surface. The house urgently needs renovation. Otherwise, it could quickly become unsafe. However, the housing program of the city is ineffective and cannot deal with it in the nearest future. The residents are ready to take part of the costs on themselves. For this, they need to unite and become an official legal community (organise a *Housing Cooperative*).

4. All the meetings of the community happen in front of the house, but during the warm seasons only, for bigger meetings the neighbours need to rent the space at the nearest school. The building of the former housing office, which stays abandoned, is a potential community centre for the residents.

5. The active group remains small and consists mostly of the elder residents, who want to but do not know how to involve young people in this responsible process.

Exploring the problems

The question that needs immediate attention varies according to the conditions of a group process or project. Prior inquiry of the research can be the primary point of the project. However, it is critical to listen to the needs and interests of the target group and let them define their problems and solutions, because the engagement of the people in the planning process needs to include their interests in it.

The ideal entry point into a collaborative inquiry process was the story of the community, which was discovered during the very first investigations and talks with the inhabitants. It helped a lot to organise the first meeting. There was an assumption that the active group of residents would come for the first meeting to defend their area. At least there was a chance that somebody would come. The assumption was true. The neighbours have read the threat in the informational posters about the meeting and here is why: the place for the first meetings was chosen in the enormously huge space in the courtyard (Figure 25, p. 66). Together with the problems with the unauthorised construction on the other side of the building, this place looks exactly like another vacant spot for a potential residential tower or supermarket.

Perceiving the research group as some representatives from the construction company, who came to promote the project, the residents appeared to assure that they are not to be trifled and one construction was already stopped once by them and would be quickly stopped once more. That very first meeting was a disaster. Nevertheless, for the first and the last time the amateur and uncertain behaviour gave the benefits for the researchers and the community decided to give a chance to the initiative and to listen. The researchers attempted to introduce themselves and the main aim and idea of the initiative and to arrange the meeting on the regular basis: same day, same time, same place.

Figure 40.
First meetings.
Source – team of the project.

For the further meetings, the principal aim was to identify some common interests. For this a modified version of tool *"Problem Tree"* [7] was used, which contributed to understanding the causes and effects of the problems. By naming the problem, the participant was asked to answer the question, *"Why has this issue occurred?"*, which brought the problematic question to the solution discussion.

These sessions with discussions helped to define the core of the issues neighbours were facing and wanted to improve even by themselves and, moreover, contributed to defining the possible solutions.

All the illegal and unauthorised actions around their place would not have happened if the community had had the legal right to their common area. For the moment the house and the territory around was on the balance of the city. The city does not have enough resources to support all the residential housing.

People already knew their biggest problem and solution: to register their house as the Housing Cooperative and to share the supervision of the building with the government. The main issue for them to solve this problem was to involve into negotiation most of the residents of the house and to get their agreement.

Discussions gave the participants the opportunity to slow down, reflect and consider alternative strategies to gain more confidence in their ability to think and act.

7.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J, "Participatory Action Research", 2013.

8.
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J, "Participatory Action Research", 2013, pp. 254–258.

9.
by experts, using the agencies, activists, who know the situation well enough to identify stakeholders.

by self-selection, using announcements and invitations to the project through different media or offline placards. This can attract those who believe they will gain from communicating their views and wish to contribute to the process.

by other stakeholders, by finding several local stakeholders, opinion-leaders, which can suggest other key figures who share their views and interests.

by written records and population data, if it exists. This information may provide useful numbers of people by age, gender, residence, classes and so on.

by oral and written accounts of major events. This will help to identify key figures, who were already involved into the problem.

Knowing the actors

Identifying the actors and assessing the relations between them, proceeds better concept for the action and tools for its implementation. *Chevalier* and *Buckles* describe that analysing the structure of the community, understanding the roles of the actors, their power and resources, helps to answer two critical questions:

How can each stakeholder influence the situation or course of action? And how each stakeholder can be affected by it? [8]

This part is a very sensitive one, while the structure of the community and relationships between them can be quite complicated to identify. Some of the stakeholders can belong to more than one group. It is also the challenge to focus on parties that can and should contribute to the project, which means to empower marginal or less active groups that may otherwise be excluded from collective thinking in action. That is why stakeholders' engagement needs a strategic and progressive approach.

Chevalier and *Buckles* suggest various methods and categories for identifying the stakeholders [9].

In this research the identification of stakeholders was made through oral accounts of major events, by other interested parties and by self-selection. In this way, nine groups of the community were distinguished. In the list below they are described in frames of who are the members of each cluster, their relationships with other groups and their interests in the participation in the current project.

Structure of the community

1. **The active group of residents** remained united from the time of defence of their territory from the 2000s. The actors of this group consisted mostly of the middle-aged and elder neighbours (predominantly women) who have enough enthusiasm and time for

activism in their community. They possess a significant social capital and respect in the community.

Interests: This group became central members of the working group in the project, as this could help them to attract more neighbours into their initiative.

2. Middle-aged and elder women were joining the project intensively and had different personal interests in it.

Interests: There were the mothers, they brought their kids to the meeting, and they were interested in developing better infrastructure for their children to entertain them. Some elder women, who were looking after self-organised gardens in the yard, were following the process in case the project could turn into some infrastructural development for them. But most of the members of this group were the handywomen, who joined as participants of the final event when the project was defined.

3. Middle-aged men were not so much interested at the beginning but were passively following the process, commenting and criticising it. For most of them, the practical part of the project was more important, such as to solve the problem with the dangerous part of the road near the grocery shop (Figures 29-31, pp. 70-71), though they were avoiding discussions and did not take the responsibility to develop their initiative. Most of them did not take the team of investigators and the project itself seriously. **Interests:** However, due to the local working group, the compromise was found at the end and they agreed to help to build the structures for the project in order to implement their idea to draw the preventive sign on the facade of the shop.
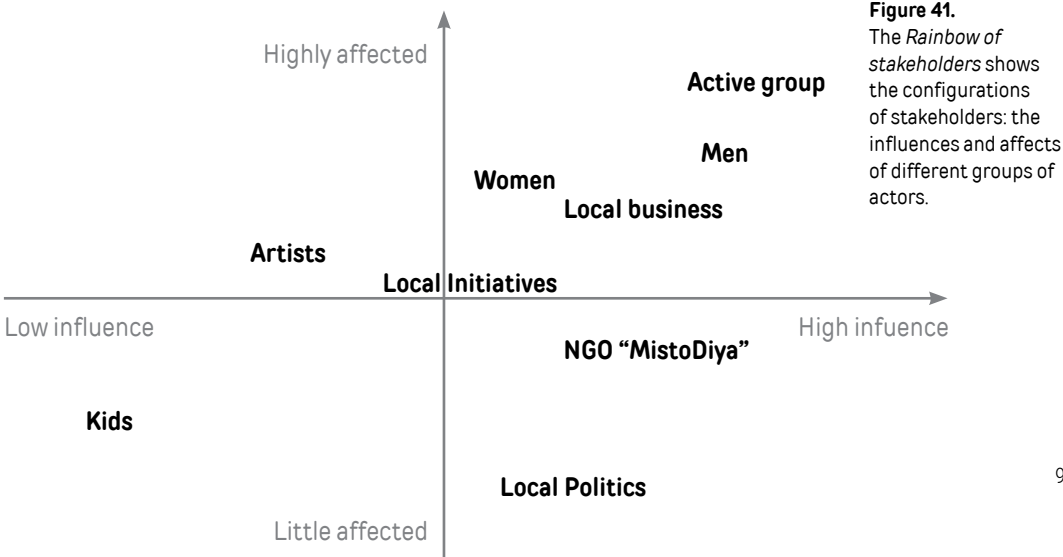
4. Kids of preschool and school-age (5-13 years) were the most active and grateful participants in the research. It was the time of the end of summer holidays and the beginning of school; therefore, they were waiting for our meetings, spreading the news, bringing their parents and grandparents and growing into a bigger and bigger audience with each session. **Interests:** to have fun.

