BPLN0052_TFDJ3

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Facilitating Social Cohesion in Standardised Socialist-Era Neighbourhoods

TFDJ3

Date: 4 September 2022

	Word count
Main body of Major Research Project	8725
Visual materials complementary text	1463
Appendices	0

Being a major research project submitted to the faculty of The Built Environment as part of the requirements for the award of *MSc Urban Design and City Planning* at University College London:

I declare that this major research project is entirely my own work and that ideas, data, and images, as well as direct quotations, drawn from elsewhere are identified and referenced.

FACILITATING SOCIAL COHESION IN STANDARDISED SOCIALIST-ERA NEIGHBOURHOODS

MSc Urban Design and City Planning
Major Research Project

September 2022

TFDJ3

ABSTRACT

In the USSR, the state housing programme was offering standardised mass dwellings which provided citizens with long-desired private flats. Today, however, many see these neighbourhoods as outdated and stagnant, not only because of the modernist layout, but also their social disunity and weak grassroots culture, aggravated by the vivid social mix of residents.

The paper explores the ways of enhancing social cohesion in standardised socialist-era neighbourhoods in Russia. It suggests scenarios for different community-bonding practices, and appropriate spaces to perform them within the modernist layout of the neighbourhood. It also addresses the ways in which these practices can expand community networks and serve as catalysts for emergence of further initiatives suggested by other residents.

These scenarios are applied to Metrogorodok neighbourhood in Moscow, Russia. It is suggested that the interventions performed on different scales - from an amateur exhibition inside a house entrance hall to a pop-up market on the busy main street - will result in residents forming stronger bonds and strengthen their sense of place, resulting in them proposing their own initiatives and potentially self-organise to defend neighbourhood interests in front of the council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The paper explores the ways of enhancing social cohesion in standardised socialist-era neighbourhoods in Russia. The project focuses on elaborating scenarios for different community-bonding practices on different scales within the neighbourhood and finding appropriate spaces to perform them. It also addresses the ways in which these practices can expand community networks and serve as catalysts for emergence of further initiatives suggested by other residents.

In the USSR, the state housing programme was offering standardised mass dwellings which provided citizens with long-desired private flats and facilitated the rapid urbanisation process. Today, however, many see these neighbourhoods as stagnant and outdated, with the government of Moscow proposing their complete demolition to pave the way for contemporary high-rise buildings (Government of Moscow, 2017).

This study will focus on the problem of social disunity in these neighbourhoods, which is often a reason why these areas are seen as stagnant, and which results in weak grassroots culture and, as a consequence, lack of recreational activities initiated by residents and poor 'bottom-up' political participation.

Social disunity
The social disunity in panel socialist-era neighbourhoods is aggravated by the vivid social mix of residents. This includes aging population residing there since the Soviet times, young people moving to these places due to their affordability, and families attracted by the abundance of children's infrastructure (Federal State Statistics Service, 2020; AiF, 2014).

Such generational gap and difference in interests add to society atomisation, making interactions between people less frequent and meaningful, with many traveling elsewhere for recreation purposes.

However, young city-minded people in these neighbourhoods exist and, although only partly representing the diverse communities, have an increasing demand for activism and change.

Weak grassroots culture
This society atomisation leads to people not launching grassroots initiatives themselves. It includes both entertainment-focused activities to diversify leisure opportunities within the area, as well as political suggestions to improve their quality of life and defend their interests (HSE, 2015).

Leisure-focused
The studied neighbourhoods have few recreational areas, which is another consequence of Soviet-time planning principles. Moreover, construction of modernist ribbon-type blocks led to the creation of "anonymous spaces for which no one feels responsible" (Bürklin & Peterek, 2008, p. 43), not being appropriated by anyone.

It is another factor that slows down the development of social cohesion as there are not a lot of opportunities or places for locals to get together and network. It goes backwards, too - weak community bonds slow down the reclamation of 'anonymous spaces' and creation of more opportunities by residents and for residents.

Politics-focused
Passivity of residents is often seen as a legacy of the Soviet-era centralised planning, which, to an extent, is still being cultivated today in a form of neoliberal state patronising, for Moscow in particular is known for its extremely top-down development politics (Kalyukin et al., 2015).

F1. Standardised socialist-era housing in Russia.

This makes it hard for residents to challenge development policies imposed from 'above'. In the studied context these policies include the government densification programme and, as a consequence, a threat of neighbourhood demolition and displacement of residents. The emergence of more bottom-up initiatives can help residents to collaborate and express their interests and potentially get heard.

Research question and objectives

This MRP tries to answer the question: how to encourage more grassroots initiatives in standardised socialist-era neighbourhoods through enhancing social cohesion?

To answer the question, the following objectives have been set:

1. Explore related literature and case studies to establish a contextual framework.

2. Identify different social groups and appropriate practices to enhance social cohesion between and within these groups.

3. Identify underused spaces and activity nodes where these practices can be performed.

4. Design a toolkit that sets out the action plan for bringing these social practices to life.

It is believed that nurturing more local activities and opportunities for social engagement will enhance a sense of community among socially diverse population and enrich people's lives in monotonously designed, predominantly residential areas. By sharing experiences, and learning more about their fellow neighbours, local residents can also

discuss and potentially promote their own views on how the neighbourhood should be developed further.

Limitations

Under the current Russian law, most actions performed without the direct consent of local authorities would be illegal. In addition, the current level of bureaucracy within public institutions would make it challenging to organise communal initiatives.

It is therefore important to either promote change that can be undertaken under current legal framework, or set out the best practice approach that can eventually change the existing policies themselves – the present toolkit is aimed at doing the latter.

Contribution to practice

This project is contributing to practice by serving as an inspiration for the local people. In particular, local activists present in the neighbourhoods can promote ideas from the toolkit among their neighbours and start bringing its scenarios to life. Non-profit organisations, too, can use the toolkit as an action plan to work with communities or sponsor their initiatives.

Moreover, the toolkit might be of use for the future. The economic crisis due to the current military conflict will inevitably lead to authorities having less resources for megaprojects. As a result, the government will likely have to collaborate with residents, giving them more control over their places (Gershman, 2022).
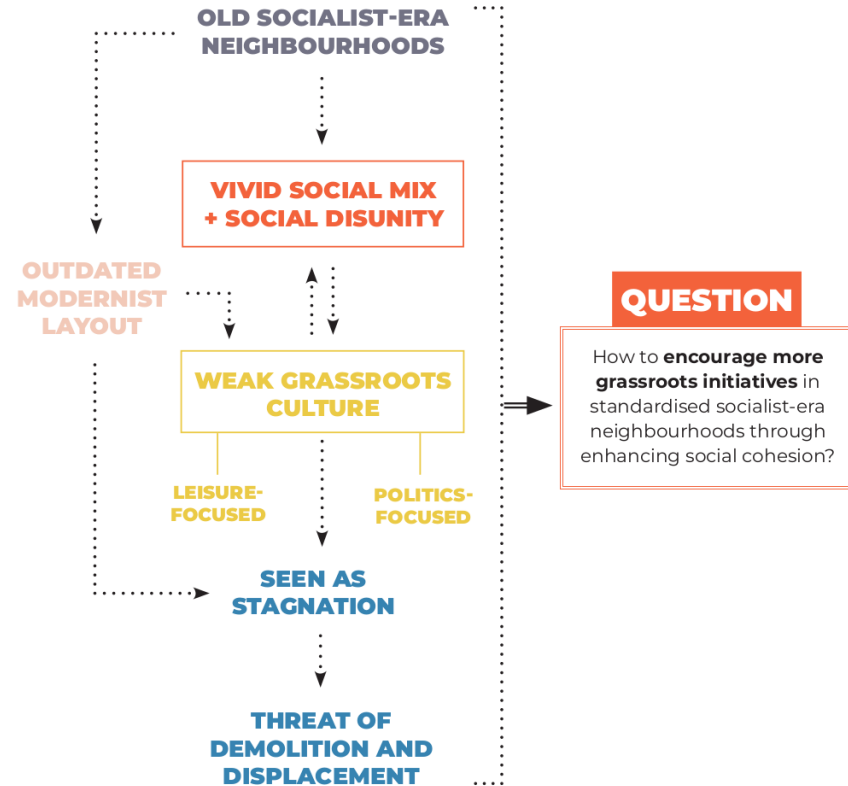
F2. Research problem.

METHODOLOGY

Research methods

This study has been conducted using the research-led method, with the elements of design-led research.

First, the overall study of Russian post-socialist neighbourhoods has been conducted to detect their problems and to identify goals and objectives of the research. This included the analysis of online data, policy documents and observations. Based on this, literature and case studies review has been used to inform the conceptual framework.

The research was being conducted backwards, too – the chosen area, Metrogorodok neighbourhood in Moscow, has been analysed simultaneously to lead framework development process to the right direction. It has been chosen as it represents a typical panel neighbourhood in Russia. It has informed the selection of places and social practices that were to be proposed for the framework.

The concepts taken from the review, as well as knowledge of the study area have then been synthesised to elaborate the practical toolkit. It sets out the ways to enhance social cohesion in socialist-era neighbourhoods by developing potential scenarios of social practices that can take place across the area.

These scenarios have then been applied to Metrogorodok to test them. For this, maps, personal observations, online discussions and articles have been combined to identify particular spaces and events that could take place there.

Finally, this report is wrapped up with reflections on project's limitations and transferability.

Ethical statement

This research carries a low ethical risk. No original primary data has been formally collected. Only existing data, such as published articles and publicly accessible online discussions, has been used, and no personal information or special category data has been recorded, stored, or utilised.

Observations and informal talks have been carried out, however, no personal information has been recorded. This data has only been used to inform the study area analysis. Some photos of the place have been taken; however, people do not appear on these photos.
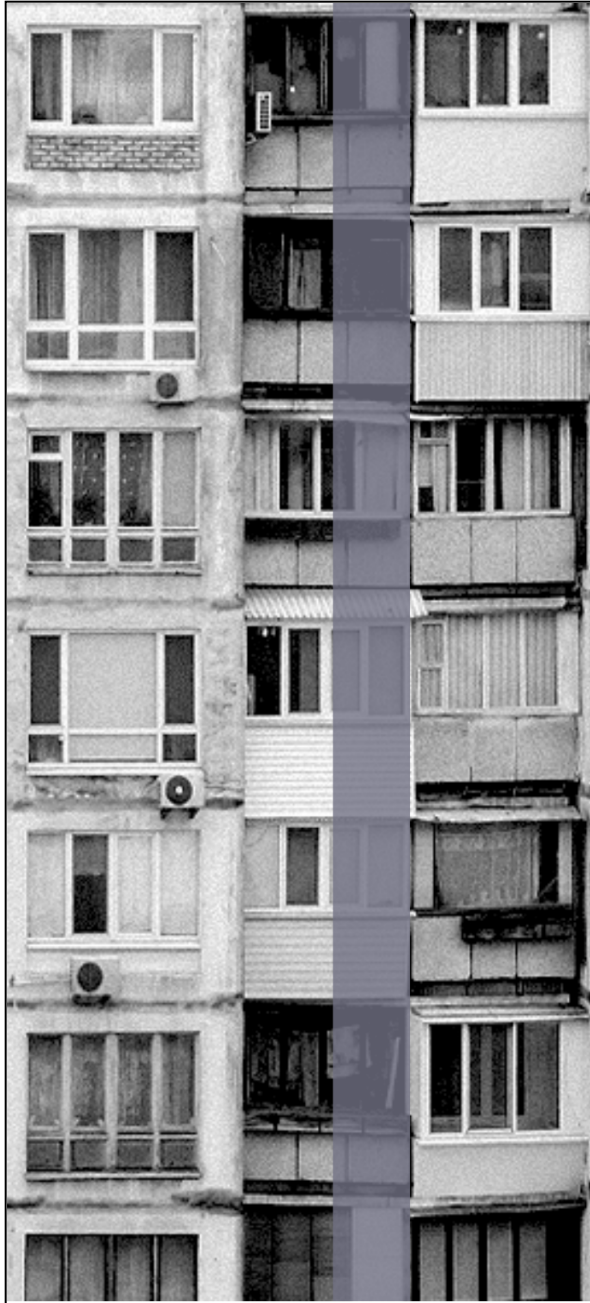
LITERATURE REVIEW

Dimensions of social cohesion

Social cohesion has been extensively studied by many scholars who recognise its importance in urban environment. While its definition and the ways of achieving it are still a subject of debates (Fonseca et al., 2019), authors are trying to categorise its aspects and tools. Kearns & Forrest (2000) identify five dimensions of social cohesion: (1) place attachment and identity; (2) social order and control; (3) social solidarity; (4) social networks and capital; (5) common values and a civic culture; these closely intertwine with Jenson's (1998) framework that includes four core values: belonging, inclusion, participation and recognition.

Woodcraft et al. (2011) highlight four criteria for a well-connected community: (1) amenities and infrastructure, which are tangible dimensions; (2) social and cultural life – local identity, networks and groups; (3) voice and influence, which includes participatory decision-making; and (4) spaces to grow. It is argued that planners should work towards achieving these aims in three realms: built environment, social infrastructure and social practices (F4).

It is important to closer review tools of achieving social cohesion as they can later be used in the framework for this project.

Identity
A lot of studies emphasise the importance of social identity; from modernist scholars exploring socially constructed 'imagined communities' (Gellner, 1983; Anderson, 1991) to contemporary poststructuralist theories (Norton, 2000) that put emphasis on changeability of identities over time. As Ashworth et al. (2007, p. 54) notes, "'imagined communities' need 'imagined places'", creating space identities and sense of belonging. Mardazo (2019)

particularly emphasises how the local identity unfolds when the place is in danger.

The role of heritage and memory in formation of place identity is important, too (Ashworth et al., 2007; Silverman & Ruggles, 2007), with "a sense of place rooted in the past deployed as a resource to mobilise around the challenges of the present" (Corcoran, 2002, p. 48).

Social order and solidarity
Public spaces not only should be accessible physically to accommodate people with different needs (Blackman et al., 2003), but also welcome various social and cultural groups, making their use of space comfortable and safe (Low et al., 2005). Inclusion, along the sense of belonging, also contributes to overall health and wellbeing of people (Witten & Ivory, 2018).

Common values and civic culture
Lofland (1998) identifies such moral principles and codes of behaviour as civil inattention, restrained helpfulness, and civility toward diversity as main features of civic culture in public realm. It develops into in political participation and collaborative decision-making (Kearns & Forrest, 2000).

