

CAPITAL CITIES: EMBRACING THE CHANGE AND TAPPING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

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University of Latvia
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The late Soviet city neighbourhood – Ziepniekkalns social space, opportunities of local community's development

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TAPPING INTO OPPORTUNITIES

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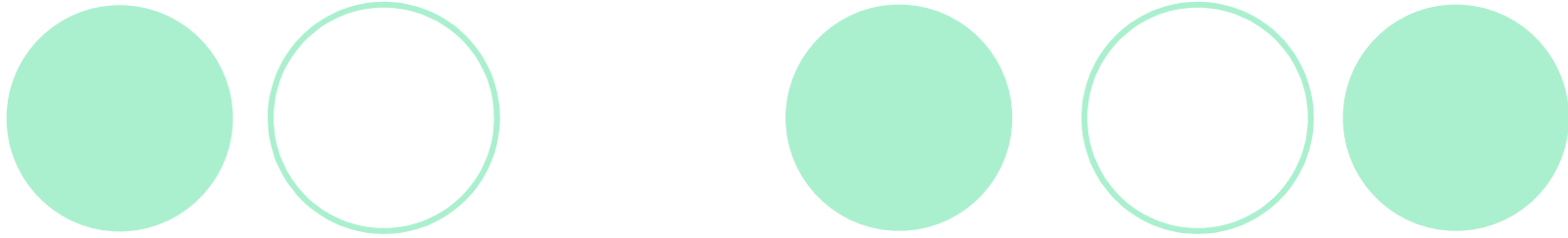
Urban neighbourhoods..

- Not favorable place of emergence of local communities, because of ‘sterility’, anonymity, high density of people (Ley, 1983) and no necessity to maintain friendship to survive.
- Nevertheless there are also favorable conditions of local community formation
- Emergence and existence of local communities within urban neighborhoods is very important in the sense to improve local environment
- Last years in Latvia more attention is being paid to collaborative planning involving stakeholders in planning process

Ziepniekkalns

- 1990s last soviet- time built residential area in Riga
- Emergence of local communities were not so pronounced because
- To Ziepniekkalns were sent people from different work organizations, positions etc. therefore people with different social status, age, ethnicity and occupational background were placed close to each other.





- *Whether many different people complex social networks establish a community (Knox, Pinch, 2010)?*
- Therefore are displayed research question
 - what conditions are favorable of formation of local communities in urban neighborhood – *Ziepniekkalna*s and how to promote this process?
- What factors are positively influencing the creation of social ties in urban neighborhood in Riga, *Ziepniekkalna*s case using public space observations and semi-structured interviews with residents.

Research of Ziepniekkalna neighborhood

- Social space observations were settled on lowest - street level, *where is possible effective self-organisation, everyday public life, social control and territory maintenance and which needs tie to highest level which is responsible for finance resources*
- Complex view of social space of Ziepniekkalna neighbourhood, research of neighbourhood physical and functional structure research
- Map of neighbourhood daily activity areas based on population settlement intensity, provided services, public transport services



Data..

- Provided public services (R gas Domes Labkl j bas departaments, Sporta un Kult ras departaments, R gas Domes Pils tas att st bas departaments „Apkaimju projekts”, Vesel bas ministrija etc.),
- Public transport routes, stops (SIA „R gas satiksme”),
- Housing management organisation (RP „P rdaugavas izpilddirekcija”, „R gas Namu apsaimniekot js, etc. „Lursoft”)
- Statistics of population, register of addresses (RDPAD) u.c.
- Field studies, interviews
 - Involving in local activities („Lielaj Talk 2013” , „Liel s Talkas 2013 pagalmu kust bas” nosl guma pas kum ”
 - Interviews with active residents, housing managment companies etc,
 - Field observations
 - Produced Maps (functional structure, population density etc..)

