

## THE USE OF SPACE – ITS HARMONY AND DISTURBANCES. CASE STUDIES OF THREE CHOSEN PLACES

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**Purpose:** The aim of the research/article is to show how the changes in urban space in three different cases affect the residents' life and what does it mean to them.

**Design/methodology/approach:** The main issue of the research has been discussed with the use of humanistic coefficient which means that the attitudes of the inhabitants towards the changes of their surroundings have been studied. It means that the in-depth interview has been applied as a research technique. As the attitudes towards space and place was the subject of the study some concepts of environmental psychology and urban sociology constitutes its theoretical background.

**Findings:** As a result of the study three types of changes in an urban space have been shown in the light of the feelings of the residents. One of the two extremes of that little spectrum is the case when the changes are imposed and mostly harmful, the other when changes are fully wanted and accepted by passionate users. In between these two is the case when the change has both advantages and disadvantages which the inhabitants are aware of.

**Practical implications:** The research proved that changes in living space of the people when imposed on them are rather harmful. That is why the practice of consultations should be rethought and supplemented by the research among affected and provision of adequate information giving reasonable guidelines regarding alternative options especially in case of displacements.

**Originality/value:** As the paper show how the changes in the surroundings of the people affect their quality of life it can be addressed to urban sociologists and scientists specialized in local management and social policy.

**Keywords:** perception of changes in residential environment, place attachment, dimensions of space order, investments in municipalities.

**Category of the paper:** research paper/case study.

## 1. Introduction

As habitat is crucial for the residents' satisfaction of needs throughout the whole of human life, this study was aimed at learning about feelings and experiences of those affected by spatial changes in their municipality and its surroundings. Empirical material for that study has been gathered within researches carried out by three groups of students preparing their research projects within the subject "Workshops of learning through the life course"<sup>1</sup>. Each of these groups was focused on one chosen case of reshaping the spatial structure of given municipality or its part and they were interviewing people impacted by these changes. One of these teams was studying attitudes of the residents towards investments planned by Central Transport Hub in Mikołów (Poland, Upper Silesia) and its surroundings. They were working on 15 interviews<sup>2</sup>. Another team was focused on the case of woonerf (specially closed street dedicated to social life and the facilities like bars, cafes, restaurants) in Siemińskiego Street in Gliwice (Poland, Upper Silesia). They gathered data from 15 interviews<sup>3</sup>. The last crew was working on the case of Dogs' Park in one of the town in Upper Silesia (Poland)<sup>4</sup>. They conducted 14 interviews. The whole research work of the aforesaid teams was done within winter semester of academic year 2023/2024 (from October 2023 till February 2024).

The author of this article used empirical material gathered by students for his own comparative analysis of the aforementioned cases. These cases were chosen for that study because they illustrate three different situations and actions in the area of three selected municipalities. The case of Central Transport Hub shows the investment planned by a state-owned company, the case of woonerf in Gliwice presents reshaping of the street completed by the town authorities and Dogs' Park is treated as an example of creation of place specially designed for people who need recreational activities with animals in their residential environment. This small spectrum of analysis may show the situations when the municipality or company at the same time gives something valuable to people and deprive them of other values. As this small study was focused on feelings and experiences connected with a place of living which undergoes changes or modifications the author of the research chose in-depth interview as a research technique. It is because that technique enables the subjects (here the respondents) to freely and thoroughly, if they need, talk about their attitudes towards the studied issue.

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<sup>1</sup> A subject within the major „Pedagogy of kindergarten and school period” at 9<sup>th</sup> semester at Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice (Poland).

<sup>2</sup> This group was composed of students: Aleksandra Kuś, Aleksandra Ziętarska, Katarzyna Opara, Klaudia Lenich and Weronika Radzik.

<sup>3</sup> These interviews have been conducted by five students: Katarzyna Krawczyk, Andżelika Baron, Barbara Maszczak, Klaudia Pluszczewska.

<sup>4</sup> This team was composed of students: Wiktoria Wawrzaszek, Aleksandra Kreowska, Wiktoria Piętka, Natalia Skop.

