



Actors enhancing local activity in socially upgrading inner city districts.

The examples of Józsefváros (Budapest) and Praga-Północ (Warsaw)

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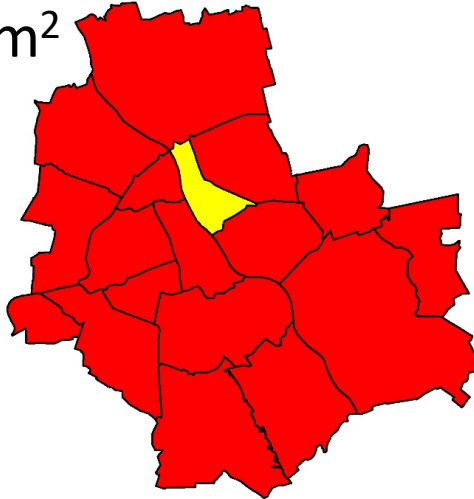
Presentation outline

- Description of the most diverse districts of the two post-socialist capitals
- Research questions and methods
- Urban development in the case study areas in the last two decades
- Characteristics of open-air events as an indicator of local activity

Praga-Pólnoc and Józsefváros

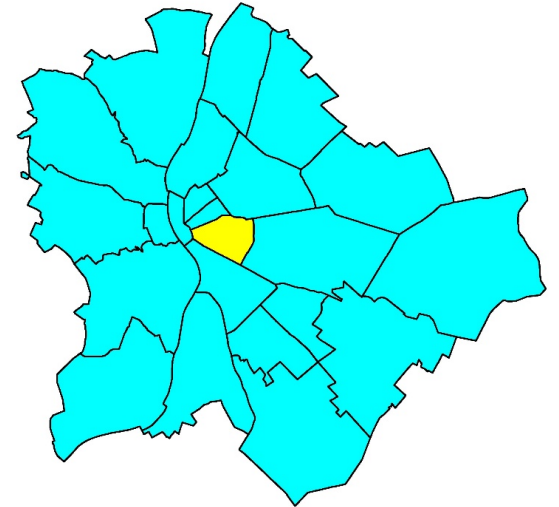
Praga-Pólnoc

- Population: 64 000
- Area: 11.42 km²
- Location



Józsefváros

- Population: 77 000
- Area: 6.85 km²
- Location



- Low prestige
- Deteriorated old building stock

Between urban rehabilitation and revitalization

- Urban renewal (private investors)
- Urban rehabilitation and revitalization
- Social upgrading versus gentrification
- Factors of population change: provision of cheap municipality-owned and private tenements and flats; urban renewal investments in Praga and Józsefváros

Research questions

- What are the main characteristics of local social activity in these areas?
- What kinds of attitudes towards the cohabitation of diverse population groups are revealed by the frequency and purposes of local events?

