



TICYUrb '18

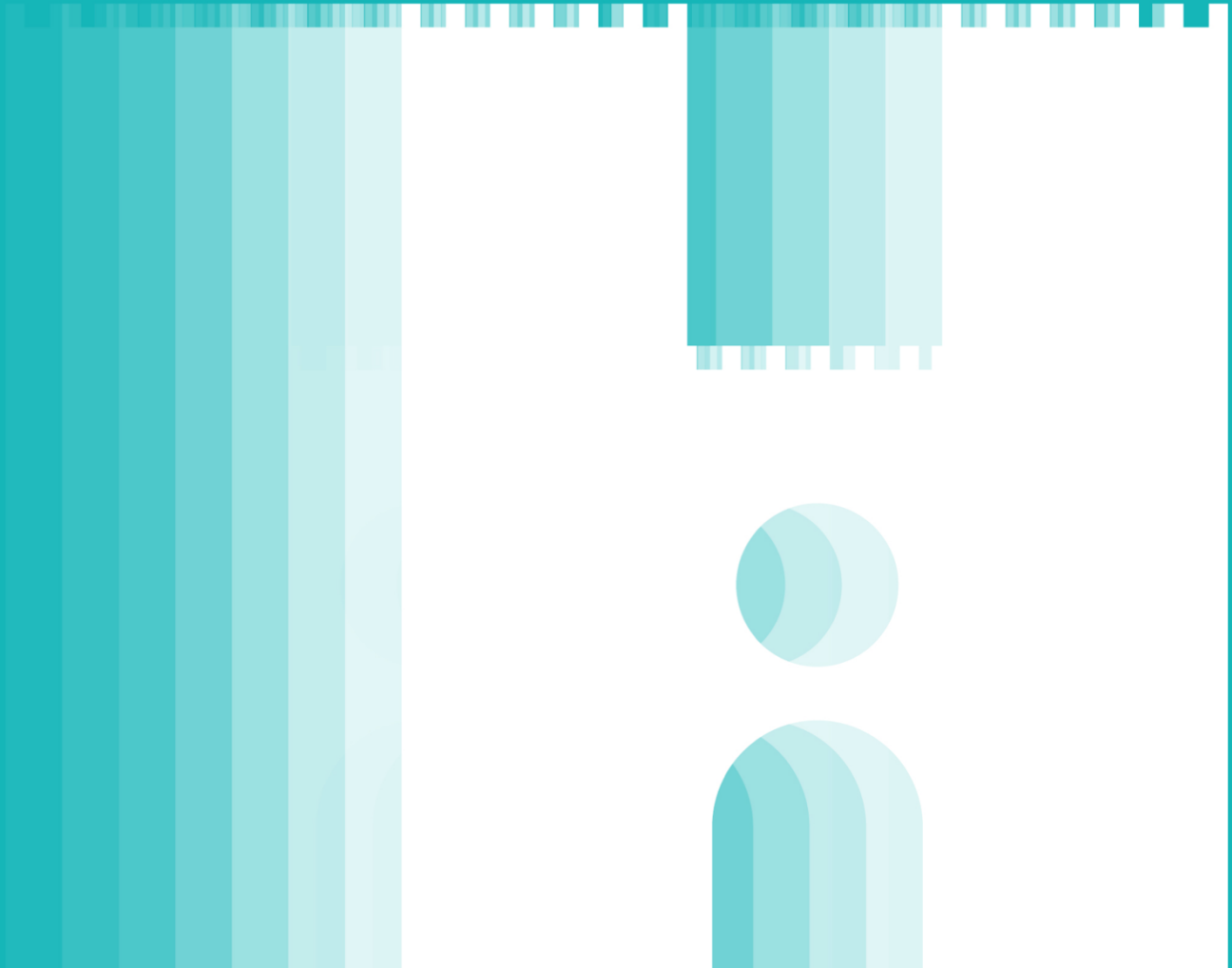
3rd international conference of young urban researchers

TICYUrb · vol. I

COLLECTIVECITY

THE RIGHT TO THE CITY:
50 YEARS LATER

MANUEL GARCIA-RUIZ
CAROLINA HENRIQUES
HENRIQUE CHAVES
(EDITORES)