Social networks
Interactions between residents also vary. Scholars often emphasise the importance of weak ties between people (acquaintances) - Granovetter (1973) proclaimed that weak ties are more important for the functioning of the community than strong ones, as they emerge between less similar people and can transmit more information and unique perspectives. Such communities are sometimes called 'communities at the edge of chaos', having an element of unpredictability and flexibility to adapt to

F3. Dimensions of social cohesion.
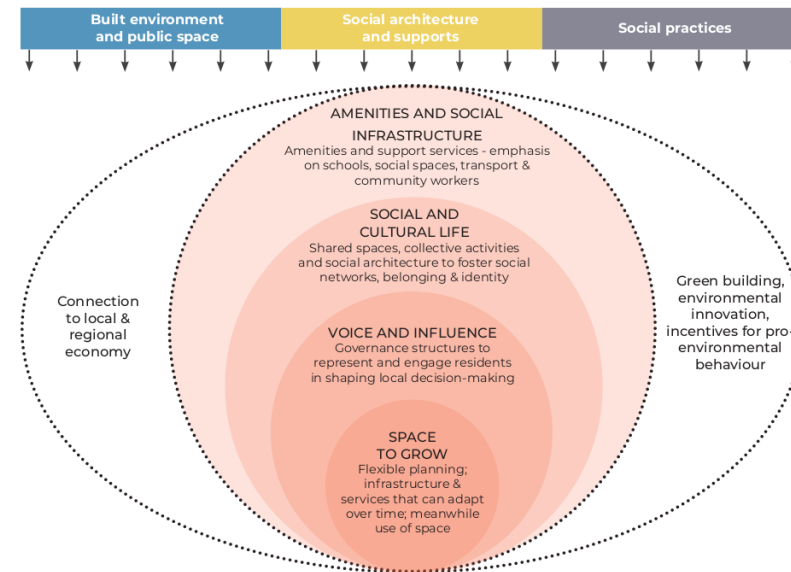
F4. Design for Social Sustainability Framework.

changing environment, but still not get completely out of control (Gilchrist, 2009).

Local networks for different demographic groups are also seen as of a great importance (Henning & Lieberg, 1996).

'Third' places
Closely linked to networking theories, there is a concept of a 'third place', first suggested by Oldenburg (1989). These locations provide an escape from routines of the 'first' (home) and 'second' (work) places in neutral but familiar environment, where people can interact informally, but intentionally (Jeffres et al., 2009); these places are neither fully private nor fully public, and their visitors can be regulars, but act as neither guests nor hosts (Gilchrist, 2009).

Years later, Aelbrecht (2016) introduced the concept of a 'fourth place', which relies on interactions in-between necessary activities. These spaces are liminal and include locations such as waiting rooms or bus stops. Compared to 'third places' that often have a semi-public nature, 'fourth places', Aelbrecht (2016, p. 134) argues, have "a truly public and anonymous character", allowing a larger number of diverse people to be involved in the creation of weak ties.

Keeping social cohesion and networking concepts in mind, it is now important to investigate the tactics of achieving it in public realm.

Social cohesion: tactics of achieving

There are ongoing debates regarding the ways public spaces with social cohesion goals in their core should look like.

Social roles of public space
Gehl (1987) identified 3 types of activities in public spaces: necessary, optional and social. Necessary activities (such as transit) are taking place regardless of the surrounding environment. Optional (leisure-related) and social activities often correlate with the quality of public spaces, also animating them. Understanding types of interactions can help to identify places that can potentially facilitate more activities if better designed.

'Open' vs. 'closed' designs
Authors have been discussing the dichotomy between 'open' and 'closed' designs. The first – 'loose' – design approach is user appropriation-oriented, having minimum design elements and allowing people to adapt the space according to their needs (Franck & Stevens, 2007). This concept has recently been driving more support from scholars who argue that it makes spaces more democratic and safe (Steinfeld & Maisel, 2012; Sennett & Sendra, 2020).

On contrary, 'closed' approach is rooted in 20th century modernist ideas that the physical environment is capable to precisely control one's behaviour. Now often seen as outdated, this concept still has some weight in academic and professional circles (Daly, 2020).

Appropriation vs. programming
Scholars also have different opinions on the balance between user appropriation of spaces and cultural programming. Aelbrecht et al. (2021) distinguish 'programmatic' and 'minimalist' approaches, where 'minimalist' is a 'loose',

appropriation-focused design, while 'programmatic' creates programmes to stimulate interactions between people, including participation in co-design.

Tactical urbanism
Whilst design approaches described above relate more to attempts to cultivate social cohesion 'from above', the practices of tactical urbanism manifest the importance of making a change 'from below' by simple means.

Lydon & Garcia (2015) emphasise the significance of small temporary actions. It is argued that events such as markets and festivals, as well as short-term physical transformations of spaces, can serve as a testing ground and help to gain support for expensive long-term projects. Ranging from unsanctioned guerrilla tactics to municipally approved actions, not only these events help make built environment better, but also help bringing residents together (F6).

Unsanctioned events, such as 'weed bombing' to make cities greener, are particularly important for the present study as current legal framework in Russia does not allow much flexibility - and guerrilla urbanism might provide an opportunity to bring about positive change. Semi-sanctioned and sanctioned appropriation of existing spaces is also a way for people to get to know each other better.
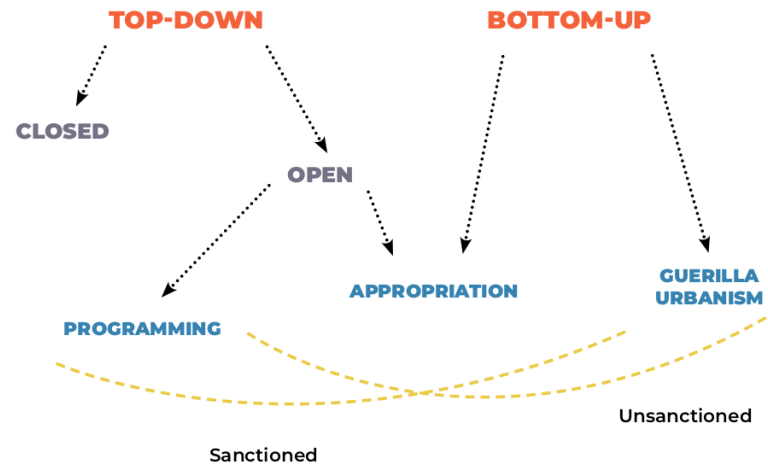
F5. Tactics for social cohesion.
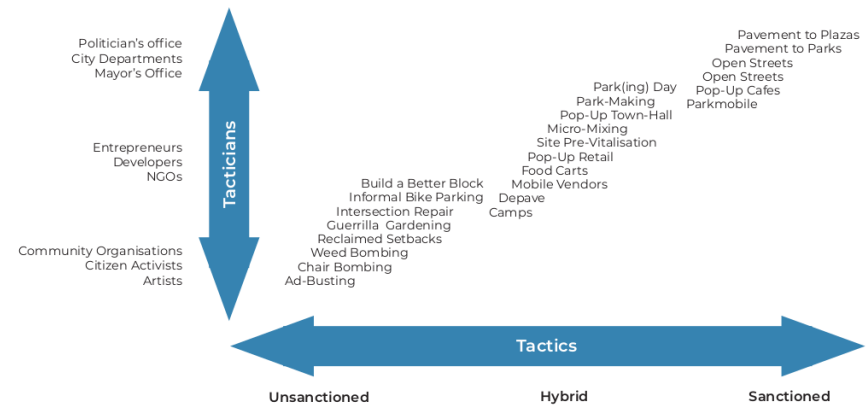
F6. Spectrum of tactical urbanism actions.

Social cohesion in modernist blocks

Spaces in the context of this project are of specific nature, being designed in the middle to late 20th century in accordance with modernist paradigm. Hence, it is important to study the features of these places to better understand how they can be appropriated.

Modernist layout
Although built in different political contexts, estates and neighbourhoods with modernist layout share many similar problems.

Designed for better insolation and ventilation, ribbon-type modernist blocks are often dislocated from their surroundings and urban tissue. Their open spaces are not enclosed and lack clear function - just buffer zones instead of settings for activities and with a low level of social control (Dann, 2019). The footpaths leading to the houses, however, usually have a semi-public character which can encourage communication (Bürklin & Peterek, 2008).

The modernist-era zoning principles that promoted separation of function also did not encourage mixed use (Meyer, 2015), thus often isolating residential, retail and leisure uses of the building, resulting in monotonous urban landscapes and lack of opportunities in predominantly residential areas.

Mass standardisation due to cheap price of construction of such blocks has also led to deindividualisation (Lenta.Ru, 2016; Parker, 2018) and loss of heritage (Gold, 2007) in these neighbourhoods.

Engagement practices
The role of community engagement in such complex areas, especially in the process of their regeneration, is a topic gaining popularity among researchers (Van Beckhoven et al., 2005; Simmons & Birchall, 2007). However, many note that it should be approached with care: for instance, when studying multi-ethnic estates, Dekker & Rowlands (2005) point out that engagement attempts can easily result in direct and symbolic domination of more privileged groups of tenants – in their case, white middle-class residents.

An interesting case of renewal via arts, culture and heritage is explored by Jones et al. (2012), who wrote about a housing estate on the edge of a city in English Midlands. To engage its local community, which has previously been rather disunited, a theatre company collected residents' memories that became a base for the participatory theatre play, with residents themselves playing all the roles. Such presentation of place memory, authors argue, became a tool for residents to engage with their everyday spaces and reappropriate them.

Engagement practices within estates explored in literature often seem as top-down initiatives imposed by developers or the council, mirroring contemporary politics in Moscow that aims to patronise residents' everyday activities (Kalyukin et al., 2015). They nevertheless can be a catalyst of a wider change if residents get a sense of ownership over their everyday spaces and are allowed to express it and launch their own initiatives independently from the council. This emphasises the significance of toolkits such as the present project, proposing action plans for residents themselves and not the governing bodies or developers.

Post-socialist context

It is also important to address community engagement practices in the post-socialist context, as it has different conditions compared to Western countries. Scholars note that urban regeneration in post-socialist countries does not usually generate physical displacement of residents who cannot afford to pay rent anymore, since privatisation process after the fall of the regime ensured that most property is in private ownership, resulting in lower mobility (Kubeš & Kovács, 2020).

However, there are debates on what happens instead: while some point out that younger newcomers are bringing about positive change and genuinely help to engage older generation (Grabkowska, 2015), others argue that a 'symbolic displacement' takes place instead of a physical one, still alienating other groups (Pastak & Kahrik, 2021).

For this project, is important to keep this in mind especially when engaging with older residents - proposed social cohesion activities should be carefully planned in order not to feel exclusionary or alienating.

Russia and Moscow
Researchers agree that many social engagement principles used abroad can be successfully applied in Russian cities (Meerovich & Frantseva, 2017; Melnikova, 2020). They argue that there are unique place identities even within the standardised neighbourhoods that can bring people together (Malko & Kozlova, 2019; Snopek, 2015).

However, as Malko & Kozlova (2020, p. 143) point out, Russia inherently lacks participatory culture, and the society in Soviet-era neighbourhoods is frequently atomised due to the vivid social mix. As a result, people "avoid openly expressing their opinion" and "do not feel responsibility for the space", which makes it more challenging to engage them.

In Moscow, a lot of unauthorised bottom-up initiatives are often suppressed by the city government which is trying to have all citizens' activities, from community gardening to political participation, under centralised control (Kravtsova, 2019). To centralise community participation, Moscow authorities have even created an online citizen engagement portal 'Active citizen', where people can only vote for or against existing proposals and cannot share their own vision. It is suspected that the polls only facilitate already prearranged choices (Horgan & Dimitrijević, 2019), which additionally reveals the need for less technocratic and more natural grassroots engagement.

PROBLEMS OF MODERNIST NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Dislocation from surroundings
- Society atomisation
- Weak participatory culture
- Few opportunities for recreation

DEMAND FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Social, recreational and political

GRASSROOTS CULTURE AND PARTICIPATION

By residents, for residents

TOP-DOWN REGENERATION AND ENGAGEMENT

By developers or authorities in attempts to patronise residents

Voice and influence
Space to grow
Amenities and social infrastructure
Social and cultural life

SOCIAL PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL COHESION

GUERILLA URBANISM

Unsanctioned actions to influence public and official opinion for a long-term change

SEMI-SANCTIONED APPROPRIATION

Initiatives partially seeking approval from local municipal bodies

Mutual influence:
design of a place can have an impact on social practices, and social practices can shape design - or look for a specific place

MEDIUMS

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE

PUBLIC OPEN SPACES
≈
'FOURTH SPACES'

'THIRD SPACES'

ROLES
- Necessary
- Optional
- Social

INITIATORS
- Activists
- Local businesses
- NGOs
- Authorities

COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Expansion of weak and strong ties within the community, highly flexible and resilient 'community at the edge of chaos'

BELONGING + IDENTITY
- Memory & heritage
- Place attachment
- Critical situation

NETWORKS + PARTICIPATION
- Weak & strong ties
- Local networks
- Flexibility

EXAMPLES
- Retail
- Streets between blocks
- Non-commercial community spaces
- Bus stops and waiting rooms
- and more...

'SNOWBALL' EFFECT

More local people learning about the initiatives and offering their help, or starting their own

GETTING HEARD

Expressing attachment to a place and a sense of ownership over it

WELLBEING

Wider societal benefits

SOLIDARITY + INCLUSION
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Visibility

VALUES + RECOGNITION
- Moral principles
- Codes of behaviour
- Political participation

F7. A summary of concepts.

15

CASE STUDIES

'OPEN GREEN', TAIPEI, TAIWAN

ABOUT

When: since 2014
Initiators: city government, community groups
Implementation: activists from outside

Volunteers find abandoned spaces and transform them, adding temporary furniture and organising events - an initiative funded by the city government.

PROBLEMS

- Tensions between residents and business owners
- Few community spaces
- Few recreational activities in the area

OBJECTIVES

- Inviting passers-by to spend time in the community spaces
- Achieve compromise between residents and retail spot owners
- Initiate more entertainment activities

COMMON INTERESTS

Quality of life   Entertainment

STEPS

- Government establishing the fund
- Repurposing underused spaces
- Organising events
- Receiving submissions from community organisations
- Training sessions for community leaders
- Mobilising a network of active local people

SOCIAL PRACTICES

- Exhibitions
- Workshops

Events

- People watching
- Sitting and talking
- Space-sharing

Networking

Retail

SPACES

Basement   Derelict spaces   Empty buildings

LESSONS

- Exemplary and versatile ways of utilising underused spaces.
- The importance of funding.

(Lien & Hou, 2019)

KINGS CROSS AND KNIGHT'S WALK ESTATES, LONDON, UK

ABOUT

When: since 2017
Initiators: Council
Implementation: planners and architects

Regeneration of two London estates led by practitioners who actively involved local residents in decision-making process and adapted modernist-era spaces for community initiatives.

PROBLEMS

- Safety concerns
- Underused spaces due to modernist layout
- Poor space animation

OBJECTIVES

- Improve the quality of built environment
- Participatory regeneration
- More opportunities for community networking
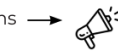
COMMON INTERESTS
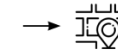
Quality of life

Heritage

STEPS

- Block-to-block forums
- Door-to-door knocking and leafleting
- Targeted outreach activities
- Involving more people in decision-making
- Developers proposing designs according to residents' needs

SOCIAL PRACTICES

Events
- Parties
- Workshops
- Exhibitions

Networking
- Communal gardening
- Community hub

SPACES

Empty Ground floor flat

Buffer zones

Mosque

Schools

LESSONS

- Community engagement and networking activities in previously underused open spaces.