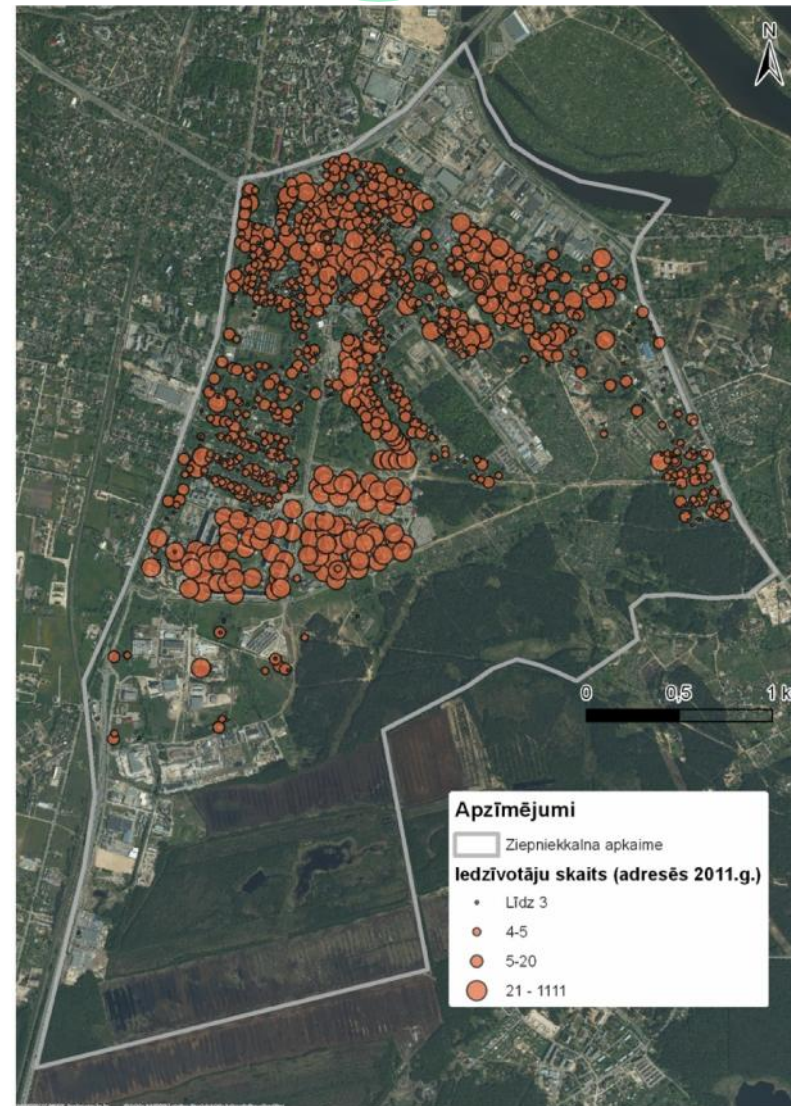
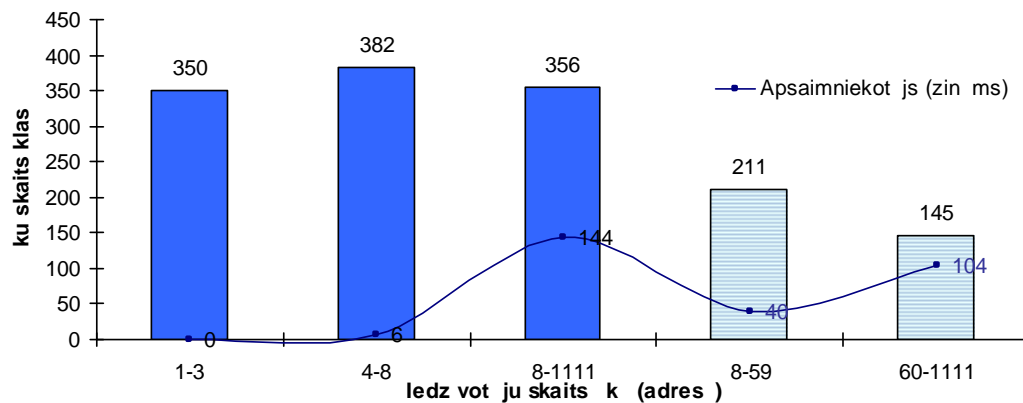
Research territory

- Ziepniekkalns neighborhood, borders according to Department of City Development of Riga City Dome neighborhood project (not administrative units)
- 35 205 residents
- 10 071 work places
- 6 kindergardens, 6 schools, 5 medicine institutions, 5 social care houses, 7 sport infrastructure objects, No culture, religion institutions of librarys
- The most of territory area occupies the residential building areas (27%,9%, RDPAD)



Sociogeographic space structure of Ziepniekkalna

- Most of people live in multistory houses, less than 10% lives in houses, where registered less than 8 persons
- Most of buildings managed by “R gas namu p rvaldnieks”, low resident activity
- Most densely populated areas best public transport availability



Sociogeographic space structure of Ziepniekkalns

- A wide range of local public services offered, limited recreational facilities, lack of entertainment providers
- Preschools 14 of 30 groups, more than half of the scholars acquires education in minority language (Russian)



Social activity

- Interest, at least initially, economic objectives based
 - “Liel Talka”
 - Internet forums - new built residential houses
- Children’s playgrounds, sports fields near schools - filled
- belmuižas park