5. The Artists work in the section for artistic workshops. As the section entrance is oriented not in the inner yard, artists are a bit divided from the community. Some of the young artists showed their interest to the research and became active participants, supporting the initiative by providing their space for our technical needs and taking part in the final event. **Interests:** To become part of the neighbourhood.

6. Local business:

6.1. A handyman and his family from the informal 'multifunctional service centre' in the inner yard of the house (Figure 25 on p. 69) played a significant role in the project. This 'multifunctional service centre' remains a contradiction part in the community: some of the neighbours friendly use its services, others complain about its marginalised appearance and informality. That is why the handyman preferred to stay outside of the project and not to communicate with the neighbours. However, his family and himself were very kind to help and to keep our materials for the building workshop and share their electricity and instruments. **Interests:** Unknown.

6.2. A grocery shop, whose structure has created a dangerous situation for pedestrians on the inner road of the yard (Figures 29-30 on pp. 70-71). They have complicated relationships with the residents: from one side the residents are complaining about the spatial position of the shop, from the other – they are using it regularly and have friendly relationships with the sellers. **Interests:** to avoid the conflict.

Figure 41.
The *Rainbow of stakeholders* shows the configurations of stakeholders: the influences and affects of different groups of actors.

7. Local initiatives. Within the last two years rise of bottom-up activism in Kyiv, the Obolon district is lucky to have several initiatives, who care about its development. There are the activists, who renew the abandoned recreational areas or clean the lakes and banks of the river, who voluntary take responsibility for the safety in the district, etc. However, as their activities are concentrated mostly on the specific areas and the information is spread mostly through the internet, most of the population (more than 70%)[10] doesn't know about them.
Interests: the local initiative from *"Park Natalka"* from the nearby Naberezhna community, were interested in current research to attract more residents to their events.

8. Local politicians have been receiving quite a mistrustful role in this community: they used to be the cause of the problems and superficially solve them in the pre-election time. This tendency is well known by the citizens and residents of *Pryrichna 5* community especially. As this neighbourhood is famous for its protests and activity, some of the politics try to avoid it, and some try to support their actions to improve their personal reputation. Therefore, neighbours have built the sceptical perception of the local authorities. In the end, the final project had the defined position to make entirely independent action to prove their ability of self-organisation not for protesting purpose only.
Interests: Different local parties were trying to join the project to popularise their image.

9. NGO "MistoDiya"[11] – a multidisciplinary team of architects, artists, activists and volunteers, which have initiated the project and the research, described in this thesis.

Stakeholder analysis is often the first step in *PAR* process to explore a plan of action or to understand a problem, its root causes, the factor at play and options for action.

10.
According to the studies "The study of social capital, development of local communities and urban space in Obolon district of Kyiv", by CEDOS (Analytical centre), 2016.

11.
For the implementation of the project, the author had to create the not-for-profit organisation for legal support and further activities. *NGO "MistoDiya" (translation from Ukrainian "CityMaking")* is a not-for-profit organisation, which aims to work with different stakeholders such as communities, citizens, government, experts to research the city. In this thesis, the author uses *research team* to mention *"MistoDiya"*.

Finding the solutions

Reflecting on the *"Problem Tree"* results, the global inquiry of the community revealed: the house needs to become the Housing Cooperative and afterwards the residents can take bold decisions for other improvements. The main problem of the legalisation was the lack of support from the other inhabitants. Additionally, all the previous action of the active group concerned the defensive and protesting activities. Perhaps, there were already neighbours, who were avoiding all the initiatives and did not want to deal with this group. To change it an entirely contrasting action was needed. As the participants understood that our research did not have the potential resources for significant visible changes in their community, the members decided to use this opportunity to make some affordable action, which could help them to attract more people to the problem of their house.

A lot of ideas were expressed, especially from the kids. However, there was one positive action, which could unite a lot of them: the women knew by that time about handicraft skills of each other and were ready to share them with the others.
Thus the idea of an exhibition of talents in the neighbourhood appeared. From the first sight, the idea was too simple. However, the organisational process could engage a lot of other groups of the community, who did not join before. The organisation of such event could be helpful for both sides of the investigation: it could spotlight the action of the community of Pryrichna 5 and could answer the researched questions.

Figure 42. The photo illustrates the first result of the project, "the point of no return": the pop-up informational desks where the new information about the neighbourhood event was presented. Source – author.
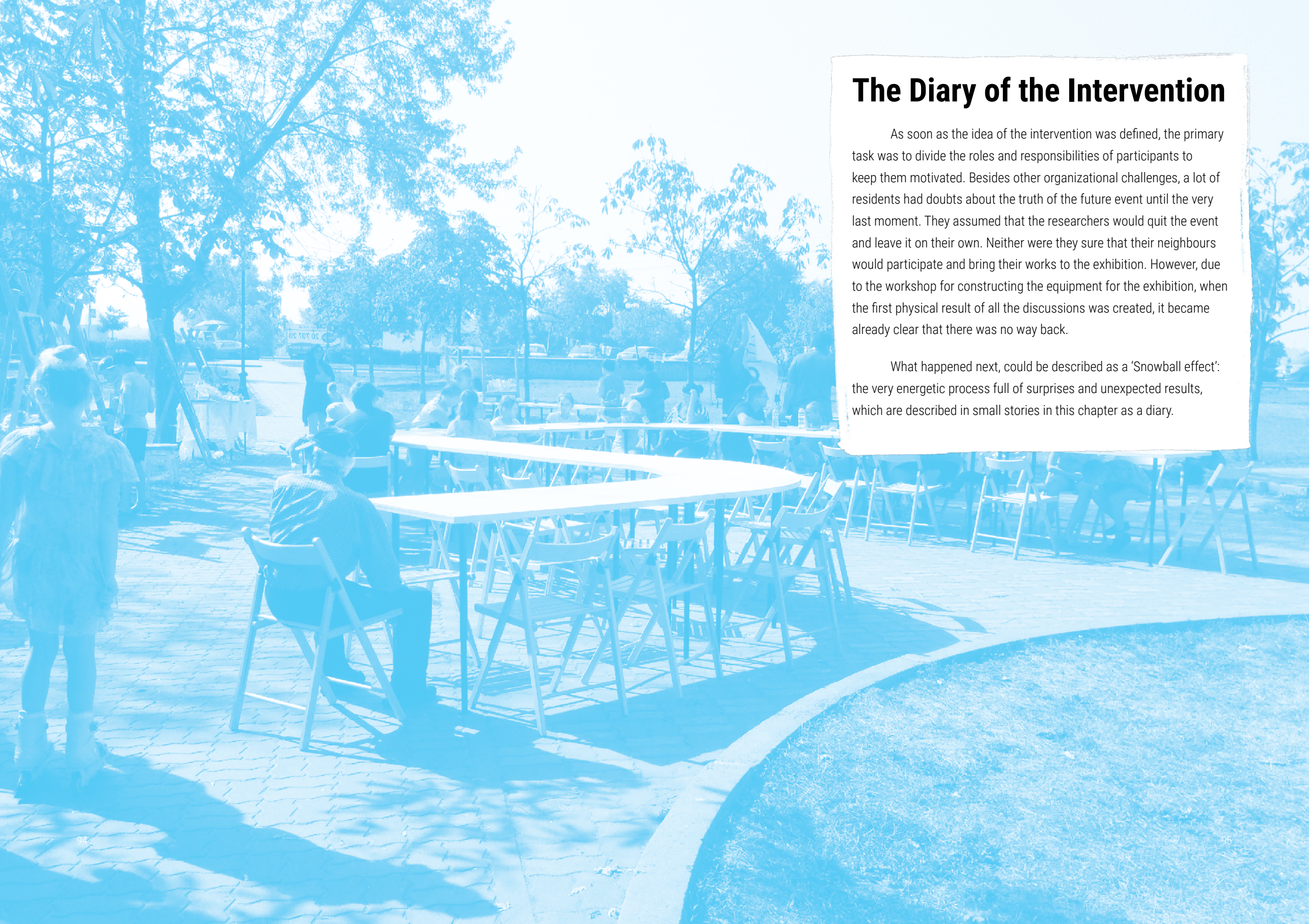
The Diary of the Intervention