(Dann, 2019)

(Grabkowska, 2015)

WRZESZCZ DOLNY, GDAŃSK, POLAND

ABOUT

When: 2010s
Initiators: newcomers arriving to the neighbourhood

An influx of young, city-minded residents – 'urbanogentsia' (Galent & Kubicki, 2011), who initiated grassroots activities among older residents to engage them in urban regeneration.

PROBLEMS

- Dilapidating urban environment and loss of heritage
- Passivity of residents living in the area for a long time

OBJECTIVES

- Trigger urban renewal within the neighbourhood
- Get heard by local authorities
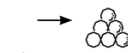
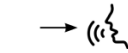**COMMON INTERESTS**

Heritage   Quality of life

STEPS

- Historical tours
- Organising street festivals
- Door-to-door campaigns
- Self-organising into political groups
- Getting into a local council

SOCIAL PRACTICES

- Historical tours
- Street festivals

Events

- Formation of action group

Voice

SPACES

Streets   Parks and squares   Library

LESSONS

- Moscow has a similar phenomenon of 'urbanogentsia' and increasing interest in local history.
- Grassroots initiatives can influence municipal politics and trigger regeneration processes.

«Preparing the New Year's celebration at the House on Chicken Legs!

Join us!»

'HOUSE ON CHICKEN LEGS', MOSCOW, RUSSIA

ABOUT

When: 2017
Initiators: local activists

Activists trying to strengthen residents' social ties by organising exhibitions and events in the lobby areas of the one-of-a-kind modernist building.

PROBLEMS

- Poor communication
- Mutual mistrust
- Massively underused entrance area

OBJECTIVES

- Increase social cohesion
- Animate transit space
- Provide people with tools of expressing their place attachment

COMMON INTERESTS

Heritage   Entertainment

STEPS

- Negotiating with building administration
- Going door-to-door asking residents' opinion
- Asking in online groups
- Installing the exhibition
- Decorating the space
- Involving more people in co-creation

SOCIAL PRACTICES

- Exhibitions
- Lectures
- Celebrations

Events

- Mutual help in preparation

Social support

Voice
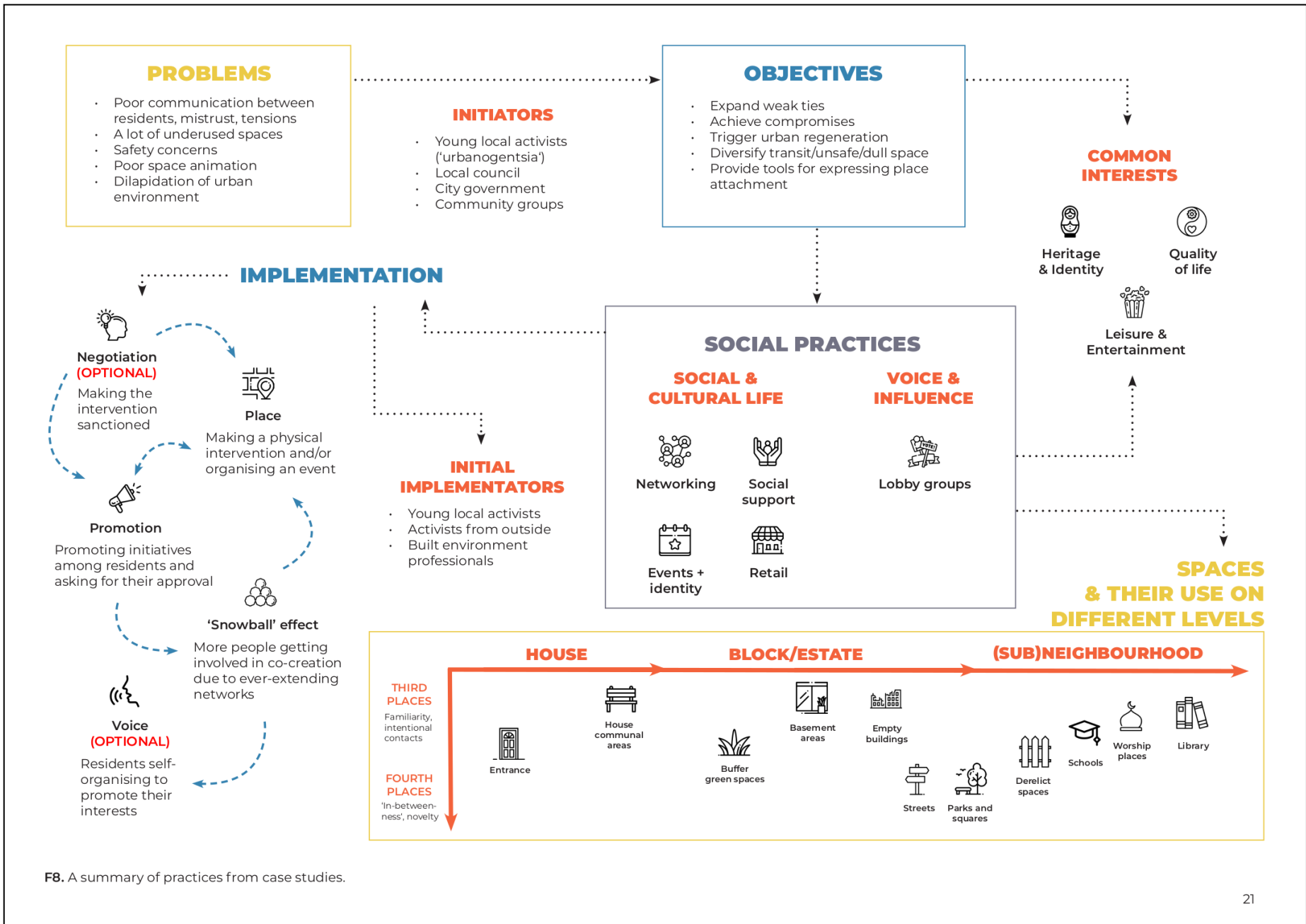
- Action group

SPACES

Entrance   Communal area

LESSONS

- Every step should be discussed with and approved by residents
- Preparation process is as important as the result
- Enhancing social cohesion by simple means is possible in Moscow.

PROBLEMS

- Poor communication between residents, mistrust, tensions
- A lot of underused spaces
- Safety concerns
- Poor space animation
- Dilapidation of urban environment

INITIATORS

- Young local activists ('urbanogentsia')
- Local council
- City government
- Community groups

OBJECTIVES

- Expand weak ties
- Achieve compromises
- Trigger urban regeneration
- Diversify transit/unsafe/dull space
- Provide tools for expressing place attachment

COMMON INTERESTS

Heritage & Identity

Quality of life

Leisure & Entertainment

IMPLEMENTATION

Negotiation (OPTIONAL)
Making the intervention sanctioned

Place
Making a physical intervention and/or organising an event

Promotion
Promoting initiatives among residents and asking for their approval

'Snowball' effect
More people getting involved in co-creation due to ever-extending networks

Voice (OPTIONAL)
Residents self-organising to promote their interests

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATORS

- Young local activists
- Activists from outside
- Built environment professionals

SOCIAL PRACTICES

SOCIAL & CULTURAL LIFE

Networking

Social support

Events + identity

Retail

VOICE & INFLUENCE

Lobby groups

SPACES & THEIR USE ON DIFFERENT LEVELS

HOUSE → BLOCK/ESTATE → (SUB)NEIGHBOURHOOD

THIRD PLACES
Familiarity, intentional contacts

FOURTH PLACES
'In-between-ness', novelty

Entrance

House communal areas

Buffer green spaces

Basement areas

Empty buildings

Streets

Parks and squares

Derelict spaces

Schools

Worship places

Library
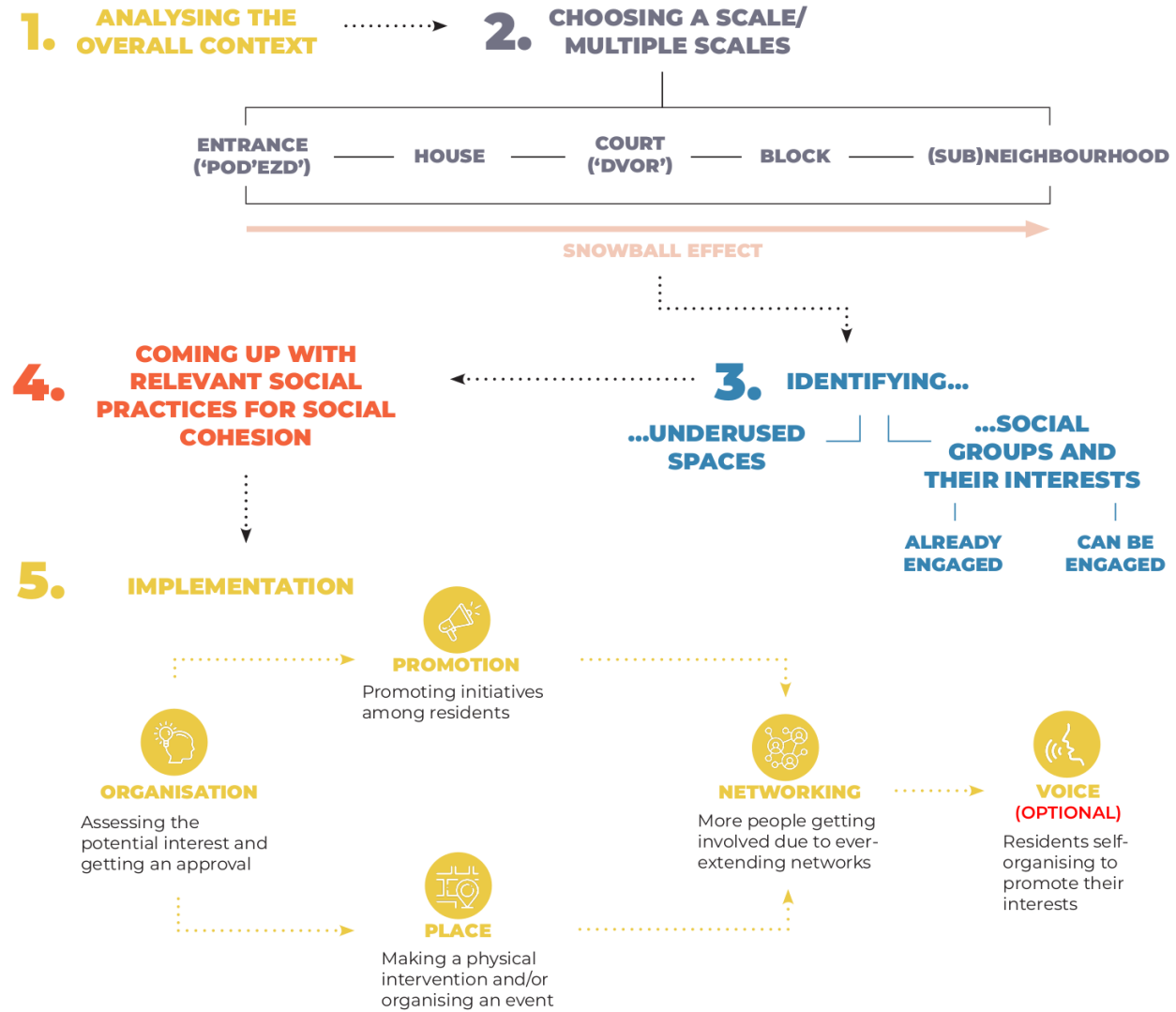
F8. A summary of practices from case studies.

21

DESIGN FRAMEWORK

This framework identifies practices for social cohesion that draw upon the existing social groups and their interests, as well as spaces where these practices can be performed on different scales. It is built upon the analysis of literature and case studies, as well as online research, map study and personal observations.

First, after the context analysis, the framework suggests to select a scale based on the aims and available resources (F10). Further, the social groups for engagement (F11) and available spaces are to be identified. One can then come up with relevant interventions from the range proposed for each scale (p. 27-31) and implement them in accordance with their action plans.

It is predicted that residents' networking facilitated by these interventions will create a 'snowball effect' (F12), with people forming more weak and strong ties. It will result in them organising into groups and proposing their own initiatives, therefore diversifying leisure opportunities in the area and increasing the sense of wellbeing and mutual support. The enhanced social cohesion and place attachment will potentially motivate residents to self-organise into groups to promote their interests and defend neighbourhood interests in front of the council.

1. ANALYSING THE OVERALL CONTEXT ·········> **2.** CHOOSING A SCALE/ MULTIPLE SCALES

ENTRANCE ('POD'EZD') —— HOUSE —— COURT ('DVOR') —— BLOCK —— (SUB)NEIGHBOURHOOD

SNOWBALL EFFECT →

4. COMING UP WITH RELEVANT SOCIAL PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL COHESION <········ **3.** IDENTIFYING...

...UNDERUSED SPACES   ...SOCIAL GROUPS AND THEIR INTERESTS

ALREADY ENGAGED   CAN BE ENGAGED

5. IMPLEMENTATION

PROMOTION
Promoting initiatives among residents

ORGANISATION
Assessing the potential interest and getting an approval

NETWORKING
More people getting involved due to ever-extending networks

VOICE
(OPTIONAL)
Residents self-organising to promote their interests

PLACE
Making a physical intervention and/or organising an event

F9. Overall framework strategy.

With neighbourhoods having predictable layout, it is possible to identify 5 levels for interventions. These have been identified not only based on their built typology, but also on common mental maps of their inhabitants.

- **House entrance**, or **'pod'ezd'**: a seperate entrance hall for several flats per floor. Feels uninviting and is used for quick transit. Usually has 1-2 benches in front of the entrance door.

- **House:** serves more as an intermediate scale between 'pod'ezd' and 'dvor'.

- **Court**, or **'dvor'**: an area in front of the building entrances, where either 2-3 buildings are facing each other or the same direction (Bürklin & Peterek, 2008). Can usually be identified by the presence of a playground - one per 'dvor'.

- **Block**: multiple 'dvor's with similar layout. Identification of blocks can be more subjective as they do not have strict definition.

- **(Sub)-neighbourhood**: the whole neighbourhood in its administrative boundaries or mental boundaries formed by local identity.