## **2. The order and the meaning of space for people in a psycho-sociological context – few theoretical concepts**

An everyday life of the people takes place in some spaces, which they use to satisfy their needs. The significance of residential environment for the quality of life of the people is reflected in some concepts in psychology, sociology and environmental psychology. One of the most popular idea concerning this issue is the pyramid of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow (Maslow, 2006). The basic assumption of this concept is that only when the very basic needs are satisfied there is a chance to satisfy those which are located higher in this hierarchy. Somewhere in the middle of this hierarchy lies need for belonging to meaningful social groups which implies access to their acceptance and support when necessary. Also in the center of this pyramid the sense of security is situated.

As regards to the abovementioned psychosocial needs connected to residential environment the concept of place attachment seems to be a suitable idea. According to Rowles (1983, 1984) this attitude towards given place has three aspects/dimensions:

1. Physical insideness.
2. Social insideness.
3. Biographical insideness.

Physical insideness is awareness of physical features of given place based on our experience of everyday use of it. It may constitute the element of attachment to place. Social insideness relies on sense of belonging to group or persons who are connected with the place which is very special for us due to this connection. Biographical insideness in turn means that we associate meaningful, joyful life events and periods with a space in which they took place. The idea of insideness itself meaning any reactions to the place has been put forward by Relph (1976).

As regards to the abovementioned place attachment, it is a part of a broader phenomenon defined within the concept of sense of place. This term proposed by Steele (1981) refers, according to interpretation of Hummon (1992), to any observations, perceptions and feelings related to the places that are significant for the quality of life of the people. It practically means that our residential environments are strongly associated with our lives and identities as well as with experiences, emotions, its usage, active reshaping, adjustment to our needs and giving subjective importance to them.

No matter if our residential environment is special too us or not we satisfy our needs there. The awareness of the opportunity to meet the needs and being active in a habitat was called “place dependence” by Stokols and Shumaker (1981).

As many needs can be met within the place of residence and moreover we experience it in various ways there is cognitive scheme of that space in our mind. This scheme can be coherent or chaotic or somewhere in the middle of that spectrum. It means that for human being the order of space is significant for well-being. According to Szczepański (Bartoszek, Gruszczyński,

Szczepański, 1997; Szczepański, Tazbir, 2007) there are five dimensions of that order: 1) urban-architectural, 2) esthetical, 3) functional, 4) social, 5) ecological.

As regards to urban-architectural order it has mostly to do with the density of space structure of the town district or housing estate and logic of that space. It also relates to how spaces of different function like: green areas, services, institutions are situated. The very important is readability of such locations which means how easy or difficult is to find these architectural objects. This is just a matter of space orientation within town or other municipality.

A functional aspect of space order is connected with the usability and accessibility of services, institutions and infrastructure crucial for the quality of life of the residents. That applies to e.g.: shops, clubs, cafes, cinemas, kinder gardens, hospitals, schools, playgrounds.

A psycho-social order relates to neighbor relations which mostly mean good social ties among neighbors. It is also connected to the sense of belonging to the place and community of residents as well as to the sense of security. The order is viewed by the prism of lack of conflicts, crime and noise.

An esthetical aspect of space order has to do with an appeal of it. It also refers to given elements of its structure. So, let's say, esthetics of the surroundings is connected with colors and their diversity in space, tidiness, symbolism of architectural or other objects which enable wayfinding within municipality. The very important aspect the esthetics of a landscape are also: the style of architecture (historical one, modern one etc.), emotional climate (bright and joyful, full of life, thriving or rather grey and gloomy).

An ecological order regards to the quality of natural environment in territory of commune. This aspect of the surroundings is crucial for good physical health of the residents. This category of characteristics contains: insolation, amount of greenery, exposure to wind, the level of noise and distance from industrial plants harmful to the environment. Any harms to well-being of people in that kind of aspects are conceptualized as environmental stress (Bell, Green, Fisher, Baum, 2004).