As soon as the idea of the intervention was defined, the primary task was to divide the roles and responsibilities of participants to keep them motivated. Besides other organizational challenges, a lot of residents had doubts about the truth of the future event until the very last moment. They assumed that the researchers would quit the event and leave it on their own. Neither were they sure that their neighbours would participate and bring their works to the exhibition. However, due to the workshop for constructing the equipment for the exhibition, when the first physical result of all the discussions was created, it became already clear that there was no way back.

What happened next, could be described as a 'Snowball effect': the very energetic process full of surprises and unexpected results, which are described in small stories in this chapter as a diary.

As the exhibition was planned to be outdoors, the first task was to build simple stands for artworks. The working team asked a group of men, who were not very active in the process before, to help with the transportation of the materials and construction process. The day before the announced workshop, this group of men started doubting everything that we were doing, calling the initiative a useless action for their community. That was the most crucial moment in the whole process when our team was almost driven out from the neighbourhood. However, the group of women took it upon themselves and asked us to arrive the next day in the announced time. We did not know why they were convinced, but when we reached the spot, those men were waiting for us with their families and with the materials and instruments ready.

Figure 43.
Source of all the photos in this part – author and her team.

During the workshop, we finally had the opportunity to properly communicate with the residents, with whom we did not talk much before. In those discussions, the idea of another intervention, concerning the dangerous crosswalk near the grocery shop, appeared. This project could be certainly implemented during the planned event. The details were discussed and planned during drilling and sawing the constructions.

The final meeting with the working team and participants of the exhibition took place. Women were bringing layouts with sizes and quantity of their works, discussing the spatial planning of the show, choosing the best places for their stands in the park. To our personal surprise, we were invited to the apartment to see the process of the preparation of masterpieces from Vera Yosipovna, the oldest participant of the exhibition. On this session, the idea of master-classes was announced, as some of the women did not want just to sit and guard their works. They needed some action.

The day of the exhibition began early. However, the research team with its volunteers were the only working hands at the beginning, which was quite shocking for us. Within an hour the situation changed, and the participants appeared with their impressive amounts of artworks and extra working hands to prepare the exposition. All the female members were incredibly beautiful; it seemed that they attended a beauty salon, which perhaps was the cause for the delay.

Besides the participants we already knew, new neighbours were bringing their works on the day of the exhibition. There were pretty amazing characters with unexpected works. Not only we were surprised, but also the neighbours themselves, learning about each other's hobbies, in the same way as knowing each other again.

Few stands on the exposition were dedicated to the history of the community. The neighbours collected the photos from their archives about the defence of the territory of the square in front of their building, where the exhibition was taking place.

Moreover, a cute short story about the first days of the life of Pryrichna microdistrict in Obolon was performed. It was written by one of the residents, who moved there with her family as a child.

Artists from the workshops gladly brought their precious works, which at the end were tangled with unprofessional masterpieces of the residents.

The table played the role of the platform for improvisational actions. Most of them were workshops and master-classes, organized by the residents. It was possible to try free drawing technique, to learn how to make traditional Ukrainian dolls 'motanki', to make the decorations for the pets and for oneself. The tutors were the residents of all ages from a girl of 8 to old ladies of more advanced ages.
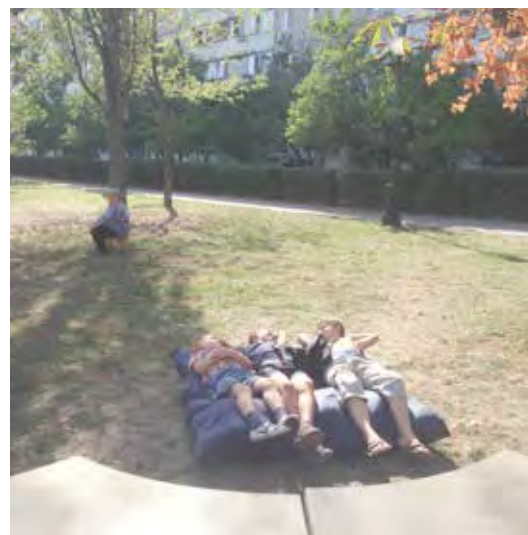
The workshops and activities were spreading outside the limits of the table. For instance, suddenly and not clearly how a ping–pong table appeared.

The event also attracted other initiatives, such as the one concerning the importance of dog playgrounds in the district. The members of this initiative made a performance with their trained dogs and held the discussion about the care and training methods. Some of the neighbours brought their own pets to this session.

At the end of the intervention, all the participants were honoured with the certificates for taking part in the first neighbourhood Exhibition of Talents in the district. The tradition to mark and collect even small achievements comes from the Soviet times. However, it still made participants smile and understand that they had really done something extensive.

Some parts of the table were travelling around the park for other activities. One woman remembered that she had a cotton candy machine. That is why in the middle of the festival we found the group of kids in the bushes, since it was the only place where the electricity cable from somebody's apartment could reach.
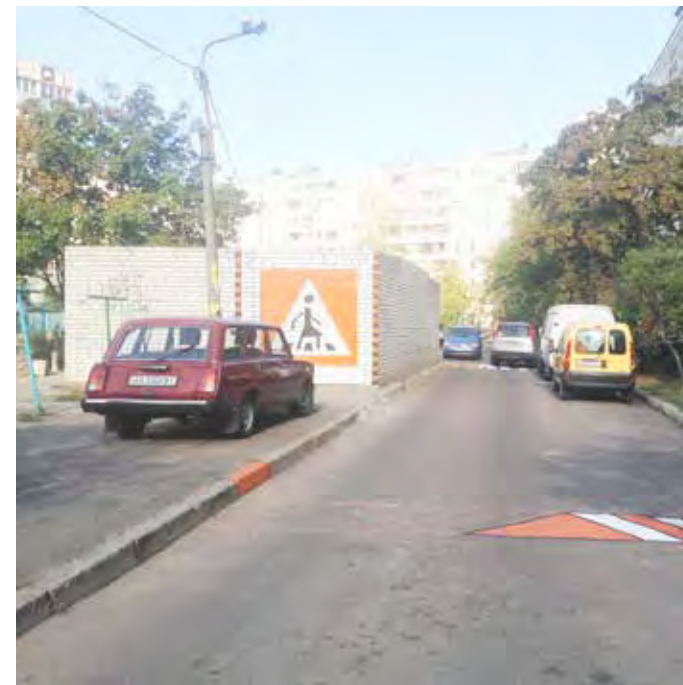
The compromise with the male population of the neighbourhood in terms of practical intervention was the drawing of a huge preventive crosswalk sign on the facade of the grocery shop, which was made together with them and their children.

The feminist artist *Uliana Buchenko* was invited to moderate this process. With her initiative, the sign got the female gender, which seems to be very relevant to this community.

However, the biggest surprise was the unforeseen fire show on the playground at the end of the day. It was 'the present' for the neighbourhood from one of the residents.