CollectiveCity

the right to the city: 50 years later

TICYUrb · Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Young Urban Researchers

- Vol. I CollectiveCity: The Right to the City: 50 Years Later
(organizado por Manuel Garcia-Ruiz, Carolina Henriques e Henrique Chaves)
- Vol. II TransfearCity: In-security, Migrations and Racism
(organizado por Manuel Garcia-Ruiz e Henrique Chaves)
- Vol. III ProductCity: The City as a Product
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(organizado por Alessandro Colombo)

Manuel Garcia-Ruiz, Carolina Henriques, Henrique
Chaves (editores)

TICYUrb · Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Young Urban Researchers. Vol. I

CollectiveCity

the right to the city: 50 years later

Kozlova Inga
Viridiana Gabriel Gomes
Carlos Diz
Cintia de Castro Marino
Jannis Kühne
Sílvia Jorge

Lisboa, 2018

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Contactos:

ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Av. Das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisboa

Tel.: +351 217903000 • Fax: +351 217964710 E-mail: geral@iscte-iul.pt

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Introduction

Manuel Garcia-Ruiz, Carolina Henriques, Henrique Chaves

The Third International Conference of Young Urban Researchers (TICYUrb) started the different sessions with the track *CollectiveCity, the right to the city: 50 years later*, commemorating the publication of "The Right to the City", one of the best well-known works of Henri Lefebvre. This track was divided in four sessions: Reflections on the Right to the City, Urban Resistance, Tourism and Urban Conflict and Housing Policies. Papers in this book are some of the works presented in the different sessions mentioned. These, and other works, responded to a challenge that we had launched to young urban researchers following Lefebvre's lessons today, especially on the emergent field of the Urban Studies.

Lefebvre criticized an urban reality in which exchange value overlapped with use value, "right to urban life, transformed and renewed: "a right that concretizes collective needs, both for access to certain resources and for spatial appropriation or creative action on it. Several authors have made important contributions to the current reflection on the *right to the city*, among them: David Harvey, who understands the city as a work and, consequently, as an extension of the human being; and Neil Brenner, who has been reflecting on the process of planetary urbanization. In this sense, given the current importance of cities in a context of increasing urbanization, the different authors address the question on what is the current situation of the *right to the city*?

Kozlova Inga works with two perspectives of the right to the city: the right to participation and the right to appropriation of the local space. She presents a case study, introducing us to nowadays Lviv (Ukraine), and namely the consideration of situations in which the community protect certain objects of space from the undesired transformation as well as the analysis of various local.

Viridiana Gabriel Gomes reviews the Accessibility Planning at neighborhoods level, arguing that they need to be readjusted in order to balance social needs. Her work underlines the importance to a new approach to the space planning, stressing what Lefebvre meant by "urban life, transformed and renewed" over time.

Carlos Diz discusses about the right to the city today, from a resemantized and repolitized perspective fruit of his ethnographic work. He reviews contemporary activism, focused on the practices and experiences of different groups and movements, considering the relationships between body, city and politics.

Cintia de Castro Marino presents here some tactical urbanitarism actions undertaken in São Paulo (Brazil). The examples in her work intend to expose the duality between conflict and playful developments, and the political disputes in context of public space ownership.

Jannis Kühne examines different perspectives of residents engaged in social movements in auto-constructed neighbourhoods through an ethnography of the *Caravana pelo Direito à Habitação*, which travelled across Portugal to collect testimonies and engage with local groups and associations in their struggles for housing.

Sílvia Jorge use the case study the city of Maputo, subject to strong real estate pressure in recent years, to identify the model of urban development associated with the perception of the right to the city and the image of the future advocated for the self-produced pericentral neighbourhoods, as well as the underlying intervention approaches.

We hope these reflections can help young academics find new inspirations for their own research, considering the multiplicity of cultural expressions that characterize cities, discussing differences and similarities and always assuming tolerance as essential to our urban experience and as citizens.

You can watch the TICYUrb'18 session in which these papers were debated [here](#).