Daily activity areas

- Nodes - more pronounced in centers of N and S part residential areas
- Activity areas around N and S part residential areas, where are also the best offer of local public services and public transport (intensity, stops)
- Central part of Ziepniekkalns – activity space with recreational function because of green zone
- Industrial building for area N and S, where are not formed center



Social ties

- Creating of social ties are pronounced on local level, local housing communities, mostly based on economical intereses (property maintaince) which expands to everyday activity areas, where public services provided (schools, kindergardens)
- Sense of belonging to certain part of neighbourhood, part of residents (“Liel Talka”, m jok u apsaimniekošanas biedr bas) incorrectly name their housing neighborhood (Bišu muiža, Tor akalns, “Vien bas gatve”)



Opportunities of local community's development

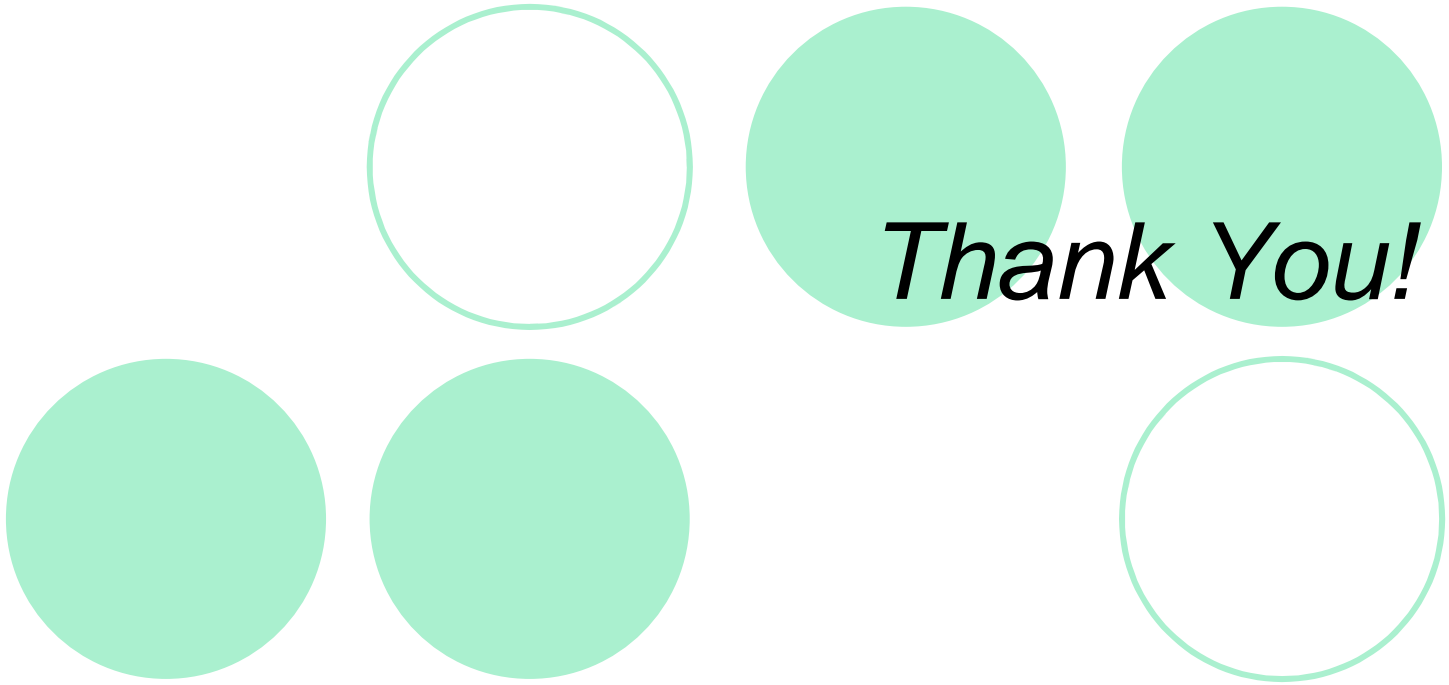


- Daily activities areas - potential to local community development where social ties between residents strengthened by using local infrastructure and using local services
- Housing groups - within the housing management associations, the potential to form communities on a rational basis (surrounding environment and neighborhood adjustment and maintenance)

Opportunities of local community's development



- In order to encourage community development of neighbourhood residents:
 1. housing management associations runned by locals establishment, house resident activity promotion
 2. local employment promotion - transport infrastructure, public transport connection creation with industrial areas
 3. Centers of activity areas development and improvement of existing - public spaces, meeting, recreational place creation, the quality improvement.
 4. It would also be necessary to develop recreational, entertainment venues, where people continue to socialize and strengthen the social ties that have formed on the economic issue or on common workplace bases



Thank You!