Results. Understanding epy system

"All is data."

Barney G. Glaser[1]

A successful participatory project or action research can never be a repetitive exercise. It is a very flexible process where understanding of the situation and a quick response to it are required. Therefore, the biggest challenges here are to evaluate and analyse the evidence received and experienced during the project, to divide the social and natural systems into meaningful parts, define how the parts interact and choose the suitable methodology to analyse it. Besides, the biggest challenge for the author in this project was to separate the personal perception of the process and scientific facts to interpret the experience.

For a better understanding, the chapter about the results is divided into two categories in response to the primary research questions:

Results of the intervention contain the analysis of the contribution of the *Participatory Action Research* into the life of *Pryrichna 5* community. This analysis is based on the tool of *PAR "Attribution and Contribution"*[2] and answers a question in the field of impact evaluation and performance of the team to achieving a meaningful change.

Analysis of the social life in mass housing environment contains an attempt to apply a two-month experience of participatory work with one of the neighbourhoods in Obolon district in Kyiv to better understand the structure of the social and cultural life there.

Major

Moderate

Small

None

Worse

Results of the intervention

Intervention, Objectives, Partners

From August to September 2015, the independent research team from *NGO "MistoDiya"* was doing the participatory research in the community of *Pryrichna 5* in the Obolon district in Kyiv, Ukraine. After the active neighbours were identified, the following primary inquiries were defined:
1. to improve the communication inside the community so that the creation of the *Housing Cooperative* could become possible.
2. to highlight positive activity of the house and unique identity of the community to better address tension between residents and authorities, which have influence on the area and its development.

As a result, citizens together with organizers created an artistic event, *the Exhibition of Talents of Obolon* and the neighbourhood festival, where the residents were not only presenting their artworks and handmade objects but also were sharing their skills with each other and discussing their future.

From the side of the *NGO "MistoDiya"*, the intervention was supported financially by the *Heinrich Böll Foundation in Ukraine*, as the urban intervention and research: moreover, the residents have also received support from the *British Council Ukraine* in frames of the program *Active Citizens* as the social bottom-up action.

Observed Change

After the end of the project, since the end of September 2015, the following changes and activities in the community have been observed:

Stronger Relationships. Relationship between some members of the community has moderately improved, as during the preparation of the project and the event itself citizens got to know their neighbours. Moreover, due to the artistic 'coming out' during the exhibition some of the residents have changed their negative perception of each other

and started to collaborate. New connections have been build, the level of trust has increased after the successful common activity, which in its turn has improved the communication between members of the community. This higher trust level resulted in a number of collaborative actions, which were developed by the *Pryrichna 5* community without any guidance from the organizers' side.

Empowerment. During the year after the intervention, neighbours were implementing the ideas, which were created during the meetings with the research team, though could not be included into the final project. For instance, it was plantation of the trees in front of the house, where the residents have engaged the local landscape institution to support the action with the trees and materials.

Enhanced capacity in policy dialogue. A number of important self-organised community meetings have taken place, which is confirmed by the fact that in **a year later, in September 2016 the community of *Pryrichna 5*, became the *Housing Cooperative*.**

Intervention Scope

The research team together with a sufficient number of volunteers interacted with the community of *Pryrichna 5* and built a team of approximately 40 members to implement the intervention. In numbers, the working team consisted of: 2 members of the research team; 8-10 volunteers; 8 members of the active group of residents; 5 residents, who have joined during the meetings; 2 artists from the workshops; 15 participants of the exhibition. As a result, the intervention attracted 23 new artists during the festival and more than 150 guests from the neighbourhood, the whole district and the city. It is remarkable that these results were achieved with the help of the intervention of such **a small scale**, as compared to the total amount of inhabitants in the *Pryrichna 5* community (2300 inhabitants) and the Obolon district. The researchers played an indirect role in the project: the primary goal was to listen and facilitate, but not to force our ideas and views on the community.

Role

Scale

Nearness

Obstacles
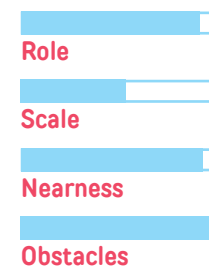
Due to the **jointly interaction (nearness)** of the research team with other actors, the residents were confident that they haв made the intervention almost by themselves, which made them feel empowered and proud to achieve the further changes described in the previous part (Observed Changes). **Moderate obstacles** were encountered along the way of the implementation.

Method

To what extent the research team was methodological? As it was mentioned at the beginning of the thesis, the flow of the project was more intuitive and artistic, than scientific. Due to this, a real degree of trust between participants and researchers had been built. Moreover, the modular table *connecTABLE* as an instrument of communication played a significant and symbolic role as was planned. The table was helping to work with otherwise quite uncomfortable space of the inner yard during the meetings and attracted curious residents to join. Nevertheless, the process could be more efficiently planned or regulated by the organizers. Consequently, there was no continuity of the exhibition as a tradition in the next year as was planned by the community. It happened partially because at some point the active community members started to perceive the organizers as 'hired workers' and themselves as 'clients'. However, despite the obstacles, the observed results show that the method still was quite effective. The inhabitants reached one of the aims of the intervention and other activities were in the planning stage.

Effective

Efficient

Deliberate

Verifiable

Contribution

Contribution

Informal discussions between the parties suggest that the results of the Exhibition of Talents were effective and quite efficient taken into account that resources were scarce. Creating the festival was a deliberate intervention that could be credited for a significant community achievement: bringing some improvements in relationships inside the community (between different actors, especially: artists, residents, active group, men, women and kids) and as a result empowering the community for further independent actions.

Default Scenario and overall results

Without the help of the research team, the community of *Pryrichna 5* would not have had the capacity, motivation and staff to implement their idea with positive action in their public space. It could postpone the registration of the house as the *Housing Cooperative* and make its procedure for the active group knotty. The history of the community would remain unknown to the Kyiv society.

Overall, the community is now more empowered, equipped with the constructions for the next exhibitions and has program and ideas for the further development. Given the default scenario and observed changes, the overall results are thus definite and significant.

Recommendations and further activities

Community. The Exhibition of Talents should become a yearly tradition of the community. This idea was initiated by the residents, however, was not implemented in the following year after the intervention, because of the lack of young, motivated human resources in the active group of residents. With the research team's support or not, the community should find more convincing ways to attract different audiences in their initiatives.

The results of the exhibition also have proved the necessity of the community centre for the neighbourhood, which can be located in the abandoned building of the housing maintenance office. The residents are still litigating for this building with the developers. Therefore, to be more persuasive in the court, the active group together with the research team wrote the program, which could potentially be integrated in this community centre and run by the residents.

The research team of *"MistoDiya"* should improve the methodology to attract different audiences to the project; to define its clear role in the project (not by building 'client/server' relationships) and not to lose the individual art of building trustful relationships with tpy participants.
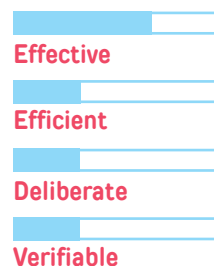
Socio-spatial analysis of the life in mass housing environment of Obolon district in Kyiv

Space

1.
From p. 127,
Barney G. Glaser, "The Discovery of Grounded Theory.", 1967, p. 145.

2.
From p. 127,
Chevalier J.M. & Buckles D.J, "Participatory Action Research", 2013, pp. 359–379.

Due to the fixed urban planning in the Obolon district from the 1970s, today developers could not densify the area with more residential square meters as they do in the new areas of the city. From one side the area was preserved from becoming another 'urban anthill'; from another side, its public spaces have enormous distances for an average pedestrian.