### **3. A state-owned company invests in the municipality which brings some benefits, but significantly destroys the space order in that local community**

The above mentioned case refers to local part of huge investments of The Central Transport Hub (CTH) which offers railway connections in numerous areas in Poland. This small study regards to the attitudes of residents of municipality in Upper Silesia towards the consequences of this investment. According to their views it has to be stated that due to it there are some disturbances of space order and life of the people in their residential environment

(surroundings). This disorder has few aspects and the loss of the place to live people are attached to is one of them. It is profoundly reflected in the statements of one of the inhabitants below:

*[...] I've learned about the CTH construction and displacement plans from my neighbors which came as a shock to me. The lack of previous official information made me surprised and dissatisfied." [...] my first feelings were a mixture of shock, anger and anxiety. I was disturbed by the lack of clear information and the sudden threat of losing my place of residence.*

As can be seen from this quote even a rumor about displacements may cause a huge stress. Further in the interview the same respondent presents his viewpoint on disturbances and disorganization of his life due to investments in the municipality: *[...] I have numerous concerns about the displacement process, the most worrying is the lack of housing stability, the loss of friends and neighborhood, and the rearrangement of my entire previous lifestyle. [...] I believe that this situation has a huge impact on mine and my whole family's everyday life and stability. The uncertainty about the future makes it difficult to plan and maintain a normal lifestyle. [...] Regarding alternatives or suggestions for future residence, I am considering various alternatives due to the situation, but the lack of clear prospects and 100 per cent confirmed information makes it difficult to fully plan* (Interview no. 3, Man).

In the description of feelings and perceptions above we can see how important is a place attachment characterized by Rowles (1983,1984) mentioned in the theoretical part of the article. Even more explicit reference to this attitude occurs in the statements of the other respondents of the same study. A good illustration of this are the following answers to the question: Do you have any concerns about the possible impacts associated with the construction of the Central Transport Port, such as noise, air pollution or changes to local infrastructure?: *Well, of course. I have lived here for 25 years. They are going to destroy houses, blocks of flats, displace people. I chose where to live and why should I move away after so many years. I'm very close to this place and no amount of money can compensate for that* (Interview no. 15, Woman) or *Of course it is! Each of us has a home to which we are attached. I've just finished a renovation and now what am I supposed to do, throw it all away and start again? I'm about to turn 60 and I don't feel like making such big changes in my life anymore,* and further the same interviewee: *Compensation will never be enough, who will pay me back for the strength and time spent looking after my house and garden? I did most of it there myself. And besides, no one can pay me for my attachment to the place. I grew up here* (Interview no. 10, Woman).

The very serious consequences of studied investment in the municipality are disturbances of space order in an ecological and esthetical aspects. It is illustrated by the undermentioned statements of the members of this local community of residents: *[...] I have serious concerns about the impact of the construction of the CPK, especially in terms of noise, air pollution and possible changes to local infrastructure. To date, I have not received satisfactory answers to these issues, which raises additional concerns* (Interview no. 3, man), *[...] I have a number of concerns about the impact of the CTH construction, the most worrying is the noise and the*

*potential danger of passing such a high-speed railway (interview no. 4, woman) or [...] I have serious concerns about potential noise, air pollution and it is important to be clear about the deterioration of local infrastructure. The lack of clear information on these issues does not help to alleviate these concerns (Interview no. 5, woman).*

As can be seen from these quotes inhabitants are afraid of harm to a natural environment and danger caused by trains.