House entrance ('pod'ezd')

House

court ('Dvor')

Block
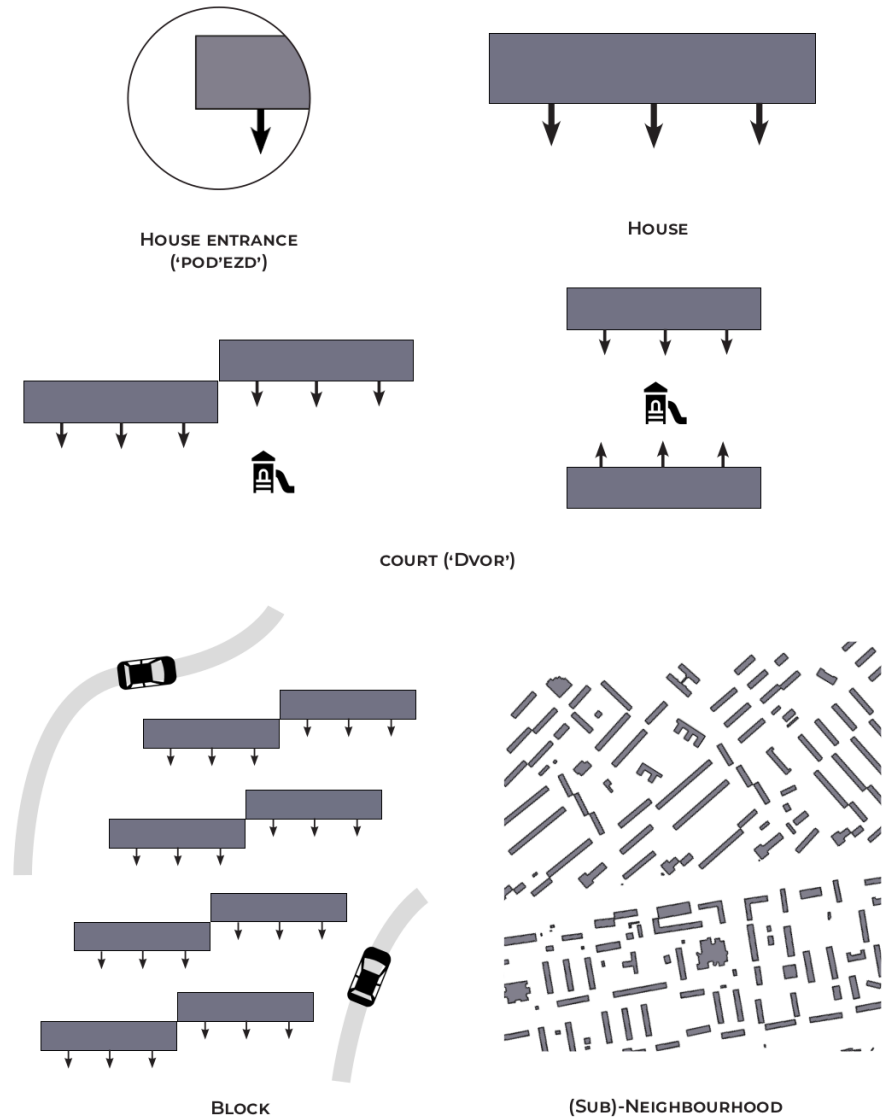
(Sub)-Neighbourhood

F10. Different levels for interventions.

'Pod'ezd'

house

'dvor'

block

(Sub)-Neighbourhood

Knowing how different groups tend to use the existing space, what their primary interests are and how much social support they need, one can elaborate scenarios of how these people can be best engaged.

It is important to not only focus on age range, but also to consider the presence of young children in a family. Hence, one has also identified such groups as 'Adults without [young] children', 'Full families' - families with at least one young child and both parents, and 'Single mothers' - a group widely present in Russian society (Zakharov & Churilova, 2013).

The results are presented in a form of a table (F11) and are based on in-person observations as well as analysis of online platforms.

	ABLE TO TRAVEL FAR?	CURRENT ACTIVITY NODES	PRIMARY INTERESTS	NEED FOR SUPPORT	CURRENT LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES
Children		School, Playground	Leisure & Entertainment		
Teenagers		School, Shop, Square	Leisure & Entertainment		
Adults without children		Transport stop, Shop	Leisure & Entertainment		
Single mothers		School, Park, Playground	Quality of life		
Full families		School, Park	Quality of life		
Middle-aged		Church, Transport stop, Shop	Quality of life		
Elderly		Church, Entrance, Square, Playground, Shop	Heritage & Identity		

F11. Social groups.

ORGANISATION

Assessing potential interest and getting approval

ASSESSMENT
- Assessing residents' potential interest
- Assessing the risks of 'guerrilla intervention'

NEGOTIATING
- Mitigating tensions between different groups

SANCTIONED INTERVENTION (OPTIONAL)
- Negotiating with space owners or administration

PROMOTION

Promoting initiatives among residents

SOCIAL MEDIA
- Posting in online groups and chats

PAPER
- Printing paper advertisements and hanging them around the area
- Own newspapers, booklets

BRANDING
- Creating street signs
- Painting walls and murals

PLACE

A physical intervention and/or an event

IDENTIFYING
- Finding an appropriate space

ADAPTING
- Making the space more distinct, inviting and accessible with simple tools

INTERVENTION
- Implementing the chosen social practice - physical intervention or event

NETWORKING

More people getting involved due to ever-extending networks

WEAK TIES
- People casually meeting their fellow neighbours and acquainting them

STRONG TIES
- People getting closer based on shared interests or demographics

INTEREST GROUPS
- Forming interest groups

VOICE (OPTIONAL)

Residents self-organising to promote their interests

LOBBY GROUPS
- Residents expressing their place attachment and defending their interests

POD'EZD

SOCIAL GROUPS

ALREADY ENGAGED

Elderly

TO BE ENGAGED

Single mothers

Middle-aged

SPACES

Entrance hall

Area in front of the entrance

Front lawn

SOCIAL PRACTICES

Social support

Advertising help

Allotments

Extra seating

Exhibitions

Networking + entertainment

Events + identity
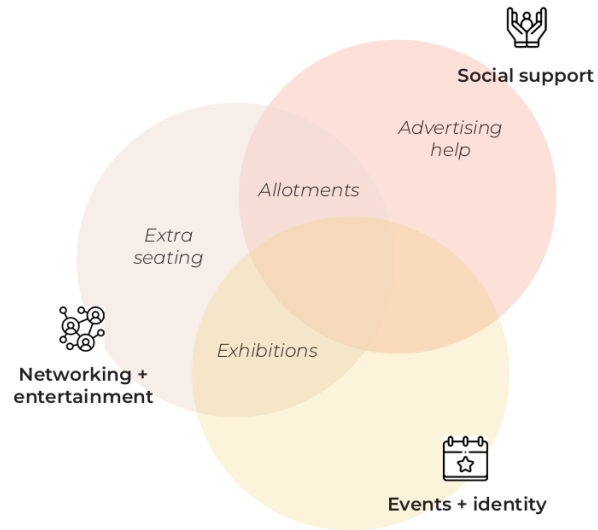
IMPLEMENTATION

	SPACES	PLAN OF ACTION
Exhibitions		Stick photos or drawings to the walls. Hang a description and a QR code to encourage people to read more and suggest their own ideas.
Extra seating		Bring temporary furniture to put next to existing benches.
Allotments, flower beds		Spontaneously plant flowers, herbs or vegetables.
Advertising help		Hang advertisements on the bulletin board offering help (e.g. baby-sitting, grocery shopping)

DVOR

SOCIAL GROUPS

ALREADY ENGAGED

Elderly   Single mothers   Children

TO BE ENGAGED

Teenagers   Full families

Middle-aged   Adults without children

SPACES

Courts   Buffer zones

Playgrounds

SOCIAL PRACTICES

Social support

Collective childcare

Allotments

Extra seating

Outdoor sports

Celebrations

Networking + entertainment

Exhibitions

Events + identity
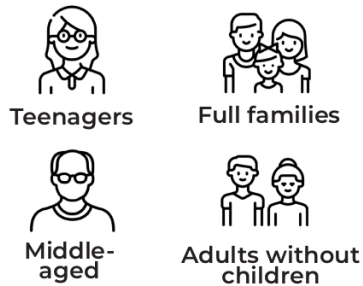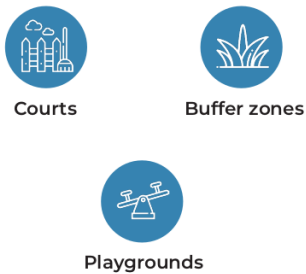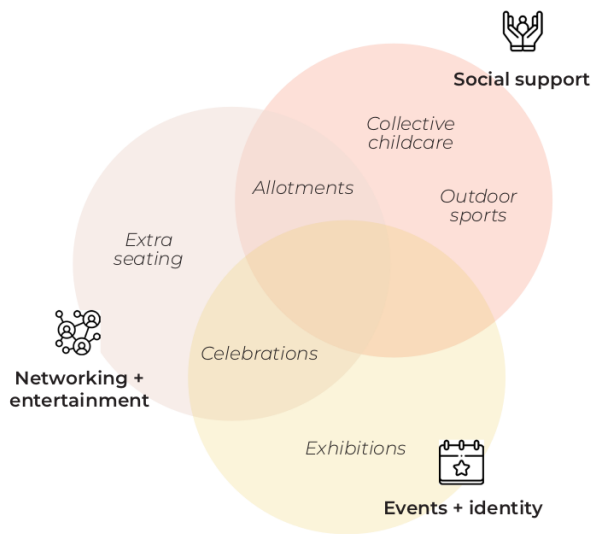
IMPLEMENTATION

	SPACES		PLAN OF ACTION
Exhibitions	🟦	🟦	Put temporary stalls, description and QR code.
Celebrations	🟦		Ask residents' opinion in online groups and leaflets.
			Let the 'snowball effect' involve more people.
			Install temporary decorations and set the date.
Extra seating	🟦	🟦	Put temporary furniture in green areas next to existing seating or activity nodes.
Allotments	🟦		See above.
Collective childcare	🟦	🟦	Advertise babysitting or family groups.
Outdoor sports	🟦		Advertise collective exercises among potentially interested residents.

BLOCK

SOCIAL GROUPS

ALREADY ENGAGED

Teenagers Children Single mothers

TO BE ENGAGED

Full families Adults without children

Middle-aged Elderly

SPACES

Schools Buffer zones and courts

Parking lots Surrounding streets

SOCIAL PRACTICES

Social support

Subbotniks (public service)

Extra seating

Meal sharing

Allotments

Outdoor sports

Special interest clubs

Pop-up market

Networking + entertainment

Celebrations & festivals

Exhibitions

Events + identity
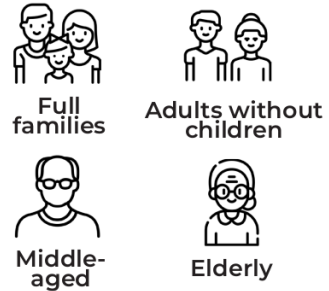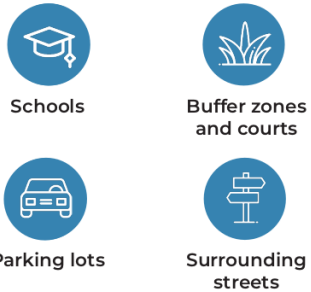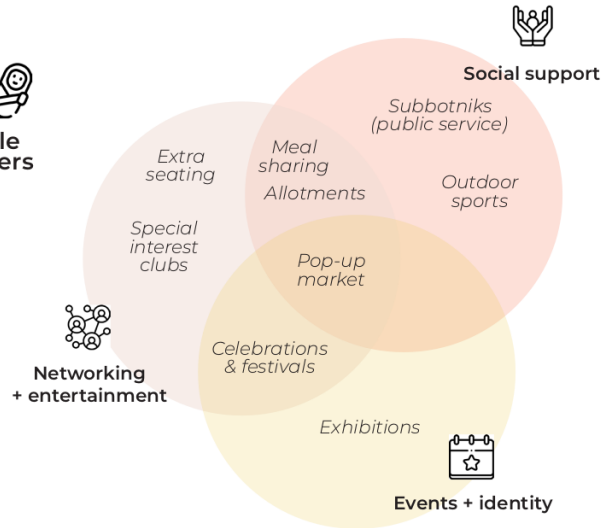
IMPLEMENTATION

	SPACES		PLAN OF ACTION
Exhibitions	🚏	🌱	See above.
Celebrations & festivals	🚏	🌱	See above.
	🎓		
Special interest clubs	🎓	🌱	Get to know more people via other events, then advertise initiatives among those potentially interested.
Extra seating	🚏	🌱	See above.
Meal sharing	🎓		Negotiate with administration. Share food grown in allotments, or prepared in own apartments.
Allotments	🎓	🌱	See above. School allotments to be organised in collaboration with administration.
Subbotniks	🚏	🌱	Create an action group to do public service.
Outdoor sports	🚏	🌱	See above.
Pop-up market	🚏	🚗	Bring temporary stalls and sell local goods.

(SUB)-NEIGHBOURHOOD

SOCIAL GROUPS

ALREADY ENGAGED

'Urbanogentsia'   Children

TO BE ENGAGED

Everyone else

SPACES

Schools   Library   Park   Square

Church   Main street   Transport stops   'House of culture'   Local businesses

SOCIAL PRACTICES

Social support

Subbotniks

Co-working

Assisting marginalised groups

Special interest clubs

Workshop

Pop-up market

Local business

Tours

Celebrations

Networking + entertainment

Exhibitions

Events + identity
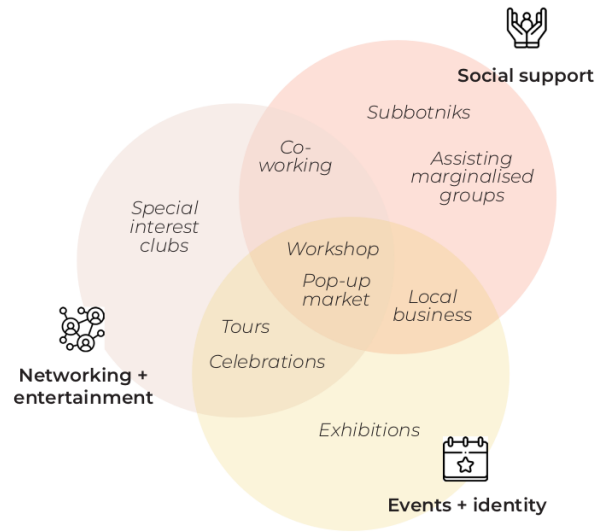
IMPLEMENTATION

	SPACES	PLAN OF ACTION
Exhibitions & Celebrations & Tours		See above. One will most likely need sanction from the local council.
Special interest clubs		See above.
Co-working		Negotiate with administration. Invite residents to share workspace and exchange ideas.
Workshop		Initiate workshops on the topics relevant to most residents and specific interest groups. Can be conducted in collaboration with local businesses.
Pop-up market		See above.
Local business		Open a business that can add leisure opportunities and become a 'third space' for communal activities.
Assisting marginalised groups		Partnering with charity organisations.
Subbotniks		See above.