Urban rehabilitation in Józsefváros

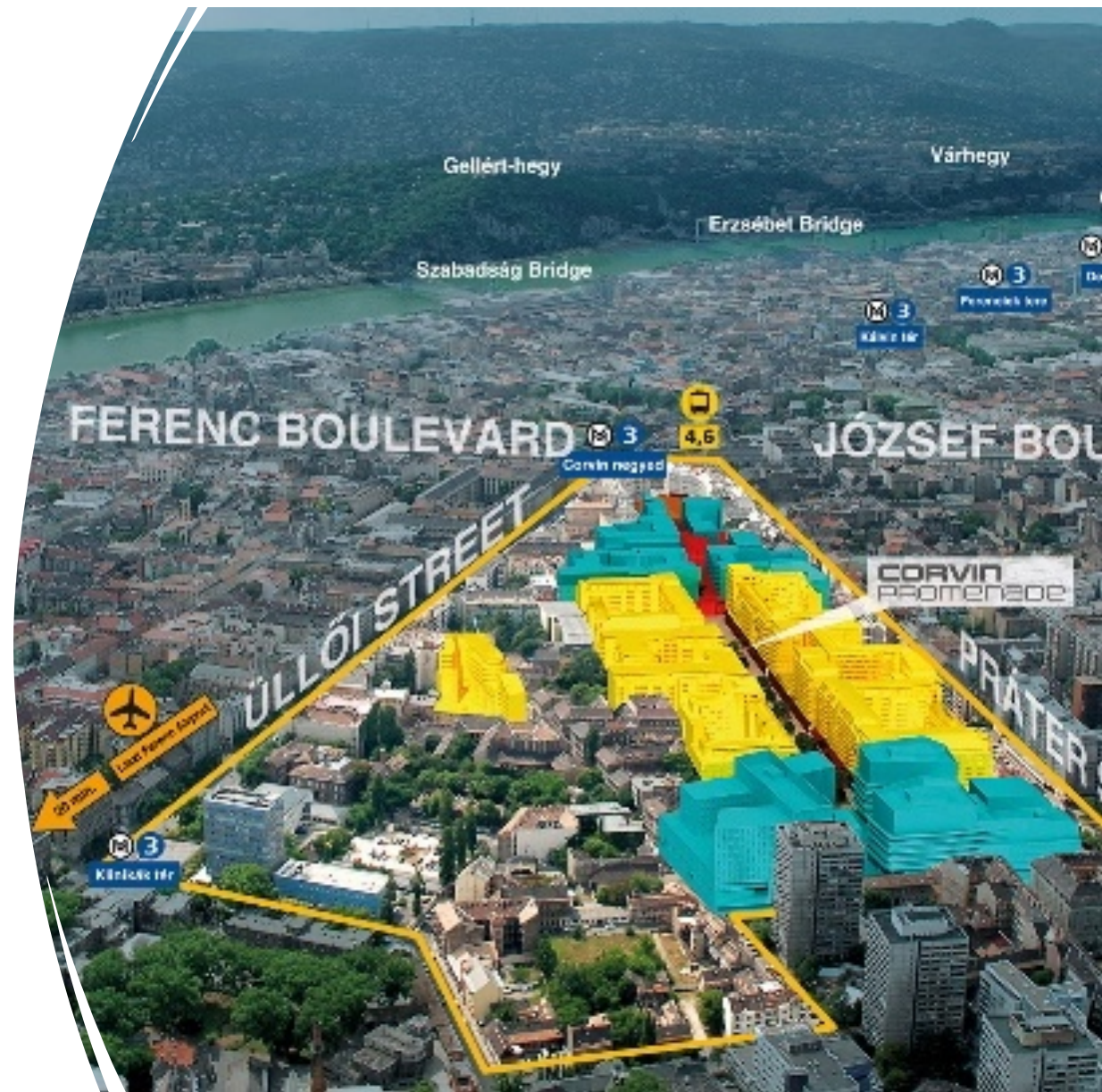
Three projects carried out in the years 2000–2010

- Corvin-Szigony project

“Largest urban rehabilitation project in ECE”