Right to the City 2017: (Re) Thinking of Responsibility for Urban Space Case Study of Lviv, Ukraine

Kozlova Inga | k.inha@ucu.edu.ua

Associated professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University, Department of Social Sciences

Abstract

A. Lefebvre a French intellectual, neo-marxist progenitor of the idea of right to the city understand this right as a result of some kind of struggle. Struggle between city dwellers from the one hand and the state and developers – from the other. He meant that habitants have a right to use a city space and have a right to take part in its management. So this text aims at the consideration of the processes of performance of the right to the city as a theoretic concept, taking specific examples of Lviv. The two main modes of the right to the city are considered here. They are: the right to participation and the right to appropriation of the local space. Throughout practical analysis of the current situation in Lviv, and namely the consideration of situations in which the community protect certain objects of space from the undesired transformation as well as the analysis of various local initiatives the author comes to a conclusions that the very subdivision into appropriation and the right to participation is rather blurred, as some practices aiming at (trans)formation of city's physical surface may actually relate to both verified dimensions of the right to the city. Besides, the dimension of appropriation, is more varied, as it comprises the practices of fighting back and further abandonment of the objects in question, the practices of fighting back and (trans)formation of the object in question, and what is the most important, the practices of creation of a new space. Here, there is not simply the right to use what belongs to the community, but the right to create something new. This last model of appropriation shows that the society is ready to move from placing responsibility on someone else to placing responsibility on oneself.

Key words

Right to the city, right to participation, right to appropriation, responsibility, space

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (2018), as of 2017, the city population of Ukraine comprised 70,1 percent of the general population. This means that the vast majority of population resides in an urban area and, by default, has a right to the city. What does this right presuppose in theory and how is it exercised in current Ukrainian realia? Let the theory come first. The concept *right to the city* was created by Henri Lefebvre, a French social geographer and sociologist, and first appeared in his book *Right to the City* published in 1967 (as cited in Lefebvre, 1996). The researcher argued that right to the city is the highest form of human rights in the era of urbanization, which is also a right to freedom, a right to individualization in socialization, and the right to inhabit (Lefebvre, 1996). This is also the right to create a daily life of a city and city space and the right to take part in city development, in particular in appropriation of urban space for public needs (Lefebvre, 1996). According to Lefebvre (1996), two major dimensions of the right to the city are **the right to participation** and **the right to appropriation of city space**.

Analyzing Lefebvre's works, Ukrainian urban space researcher Ihor Tyshchenko (2015) concludes that the concept *right to the city* is associated with city revolutions and active opposition of citizens and local authority, as desperate citizens often have to fight their city back. The right to the city is claimed when citizens are denied the right to freely use public space for collective achievement of life goals (appropriation) and the right to participation in city development. In other words, when something is physically changed (rebuilt, built up, ruined, relocated, expropriated) without the citizens' involvement (Tyshchenko, 2015). This way, Henri Lefebvre has started scientific enquiries into the phenomenon of city belonging. Researchers operating this concept have further expanded it with their interpretations or narrowed their focus singling out its separate aspects and dimensions (Harvey, 2008; Mitchell, 2003). For example, David Harvey (2008) perceived *right to the city* as the right to affordable housing and the right to engagement in the process of building up of a city. Harvey (2008) claims that citizens are to a certain extent deprived of the ability to enjoy their right to the city, as currently it rather belongs to the authority- or business-related minority. The researcher believes that the question about what city people want to have is inseparable from questions about citizens' social ties, their ties with the nature, lifestyles, technology, as well as aesthetic values these people cherish (Harvey, 2008). Right to the city is something superior to individual right to benefit from city resources - this is the right to change oneself changing the city. What is more, this right is collective rather than individual, as these transformations are sure to depend on execution of collective right to affect processes of urbanization (Harvey, 2008). Harvey (2008) also emphasizes that a right to the city is not abstract, but rooted in daily activities, whether people realize its existence or no.

Don Mitchell (2003), city and city processes researcher, associates right to the city with city public spaces, as these are the only places where this right can be achieved and manifested. City public spaces are markers of the right to the city (Mitchell, 2003). Those people who do not have private possessions (e.g. homeless people) have only these spaces, which become their right to the city:

Public space is a place within which political movements can stake out territory that allows them to be seen... In public space – on street corners or in parks, in the streets during riots and demonstrations – political organizations can represent themselves to a larger population, and through this representation give their cries and demands some force (Mitchell, 2003: 129)

It should be noted that key figures developing the *right to the city* concept are neo Marxists. Therefore, they interpret this right or the need in this right through the lenses of uneven distribution of capital and its consequences. For example, Harvey (2008) interprets city social movements as an opposition to endless capital accumulation and the related rights. This is because of the loyalty of the authors to the neo Marxist theories that the mentioned interpretation of the phenomenon portrays it as a right of a person and/or a community to **fight back** their ability to possess, consume and (re)create urban space. Marked is the accent on opposition, when the community has to recover its rights from other agents of influence. This way, it looks like the right to the city belongs to the citizens by default but is executed only in opposition with other actors of city creation processes.