The spatial perception of the neighbourhood by the residents is in much smaller scale than the official administrative division of the district, as outlined in the previous socio-spatial description of the Obolon (pp. 58-59). Apart from that, the results of the *Participatory Action Research* show that there are even smaller divisions of communities inside the urban stamps, identified by the sharp borders like the roads around it. Despite the uncertain edge between the houses, residents perceive their 'zone' as the space attached to their building. Although the neighbourhood of *Pryrichna 5* is the community of the building with four blocks in it, each block has its own public space and community around. It could be inferred that the spatial environment has the direct influence on the communication inside the urban stamp and, as a result, on the community development.

Talking about the **public space**, it remains too extended and vacant within residential areas and requires significant expenditures for the maintenance and improvement. Its scale makes the life of the residents more complicated to cross such long distances even for everyday use purposes. For that reason, public space is chaotically and naturally segregated and informally occupied by gardens, small grocery stores or other kinds of business.

To work with the particular situation in the mass housing areas means carefully working with the current life there. It could be, therefore, speculated that the more rights of the shared public space the

Figure 44. The process of creation of the new crosswalk in the inner yard of Pryrichna 5 community
Source – author.

community have, the more it would be naturally developed, maintained and improved.

Future investigations and observations of the community of *Pryrichna 5* as a *Housing Cooperative*, will possibly answer this question.

3.
Doiana Petrescu and Constantin Petrescu www.urbantactics.org/projets/passage56/ (accessed in January 2017).

"Public space does not need to culminate in the idea of the physical construction of a designed object but is continuously developed as a social, cultural and political production. Here, the client does not precede the intervention but gradually emerges in the group of people who manage it, offering proof that everyday ecological practice can transform present spatial and social relations in a dense and culturally diverse metropolis." [3]

Culture

In the row with other socio-spatial changes in post-Soviet city, discussed at the beginning of the thesis (pp. 42-44), the Obolon district in Kyiv have suffered from the lack of cultural development in new realities of capitalism.

The main cultural activities take place around the transport hubs near metro stations. Such stations like *Obolon, Minska and Heroiv Dnipra* are surrounded by small 'cities', built for consumers, by consumers to consume. Here are several shopping malls with cinemas, markets, enormous amounts of restaurants and informal street vendors. These spots are the most popular among the local population. As reported in the latest research of *CEDOS* [4] the most visited places in the leisure time for the residents of Obolon are supermarkets and metro stations.

Almost half of the residents (45.9%) have answered that they spend their life time in the district only [5]**.**

Even without quantitative research, two months in Obolon district have proven the abovementioned results. Seniors are not able to leave their neighbourhood for a long time and distance. Young mothers spend about all their time with kids inside or not far from the neighbourhood as well. The public transport and public facilities are not intended for parents with kids and disabled people. Male population, presumably, leave the area more often than the other groups; however many of them spend their after-work time in the district with the family or friends. Kids mostly visit local schools and stay in the courtyard after classes with friends to be visible and accessible by their parents.

The modernist planning, based on the state standards, has provided the district with the specific cultural infrastructure, such as libraries, cinemas, concert hall, and school of art. However, the system of state standards is being outdated radically.

4.
CEDOS (Analytical centre), "The study of social capital, development of local communities and urban space in Obolon district of Kyiv", 2016.

5.
Similar researches in Moscow show that 70% of population of the periphery doesn't leave their micro district for leisure activities. Jurii Grigorian, "Archeology of periphery", 2013.

6.
Viacheslav Glazychev (1940–2012), "Culture in the city", 2003.

"The old system of institutions satisfies no one. Because it was designed for passive educational era in which it was assumed that a person should go and listen to music, go to the library and borrow a book, go to the cinema – to see motion picture. Today the individual, in general, can already create all of it by himself, which is beyond the scope of that model."

Viacheslav Glasychev [6]

As expected, cultural life of Obolon is bound to be affected by the limitations of public cultural facilities in the area. The evidence of the intervention with the *Pryrichna 5* community has demonstrated the willingness of the residents for development of cultural activities in the district.

This observation shows the necessity of attention to the cultural life development in the periphery, which is potentially profitable for business, as well as for the government and, particularly, for the citizens.

Society

Communication

Previous perceptions about the lack of communication in the district and alienation of the neighbours were shattered. Residents of *Pryrichna 5* community know most of their neighbours, the members of the active group of the house, where they live and how to contact them. Less they know about the people from other buildings and other parts of Obolon. The later research of *CEDOS* has approved this assumption with more precise numbers throughout the studied district[7], which means that the district potentially might have a number of local communities.

The *Participatory Action Research* has showed that there is the direct interrelation between the quantity of relationships in the neighbourhood and the will of the residents to take an active part in the development of their community. The significant level of environmental trust in the community of *Pryrichna 5* allows the society to feel safe in their neighbourhood and not to be afraid to take responsibility for the social action.

Identity

"Why the centre of Kyiv can have the Andriyivskyy Descent[8] with its artists and exhibitions and we here, in Obolon, cannot?!"
Galina, resident of *Pryrichna 5* community

The exhibition, as the final result of the participatory action research, was an unexpected outcome for the researchers. Besides the list of the problems in the neighbourhood, the representation of the community to the other citizens and authorities appeared more consequential. It talks a lot about the values of the community and the importance of the identification of the neighbourhood. The residents of *Pryrichna 5*, despite all their problems and inner and external conflicts, are proud to live there. They are proud to have the section with the workshops for artists, even though they did not know any artist before

the intervention. They are proud of their active group, who saved their park from the construction. They are proud to fight endlessly with the developers to take back the housing office.

Identification of the residents encourages a responsible attitude to their neighbourhood and the city.

The occurrence of self-identification in the peripheral district of Kyiv doubts another hypothesis mentioned in this thesis before. This hypothesis states that the Soviet mass housing heritage is the most monotonously built environment in the history of humanity, which influences the culture and everyday life of citizens. These 'urban anthills' appear to be the most vivid and heterogeneous social environment, despite their homogeneous spatiality.

Figure 45. The beadwork of one of the residents of the community, from which the idea the Exhibition appeared.
Source – author.

7.
On average most of the inhabitants of Obolon know a quarter of the house, half of the respondents know only 5% of residents of neighbouring buildings. More than a quarter greet their neighbours regardless of whether they know them. One third of respondents communicate with their neighbours every day and 15% of them discuss common problems of the district.

8.
The street in the centre of Kyiv, which is often compared for the tourists with the Parisian Montmartre, due to big amount of galleries, artists workshops and exhibitions along it.

The role of women in the community

The author decided to underline this issue, communicating with the community during this research and the implementation of the intervention has been done due to female members of the neighbourhood, mostly those of the middle- and elder age. It could be the increased amount of time in senior age, longer life expectancy[9] or the unrealized fulfilment during their lifetime. However, through the observation of their influence on the community and the way the community perceives them, it was assumed that more aged women play the most active role there. The so-called 'little old ladies', which are socialising every evening outside their buildings, create the particular subculture of every post-Soviet city. It might have an appearance that they are the guardians of everything in their neighbourhood, which can often disturb other residents. And mainly this subculture is not taken seriously or is even ignored by the younger generation.

The women of *Pryrichna 5* were obviously the first and the most productive participants of the investigation (as well as the children). Despite the common doubts, whether it was the opportunity for these women to be heard at last or the reasoned benefits of the project, the community united to support the initiative.

Activism in Ukraine has distinctive characteristics and, despite the occasional sceptical ignorance from the younger generation, it plays the unique role in the social life in Ukraine. *Olena Leipnic*[10] detects several factors that encourage the elderly to initiate particular social actions. One group can be addressed as subjective and include shared social emotions as those that underline and accompany the active participation. These shared feelings happened to be closely related to the urban environment that had been developed by their generation and appropriated by them through their lifetime.