As regards to esthetics of the surroundings the destruction of familiar and nice-looking landscape they feel attached to, is perceived as a very serious consequence of planned investment. It is reflected in this quote: *I am worried that there could be noise problems. Also, a lot of people are to lose their homes and fields. The appearance of my village will be completely changed, which I do not like very much (Interview no. 11, man).*

To sum up the impact of the discussed investment on space order predicted by the researched residents we can say that some of them are aware of the cumulation of negative consequences. It becomes evident in the light of the following answers to the question: *Do you have concerns about the possible impacts associated with the construction of the Central Transportation Port, such as noise, air pollution or changes to local infrastructure?: I wouldn't want this to have a negative impact on our daily lives. A big concern in my opinion is the displacement and destruction of the city associated with all this redevelopment. The other concern is air pollution, it will affect our health negatively (Interview no. 14, man) and Yes, I have serious concerns. First of all the noise, I think it could be really disruptive. Houses are to be demolished, flats. I really sympathize with people who have to suddenly move out of their own homes. And of course the devastation of nature, because I have heard about the destruction of the Błędowska Desert area (Interview no. 13, man).*

As can be seen from the citations above the worst consequences may be the cumulation of displacements, air pollution, noise, harm to natural environment and the destruction of the town's landscape.

What is so difficult in the discussed case is that when trying to balance positives against negatives the latter are evident and bitterly/badly experienced by some residents of the municipality affected by the relevant investment. Nonetheless the benefits are accentuated by some inhabitants. It is reflected in the following answers to the question: *Do you see any benefits that the construction of the Central Transport Hub could bring to your area?: It's hard to say whether this will bring anything good or bad. Maybe these new transport links would be nice, allowing a quick commute. I'm afraid there will probably be lots of problems (Interview no. 14, man) or Well, opening up new transport links could make travel and movement easier, which would benefit residents. Such a central transport port could attract new investment and businesses (Interview no. 13, man).*

#### 4. A controversial case of woonerf in Gliwice created by the municipality

The abovementioned case refers to reshaping one of the streets in the center of Gliwice and turning it into let's say a hub of social life and relax. It means that on this street there is a speed limit for drivers and other vehicles and more benches, tables and trees are arranged in this newly specially designed space. As this place was supposed to serve as a cosy site for everyone who would like to relax and play with friends, it make sense to ask how this change of space order of this street is experienced by people who know this place for some reasons?

As regards to space order substantial changes in its aspects listed by Szczepański (Bartoszek, Gruszczyński, Szczepański, 1997; Szczepański, Tazbir, 2007) become evident according to the statements of the persons interviewed within this study. As woonerf in Gliwice was designed as the hub of social life and relax it is reasonable to search experiences of the interviewees connected with social dimension of aforementioned space order. Their views confirm social function of the discussed woonerf, which is proven by the following answers to the question: Do you consider the Gliwice Woonerf to be a worthy venue for leisure activities? Please justify: *Yes, because there are a lot of cafes and shops. There are also benches to sit on* (Interview no. 7, woman, aged 20-40), *I think you can certainly spend your free time there, even in these restaurants or cafés. There is also... there are also some libraries there* (Interview no. 8, man, aged 20-40) or [...] *this is a big plus for this place, you can go out with your family, visit a restaurant, a cafe* (Interview no. 1, woman, aged 20-40). One of the respondents even expressed the idea of social life hub connected with relevant woonerf explicitly: *It is a good place to meet [...]* (Interview no. 6, woman, aged 40-60). The other explicit view on sociable character of this place is the answer to that question: Do you think the woonerf influences the quality of life and leisure activities of residents? *Well I think it does have an impact, but it's more of a benefit because you can have a nice time, sit by the greenery. Well, for me the quality of life has increased. This place has that big plus* (Interview no. 2, woman, aged 20-40).

Concerning functional order of space of the discussed woonerf it is worth noting that it made driving to the town center or walking in that place or around it difficult. Such a problem is reflected in the answers to the question: In your opinion, has the closure of Siemińskiego Street to traffic (with the exception of buses and access to properties) contributed to making access to the town center more difficult? In your opinion, is this ban respected by drivers? given by the interviewees cited below: *It has definitely made access to the center more difficult and the ban is not being respected by drivers* (Interview no. 5, woman, aged 29), and further (in the interview): *The danger is certainly posed by drivers. This carries a huge risk of accidents, and also* (other interviewee): *It certainly makes access to the center more difficult* (Interview no. 8, man, aged 20-40).