Is it really so and what is, thus, the role of all actors in this process? First of all, it is necessary to determine who can be key actors in the process of realization of a right to the city. It can be inferred that (re)creation of and changes in the urban spaces are accomplished by individuals who:

- have direct access to the process of introduction of changes in the city;
- possess social, cultural or economic resources, which enable them to change city space;
- are active participants of social processes and transformations.

This paper considers the realization of the right to the city as a theoretical concept on the actual examples, which take place in Lviv. In the discussed case, it makes sense to consider the following three groups of actors:

- city citizens and communities;
- local government;
- business cluster (representatives of business cluster, developers, etc.).

Why does the right to the city come to the forefront at all? David Harvey (2008) believed that this right has different aspects, each catalyzed by a definite social context. For example, if a city witnesses numerous illegal building ups, which take public spaces from city citizens, a right to the city takes a form of recovery of these public spaces. Considering this, what has been the social context in Ukraine that has prompted the public need to claim their right to the city?

Today, the system of local governments does not satisfy the needs of the majority of Ukrainian society. In particular, functioning of local governments does not create a favorable environment for life, which is necessary for comprehensive development of individuals, their self-realization and protection of their rights. Local governments, corresponding establishments and organizations do not provide the high quality and affordable administrative, social and other services on the territories they serve. This largely concerns services related to public spaces and infrastructure issues too. These issues aroused not spontaneously, but as a consequence of the Soviet Union principle of formation and functioning of local governments and territorial arrangements, which proved to be not efficient in the context of modern Ukraine (Kavunets' & Dorokh, 2016). On the governmental level, these issues are to be resolved with the help of the decentralization law, which gives more authority to the local communities. On the level of city citizens, this law promotes the practices of civic activities *in* the city space and directed at city space.

This context of actualization of the right to the city in the current Ukrainian realia is used to verify the theoretical aspects of the concept on the example of Lviv. In particular, two main dimensions of the right to the city - **the right to participation** and **the right to appropriation of city space** - will be verified.

Right to participation is understood here as participatory practices of city dwellers. Here is the definition of the term, which shows how the concept will be further considered in the text: civic participation is an active participation of people in various events, which concern them; ability to engage in active participation, express one's opinion concerning the processes occurring in the public realm, communication with an authority, namely, support of the local governments and citizens in the process of mutual decision making (Martelya & Pivko, n.d.).

Thus, right to participation obviously presupposes the right to taking decisions, which are associated with the city and its development. A person can realize this right through participation in public hearings and local initiatives, signing of electronic petitions, attendance of general meetings of citizens, etc. (Decentralisation initiative, n.d.). The abovementioned ways of civic participation in the city administration are fixed by the Ukrainian legislature. However, the statistics show that citizens' participation in these activities is not really active. According to the social monitoring "Quality of Life in Lviv" conducted in 2016, 2% of the respondents took part in rallies or protest actions, 1% attended receptions of officials, 1% contacted with a local depute, 1% took part in public hearings from a city council in the preceding year (Quality of Life in Lviv, n.d.). This way, Harvey's (2008) idea that citizens have the right to the city but enjoy it as beggars from a lordly table retains meaning in Ukrainian realia too (according to the research, city-dwellers have the constitutional right to participate but don't use it widely).

Further part of the paper will be concerned with the appropriation of public space in Lviv. Analysis of demonstration of civic activity and public initiatives, which are concerned with physical dimension of the city, shows that right to appropriation can be realized through three possible models:

- appropriation as "**fighting back**" of public space in the classical interpretation of neo Marxists;
- appropriation as "**fighting back**" and further **transformation** of the space;
- appropriation as **creation** and **taking responsibility** of a new space.

