

Fair Access to City Space—Establishing Principles

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Abstract The space in a city has a lot of disintegrated varieties. In human activity, city space seems to widen and, simultaneously, is losing its continuity. Access to it is controlled in many ways. Being under the dominion of organizations and groups of people, the city space and the way of it is used significantly influence the quality of life and future chances of any city. Where citizens' access to city space is limited, this requires laying down principles based on co-determination and joint responsibility.

Keywords Public and private space • City • Fair access • Polish

1 Introduction

Issues related to the functioning of cities in their social context attract more and more attention—probably due to the rising interest in the actual dimension of human rights to live in clean environment, respect people's views, self-realize and obtain public approval, and also in how this influences the development and success of cities. The interconnection between these processes is relatively new, but it does not surprise anybody. For ages it has been known that a city's success is linked to contentment of its inhabitants. What is new in this approach is that we pay more and more attention to satisfying individual residents (people) rather than to the overall result, this being an attempt to generalize happiness and satisfy the crowd (groups of people, social classes, whether of all residents).

The main goal of this paper is to establish principles of fair access to city public space based on survey research conducted in 2016 on a sample of 1400 residents of five big Polish cities (each with more than 100,000 citizens). A total of 1270 questionnaire forms were found suitable for examination. The discussion is provided against a theoretical background mainly (but not exclusively) represented by

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Polish authors, to show Polish city ideas and the domestic theoretical approach. The presented findings were not subjected to statistical processing to enable the reader making their own analyses in a freely chosen perspective. The snowball sampling technique was applied, whereas the questionnaire form was created according to the cognitive model.

2 Some Thoughts About the Nature of Cities

Cities are the place where a majority of mankind lives. On the other hand, character of cities resulting from their specificity contrasting cities without-of-cities results in difficulties in realization of exchanged demands that are premises of the life satisfaction [31].

Satisfaction of a city dweller from conditions a city enables is defined through aggregate Quality indicator of Life or Quality of Living for the individual realization of its purposes and aspirations. The methodology of determining these rates sometimes differs, and therefore rankings of cities are different depending on who carries out research. A possibility of the participation in the social life, carried out at different levels is one of conditions for people to be pleased with their lives—within the family, of the most immediate neighborhood, at the work, in the district, in the support group, in associations etc.

This type of functioning usually has more long-term character and brings notable benefits to people from one side. On the other side, it has a tendency of strengthening views and beliefs due to the top stair of the homogeneity of such social groups. This is one side of the phenomenon—social, more and more willingly concentrating on individuals, not on groups.

From the other side, we deal with the city that I most willingly understand as collective space that belongs to those who live in it, who have the right to find there conditions for their political, social and ecological fulfillment, thus undertaking duties of solidarity [11]. This definition seems to me the most cognitively inspiring—because it is stimulating to discussion. Firstly in this definition we find “a collective space” that one should understand multifaceted.

Firstly, there is physical space—location of specific place with prescribed limits that are separating the city from its surrounding area. Secondly, there is spiritual, immaterial space that is a way of conveying history of the city, its culture, character, finally with information resources that have different potential. This definition is adjudicating the law top-down to the city—who is the owner of the city and who is supposed to have a prime move in fates of the city. It is a problem that is often analyzed in theoretical works nowadays. Space belonging to people is also a problem of sharing it and having the right to it, which in practice means that cities belongs to their residents. Here we are coming back to the social dimension for a short moment trying to recognize whether two identical spaces, identically developed, having the same physical dimensions and economics can become different cities when are settled by other communities.

K. Frysztański does not define a city but the way of treating it determines that deals with the city as the social community [14], whereas P. Rybicki thinks, that separateness of the city as the social community depends on the following: population numbers and its dense concentration, heterogeneous composition of the population, abundance of planted types of the work, size of social layers with different styles of typical living, settling and laying out in the special social and space arrangement. A multitude of social groups co-occurring in the city and a net of social links between individuals and groups are further trademarks” [27]. R. Florida in “Who is your city” once again points to the fact that a city that offers better conditions of living for desired persons will be a place such people live until a new competitive offer appears [13].

Then these people, along with their resources (also financial) will simply leave the town. It is going to be easier for them because the city will be more boring and they will move to places where they find more interesting. This means that the city should make sure it is not boring [13]. Finally, we have to remember of the right to find conditions and duties of solidarity. There are not only rights or duties in the city only. Responsibility for the city should include balance of rights and obligations, and, in addition correct assessment should not be unstable. That should not also mean the absolute evenness of citizens in performing duties for the city.

This is how we understand solidarity—union or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests, as between members of a group or between classes, peoples [Dictionary.com] Solidarity is a principle of action. It bonds an individual to the group and group to the individual. Solidarity among the members of a society is necessary for the stable and long-lived functioning of the society. Solidary behavior of the members of the society is the reason why societies do not fall apart [32].