ENTRANCE ('POD'EZD')

Activities or interventions **taking place** by the entrance areas

Other people from the same house or 'dvor' **walking by** while performing their daily routines

HOUSE

Noticing activities or interventions taking place next to one or multiple entrances and consciously or subconsciously **getting engaged** with them

COURT ('DVOR')

Activities or interventions taking place in the court **in front** of the houses

People from other houses **observing** the activities **from their windows** facing the court

BLOCK

Getting interested in activities and trying to **join** them or **learn more** about them

People from other parts of the area **passing by** on their way to different neighbourhood facilities and engaging in the activities

(SUB)-NEIGHBOURHOOD

Networking and initiating more activities and interest groups

SNOWBALL EFFECT

EXPANDING WEAK TIES

DIVERSIFYING LEISURE

ENHANCING LOCAL IDENTITY

ANIMATING URBAN ENVIRONMENT

DESIRE TO EXPRESS PLACE ATTACHMENT AND PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

SELF-ORGANISATION INTO GROUPS TO PROTECT NEIGHBOURHOOD INTERESTS

F12. Predicted 'snowball' effect mechanism.
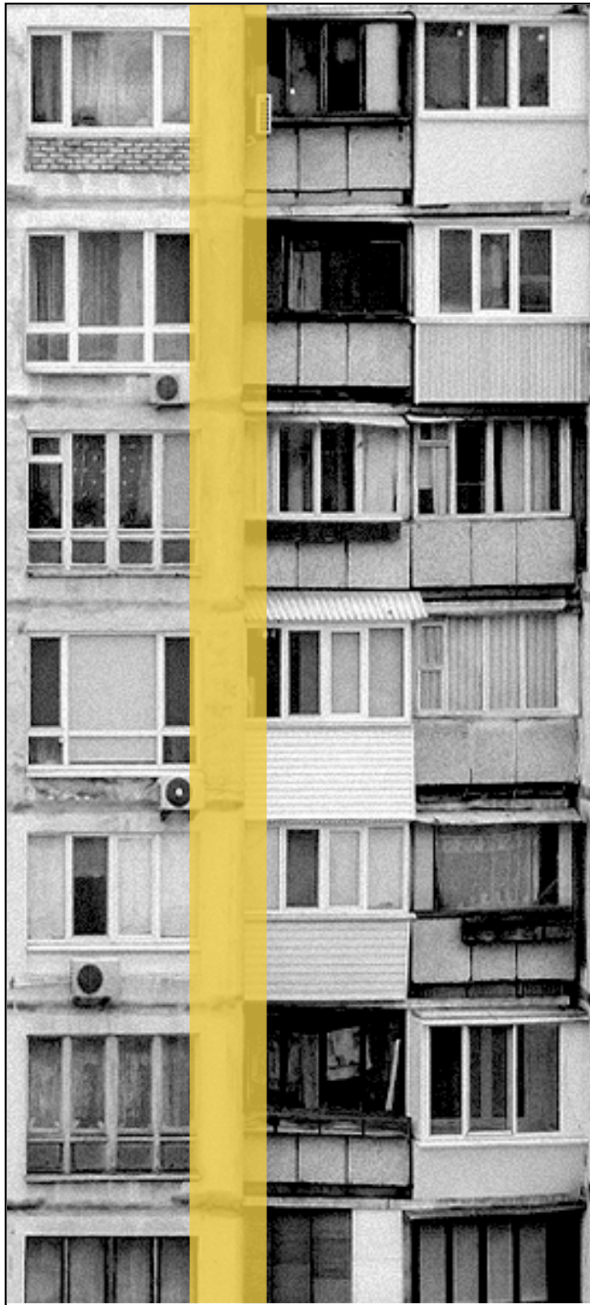
SITE ANALYSIS

The framework has been applied to Metrogorodok, a Soviet-era panel neighbourhood on the north-eastern edge of Moscow, in particular to its socialist-era non-industrial part. This place was chosen as a study area as it is typical for Russia, with a lot of socialist-era neighbourhoods across the country having similar layout and demographics.

Metrogorodok also has a relatively small size, allowing to explore it in more detail, and a poor public transport connectivity with the rest of Moscow, which makes it a good testing ground for the toolkit.

F13. Location of the area.

over
38.000
residents

40.7 average age

children 1-6 y.o. **6%**

12% children 5-18 y.o.

F14. Demographics.
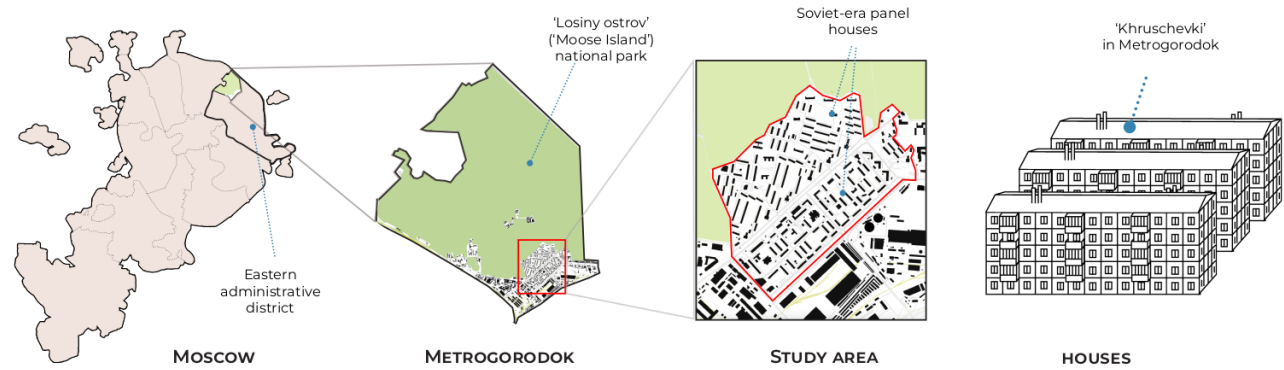
Puzanov & Stepantsov (2014) categorised Metrogorodok as a 'peripheral' neighbourhood, claiming that it has many underdeveloped and underused spaces and lack of leisure infrastructure. They point out that it currently has relatively low social cohesion rates, which however has a perspective for development. The present analysis will explore this in more detail.

The detailed demographic statistics for Metrogorodok is not publicly accessible, however, the scarce available data (Statistika po Rossii, 2022) presented in F14 and secondary sources (AiF, 2007) allow to suggest that has an age distribution typical for panel neighbourhoods: a significant amount of older people, as well as families with children.

Principal road
Secondary road
Local road
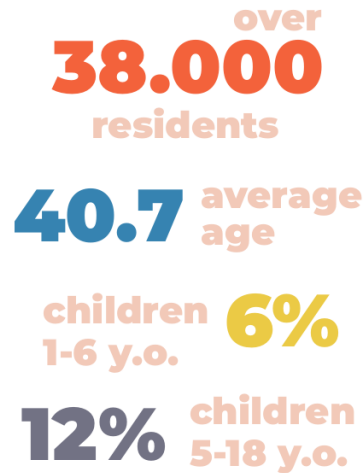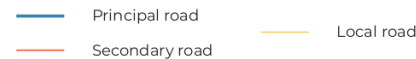
F15. Vehicular routes.

The area has two significant roads: Otkrytoe highway with a tram line in the middle splits the residential area into two parts, while Nikolaya Himushina street isolates the industrial area. In-between the residential buildings, one finds low-speed local streets with dead ends, typically only used by residents. These dead ends are connected by a network of pedestrian-only pathways.

F16. Building uses.

Metrogorodok is comprised of similar ribbon-type blocks, a large industrial area, and a park. The southwestern part is undergoing a reconstruction, with new high-rise blocks being built under the densification programme.

The socialist-era non-industrial part is mostly homogenously residential, with scarce commercial units concentrated along the two main roads. It makes the area monotonous and lacking entertainment facilities. Further from the roads, one can typically find public sector buildings, such as schools and a library.

Residential

Residential with Ground floor commercial

Commercial

Public service (e.g. fire station)

Hotel

Education (school, college)

Church

Industrial/derelict

Service (e.g. garage, electrical substation)

Park

Construction site

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL + COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL

PUBLIC SERVICE

HOTEL

EDUCATION

PARK

CHURCH

INDUSTRIAL/DERELICT

CONSTRUCTION SITE

SERVICE

F17. Activity nodes and pedestrian footfall.

F18. Example of activity on the block level.

It is possible to identify different activity nodes for social groups.

The main transport stops are located along the Otkrytoye highway and attract passengers from across the area as trams and buses are stopping there, connecting the area to the nearest metro station. The same highway also serves as a main node of retail activity.

Within the residential areas, schools and playgrounds serve as main activity nodes, attracting children, teenagers and their parents.

SCHOOL
Children Teenagers Parents

PARK
Everyone

ESSENTIAL RETAIL
Everyone

TRANSPORT
Everyone

PLAYGROUND
Children Parents

CHURCH
Elderly Middle-aged
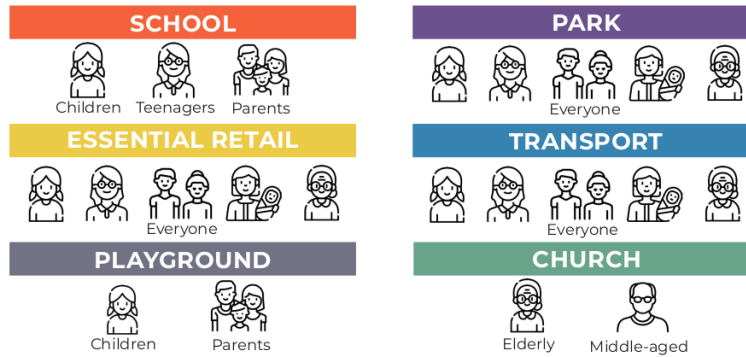
F19. Demographics of facility users.

F20. Typology of open spaces.

Block level

Outdoor gym

Playground

Parking

Parkland

Boulevard/alley

Semi-public spaces

Courtyards/courts between slabs

Buffer zones around slabs

The area benefits from an abundance of open green spaces. Most importantly, one can find vast green areas between and around residential blocks. Some can be considered courtyards if slabs are placed around them. However, most of these spaces serve as semi-courts and buffer zones with no particular purpose, apart from playgrounds; otherwise, they neither have any social-oriented aims by design, nor being appropriated by residents.

These spaces are public, which makes the area lack more semi-public spaces around residential buildings that would encourage residents to spend more time

there. Existing semi-public spaces only include areas around schools surrounded by fences.

On a block level, buffer zones contain parking lots and playgrounds. Still, most of open spaces are underused and have potential to be transformed into more welcoming areas.

PARKLAND

BOULEVARD/ALLEY

SEMI-PUBLIC

COURTS BETWEEN SLABS

BUFFER ZONES AROUND SLABS

PLAYGROUND

F21. Detailed distribution on a block level.

While it is hard to track particular relation dynamics between residents, observations allow to get some general conclusions.

Metrogorodok has several online neighbourhood groups in social networks (VK, 2022). They are mostly comprised of official municipal news, but also include publications such as posts about lost and found items. These groups definitely contribute to the creation of 'weak' ties among young and some middle-aged users that would be harder to achieve in physical realm. Nevertheless, many residents, such as elderly and children, are still left out.

It is evident from social media that Metrogorodok has some active young people - 'urbanogentsia' - who are trying to make a change, although not attracting attention of the majority. As a result, Metrogorodok lacks grassroots activities and only has few communal spaces. The only activities taking place in the area are hosted by public institutions and aimed at children (library, schools) or small interest groups (church).

Metrogorodok has distinct heritage – it was built in 1930s as a neighbourhood designed for constructors of the Moscow Metro, and is a home of 'Moose Island', the biggest park in Moscow. Heritage has a potential to enhance place identity and bring people together, especially now that Metrogorodok is in danger of being demolished, and residents are to be displaced to different neighbourhoods around the city.

These observations have been used to identify challenges and opportunities Metrogorodok has and come up witht the best strategies for the toolkit application.

MODERNIST LAYOUT

VIVID SOCIAL MIX

FEW INITIATIVES

FEW SPACES FOR LEISURE

CHALLENGES

ACTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE

UNDERUSED AREAS

SOCIAL MEDIA TIES

HERITAGE
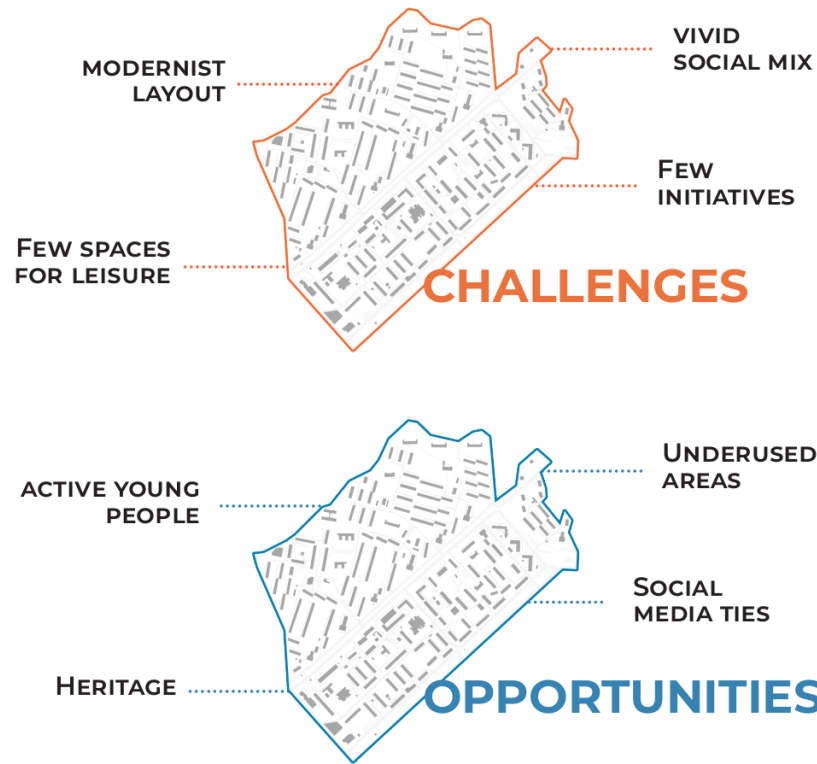
OPPORTUNITIES

F22. Challenges and opportunities.
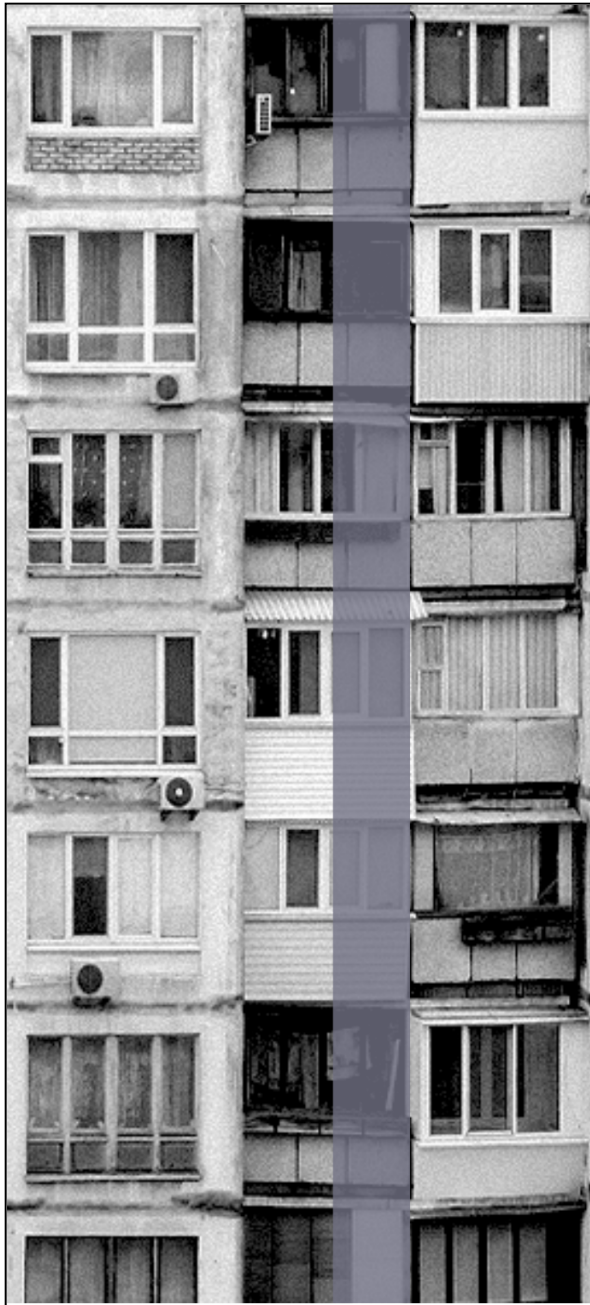
FRAMEWORK APPLICATION