22 ha area, 2700 new dwellings,
100000 m² offices,

50000 m² retail space





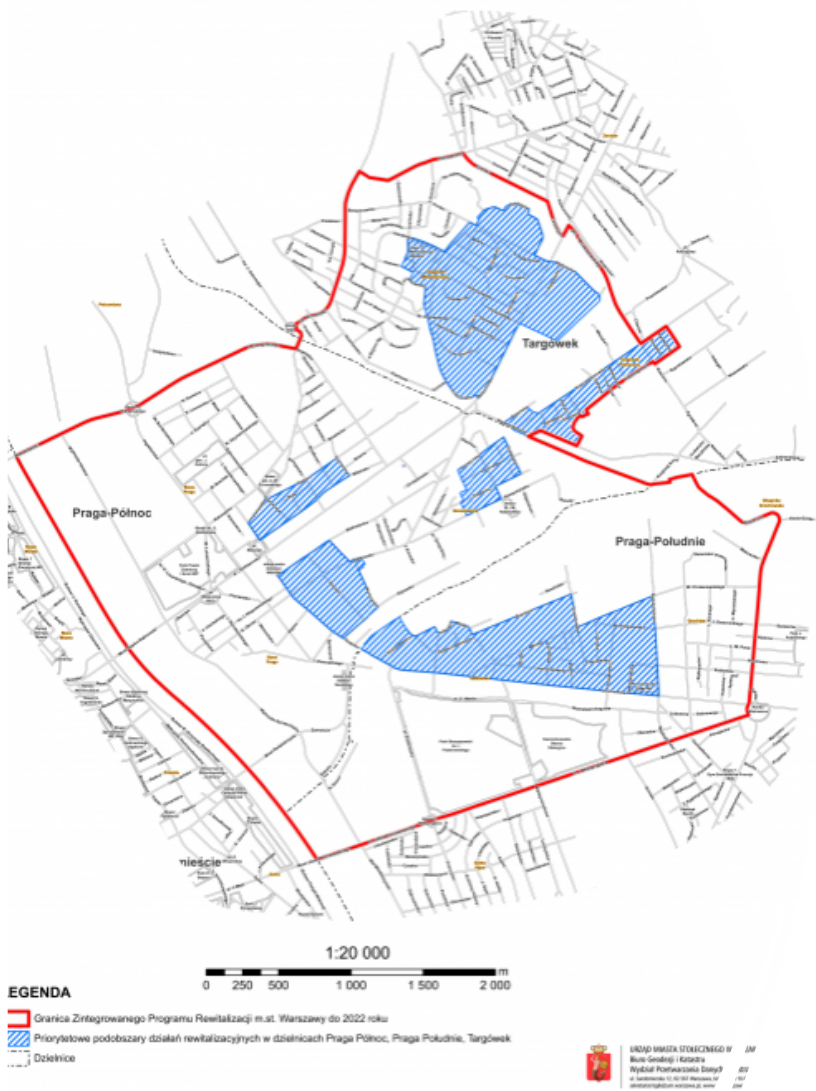
Urban rehabilitation in Józsefváros

- Social rehabilitation in Magdolna quarter

Residential building renovation in cooperation with inhabitants, new community center

- Palota quarter

Renovation of public places, institutions and old houses which are part of cultural heritage



Aims of the Integrated Revitalization Program in Warsaw

- Socio-economic revitalization, enhancing the quality of public space and natural environment according to the standards of low-carbon economy
- Development of tourism, culture and sports on the basis of local identity and cultural heritage



Aims of the Integrated Revitalization Program in Warsaw

- Preventing and counteracting social exclusion
- Enhancing the activity of the inhabitants and their participation in different areas of city life

Projects in the frame of IRP/other projects

Urban rehabilitation and revitalization :

- Intergenerational tenement house (cohousing project) Stalowa 29



Consequences of rehabilitation/revitalization



- The new buildings attracted higher status dwellers, which made the local society more diverse (but the poor remained dominant).
- The old houses inhabited by the poor have not been renovated; the living conditions of their dwellers are still the same as before the renewal.

Attitude of local governments

Warsaw

- Local government focuses on a social upgrading of the area acknowledging its specificity (tradition and social change)
- Public projects are of a general character and aimed at enhancing local activity
- Selected projects involve both the public and NGO- actors

Budapest

- Since 2010 the district government have neglected the local diverse society
- Since 2015 the conflicts between locally oriented CSOs and district government emerged

Local activity actors

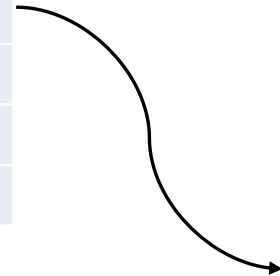
- In Józsefváros only every fourth events initiated by CSOs received support from municipality, while in Praga all of them.



Who did initiate the organization of the event?	Praga-Pólnoc	Józsefváros
Private persons and their local groups	5%	4,7%
Local civil organization	8,7%	39,9%
Local institution (eg. kindergarten, school, etc.), company		16,9%
Church, religious institution	2,2%	2,0%
District-level local government	84,1%	21,6%
Capital-level initiative (or at least several districts)		8,8%
National or international initiative		6,1%

Cooperation between organizers

How many types of organizers did participate in organizing/financing the event?	Praga-Pótnoc	Józsefváros
1	8,7%	58,8%
2	15,2%	33,8%
3	69,6%	7,4%
4	6,5%	



Organizers/financial supporters of the event	Praga-Pótnoc	Józsefváros
Only civil		37,2%
Only local government	8,7%	8,1%
Only public institution		10,8%
Only church		2,7%
Civil+Church		2,0%
Local gov.+Public inst.	8,7%	12,2%
Other	82,6%	27,0%

Spatial focus of local events

- In Praga-Północ the half of events were organized as a part of the Żąbkowska festival – local entrepreneurs as beneficiaries



Scope of the event	Praga-Północ	Józsefváros
Small local community, neighborhood	4,3%	33,1%
Specific part of the district		17,6%
Whole district	4,3%	25,7%
Wider than the district	91,3%	23,6%

Target groups of local events

- Some special needs of different social groups are visible in Józsefváros



Target group	Praga-Pótnoc	Józsefváros
No specific target group	80,3%	58,1%
Children	0,0%	18,9%
Young people, students	10,6%	2,7%
Elderly, retired people	1,5%	0,7%
Families	7,6%	12,8%
People in need, unemployed	0,0%	4,7%
Dog owners	0,0%	2,0%



Wrap-up and conclusions

- Different attitudes of the local governments to the local community
- The dominant role of the public actor in Praga, also as initiator
- While in Józsefváros the events are locally focused, in Praga the events aimed to open the district to the city
- The strong local activism in Józsefváros is partly the consequence of ambiguous relation of district government and CSOs.