9.
Senior women population in Kyiv: 10,1%.
Senior male population in Kyiv: 4,2%.
According to the State Statistic Service in Ukraine, October, 2016.

10.
Olena Leipnic "The Elderly as the force for Urban Civil Activism in Ukraine", from Kerstin Jacobsson's "Urban Grassroots Movements in Central and Eastern Europe." 2015.

Figure 46. *"Who run the world? Girls!"* Source – author.

Governance

Bottom-up

"What local urban activism promotes is a sense of togetherness, providing a first step towards the building of the more generalised social trust needed to overcome the low-trust traps of post-socialist civil societies."

Kerstin Jacobsson [11]

11.
Kerstin Jacobsson, "Urban Grassroots Movements in Central and Eastern Europe", 2015.

The rapid growth of bottom-up initiatives in Ukraine and especially in Kyiv has started from the *Euro-Maidan Revolution* in 2013-2014 when the groups of volunteers were formed in different spheres to help and defend themselves and the city. After the shooting of protesters on the *Maidan*, self-organised voluntary guarding groups were established by the residents in each district. These groups built their means of communication, roles and timetable for patrolling the areas and providing security for their neighbours. When the defence was not necessary anymore, the connection between the residents was already created and they continued their activity. But now another vector took place: the vector of creation and improvement of life quality in the neighbourhood. The inability – and lack of interest – of local (or central) government to meet the needs of the large proportion of the inhabitants led to a wave of small-scale urban grassroots mobilisation in the city.

In the Obolon district, such initiatives have transformed into the creation of new parks, preservation of recreational areas, civil society organisations and so on. Some initiatives [12] have the highest potential impact on the level of involvement in community activities.

12
The best–known initiatives are the "Our Obolon", "Park Natalka", "The prospect of Obolon", "Civil Guard Obolon", "Preservation of Pochaina River".

However, during the current investigation, it was admitted that most of the residents of the district do not know about other grassroots initiatives, which operate in their neighbourhood. On the one hand, this is the problem of communication between the initiatives and their way of informing (with online focus). On the other hand, the inhabitants of

the *Pryrichna 5* neighbourhood, for instance, were too concentrated on their local problems and were not ready to spread their activity in another scale, even if the initiative was held in the nearest park. Despite the growth of the bottom-up initiatives in the city, most of the population is still not used to such phenomenon and often mix people's enthusiasm with the political action.

Top-down

In the context of Ukraine, the 'political' is still associated with 'dirty', risky or outright dangerous. Strong commitments to common places are the factors that enable political subjectivity formation. According to *Kerstin Jacobsson*, ordinary people can move into activism with a collectively shared and highly valued cultural and spatial relationship with one's city or one's neighbourhood [13].

13.
Kerstin Jacobsson, "Urban Grassroots Movements in Central and Eastern Europe", 2015.

Figure 47. During the intervention the stickers were spread, telling that the festival is free from state politics.
Source – author.

The author assumes that if the implemented project was implemented from the side of the government, it would not be accepted by the locals because of the high level of mistrust to any political action. During the project, a lot of local political organisations were suggesting the collaboration. However, it was risky to lose the relationships with the community because of joining them. And for the neighbourhood, it was crucial to prove their ability for self-organization.

The other notable development is the increasing participation of urban movements in local governance arrangements. Although nowadays the urban grassroots activism represents an important new phase of post-socialist civil society making, it could not be sustainable without the dialogue and collaboration of bottom-up initiatives with top-down authorities.

Conclusion

The research process exposed unexpected findings and issues that led the fundamental questions beyond the preliminary research questions, but still within the focus of the investigation.

The results of the current research have proved that any study of each district of Kyiv needs an individual and targeted approach. The further analysis should be applied to all aspects of life of the neighbourhoods, including spatial, social, cultural, economic, transport and governance systems. Such multidisciplinary research can show the holistic picture of real inquiries of the city, which should be strategically profitable for the government, business and citizens. Moreover, such methodology could help to build trust between the institutions and citizens, which is discussed in the beginning of this chapter.

The participatory approach itself performed in practice how this kind of positive science can contribute to the community and reveal unique information for the more sophisticated research. However, as this methodology is built on the direct communication, it requires appropriate skills and behaviour, as well as the unique personality of the researcher.

Since the *Participatory Action Research* had its effect on the community, this method becomes even more responsible. Participatory researchers sometimes should address ethical questions in priority to the results in their work. That is why this chapter is mostly dedicated to the sensitive aspect of the process, trust, as a fundamental part of the communication. In the end of this chapter the author gathered the main principles that were learned along the process and that might help the author in her further projects.

The role of trust in the city

1.
David Throsby,
"Economics and
Culture", 2000.

Returning to the categories of trust by *David Throsby* [2] (described on p. 8), the results of the current research in Kyiv have shown that the society in the city yet has quite a low level of institutional and interpersonal trust. As outlined at the beginning of the thesis, the institutions have remained unreliable for the last 25 years. That is to say, the citizens were left to rely only on themselves and their communities. The last few years perform the growth of environmental trust in the society. The example of the community of Obolon successfully proves that. Until the end, the willingness of the neighbours to use the chance to improve their environment allowed us to work with them. Their trust was still built on the doubts and scepticism2. However, by offering the positive experience based on trustful beliefs, this circle could be interrupted.

2.
David Hume, who
described scepticism
in positive philosophy,
performed that the
natural "sceptical
attacks" are cause on
judgment based on
the past experience
all contain elements
of doubt; we are then
impelled to make a
judgment about that
doubt, and since this
judgment is also based
on past experience it
will in turn produce
a new doubt and the
circle can continue
forever.
David Hume,
"Treatise of human
nature", 1740.

The current study proves that the *Participatory Approach* could play this role of positive experience for society and be used as an appropriate and efficient instrument for building new trustful relationships between the city residents.

The role of trust in participatory process

The experience, described in this thesis illustrates the sensibility and responsibility of the participatory process. Although the author and her team were quite lucky to find such active, open and acceptable neighbourhood, the number of challenges during the whole process was considerable. The uncertainties and suspicions during the first contact with the community, scepticism and doubts as from the neighbours, as well as in the organisers' team – every small mistake could easily ruin the whole project. Therefore, the creation of trust appeared the critical issue in the evaluation of the process.

Trust is important, because when people are surrounded by other people who share their values, they feel more comfortable to take risks to experiment, which involves a healthier attitude to failures. People leave their comfort zone more willingly, knowing that there is someone from within their community who will support them. The participatory process requires trustful environment where the participants can rely on and believe the facilitators. Otherwise, they would not take part in any action.

3.
This is a view
expressed by John
Forester (born in
1948), a contemporary
exponent of the theory
of participatory urban
planning. In his book,
"The Deliberative
Practioner" (1999),
he promotes public
learning. Planners,
residents and all
who are concerned
with or involved in
participatory planning,
be they elected
officials, civil servants,
builders, shopkeepers,
policemen, social
workers, teachers
etc., necessarily face
the challenge — and
adventure — of
redefining problems
through mutual
processes of listening
and learning. In this
manner, they may
actively invent new
options that could not
have existed from the
original perspective.

How is it possible to gain the confidence of a variety of participants and researchers whose values, status, ideas and interests may greatly vary? The participatory process teaches people to consider differing and even conflicting opinions and to recognise and respect the voices of those who have been marginalised and not heard before. This is especially important for creating an atmosphere of understanding, which will provide an adequate comprehension of the problems involved; and, hence, create an environment with which everyone may identify and for which everyone will assume responsibility. Participation is an ongoing process with an enduring infrastructure for **public learning** [3], listening, discussion and decision-making that will remain in place long after the planners are gone.