3 Public and Private Space—Problem of City Life Democratization

A way of carrying the ownership transfer out decides on character of the space. Fundamental division into the public and private space was observed at the beginning of the seventies of the 20th century—developed by O. Newman, the author of the famous book “Defensible Space”. People that had an absolute power supervised the private space and they could decide who could enter and who could not. The public space was a space for Newman “no one’s”—even if he this way did not literally describe it, this understanding was a consequence of his works [24]. How can we describe both types of the city space? Perhaps it will be sufficient to point to main differences in their characteristics. We can discern four broad categories of things that people commonly appeal to under the guise of public and private. Drawing on the rather diverse resources of Dewey [10], Arendt [3],

Waldron [33], and Geuss [16], we can include in the “public” bundle the following ideas:

1. Freely accessible places where “everything that happens can be observed by anyone”, where strangers are encountered whether one wants to or not, because everyone has free right of entry [16]. These are places where the spotlight of “publicity” shines, and so might not just be public squares and market places, but political debating chambers where the right of physical access is limited but informational access is not.
2. The things that concern, affect, or are for the benefit of everyone, Arendt’s second sense of “public” [3] his realm includes “common goods” [17], goods like clean air and water, public transport, and so on; as well as more particular concerns like crime or the raising of children that vary in their content over time and space, depending on the current state of a particular society’s value judgments and discursive battles.
3. The people or groups that have responsibility for that realm covered in (2), which might include rulers, or “public figures”, or might be defined more broadly to mean all of us: “the public” as a noun, not an adjective.
4. Things which are owned by the state or the people in (3) and paid for out of collective resources like taxes: government buildings, national parks in most countries, military bases and equipment, and so on.

In the private bundle, we can include the following:

1. Places that are not freely accessible, and have controllers who limit access to or use of that space.
2. Things that primarily concern individuals and not collectives.
3. The people who primarily deal with such items; or rather, the roles that people play when they are so dealing, referring to the common distinction between politicians’ “private” commercial and family interests and their “public” roles managing collective resources and concerns.
4. Things and places that are individually owned, including things that are cognitively “our own”, like our thoughts, goals, emotions, spirituality, preferences, and so on.

Assuming that all city dwellers have equal rights and a city belongs to all residents, access on equal bases to the any space in the city is a practical dimension of democracy. Democracy depends to a surprising extent on the availability of physical, public space, even in our allegedly digital world. It also argues that in many respects the availability of space for democratic performance is under threat, and that by overlooking the need for such space—or arguing against that need—we run the risk of under-mining some important conditions of democracy in the modern world. A democracy that lacks a single site for binding collective decision-making is a more-easily attenuated democracy, because it is one that is taken less seriously by its citizens, and one in which decisions can too easily pass undetected and undefended [25].

Table 1 Characteristics of public and private space in cities

	Characteristics	Public space	Non-public space
1	Accessibility	Freely accessible places	Not freely accessible
2	Benefits/beneficiaries	Everyone	The owners and those who are permitted by the owners
3	Responsibility stands for	Everyone/group of people, public figures	The owners, controllers Short term relationship
4	Ownership of infrastructure	Government/everyone paying taxes	Private property
5	Flexibility of decisions	Rather low	High
6	Freedom of wives expressed	High	High

Some of characteristic and differences between public place and private space (non-public) are presented in Table 1.

4 Framework for Public Space Selection Criteria

What worries many writers on the urban experience is that the freedom to enjoy the city is more restricted than appearances might suggest. There are places that appear open but in which one meets a much more narrow slice of society than if it really were fully accessible. There are places that are controlled not by their denizens but by much more limited elites, property developers, investors, business associations, and their friends in local government and local police who tear down and rebuild the city to suit their interests, or who sometimes set troubling limits on what kinds of actions are permissible and what are not. There are places whose residents are cutting themselves off from city membership behind gates, walls, and razor-wire fences [25]. Before starting procedure of creating/changing/cancelling the city public space city authorities should pay attention to criteria which decision-making is based on it. The criteria in Poland are not fixed and finally established. In Polish cities there is no custom of discussing publicly any decision to transform the public sphere in private. Existing regulations are only a substitute for public discussion and practically allow for doing any operations converting character of space of the city. The idea that democracy depends on the physical space in various ways is opposite to the current orthodoxy in the democratic theory and wider political science. Issues of physical space are almost entirely off the radar of scholars of politics. Those very few political theorists who use the term “public space” use it interchangeably with “public sphere” or “public realm”. They generally take it to be a metaphor that refers to the myriad ways in which citizens separated in time and space can participate in collective deliberation, decision-making, and action (e.g. Benhabib [7], Nagel [22], Nagel [23], Hénaff and Strong [18]) go so far as to claim that “the literal meaning has almost been wiped out”.