All these models will be considered separately.

Model 1: Appropriation as "Fighting Back" of the Space

Objects, which had to be transformed	Models of public resistance	The outcome of resistance
The house #28 on Fedorova str., a monument of architecture of XVI-XIX centuries of local significance standing on the basements dated back to 1580. The house is situated in the medieval Jewish part of the city (territory of the State historical and architectural reserve listed as cultural heritage of UNESCO). The transformation was intended for the	Rallies of the Jewish religious community Turei Zahav (Golden Rose), as the construction could lead to the damage of the complex of religious buildings with the synagogue Golden Rose.	The construction was terminated due to the violation of the current legislation.

Objects, which had to be transformed	Models of public resistance	The outcome of resistance
construction of a hotel complex with underground parking.		
Part of the residential building #7 on Serbska str., a monument of architecture of the state significance, the guarded object #1269 in territory of the State historical and architectural reserve listed as cultural heritage of UNESCO. The transformation was intended for the construction of a hotel complex with underground parking within the streets Ruska, Staroyevreiska, and Serbska.	Written complaints of citizens of a neighboring residential building #5.	Construction of the planed hotel “Vintage” is finished, but without the planned parking.
A brick fence of Franciscan Garden on Lysenka str., built by the project of Kazimierz Krzyżanowski in 1883 (territory of the historic area). The fence frames the garden around the Franciscan church, the monument of architecture of the national significance, the guarded object #1329. The transformation was intended for the construction on the territory of a playground of a 6-storeyed residential building.	Written complaints of citizens of Lysenka str.	A construction was banned.
A historic villa o Pohulyanka str., 4a (territory of the historic area). The transformation was intended for the construction of a 7-storeyed residential building.	Written complaints of citizens of Pohulyanka str.	A building of an old Austria-times kindergarten was demolished; 5 residential complexes have been built. The investing company pledged to build a new kindergarten, but in the other part of the city, on Novoznesenska str., 69.
Austrian fire part on Kastelivka, Chuprynky str., 3 (territory of the historic area). The transformation was intended for the construction of an 8-storeyed residential building with built-in malls and underground parking.	Resistance of NGOs.	The fire part is demolished; a building is constructed on its place.
The building #48 on Staroyevreiska str., 48 ((territory of the State historical and	Resistance (rally) of the citizens of Staroyevreiska str.	The construction is finished. During the construction a

Objects, which had to be transformed	Models of public resistance	The outcome of resistance
architectural reserve listed as cultural heritage of UNESCO). The transformation was intended to meet commercial needs regardless restoration norms.		neighboring building #50, which is also a monument of the national significance, was damaged.
Building #9 on Mitskevycha sqr.	Resistance of NGOs	The construction is terminated
Construction of Ukrsocbank (now - Unicreditbank) on Mitskevycha sqr.	Resistance of citizens and NGOs	The construction is finished.
The construction of the building on the corner of Franka str. and Shukhevycha str.	Resistance of NGOs	The construction is finished.
The construction in the fragment of the quarter of Virmenska and Krakivska streets (on the territory of a playground).	Resistance of citizens and NGOs (In particular, Lviv Regional organization <i>Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments</i> , Ukrainian national committee ICOMOS, internet initiative <i>Save Old Lviv</i> , Association of Lviv Lovers, center of legal and political research <i>Seven</i> , public network <i>Opora</i> , public Forum of Lviv, CF <i>Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments</i>)	The construction was paused, then resumed again.
The construction of the administration building on Valova str.	Resistance of the NGO <i>Pora</i>	The construction is finished

Table 1 Objects in Lviv, which had to be transformed, forms of modes of public resistance to this transformation, and the outcome of this resistance:

There are 11 examples in the table. Among all cases, the transformation of three objects was avoided and one object was transformed but with minimal changes as the community demanded. Therefore, the opposition of a community can lead to real results. However, in this case, what is important is not a number of winning cases, but a very fact of community opposition against an unlawful or unacceptable transformation of space.