ENTRANCE ('POD'EZD') — HOUSE — COURT ('DVOR') — BLOCK — (SUB)NEIGHBOURHOOD
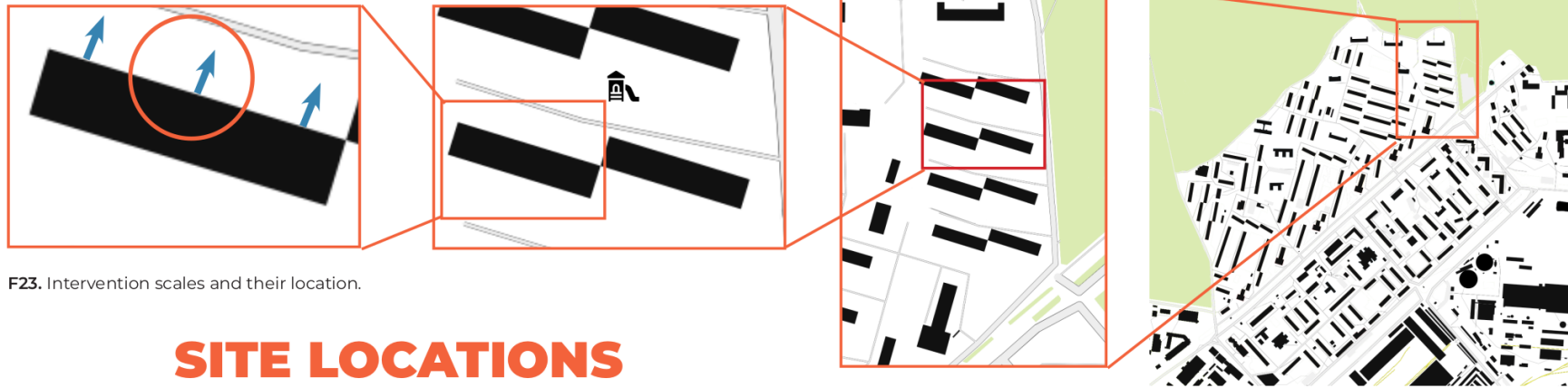
F23. Intervention scales and their location.

SITE LOCATIONS
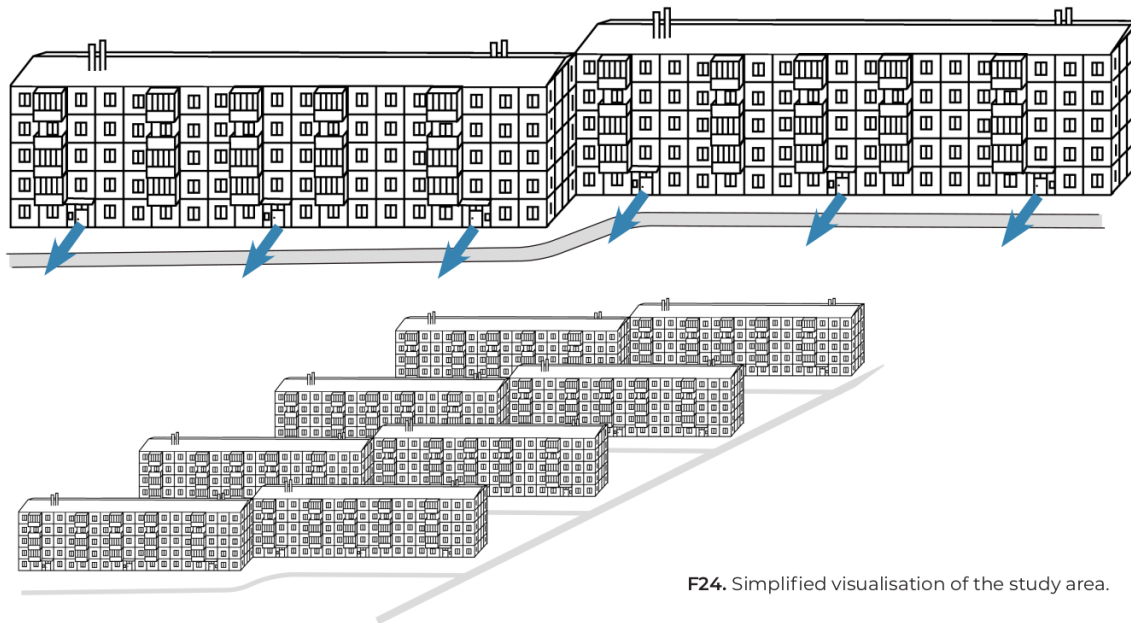
The framework has been applied on different scales within the neighbourhood. The sites have been chosen to represent a common Soviet-era housing layout.

The following proposals can either be viewed separately from each other, or be connected via the 'snowball effect', where actions on a small scale trigger the wider expansion of networks.

Due to many interventions on different scales being of similar nature, they are first described in greater detail in sections dedicated to smaller scales and then mentioned briefly in the following sections. Moreover, described proposals only represent a small part of possible initiatives, within the framework and outside of it.

F24. Simplified visualisation of the study area.

POD'EZD
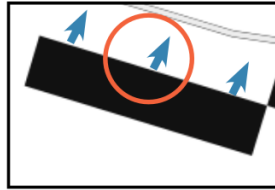
F25. Entrance hallway.
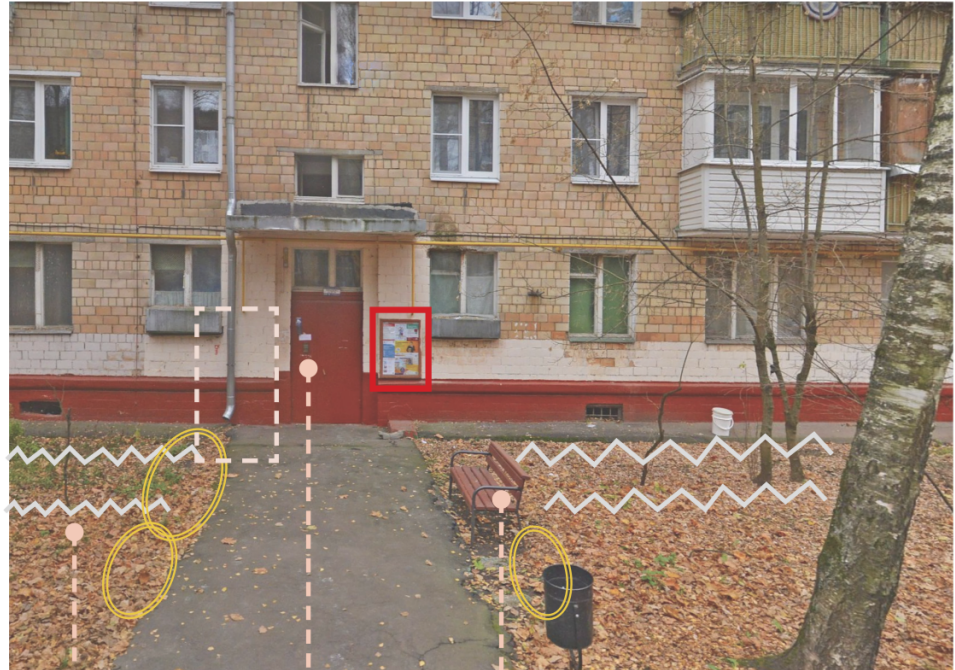
F26. Entrance area.

F27. Entrance staircase.

Poorly lit, perceived as unsafe

Unkempt green area with weeds and few trees

Entrance door with a bulletin board

A single bench with some space around it

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

○ Extra seating

Exhibitions

Advertising help

Allotments, flower beds

ALLOTMENTS

Allotments are to be created next to the house and further from the cars to avoid pollution. A person or a group can start planting and taking care of their plants, with other people getting interested. They are then welcome to plant their own vegetables, or share the care of the existing plants.

Residents of this part of the house - or the whole house - can plant flowers or vegetables that are resistant to Moscow climate. The products can later become a part of meal sharing, or sold at the market.

VEGETABLES SUITABLE FOR OUTDOOR ALLOTMENTS WITHOUT A GREENHOUSE IN MOSCOW CLIMATE

Kirichenko, 2021

F28. Vegetables for allotments.

F29. More seating and allotments.

EXTRA SEATING

Simple plastic chairs are placed next to and in front of the existing bench. Chairs are easily affordable and cost around 600-900 rubles (£6-9)*. At first, chairs are taken inside overnight in order to avoid being stolen. However, later it is not necessary anymore, as residents get used to the furniture.

Later other residents start bringing their chairs, too, because the initiative is getting popular and existing seating is not enough.

F30. Examples of chairs.

*On this page and further, the items and their prices converted to pounds sterling can subjectively be viewed as more affordable by non-Russian readers due to differences in the cost of living. All currency conversions are made roughly using the exchange rate relevant to the end of 2021 (£1=100 rubles).

EXHIBITIONS

A small exhibition to be installed inside the entrance hall, with pictures and short supplementary text explaining pictures and the topic. The pictures and text are printed and cut at home, thus not requiring any specific funding.

HISTORY OF PANEL HOUSES

Construction

Facilities

Caricatures

Architecture

Standardisation
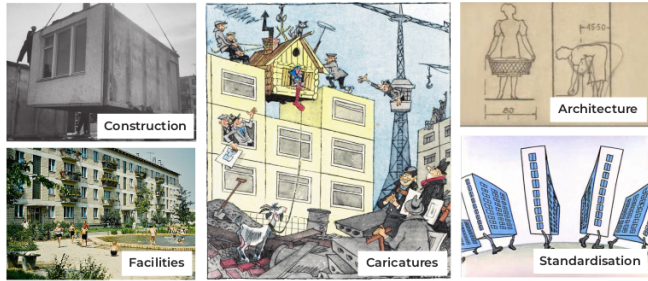
F31. Suggestions for the exhibition on a history of 'khruschevki'.

HISTORY OF A HOLIDAY

New Year

Orthodox Easter

International Women's Day in Russia

F32. Suggestions for holiday-themed exhibitions.

CHILDREN'S DRAWINGS

F33. Examples of children's drawings.

F34. Exhibition in the entrance hall.

ADVERTISING

F35. Advertising examples.

Leaflets advertising help are to be put to the bulletin boards outside or inside the entrance hall. People can start hanging their leaflets and engage with house residents who need help. It will soon encourage more neighbours to offer their own help.

Left:
"Will help elderly people with grocery shopping. For free. Stay safe!!!"

Right:
"My name is Petr. I'm 12 years old and I have school holidays now. Will walk your dog. 100 rubles per hour."

MAIN GROUPS INVOLVED

GROUP	WHY INVOLVED
Elderly	• Engaging with people or just observing them does not require extra effort. • Socialising for a group which might often feel lonely. • Can be vulnerable and not being able to perform certain activities (e.g. grocery shopping) for which they need help.
Single mothers	• See above. • Allotments and exhibitions as education sources for children.
Middle-aged	• Often find common ground with elderly and mothers. • Enjoy taking care of plants.
	• Other groups are occasionally involved, but have more interests on bigger scales.

INTERESTS

INTEREST	CHANGE	REASON
Heritage & Identity	↗	• Learning about the area, culture and fellow residents via exhibitions.
Quality of life	↗	• More seating spaces. • Additional food from allotments
Leisure & entertainment	↗	• People-watching. • Work in the allotments, • Talking to neighbours.

SNOWBALL EFFECT

People from other parts of the house and from the house nearby are passing by and observe activities.

At some point they want to replicate the practices in their own entrance areas, or in 'dvor' to interact with other neighbours.

HOUSE + DVOR
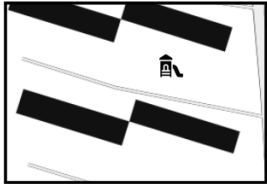
F36. Playground area in the courtyard.

F37. Courtyard.

F38. Buffer zones next to houses.

A standardised playground and a bench, the only activity in the court

Unused green spaces; passers-by can observe activities

Back side of the houses nearby

People from houses nearby can observe the courtyard

A wide green space with no designated use (excluding playground)

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

- ◯ Extra seating
- ⬚ Exhibitions
- ▨ Celebrations, outdoor sports
- ⟿ Allotments, flower beds

OUTDOOR SPORTS

Collective sport exercises in the courtyard can be another simple activity that brings people together and improves their health and wellbeing. The initiative is started by hanging leaflets on the bulletin board, offering to join the court's group chat dedicated to sport, and/or take part in exercising at the set time and date. People sitting in the courtyard are told about the initiative, too - and some of them are also joining.

The exercises do not require special training, as well as sitting or lying down, thus being suitable for any age and any weather.

F39: *"We decided to exercise in the court together. Every Sunday at 12pm. Join us! Text me or go straight to the courtyard".*
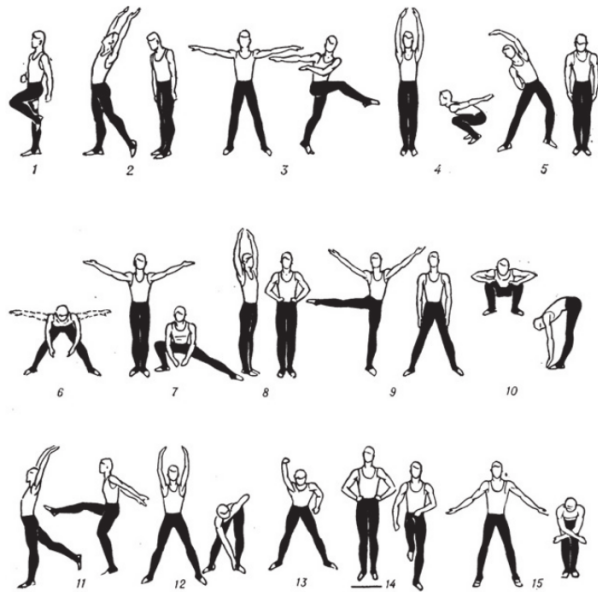
F39. A set of simple exercises.