The very important aspect of functional order of space is reduced road safety commented by some of the respondents in relation to woonerf and its surroundings. The quote below is a good example of view on this: [...] *just problems, a lot of obstructions, a lot of noise in the evenings, but that's the least of it. The traffic here is terrible, on top of which drivers enter the pedestrian area. It certainly hasn't solved the problem of excessive traffic. Sometimes it's frightening to walk through there* (Interview no. 4, man, aged 60+).

The other views concerning the issue of road safety are reflected in these statements: [...] *It's not exactly safe there. The streets are narrow, so you have to watch out for children* (Interview no 6, woman, aged 40-60) or *Well a child can jump out into the street, because it is supposedly a closed street, but still cars and buses come, so that's the danger* (Interview no. 9, woman, aged 24), and also [...] *there are also few pedestrian crossings, because they are designed so that everyone can cross the street freely, and yet there is no absolute safety* (Interview no. 9, woman, aged 24).

Regarding ecological order of space in case of the woonerf, it should be emphasized that the residents of this area/street experience noise in the evening. This is proven by following utterances of the respondents of the study: [...] *that noise in the evenings. I've been there a couple of times in the evening. Big crowds of people, terrible noise, certainly the elderly are bothered by it* (Interview no. 1, woman, aged 20-40, or [...] *a lot of noise in the evenings* (Interview no. 4, man, aged 60+) and the same respondent further in the interview, when answering the question: Do you have any comments about the woonerf? If so, please list them, he said: *So much noise and traffic, and then there is the failure of car drivers and even sometimes bus drivers to obey the rules and also: The food chain attracts people, so it is sometimes noisy there. There are also a lot of liquor shops in the area, so brawls and fights happen there in the evenings, and this certainly doesn't make life easier for the people who live there. I personally would be afraid to go out there in the evenings, and certainly not with children* (Interview no. 6, woman, aged 40-60).

In turn, when it comes to esthetical order of the woonerf's space, interviewees evaluate positively a new look of the reshaped street, mainly its greenery. It is well-illustrated in the statements below: *The woonerf is a very nice place in Gliwice, plants have appeared there and it has become very pleasant. I sometimes come to Gliwice with my family, I've been to the promenade there a couple of times. That's when we went to a restaurant to have a bite to eat* (Interview no. 5, woman, aged 29), or [...] *I am very happy with this place. What I like most is that there are a lot of trees and plants planted in the area, you can have a nice time, and I also like going out with friends* (Interview no. 2, woman, aged 20-40). As can be seen from the quotes above the esthetical values of the place may contribute to its social function.

When trying to balance the positives and negatives of the woonerf in Gliwice the respondents of the study emphasized noise, lack of road safety and social advantages. A very good evidence for such views on the discussed place is the answer to the question: What is your opinion in relation to the closure of Siemieńskiego Street in Gliwice? *I don't know*



*if this has somehow solved the problem with increased traffic, because it is still dangerous. The only plus is that you can relax there and have a good meal with your family* (Interview no. 6, woman, aged 40-60). Also a good illustration of balancing negatives against positives is the following comment in reference to the other question: *In your opinion, is the woonerf a safe and suitable place to walk/socialize/cycle? Yes by all means, it is an appropriate place. Generally for leisure activities, but not entirely safe* (Interview no. 5, woman, aged 29). Another evidence for assessing pros and cons by the interviewees are their statements below: *[...] for me this whole woonerf is a minus, too much, too much traffic still and too much noise for elderly people like me, I would like a tranquil place and quite. And in terms of feeling safe you can't quite feel secure* (Interview no. 4, man, aged 60+) or *It is a good place to meet, but certainly not for cyclists since there is no proper signage there* (Interview no. 6, woman, aged 40-60), and also: *The food chain attracts people, so it is sometimes noisy there. There are also a lot of liquor shops in the area, so brawls and fights happen there in the evenings, and this certainly doesn't make life easier for the people who live there. I personally would be afraid to go out there in the evenings, and certainly not with children* (Interview no. 6, woman, aged 40-60).