Database of City Initiatives of Ukraine, developed by Mistosite in 2016, will be the resource for the consideration of the other two models of space appropriation. Overall, there are 765 initiatives in the database (City Initiatives of Ukraine, 2018). All initiatives may be subdivided according to the spheres of activity:

- (self-)government
- informational activity
- charity
- landscaping
- discriminated groups
- housing and public utilities
- protection of animals and environment
- festivals and other events
- art and culture
- city planning and architecture
- educational and enlightening campaigns
- revitalization
- sport and healthy lifestyles
- transportation
- research and analysis

It should be noted that these are only the initiatives, which accepted the invitation of City Initiatives of Ukraine and agreed to be listed in their database. Thus, there are probably much more initiatives overall. Out of 765 initiatives, 129 were organized in Lviv. Seven initiatives were concerned with (self-)government, 11 - with landscaping, three - with city planning and architecture, and five - with revitalization (City Initiatives of Ukraine, 2018). This way, there are 26 initiatives in Lviv, which are working towards transformation of the city, in particular its physical dimension. Several examples of these initiatives will be taken to consider the other two models of appropriation as a dimension of the right to the city.

Model 2: Appropriation as “Fighting Back” and Further Transformation of the Space

The second model may be illustrated with the help of the following initiatives:

Public Organization Better Sykhiv: At first, activists of this organization protected their public space from a developed who planned to build a quite big mall in this place. Since May 2014, when the abandoned square turned

into a building site, the community started fighting to it organizing a lot of cultural events. Although the developer is still trying to prove his right in a court, the executive committee of Lviv city council canceled the order of the department of city development concerning the building-up of this site and the NGO Better Sykhiv is actively working towards the official approval of the limits of the green zone. Waiting for final orders, during the last few months, the citizens collected the money (more than 20,000 UAH), installed garbage bins, benches and a figure of Maria, Mother of God, planted trees and flowers. Together with urbanists from Group 109, they worked out a modern project of a new public space called A Square of Dignity. Activists have managed to make the regional council allocate 700,000 UAH to change the square pavements. Additionally, the PO Better Sykhiv has received a grant amounting to 17,150 UAH for the development of the public space earlier this month (Bigggidea, 2015).

Levandivka park: The citizens of Levandivka district opposed the construction of a residential building in the park zone. Works towards the amelioration of the park were initiated.

Give “Lviv” Back to Us: The initiative is concerned with the renewal of work and rethinking of the space of one of the oldest cinemas in Lviv, which is situated in Stryiskyi park. The cinema shares the city’s name - Lviv. The participants of the initiative group addressed the director of the cinema and representatives of the corresponding governmental bodies with the demand to support the plan of actions they had developed and, thus, renew the functioning of the de facto abandoned cinema as a cultural institution (Tvoe Misto, 2015).

Group 109: Group 109 is an interdisciplinary urban initiative that emerged during one of events known as “Maisternya Mista” (an annual urban and cultural initiative, which has taken place in Lviv for three times already in the framework of the joint Ukrainian and German project “Municipal Development and Renewal of the Old Part of the Lviv City”). First, young architects and journalists studied the public spaces of Lviv. For the last 10 months, they have been working on the project of the renewed square situated in Sykhiv district on Chervona Kalyna prosp., 109 (Bigggidea, 2015). As it can be seen from these examples, the community did not only fight back the space avoiding the undesirable transformations, but also started performing transformations in this space on its own.

Model 3: Appropriation as a Creation and taking Responsibility of a New Space.

Appropriation as a creation of a new space may be illustrated on the example of the following initiatives:

Yota: Yota is an initiative group organizing a Pidzamche Neighbours Festival. The goal of this festival is a certain provocation of the social changes in the district. Pidzamche is quite specific as a district. On the one hand, it has a rich and contradictory history - this is where first plants of the 18th century and the Jewish ghetto during the World War Two were situated. On the other hand, today, this district is problematic regarding high rate of unemployment and low quality of life. Few cultural events take place in Pidzamche district. The organizers of the festival believe that regular meetings and mutual leisure will support the local community, will breed in them the values of self-organization and general skills for collective activity. The initiative group is associated with the transformation of a Povydlo plant (Jam plant), which is situated in Pidzamche district, into a creative space for carrying out art projects in Lviv (Pidzamche Neighbours Festival, 2018).

