

Abstract

The master's thesis, framed as a sociological case study, aims its interest at the theme of neighborhood evolution at a pre-fabricated panel building area. The subject of interest is the reflection of neighborhood evolution given by the original residents of the research locality. The research locality is represented by the most populated street in Hradec Králové, Edvarda Beneše boulevard, which drew considerable attention both of lay and academic public at the time of its emergence due to unique architectonic and urbanistic design. The defined research problem is the question asking about current state and underwent changes of a neighborhood situated at specific environment of a block-of-flats area located in a contemporary city, specifically in the most populated area of Hradec Králové statutory city. Also three separate research questions were formulated. They ask specifically about the current state of the neighborhood, its underwent changes during time and the role of its physical a geographical situatedness. The aim of the thesis was to perform complex exploration of current state and evolution of the studied phenomenon, both in social and physical dimension. The thesis doesn't provide description of the current state and evolution only, but it also identifies local relevant factors which are responsible for the revealed state and evolution. The research, using qualitative research method, is designed as an explanatory case study and answers the defined research questions through data acquired by interviews with original residents of the research locality, observation of the the research locality (including its public space) and study of various documents relevant to the research locality. The results of the study shows unsustainable trends in the neighborhood evolution, both in social (disintegration of the original local ties and community life) and physical (decay of the physical state of the place) dimension. Both dimensions also show reciprocal relationship and synergic effect. Behind the evolution, which is negatively reflected by the respondents, stands a set of local factors which were identified (decay of physical structures of the place, declining resident stability, rising resident heterogeneity and more). Last but not least, the results of the study confront theoretical expectation and point out future research potential of the studied phenomenon and its role to the sphere of sustainable development.

Key words

neighborhood, local community, neighborliness, local cohesion, pre-fabricated panel building area