## **5. Dogs' park as an example of change in space-order of the town district which proved beneficial for dog owners**

The aforementioned dogs' park was created in one of the towns in Upper Silesia. It was supposed to be separate space for walking and playing with these animals. So it is special place and actually natural environment with a lot of greenery, dedicated to social and recreational activities for dog owners. Indeed, the interviewed users of discussed park define purpose for their visits in this let's say facility in terms of play and relax. It becomes evident in the light of the following statements: *We walk here every day because the dog needs to go for a run. I won't walk him in the woods. And here he has such obstacle course to play and the he can run* (Interview no. 2, woman) or *I always just attend this park after work with my dog for a walk, sometimes to talk to friends who also have dogs and attend there too, it is a form of relaxation for me* (Interview no. 3, woman) and also *I usually go to the dog park with my dog if I want him to play with other dogs or have a run* (Interview no. 7, man). It was also expressed by one of the respondents very explicitly as an answer to the question: *For what purpose do you use the dog park? So that dogs could run* (Interview no. 12, man).

Some of the researched dog owners even precise the frequency of their visits to that place, like here as an answer to the question: *How often do you visit the dog park with your pet? I try to get my dog out twice a week, it all depends on how much time I have after work* (Interview no. 5, man). One of the interviewees define things he does with his dog in the facility

in these words: *I visit it [the park - MN] with my dog, it happens that we practice tricks or just play with a ball* (Interview no. 6, man). As can be seen from the statements of the dog owners above the discussed park is a very significant element of functional order of space within their residential environment.

As regards to social aspect of space order of relevant dogs' park it is proven by the statements of its interviewed users that this facility serves as a place for meetings of people of similar leisure activities. The evidence for this are the quotes below: *I met one lady there and we enjoy ourselves, we even became friends. We also keep in touch, outside of the dog park [...] (Interview no. 1, woman) or [...] with Helena and Wiesia we go shopping at the market, you know, and sometimes Stasiak gets lost somewhere and we go to talk to him. Yes, yes. And recently I met such a lady, Marysia, she was there with a dog and a child. And today we met at the Market. That's how I keep in touch with people* (Interview no. 2, woman), and also *[...] I have a regular group of people who also turn up at this park at similar times to me. Somewhere in there we train the dogs together or just talk about our lives too* (Interview no. 3, woman).

An ultimate confirmation of the importance of such place as dogs' park are the comments in which its users state that such spaces should be created in each town where people have dogs. It can be seen in the quotes from the interviews below: *I think there is an interesting way to spend time with your dog. There is also an opportunity to be more active, to engage your body more than just running, so there should be more of these [parks - MN]* (Interview no. 1, woman) or *I would like more parks to be created, because the nice dogs can walk, run. It's so nicely fenced. You know, a dog wouldn't go anywhere, cool, so yes I would make more parks like that, so you can come with your pet and chat with people there to share information about their dogs so it's very, useful* (Interview no. 2, woman), and also *As for me it's a great investment in Gliwice. Is it enough? I guess so, it's always a nice place to just go for a walk with your child, spend time with people who also have dogs. It's a form of relaxation, so great idea, really* (Interview no. 3, woman).

To dot the I's and cross the T's on the importance of dogs' park it is worth citing one of the interviewed woman who appreciates this place very much. She says: *I walk with my sweet globule here because I live in a block of flats and we don't have any other place to go out* (Interview no. 13, woman). Similar and equally important meaning have the following answers given by other interviewees to the question: What is your opinion on the dog park? Are such investments needed?: *Much-needed as these are safe places for the dog and the owner* (Interview no. 4, woman), or *I think yes, a lot of people visit the paddocks, it's certainly a safer place than an open dog run* (Interview no. 6, woman) and also *I think there could certainly be more places like this. Such investments are most worthwhile* (Interview no. 7, man) as well as *Parks themselves are needed in our country, and dog playgrounds too* (Interview no. 9, woman).