F40. Activities in the courtyard.

МЫ РЕШИЛИ ВМЕСТЕ ДЕЛАТЬ
ЗАРЯДКУ ВО ДВОРЕ

КАЖДОЕ
ВОСКРЕСЕНЬЕ
12 ЧАСОВ ДНЯ

ПРИСОЕДИНЯЙТЕСЬ!
НАПИШИТЕ МНЕ ИЛИ
ПРИХОДИТЕ СРАЗУ ВО ДВОР
В НУЖНОЕ ВРЕМЯ

+79151557068 МАРИЯ
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F41. Advertisement example.

EXTRA SEATING

Inexpensive furniture is to be placed on the grass and at the playgrounds. It can be put both in the depth of the courtyard for more intimate experience, or next to the road. The presence of tables allows to include such practices as meal sharing or tea/coffee times.

In the courtyard, tables can also be put next to the chairs. Depending on a budget, one can use plastic tables (1000-2000 rubles, or £10-20), or slightly more expensive foldable tables (5000 rubles, or £50). The latter can be purchased collectively, with the price split between those wishing to contribute.

F42. Examples of tables.

F43. Activities on the playground.

F44. Autumn festival for children.

CELEBRATIONS

FOR CHILDREN

1: Seasonal festivals

2: Birthdays

3: New Year

4: Easter

5: Victory Day

FOR EVERYONE

F45. Festivals inspiration board.

An action group asks in online group chats and in leaflets whether residents want to have a thematic event, and who wants to take part in its preparation. Then they elaborate the programme and make necessary purchases.

During the event itself, more people are joining the celebration. Some people are coming from other houses, noticing activities from the window.

Over time, the action group is expanding. They start organising events more regularly and even on a bigger scale.

MAIN GROUPS INVOLVED

GROUP	WHY INVOLVED
Children	• Playground is their main activity node.
Full families **Single mothers**	• See above. • Benefits from collective childcare. • Meeting other families.
Elderly	• Do not require additional effort. • Simple outdoor excercises are suitable for many elderly people.
Middle-aged	• Find common ground with elderly and families more often.
	• Other groups are occasionally involved, but have more interests on larger scales.

INTERESTS

INTEREST	CHANGE	REASON
Heritage & Identity	↗	• Strengthening and expressing identity at the festivals.
Quality of life	↗	• More seating spaces • Animating the courtyard • Collective childcare during events. • Outdoor sports improve health.
Leisure & entertainment	↗	• People-watching and networking. • Celebrations and festivals.

SNOWBALL EFFECT

The activities are observed by residents of the opposite buildings.

They want to join the activities, and/or replicate them in their own courtyards. The networks keep expanding further and interventions are being replicated on larger scales

BLOCK
+ BLOCKS NEARBY
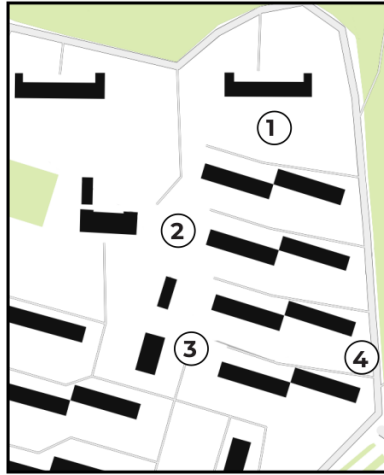
F46. Sites location.

(1) School courtyard
(2) Pedestrian walk
(3) Parking lot
(4) Buffer zone/court

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

Exhibitions

Celebrations, sports, subbotniks

Pop-up market

F47. School №1246.

A semi-public space surrounded by a fence. Indoor and outdoor areas can be used for communal activities after classes end or on weekends.

Accommodates multiple pedestrian flows from surrounding streets. Does not have through-traffic and can be used for interventions at off-peak times.

F49. Parking lot.
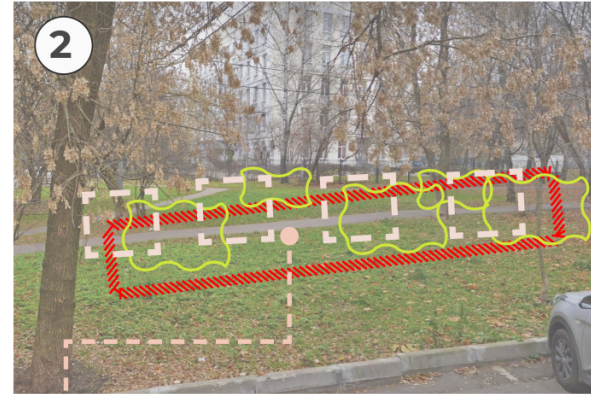
F48. Walkway.

A pedestrian walk used by residents of this block and the block nearby. It can accommodate various interventions due to the vast green area around it.

An unused area along the local road. Can be easily observed from the road by passers-by, but also provides a sense of enclosure.

F50. Green buffer zone.

CELEBRATIONS

Already having experience on a court scale, local parents across the block decide to arrange a bigger event - festival dedicated to the New Year. They split the price of the big pine tree (approximately 20.000 rubles, or £200), and hire an actor to play Father Frost. Some furniture is also brought, as well as tools for winter entertainment.

Throughout the day, people join the celebrations, and both adults and children are entertained.

Snow sledge

Snowmen

Building a birdhouse

F51. Examples of outdoor winter activities.

F52. New Year's festival.

F53. Subbotnik.

SUBBOTNIKS

'Subbonnik' is a volunteer community service popular in the Soviet Union, thus being a practice recognised by many residents.

Subbotniks might be suggested by a middle-aged resident who previously met neighbours in the court or pod'ezd. For them, subbotnik is one of the first community-bonding practices that come to mind, reminding them of their youth.

Litter picking

Tree planting

Tree whitewashing

F54. Traditional subbotnik activities.

POP-UP MARKET

An action group can organise a small block-scale pop-up market in the parking lot. For this, they are bringing the retail tables and goods to sell.

For this scale, foldable tables within a range of 800-5000 rubles (£8-50) can be purchased.

Sold goods can vary from second-hand items to own crafts and home-made food, which makes the market appealing to any age.

F55. Examples of tables.

Second-hand books   Knitted items   Second-hand clothing

Home-made food   Food grown in allotments and dachas

F56. Types of goods at the market.

F57. Pop-up retail in the parking lot.

Any unsanctioned retail is illegal according to the Russian law, therefore market organisers have to either try to negotiate with the municipal authorities (who are unlikely to approve the initiative) and officially register as sole traders, or make an unauthorised intervention.

If doing the latter, activists have to consider the location of the nearest police station, which is 4 minutes away, and take into the account the possibility of being fined.

However, even this scenario can bring more people together in the long term, creating a precedent and challenging the legal background.

Market

Police station

Fastest route

F58. Distance to the closest police station.

SCHOOL: THE INTER-BLOCK 'THIRD PLACE'

To organise an intervention, a collaboration with school administration and potentially municipal administration is required.

The initiatives can be organised either by action group from a block, or a parents' association. It can be first promoted among children and their parents as they already have a network and the place is more familiar to them, later attracting people from other parts of the neighbourhood.

F60. Meal sharing in a school canteen.

F59. Greenhouse allotments in the school courtyard.

F61. Film night in a school classroom.

MAIN GROUPS INVOLVED
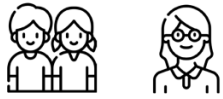
GROUP	WHY INVOLVED
Children Teenagers	• A lot of intergenerational events have activities aimed at them to keep them entertained.
Full families Single mothers	• Benefits from collective childcare during events. • Meeting other families at the events and in school.
Elderly	• Additional income from their hobbies or vintage goods from markets. • Additional entertainment.
Adults without children	• Join intergenerational events when passing by, observing people and making new acquaintances. • Monetising their crafting skills at the market.
Middle-aged	• Joining families for various events in their free time. • Taking part in subbotniks, which is an enjoyable pastime for them.

INTERESTS

INTEREST	CHANGE	REASON
Heritage & identity	↗	• Strengthening and expressing identity at the festivals. • Networking forming place identity.
Quality of life	↗	• Animating the area and making it feel safer • Collective childcare. • Improving the surrounding area with collective effort. • Additional money from the markets.
Leisure & entertainment	↗	• People-watching and networking • Events and retail

SNOWBALL EFFECT

People from other blocks are passing by and observe activities, some of them are joining in.

Block activities are becoming inter-block initiatives. People are getting to know each other and forming wider connections and action groups.

(SUB)-NEIGHBOURHOOD

The church and the library have not been included into this strategy as they already host events. While these events are mostly for children and have diversification potential, it was decided to focus on other spaces.

'Moose Island' park constitutes over 80% of Metrogorodok, with its residents having a lot of access points to the park.

F62. 'Moose Island'.

A bus and tram stop in the middle of the main road. A big activity node and pedestrian flow intersection, a 'fourth place'.

F63. Transport stop.

A few existing local businesses on the main street can serve as 'third spaces' for community gatherings.

While the study area does not have any squares, it has some paved areas around the shops on the main street.

F64. Local business.

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

- Workshop
- Exhibitions, book-crossing
- Tours, subbotniks
- Pop-up market

A government-run chain of tents selling strawberries

F65. Main street retail.

POP-UP MARKET

A bigger pop-up market can take place on the main street - Otkrytoe highway.

For this, the action group might have to invest into more expensive retail tents, with a price starting from 5500 rubles (£55).

One will have to seek permission from municipal authorities. A functioning action group with a strong voice, formed from smaller block and court groups, might be able to get a permission.

F66. Examples of retail tents.

F67. Pop-up market on Otkrytoe highway.

F68. Book-crossing and an exhibition at the transport stop.

EXHIBITIONS, BOOKCROSSING

A series of exhibitions can be installed in popular transitional areas, such as transport stops.

To do this on a neighbourhood level, one would require more substantial funding from a community fund or an NGO, and, most likely - an approval from municipal authorities.

Small book-crossing cases can also be installed.

F69. A book-crossing stand.

WELLBEING WALKS

An action group can initiate a series of guided wellbeing walks around the Moose Island park. These walks can either be free of charge, or for a small donation to the neighbourhood's communal fund.

The walks can be initially conducted by a local guide or historian, if there is one residing. If not, residents can contact other certified guides who are willing to conduct volunteer work, or apply to an NGOs requesting the sponsorship of the initiative. As of now, niche local history walks are expensive and often not attended by neighbourhoods' residents themselves.

MIGHTY MEESE: FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO THE 21ST CENTURY

THE LIFE OF VASILY GERSHNER: MOOSE ISLAND'S FIRST FORESTER

EXORDINARY LIVES OF METRO CONSTRUCTION PIONEERS

TSARS, BEARS AND SWAMPS: MOOSE ISLAND IN TSARIST RUSSIA

F70. Suggested topics for walks.

F71. A walking tour in the park.

F72. Lecture and tasting session in a craft beer shop.

CRAFT BEER:
LECTURE AND TASTING

Hosted by 'Pivnov' beer shop

MAKING KEFIR:
A NATURAL PROBIOTIC

Hosted by 'Fermerskie produkty' organic shop

BEING SAFE IN THE CITY

Hosted by 'Safeguard' safe shop

F73. Workshop examples.

LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

Small businesses with a large customer flow can collaborate with an action group to host events such as workshops.

Activists can negotiate with business owners and suggest an idea - entrepreneurs then can organise an event using their own funds with a potential to earn more, or use them as a promotion.

Sometimes as a part of collaboration businesses kindly provide their spaces to activists to host non-commercial events, too, such as various meetings and even informal political gatherings to discuss the fate of the neighbourhood.

MAIN GROUPS INVOLVED

GROUP	WHY INVOLVED
Adults without children **Middle-aged**	• Joining workshops and tours in their free time which reduces the necessity to travel further. • Engaging with people at the market.
Elderly	• Engage with people at the market on their way to their destination. • Those whose health allows enjoy wellbeing walks.
	• Other groups are also involved, but a lot of their interests have been covered on smaller scales of this project or already existing initiatives.

INTERESTS

INTEREST	CHANGE	REASON
Heritage & identity	↗	• Enhanced identity and better understanding of local heritage with tours and exhibitions. • Sense of community and belonging.
Quality of life	↗	• Additional income. • Keeping residents active and healthy. • The emerging sense of community and mutual trust improve the quality of life, making it safer and richer.
Leisure & entertainment	↗	• All the described initiatives and events enrich lives of people. • It diversifies leisure opportunities within the neighbourhood, making it less necessary to travel outside for entertainment.

SNOWBALL EFFECT

More neighbourhood residents are gradually getting involved in different initiatives. The neighbourhood becomes a united network of weak and strong ties.

Now being used to grassroots initiatives and with the increased sense of place attachment, residents would want to express their local patriotism in political realm.

As socialist-era part of Metrogorodok is in danger of being demolished and residents displaced, it is becoming especially important for them to protect their community bonds and their houses.

CONCLUSION

Today, panel socialist-era neighbourhoods in Russia face many challenges and are seen as stagnant by the government, which has recently been planning their mass demolition. The issue of social disunity, aggravated by the vivid social mix, is one of the main problems of these areas and is frequently the reason why they are seen as unfunctional. This society atomisation results in, and simultaneously is a consequence of weak grassroots culture in these communities. The outcome of this is a lack of communal recreational activities and groups where people can protect area's interests. Some active residents - the so-called 'urbanogentsia' - exist and have a demand for change, but rarely get heard by the majority.

The present project explores the ways to enhance social cohesion in these neighbourhoods and encourage more grassroots initiatives by residents, proposing a set of community-bonding practices in a belief that local 'urbanogentsia' will be ready to bring them to life. It emphasises the importance of performing these practices on different scales - from a house entrance hall to the busy main street - and taking into account interests of social groups to be able to navigate through their differences. The toolkit is then theoretically tested in Metrogorodok area in Moscow, a typical example of a panel neighbourhood.

It is believed that the proposed framework can be transferred to different standardised neighbourhoods across Russia. However, although these areas were planned in similar ways, precise political, geographical, historical and social context will vary in each case. The practical application of the toolkit will reveal additional nuances to be taken into account.

The limitations of this project also correspond with fundamental problems of social sciences. Whilst the toolkit aims to include as many details as possible, it is inherently limited due to its attempts to categorise people, their interests and practices. However, it would not be possible to create any framework without any classification or generalisation. Hence, while it should be acknowledged that one cannot grasp all complexities of social life, it is possible to make an attempt to envision various scenarios of potential social practices. The proposed set of scenarios is by no means exhaustive, but it shows how wide is the range of possible interventions and the 'snowball effect' they can create by getting more people involved.

Whilst the paper sees a threat of demolition and displacement as a reason why it is especially important for residents to self-organise and protect their interests now, the precise mechanisms of political collaboration are not within the scope of this project and are to be addressed separately. This paper thus draws implications for further research of social cohesion and participatory culture in Russian and post-socialist contexts.