Learning the basic skills of coexistence in complex environment involves more than choosing effective methods of communication. It also includes gaining an effective set of practices. Such methods address the non-linear relation between cause and effect in social situations. They call for the creation of common ground and a common operational framework. Passive listening should be replaced by active listening; creative conflict management must have precedence over the weighing of interests; an appreciation of the cognitive value of emotions must supersede the repression of emotions in the name of reason. However, it is believed that there is no obligation to turn yourself into psychologist or conflictologist, although their qualifications can be crucial in this process and their professional help is always welcomed. Good skills are acquired from the careful observation of good practices, still in combination with compassion and humanity.

For that reason, the professional participatory projects should always go through meaningful ethical and moral questions: *"How should I live with others?"* and *"How must I behave towards others?"*[4]

The following important points are summarized below and are described in the shape of slogan style guidelines which were developed by the author based on the literature and her own experience.

the ability to listen;

the ability to be present;

the ability to interpret the local knowledges;

the ability to act or speak clearly;

the ability to understand when the participatory approach is appropriate indeed.

4.
Hans Henrik
Bruun *et al.*, "Max
Weber: Collected
Methodological
Writings", 2012.

Learn to listen

Since the importance of listening was proved to be crucial on multiple occasions during all the stages of the intervention, the following recommendations from *Marianella Sclavi "The art of listening"* were used and reworked by the author and are presented here as one of the research results:

1. 1. Never jump to conclusions. Conclusions are the most ephemeral part of the research.

2. What you are seeing depends on your point of view. In order to see your point of view, you have to change it.

3. In order to understand what another person is saying, you must assume that he/she is right and ask him/her to help you to understand how come so it is.

4. The emotions are basic tools of knowledge if you understand that they speak a language of analogies and relationships. They do not tell you what you are looking at, but how you are looking at it.

5. A good listener is an explorer of possible worlds. The signals which he or she finds most important are the ones that seem both negligible and annoying, both marginal and irritating, since they refuse to mesh with previous convictions and certainties.

6. A good listener is happy to accept the self-contradictions that come to the fore in personal thoughts and interpersonal communications. Misunderstandings are accepted as occasions for entering the most exciting field of all: the creative management of conflicts.

3.
Marianella Sclavi, "Arte di ascoltare e mondi possibili", 2003.

Be Present

Being present is simply the ability to be at the moment by moment of the interaction. Being fully in the conversation, which means to have mind control and discipline, will allow to focus on the process and to notice every tiny detail of public and individual behaviour of the participants. Presence also means to be present in the whole process together with the participants mentally – to believe what they believe, as well as physically – to attend all the meetings on a regular basis and to take active part in the collective action.

"Yes, I want to establish a new term of art, as– I think – every artist wants to! My guidelines for the Gramsci Monument are 'Presence and Production'. These guidelines for which I am competent come from what I have experienced so far with Art in Public Space. "Presence and Production" means: I want to be present – all the time – and I want to produce something. Beyond my presence and my production, I want, through 'Presence' and 'Production' to create precarious moments of grace. Gracious moments when someone needs to be there and someone needs to be awake. In order to create the conditions for such moments, beside the condition 'Presence', I want to use, as a tool, the different 'Production' components – those you mention – and furthermore, in organizing also Daily- and Weekly events."

Thomas Hirschhorn [4]

4.
Thomas Hirschhorn
for the interview for
dismagazine, New York,
2013.

Respect Local Knowledge

We can always make our assumptions about the situation in the community and prepare some ideas for them; however, if these ideas are brought from the outside and are not understood or accepted by the community, they will never work. Therefore, it is crucial to work with the local knowledge, values and beliefs as well as share yours.

"Do not monopolise your knowledge nor impose arrogantly your techniques, but respect and combine your skills with the knowledge of the researched or grassroots communities, taking as full partners and co-researchers. Do not trust elitist version of history and science that respond to dominant interests, but be receptive to counter-narratives and try to recapture them. Do not depend solely on your culture to interpret facts, but recover local values, traits, beliefs and arts for action by and with the research organisations. Do not impose your own ponderous scientific style for communicating results, but diffuse and share what you have learned together with the people, in a manner that is wholly understandable and even literary and pleasant, for science should not be necessarily a mystery nor a monopoly of experts and intellectuals."

Fals-Borda [5]

5.
Fals–Borda, "Action and
knowledge: Breaking
the monopoly with
participatory action
research", 1991.

Speak an understandable language

Don't forget to switch off the professional terminology speaking with the people from the other field. It is very important to create an atmosphere of collaboration between the participants and the planners. Therefore, all the sides should understand each other and feel comfortable in articulating their ideas.

Understand when the participatory process is appropriate indeed

Last but not least. In addition to the *Arnstein's "The Ladder of Citizens Participation"* (discussed on pp. 26-27), which explains the appropriate methods of participation, it is important to define the appropriate situations for people engagement into the planning process. There are situations, where the immediate solution is needed; there are communities where people already know what to do, but do not have the resources. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the circumstances at first and then choose an appropriate strategy and method.

Bibliography

Chiles Prue. (2000). *What if?…A narrative process for reimagining the city*. In Jeremy Till's *Architecture and Participation.* London and New York: Taylor & Francis Group: Routledge.

Arnstein Sheril. (1969). *The ladder of citizen participation*. New York: Journal of the Institute of American Planners Vol. 35, No. 4. July 1969, pp. 216-224.

Barrett Douglas. (2016). *After sound : toward a critical music*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic.

Bishop Claire. (2006). *Participation*. London: Whitechapel.

Bishop Claire. (2012). *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art and the Politics of Spectatorship.* London: Verso.

Blundell Jones Peter, Petrescu Doina, Till Jeremy. (2005). *Architecture and Participation.* London and New York: Taylor & Francis Group: Routledge.

Chevalier Jacques M. & Buckles Daniel J. (2013). *Participatory Action Research. Theory and methods for engaged inquiry*. London and New York: Taylor & Francis Group: Routledge.

David Harvey. (1997). *The New Urbanism an the communitarian trap*. Harvard Design Magazine. Winter/Spring 1997, No.1.

Delany Samuel R. (1999). *…Three Two One Contact: Times Square Red.* In Joan Copjec *Giving Ground: The Politics of Propinquity*. London and New York: Verso.

Dolores Hayden. (1997). *The Power of Place: Urban landscapes as public history*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Fals-Borda, Orlando & Rahman, Mohammad A. (1991). *Action and knowledge: Breaking the monopoly with participatory action research*. New York: Doubleday.

Forester John. (1999). *The Deliberative Practitioner: Encouraging Participatory Planning Processes. Encouraging Participatory Planning Processes.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Fukuyama Francis. (1996). *Trust: The Social Virtues and The Creation of Prosperity.* New York: The Free Press

Gasman-Deal Hilary. (2010). *Science Research Writing for Non-Native Speakers of English*. London: Imperial College Press

Glaser Barney. (1967). *The discovery of grounded theory: strategies for qualitative research.* Chicago: Aldine.

Habermas Jürgen. (1981). The Theory of Communicative Action vol.*1. Reason and the Rationalization of Society.* Boston: Beacon Press.

Henrik Hans. (2012). Max Weber Collected Methodological Writings. London: Routledge.

Jacobs Jane. (1961). The Death and Life of Great American Cities. New York: Vintage Books.

Junakov Oleg. (2016). *Architect Joseph Karakis*. Kyiv: Almaz.

Jurii Grigorian. (2013). *Archeology of periphery*. Moscow: Moscow Urban Forum.

Kerstin Jacobsson. (2015). *Urban Grassroots Movements in Central and Eastern Europe.* Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing.