NGO Urban Ideas: NGO Urban Ideas has been engaged in projects aimed at revitalization of public spaces of Lviv since 2013. The team involves professional architects, restorers and designers. In the framework of the project Urban Cafe, which are carried out with the help of City Institute of the Catholic University of Lviv, Urban Ideas organizes workshops everyone can join. As a rule, these events are attended by the students majoring in “city building”. The team takes a week to study the chosen space and, taking in account the recommendations of the users and modern world practices, creates a project for its renewal. During each workshop, the youth normally carries out one element of the proposed changes, that is creates benches, furniture, etc. In the last year, Urban Ideas has organized workshops on revitalization of Mytna square, Pohulyanka space, design of the interior of the Urban Library (Biggggidea, 2015).

Dogs-Friendly City: Participants of the initiative united the efforts of the community, government and business to create the first i Ukraine dog-park with training equipment. The first training and walking site for dogs is opened on the territory of I.Franko park, near the Dnister hotel. It takes around 4,000 square meters and has two departments: for big and small breeds of dogs (Shchepanska, 2016). The territory is fenced and has a special tambourine entrance system. the site may be used free of charge (Shchepanska, 2016). Activists have also installed 40 eco stations for cleaning after dogs. The project has become one of the winners of the program “Let’s build ECO Ukraine together” from the brand Chernihivs’ke. The aggregate sum of brand’s investment into the implementation of the project amounted to 135,436 UAH. The project was implemented by the Ukrainian Philanthropic Marketplace. According to the project, titled “The Installation of Special Stations for Cleaning after Dogs in Lviv”, stations having boxes with packets for cleaning after animals, user instructions, and rubbish bins have been installed in parks and streets of the city (DailyLviv, 2015).

Lypneva: The initiative appeared in 2012 with the aim of the spread of the idea of the city development. At first, the volunteers helped the city administration to develop tables for public transport stations. Then, in the framework of the initiative, they carried out a project on Halytska square revitalization. As a result, in 2013, former uncontrolled car parking has been substituted with round benches, trees and bikes’ parking (Biggggidea, 2015).

These initiatives show that their representatives were the first to initiate the transformation of the existing spaces, not waiting for the time when these will have to be fought back and only then transformed. The roles of different actors in the process of realization of the right to the city are worth careful thought. Classical neo Marxist approach to the consideration of this right views it as a fight of the citizens with the government and business (developers). Obviously, they are really the key figures in case of illegal constructions. However, this is only one of the models, according to which these actors can relate to each other. This returns us to Don Mitchell’s (2003) concept of active lobbying of public spaces. Office of Administration, Construction and Infrastructure Development of Lviv City Council as a representative of the city administration actively works towards arranging of public spaces. In three years, they have developed 30 projects on the creation of public spaces (some of them are carried out, for example, the transformation of Kurbas street into a pedestrian area; some are in the process of discussion). When created in 2014, the office had two goals: promotion of the quality of public space in Lviv and engagement of city

community to the development of the city. One of the first steps of the new team was the competition among the students of Lviv Polytechnic National University and Ukrainian National Forestry University. Students received 40 tasks for the development of projects on the arrangement of public spaces of Lviv, two of which were carried out (Leopolis News, 2017).

The testing of ideas of Lefebvre and his followers on the current Ukrainian realia allows us to draw several conclusions. First of all, the very subdivision into appropriation and the right to participation is rather blurred, as some practices aiming at (trans) formation of city's physical surface may actually relate to both verified dimensions of the right to the city. In addition, the dimension of appropriation, which was viewed by the classical authors of the concept as "fighting back" of the space, is more varied, as it comprises the practices of fighting back and further abandonment of the objects in question, the practices of fighting back and (trans)formation of the object in question, and what is the most important, the practices of creation of a new space. Here, there is not simply the right to use what belongs to the community, but the right to create something new. This last model of appropriation shows that the society is ready to move from placing responsibility on someone else to placing responsibility on oneself.

Second, the actors of city development processes such as local administration and business-cluster cannot come with definite "+" or "-" signs regarding the realization of citizens right to the city. There are private developers that try to transform the city space despite the public opinion; there are businesses that, on the contrary, support public initiatives (this, of course, depends on the type of business too, but this idea deserves a separate article). Similarly, a city administration is not always interested in taking the needed public space away from the community. At least in Lviv, the relationships between the actors of the realization of the right to the city are situational.

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