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IMAGE SOURCES

All maps used for this project have been downloaded from https://schwarzplan.eu/en/site-plan-and-figure-ground-plan-moscow/ (Accessed on 31 August 2022) and adapted by the author.

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F59. Greenhouse allotments in the school courtyard. Own work.

F60. Community meal sharing in a school canteen.Own work.

F61. Film night in a school classroom. Own work.

F62. 'Moose Island', https://www.vipgeo.ru/countries/russia_showpl/moskva/losiniy_ostrov.html (Accessed on 31 August 2022). Adapted by the author.

F63. Transport stop. Google Maps, https://www.google.com/maps/ (Accessed on 31 August 2022). Adapted by the author.

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F67. Pop-up market on Otkrytoe highway. Own work.

F68. Book-crossing and an exhibition at the transport stop. Own work.

F69. A book-crossing stand, https://www.facebook.com/BookCrossingOfficial/ (Accessed on 31 August 2022).

F71. A walking tour in the park. Own work.

F72. Lecture and tasting session in a craft beer shop. Own work.

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APPENDIX 1: RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

FIELD / LOCATION WORK

≜UCL

DEPARTMENT/SECTION: UCL BARTLETT SCHOOL OF PLANNING
LOCATION(S): MOSCOW, RUSSIA
PERSONS COVERED BY THE RISK ASSESSMENT: MARIIA SATYEVA

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF FIELDWORK (including geographic location): Carrying observations in Metrogorodok neighbourhood in the northeast of Moscow, Russia. Taking photos and potentially informally talking with local residents.

COVID-19 RELATED GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT:
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets fall on people in the vicinity and can be directly inhaled or picked up on the hands and transferred when someone touches their face. This risk assessment documents key risks associated fieldwork during a pandemic, but it is not exhaustive and will not be able to cover all known risks, globally. This assessment outlines principles adopted by UCL at an institutional level and it is necessarily general. Please use the open text box 'Other' to indicate any contingent risk factors and control measures you might encounter during the course of your dissertation research and writing.
Please refer to page 26-33 of your Dissertation in Planning Guidance Document (available on Moodle) to help you complete this form.

Hazard 1: Risk of Covid -19 infection during research related travel and research related interactions with others (when face-to-face is possible and/or unavoidable)
Risk Level - Moderate

Existing Control Measures: Do not travel if you are unwell, particularly if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Self-isolate in line with NHS (or country-specific) guidance.
Avoid travelling and face-to-face interactions; if you need to travel and meet with others:
- If possible, avoid using public transport and cycle or walk instead.
- If you need to use public transport travel in off-peak times and follow transport provider's and governmental guidelines.
- Maintain (2 metre) social distancing where possible and where 2 metre social distancing is not achievable, wear face covering.
- Wear face covering at all times in enclosed or indoor spaces.
- Use hand sanitiser prior to and after journey.
- Avoid consuming food or drinks, if possible, during journey.
- Avoid, if possible, interchanges when travelling - choose direct route.
- Face away from other persons. If you have to face a person ensure
that the duration is as short as possible.
- Do not share any items i.e. stationary, tablets, laptops etc. If items need to be shared use disinfectant wipes to disinfect items prior to and after sharing.

- If meeting in a group for research purposes ensure you are following current country specific guidance on face-to-face meetings (i.e. rule of 6 etc.)
- If and when possible meet outside and when not possible meet in venues with good ventilation (e.g. open a window)
- If you feel unwell during or after a meeting with others, inform others you have interacted with, self-isolate and get tested for Covid-19
- Avoid high noise areas as this mean the need to shout which increases risk of aerosol transmission of the virus.
- Follow one way circulation systems, if in place. Make sure to check before you visit a building.
- Always read and follow the visitors policy for the organisation you will be visiting.
- Flush toilets with toilet lid closed.
-'Other' Control Measures you will take (specify): -

NOTE: The hazards and existing control measures above pertain to Covid-19 infection risks only. More generalised health and safety risk may exist due to remote field work activities and these are outlined in your Dissertation in Planning Guidance document. Please consider these as possible 'risk' factors in completing the remainder of this standard form. For more information also see: Guidance Framework for Fieldwork in Taught and MRes Programmes, 2020-21

Consider, in turn, each hazard (white on black). If **NO** hazard exists select **NO** and move to next hazard section.
If a hazard does exist select **YES** and assess the risks that could arise from that hazard in the risk assessment box.
Where risks are identified that are not adequately controlled they must be brought to the attention of your Departmental Management who should put temporary control measures in place or stop the work. Detail such risks in the final section.

ENVIRONMENT	The environment always represents a safety hazard. Use space below to identify and assess any risks associated with this hazard
e.g. location, climate, terrain, neighbourhood, in outside organizations, pollution, animals.	Heatstroke or sunstroke, pollution from the power stations, getting attacked by the animals in the natural reserve, detention when travelling to/from the country Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

x	work abroad incorporates Foreign Office advice
	only accredited centres are used for rural field work
x	participants will wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the specified environment
	refuge is available
	work in outside organisations is subject to their having satisfactory H&S procedures in place
x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Wearing summer clothes in accordance to the weather and a hat to avoid direct sun; avoiding spending too much time in proximity to the power stations that cause air pollution; only visiting the big park area located nearby during daytime when there are people around and using dedicated pathways to avoid wild animals;

visiting the area not alone but with a friend or a relative to support me in case of need; avoiding acting conspicuously to attract attention. Familiarising myself and being aware of rules and laws that may apply to my activity within the site, including in respect of social media use; trying not to go to the area on my own; studying maps of the area before visiting it and ensuring that I know where the police and public transport stations are; having my phone with me at all times; knowing emergency phone numbers; having area maps with me at all times; knowing what to tell people if being asked about my research activities.

EMERGENCIES	Where emergencies may arise use space below to identify and assess any risks
e.g. fire, accidents	

Getting phone, camera or other belongings stolen; getting physically attacked; fire accidents due to summer heat or human factor; public transport collapse

Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk
	participants have registered with LOCATE at http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/
x	contact numbers for emergency services are known to all participants
x	participants have means of contacting emergency services
x	a plan for rescue has been formulated, all parties understand the procedure
x	the plan for rescue /emergency has a reciprocal element
x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Visiting the place during daytime and only being in public places; not attracting attention; knowing what to tell people if being asked about my research activities. Undertaking the site visit in the company of a friend / family member that can call help or assist me in an emergency. Spare cash to pay for taxi, sustenance and other eventualities. Charged mobile phone; power bank.

EQUIPMENT	Is equipment used?	YES	If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks
e.g. clothing, outboard motors.			

Mobile phone running out of battery; phone being stolen; data being accidentally deleted

Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk
	the departmental written Arrangement for equipment is followed
x	participants have been provided with any necessary equipment appropriate for the work
x	all equipment has been inspected, before issue, by a competent person
x	all users have been advised of correct use

special equipment is only issued to persons trained in its use by a competent person

x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Always having a phone charger and a power bank; getting to the site with full mobile phone battery; having a back-up of data; avoiding bringing a laptop or an expensive camera

LONE WORKING	Is lone working a possibility?	NO	If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks
e.g. alone or in isolation *lone interviews.*			Examples of risk: difficult to summon help. Is the risk high / medium / low?

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk
	the departmental written Arrangement for lone/out of hours working for field work is followed
	lone or isolated working is not allowed
	location, route and expected time of return of lone workers is logged daily before work commences
	all workers have the means of raising an alarm in the event of an emergency, e.g. phone, flare, whistle
	all workers are fully familiar with emergency procedures
	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

ILL HEALTH

e.g. accident, illness,

personal attack, special personal considerations or vulnerabilities.

The possibility of ill health always represents a safety hazard. Use space below to identify and assess any risks associated with this Hazard.

Slight allergic reaction to certain plants and trees in the area, including the national reserve nearby.

Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES

Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

x	all participants have had the necessary inoculations/ carry appropriate prophylactics
x	participants have been advised of the physical demands of the research and are deemed to be physically suited
	participants have been adequate advice on harmful plants, animals and substances they may encounter
x	participants who require medication should carry sufficient medication for their needs
x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Trying to avoid visiting the area in late July/August (when my allergic reaction is the most noticeable). Leaving the area and going home if severe reaction occurs (very unlikely). Always carrying antihistamine medicine with me.

TRANSPORT

e.g. hired vehicles

| Will transport be required | NO | | Move to next hazard |
| | YES | X | Use space below to identify and assess any risks |

Examples of risk: accidents arising from lack of maintenance, suitability or training

Disruption of public transport services; getting lost; missing the last service of the day

Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES

Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

x	only public transport will be used
	the vehicle will be hired from a reputable supplier
	transport must be properly maintained in compliance with relevant national regulations
	drivers comply with UCL Policy on Drivers http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/docs/college_drivers.php
	drivers have been trained and hold the appropriate licence
	there will be more than one driver to prevent driver/operator fatigue, and there will be adequate rest periods
	sufficient spare parts carried to meet foreseeable emergencies
x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Familiarising myself with the public transport route network and fares; having sufficient resources to pay for the journeys; know when services run and avoiding the last service; keep updated through the internet on the service runs in case it is disrupted; having a back-up plan (taxi app and sufficient resources to pay for the taxi).

DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC

e.g. interviews, observing

| Will people be dealing with public | YES | If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks |

Examples of risk: personal attack, causing offence, being misinterpreted. Is the risk high / medium / low?

Being misinterpreted when informally talking to people, causing offence by accident, having personal belongings stolen (e.g. camera, phone)

Level of risk: Low

CONTROL MEASURES

Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

x	all participants are trained in interviewing techniques
	advice and support from local groups has been sought
x	participants do not wear clothes that might cause offence or attract unwanted attention
x	interviews are conducted at neutral locations or where neither party could be at risk
x	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

Knowing the context of the country and the neighbourhood more specifically to avoid certain topics that might be misinterpreted or cause offence; visiting a place with someone I know (a friend or a family member) so that we attract less attention and the person can call for help or mitigate the conflict if anything happens; explaining people the aim of the research if asked.

If I want to have an informal chat with a local person – only talking to people in public places to ensure natural surveillance; only approaching someone who seems trustworthy; explaining them the purpose of the project and leaving it to them if they want to participate; clearly letting people know what data will be captured and used; ensuring people are happy about this.

WORKING ON OR NEAR WATER

e.g. rivers, marshland, sea.

| Will people work on or near water? | NO | If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks |

Examples of risk: drowning, malaria, hepatitis A, parasites. Is the risk high / medium / low?

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

	lone working on or near water will not be allowed
	coastguard information is understood; all work takes place outside those times when tides could prove a threat
	all participants are competent swimmers
	participants always wear adequate protective equipment, e.g. buoyancy aids, wellingtons
	boat is operated by a competent person
	all boats are equipped with an alternative means of propulsion e.g. oars
	participants have received any appropriate inoculations
	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

MANUAL HANDLING (MH)	Do MH activities take place?	NO	If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks
e.g. lifting, carrying, moving large or heavy equipment, physical unsuitability for the task.	Examples of risk: strain, cuts, broken bones. Is the risk high / medium / low?		

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

	the departmental written Arrangement for MH is followed
	the supervisor has attended a MH risk assessment course
	all tasks are within reasonable limits, persons physically unsuited to the MH task are prohibited from such activities
	all persons performing MH tasks are adequately trained
	equipment components will be assembled on site
	any MH task outside the competence of staff will be done by contractors
	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

FIELDWORK   4   May 2010

SUBSTANCES	Will participants work with substances	NO	If 'No' move to next hazard If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks
e.g. plants, chemical, biohazard, waste	Examples of risk: ill health - poisoning, infection, illness, burns, cuts. Is the risk high / medium / low?		

CONTROL MEASURES	Indicate which procedures are in place to control the identified risk

	the departmental written Arrangements for dealing with hazardous substances and waste are followed
	all participants are given information, training and protective equipment for hazardous substances they may encounter
	participants who have allergies have advised the leader of this and carry sufficient medication for their needs
	waste is disposed of in a responsible manner
	suitable containers are provided for hazardous waste
	OTHER CONTROL MEASURES: please specify any other control measures you have implemented:

OTHER HAZARDS	Have you identified any other hazards?	NO	If 'No' move to next section If 'Yes' use space below to identify and assess any risks
i.e. any other hazards must be noted and assessed here.	Hazard: Risk: is the risk		

CONTROL MEASURES	Give details of control measures in place to control the identified risks

Have you identified any risks that are not adequately controlled?	NO	X	Move to Declaration
	YES		Use space below to identify the risk and what action was taken

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| DECLARATION | The work will be reassessed whenever there is a significant change and at least annually. Those participating in the work have read the assessment. |

Select the appropriate statement:

☐ I the undersigned have assessed the activity and associated risks and declare that there is no significant residual

risk

☐ I the undersigned have assessed the activity and associated risks and declare that the risk will be controlled by

the method(s) listed above

NAME OF SUPERVISOR:

FIELDWORK   **5**   May 2010

APPENDIX 2: ETHICAL CLEARANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Respondent: **Mariia Satyeva** Submitted on: Wednesday, 20 April 2022, 2:51 PM

Ethical Clearance Pro Forma

It is important for you to include all relevant information about your research in this form, so that your supervisor can give you the best advice on how to proceed with your research.

You are advised to read though the relevant sections of UCL's Research Integrity guidance to learn more about your ethical obligations.

Please ensure to save a copy of your completed questionnaire BEFORE hitting 'submit' (you will not be able to access it later).

Submission Details

1 * Please select your programme of study.

| Urban Design and City Planning | : Urban Design and City Planning

2 * Please indicate the type of research work you are doing.

☐ Dissertation in Planning (MSc)
☐ Dissertation in City Planning (MPlan)
☑ Major Research Project

3 * Please provide the current working title of your research.

Facilitating community-led urban regeneration by bringing residents together in standardised post-socialist neighbourhoods: A case study of Metrogorodok neighbourhood in Moscow, Russia.

4 * Please select your supervisor from the drop-down list.

| Wunderlich, Matthias | : Wunderlich, Matthias

Research Details

5 * Please indicate here which data collection methods you expect to use. Tick all that apply.

☐ Interviews
☐ Focus Groups
☐ Questionnaires (including oral questions)
☐ Action research
☑ Observation / participant observation
☐ Documentary analysis (including use of personal records)
☑ Audio-visual recordings (including photographs)
☐ Collection/use of sensor or locational data
☐ Controlled trial
☐ Intervention study (including changing environments)
☑ Systematic review
☑ Secondary data analysis
☐ Advisory/consultation groups

6 * Please indicate where your research will take place.

| Overseas only | : Overseas only

7 * Does your project involve the recruitment of participants?

'Participants' means human participants and their data (including sensor/locational data and observational notes/images.)

○ Yes   ◉ No

Appropriate Safeguard, Data Storage and Security

8 * Will your research involve the collection and/or use of personal data?

Personal data is data which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data or from the data and other information that is either currently held, or will be held by the data controller (you, as the researcher).

This includes:

BPLN0052_TFDJ3

FINAL GRADE

/100

GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

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