Koolhaas Rem. (1995). *What Ever Happened to Urbanism?* In Bruce Mau, Rem Koolhaas *S,M,L,XL*. New York: The Monicelli Press.

Massey Dorey. (2005). *For Space*. London: SAGE Publication Ltd.

Meuser Fillip & Zadorin Dmytriy. (2015). *Towards a Typology of Soviet Mass Housing Prefabrication in the USSR 1955-1991*. Berlin: DOM publishers.

Miesen Markus & Basar Shumon. (2006). *Did Someone say participate? An Atlas of Spatial Practice.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Paans Otto & Pasel Ralf. (2014). *Situational Urbanism. Directing postwar urbanity and adaptive methodology for urban transformation*. Berlin: Jovis.

Paskhaver Oleksander. (2014). *Кем быть?* Kyiv: Fond Poroshenko.

Pateman Carole. (1970). *Participation and Democratic Theory.* Cambridge: University Press

Renaud B. M. (1996). *Housing Finance in Transition Economies: The Early Years in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. In Economic Commission for Europe. *Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition. Principles and Examples*. Geneva: United Nations.

Sclavi Marianella. (2003). *Arte di ascoltare e mondi possibili. Come si esce dalle cornici di cui siamo parte*. Milano: Bruno Mondadori.

Throsby David. (2000). *Economics and Culture*. Cambridge University Press.

Till Jeremy, Nishat Awan & Tatjana Schneider. (2011). *Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture*. London: Routledge.

List of figures

Other Internet Sources

Jarg Bergold & Stefan Thomas. Participatory Research Methods: A Methodological Approach in Motion. http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1801/3334#g1

Introducing Participatory Approaches, Methods and Tools http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/ad424e/ad424e03.htm

Statial Agency. http://www.spatialagency.net/database/how/empowerment/giancarlo.de.carlo

Katerina Seda. http://www.katerinaseda.cz/en/

Michael Kelly. Encyclopedia of Aesthetics. http://arts.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Participatory_Art-Finkelpearl-Encyclopedia_Aesthetics.pdf

Yegor Vlasenko. Housing Corporative system in Ukraine. http://mistosite.org.ua/uk/articlesrozvytok-kooperatyvnyx-form-vlasnost%D1%96-zhytla-v-ukrayin%D1%96

Thomas Hirschhorn. Gramsci Monument. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5yyegM2u88 http://dismagazine.com/disillusioned/47438/thomas-hirschhorn-on-his-project-in-the-projects/

Peter Eleey. Conversation of Thomas Hirschhorn for Walker Art Centre in 2010. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LI1RLhhLeDQ

Phil Rabinowitz. Work Group for Community Health and Development, Community Tool Box. Participatory Approaches to Planning Community Interventions. http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/analyze/where-to-start/participatory-approaches/main

David Hume. Scepticism. http://www.iep.utm.edu/hume

SVESMI. What happened to micro rayon? https://vimeo.com/38840302

Gentile Michael. The «Soviet» factor: exploring perceived housing inequalities in a midsized city in the Donbas, Ukraine. Urban Geography. http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02723638.2015.1012363?src=recsys

Yegor Vlasenko. Article about privatisation after USSR. http://mistosite.org.ua/uk/articles/pryvatyzacz%D1%96ya-zhytla-v-post-socz%D1%96al%D1%96stychnyx-krayinax-prychyna-ta-peredumovy

Active Citizens program https://www.britishcouncil.org/active-citizens

Canactions festival and school in Kyiv http://festival.canactions.com/

CEDOS. The study of social capital, development of local communities and urban space in Obolon district of Kyiv. http://mistosite.org.ua/uk/articles/obolonskyj-rajon-potencz%D1%96al-do-gromadotvorennya

My Obolon platform. History of Obolon www.my-obolon.kiev.ua/istoriya/obolon-v-period-sssr

Study about housing policy in Ukraine https://www.oporaua.org/zhytlo

Local Knowledge http://www.fao.org/docrep/007/y5610e/y5610e01.htm

Glazuchev V. Culture in the city. www.glazychev.ru.courses/2003-10-16_lecture_cultura_v_gorode

Kerstin-Jacobsson. Urban grassroots mobilization in centraleast europenian cities https://www.opendemocracy.net/kerstin-jacobsson/urban-grassroots-mobilization-in-centraleast-european-cities

Luís M. A. Bettencourt. The Kind of Problem a City Is. http://samoa.santafe.edu/media/workingpapers/13-03-008.pdf

Last access for all websites was in January 2017.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank my professor Peter Mörtenböck and assistant Gesa Witthöft for their passionate participation and multidisciplinary input. They consistently allowed this paper to be my work and steered me in the right direction to wrap my experience into an academic thesis.

I would like to thank my friends from the University, Elena Mitrenova and Evamaria Schmidthaler, for their feedback, cooperation and of course friendship. Special thanks to Anna Shadrina, David Cerna and Zwerick for their last minute participation in editing my text and valuable comments on the thesis. I would like to say thank you to Lena Batueva and Anna for our unconditional friendship and for being a motivational example for me to finish this thesis. I want to thank Lena Kohlmayr for our friendship and support.

Definitely, I would like to express my appreciation to Dasha Zaichanka for being not only an understanding friend but also the most reliable advisor about the visual representation of my work. I am also grateful to all my helpful flatmates, Dasha, Arianna Mondin and Dima Isaiev, for our friendly atmosphere at home and for their patience and support in overcoming numerous obstacles I have been facing through my research.

I would also like to acknowledge Marichka Semenenko for appearing in Kyiv at the right time and becoming my reliable partner in the implementation of the project described here. My love and gratitude to our original connecTABLE team, Anna Kamyshan, Daryna Bagachook, Dasha Zaichanka and Dima Isaiev, for creating the idea together and for believing in it no matter what. I would like to thank canACTIONs for giving the opportunity to start the project by honouring it with the first prize. I would like to say special thanks to Yulia Popova for her support and collaboration with our organisation NGO "MistoDiya" and Heinrich Böll Stiftung in Ukraine for their financial support of our project.

Additionally, I would like to thank Active Citizens program of British Council in Ukraine and especially Vitaliy Tykhonovych and Oleksandr Kyrylenko for their input into my development as an Active Citizen and their support of the collaborative action with the community of Pryrichna 5 in Obolon. I would like to express my gratitude to every person who voluntarily helped the project to come true by sharing his/her precious time with it, giving advice or just saying something good and supportive: Dan Voronov, Alexei Bykov, Sergii Pogrebyskyi, Anna Popovich, Lera Guevska, Sasha Salzova, Ira Bilokonska, Vika Marteniuk, Alexander Shevchenko, Nikolai Milovanov, Artem Shevchenko, Nasar Cherniga, Vladimir Veshtak, Masha Vakula, Nadia Parfan, Ella Shtuka, Dmitro Shtuka, Vitold, Dana Kosmina, Anna Zviaginzeva, Anna Isaieva, Irina Isaieva, Sergii Isaiev, Egor Stefan, Zhenia Mikhailenko and many others.

Of course, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the community of Pryrichna 5, especially to Galina Vladimirovna Kostromitskaya, Vera Yosipovna, Sergey, Vladimir, Pasha and many others for accepting our initiative and investigation and for taking an active part in it. Without you and your community, this thesis would have entirely another topic.

Finally, I must express my genuine gratitude and love to all my supportive family, for providing me with unfailing support and continuous encouragement throughout my years of study. This accomplishment would not have been possible without them.

Last but not the least, I would like to express my unconditional love to Dima Isaiev for listening, for believing in me all the time, when I did not believe in myself, for supporting me spiritually throughout writing this thesis and my life in general.

Thank you! 💙