To sum up the discussion on the dogs' park reflected in the comments of their interviewed users it should be said that this facility, actually an organized piece of natural site, is a place of meetings for people who have these animals. In this place they can freely and safely play with their dogs without being any trouble to those who do not have dogs. According to their cited users such places perform several functions, like social and recreational.

## 6. Conclusion

Looking at space order according to Szczepański (Bartoszek, Gruszczyński, Szczepański, 1997; Szczepański, Tazbir, 2007) from psycho-social point of view it is the base for well-being of people in their residential environment. How the quality of life of each inhabitant depends on it is perceived by everyone differently, and what is the most important in numerous aspects. As can be seen from the analyses presented above respondents differ in their views and evaluations related to the changes in their surroundings as a consequence of investments. Some accentuate advantages, while the other emphasize disadvantages. It is clearly visible in the case of the investments connected with Central Transport Hub as some residents are going to be replaced, while the other are not affected in such cruel way. As a result those who are afraid of displacements assess badly whole regional project, those who can keep their homes do not view it so negatively. Nonetheless, most of the interviewees see both positives and negatives of relevant changes in their municipality. It means that both noise, replacements, harm to natural environment and better railway connections are noticed.

The above-presented analyses of the attitudes of people/residents towards changes in space they know and experience in everyday life show that the order of that space is really multi-dimensional. It has few consequences. One of the option is when the assessment of the changes in space in each aspect (dimension) differ considerably. In case of Woonerf in Gliwice it happened that some interviewees were balancing positives and negatives. The same, as it was shown earlier, refers to the railway investment discussed in the article. Another variant of relations between the dimensions of space order is their intermingling or overlapping. It means that e.g. esthetical aspect (nice-looking greenery in woonerf) can contribute to highly evaluated social values of a place as it attracts customers of cafes and restaurants. Yet another version of this relation between discussed aspects is cumulation of positive or negative features which have a significant impact on quality of life of the people/residents who experience given spaces. An example of this was the case of studied railway investment in Silesian town as some of the inhabitants emphasized several disadvantages of the project, like: noise, danger which come from trains, deterioration of landscape, harm to natural environment and the displacements mentioned earlier.

The very good option of relation between different aspects of space order is the case of Dogs's Park. Here social and functional aspects intertwine positively. The place is accessible in the surroundings of dog owners, satisfies their needs and gives them an opportunity for contacts, interactions and sometimes even creating social ties.

On the other side of the spectrum is the case of Central Transport Hub, and specifically devastating consequences of the planned investment for those inhabitants who are going to be displaced. As the analysis based on interviews proved, the fact of expulsion will disorganize their lives in at least few dimensions. This multi-faceted disorganization includes: instability in terms of housing, loss of friends and neighbors as well as uncertainty of the future which doesn't enable to plan anything in the dearth of relevant information.

In the light of discussed cases of impact of changes in a residential environment on the well-being of people it is reasonable to pose the question: how to compromise between investments in municipalities and their consequences for inhabitants. An example of Central Transport Hub gives premises to rethink social consultations regarding planned investments. Here, relevant information and alternative scenarios for inhabitants are especially important among other issues potentially significant. Thorough discussions with the residents possibly affected, connected with their participation in decision making process as well as considering other options and support of psychologist becomes crucial. The opposite and almost ideal situation is when implemented investments are wanted by people living in the town or village. That may happen when e.g. some undertakings/projects are proposed by the inhabitants of a municipality. Then there is a perfect chance to meet the real needs of the citizens like in the case of Dogs' Park.

All in all, the observations, perceptions and the feelings related to place in which we live become crucial for the quality of life of people. That is why the changes in such meaningful spaces may cause decrease in that quality. An attachment to place and the concept of sense of place which turned out to be important in that small analysis may be also significant in the researches of attitudes of different categories of people towards their residential environment – changed or stable or still the same but modified. That is why the abovementioned concept may become essential in the studies of lives of the immigrants in new places of their living, as well as researches on social groups which have been relocated or other cases when the residential environment of the people is in process of changes.

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