4.1 Literature on General Criteria

Many previous studies on supplier selection and evaluation defined numerous evaluation criteria and selection frameworks for supplier selection. In consideration of the criteria for supplier selection, the pathfinder work by Dickson [19] has been one of the most cited studies.

In order to shape the public space competently, one should state what elements influence its attraction, and which cause; that the space remains not-used and not-noticed by people. Such a balance sheet, prepared based on elements discussed by the following authors: Gehl [15], Bauman [5], Bogdanowski [9], Wejchert [34], Alexander [1], and Stiles [30], and organization People for Public Spaces. Having elements were listed in Table 2 positive and adverse impact to the quality of the public spheres. However not every of mentioned element has the same importance, therefore at this work they were described in the hierarchical presentation, as main elements, assisting and accompanying ones.

4.2 Criteria in the Opinion of Residents of Big Polish Cities —Research Results

The test procedure of criteria consisted of two parts—of appointing keywords describing the public space, without outlining any restrictions (e.g. of classification categories) and without defining the notion.

In the first phase, the result of which is presented in the picture of word cloud (see Fig. 1), 120 persons (aged 21–40 years) took part. Every person was provided with a sheet of paper and a pencil and was asked to write out any number of nouns describing the desired public space within 3 min. Based on collected expressions (of words) and frequencies of their appearing, further to the ranking presented in Table 2, they negotiated survey questions and they asked for the evaluation of every of categories in 5-degree of the Lickert scale (“definitely yes”, “yes”, “no opinion”, “no”, “definitely no”). The second phase was a questionnaire examination of 1400 residents. The results are presented in Table 3.

5 Fair Access to the City Space

Issues of the social fairness belong to the research current represented by representatives of many sciences, religious and political doctrines and comprehending the fairness in the different way treats. Seeking sources of the fairness in the conduct of people and the evaluation of the naturalness of such proceedings are directing the remark of scientists’ different motives causing that people are confronting their benefit with top-down principles of fairness. Most economic models

Table 2 Selected positive and negative elements of public space in cities—criteria for making decision process (based on literature study and [20])

	Positive influence	Negative influence	Hierarchy
The location and the availability of the space	1. Good location: “on the way”	1. Bad localization: on the out-of-the-way place	Main
	2. Majority of the pedestrian traffic and bicycle	2. Majority of the motor traffic	Main
	3. Easiness of entering (availability) and of evacuation	3. Of hampering in the entry and the evacuation	Main
	4. Convenient journey with various means of public transport	4. Lack/insufficient amount of mergers of the public transport	Assisting
	5. Great rotation of parking	5. Small rotation of parking	Accompanying
Perception of space	1. Feeling the identity, the spirit of the place	1. An identification is lacking the place	Main
	2. Spaces visible from a distance, noticeable, having significance	2. Empty spaces	Main
	3. Favorable first impression	3. Adverse first impression	Main
	4. The place	4. Semi-places	Main
	5. Sense of security	5. Feeling the threat	Assisting
	6. Positive impact on health (physical and psychological and general)	6. A positive income is missing to the physical and mental health and the frame of mind	Accompanying
	7. The cleanness and the spatial order	7. Littering and the disarray	Accompanying
Diversifying the space and ways for/of using it	1. Different kinds of the activity	1. A space is lacking adding variety in the way of using	Main
	2. Space adapted to walking, standing, the seat, etc.	2. Not adjusted space to different ways of staying in it	Main
	3. Developing social contacts inclusive with promoting the cultural and commercial activity.	3. Space serving exclusively consumers	Main
	4. Surrounding about multi-functional character	4. Surrounding about mono-functional character	Main
	5. Space used in different times of the day, of year and in different weather conditions	5. Limited time of using the space	Main
	6. Simple, attractive contact with natural elements of the environment	6. Missing contact with the nature	Accompanying

Fig. 1 Wordcloud presenting the results of phase 1 of the project—establishing criteria for public space distinction



are based on the self-interest hypothesis that assumes that all people are exclusively motivated by their material self-interest. Many influential economists, including Adam Smith [29], Becker [6], Arrow [4], Samuelson [28] and Amartya [2], pointed out that people often do care for the well-being of others and that this may have important economic consequences. Yet, so far, these opinions have not had much of an impact on mainstream economics. In recent years experimental economists have gathered overwhelming evidence that systematically refutes the self-interest hypothesis. The evidence suggests that many people are strongly motivated by other-regarding preferences and that concerns for fairness and reciprocity cannot be ignored in social interactions. Moreover, several theoretical papers have been written showing that the observed phenomena can be explained in arigorous and tractable manner [12]. Many regard a fair society as one governed by the principle of equality of opportunity, in such a scope it seems sensible to search for the meaning of the just access to resources of the city, in it to the public sphere. It is worthwhile directing attention to one concept associated with the notion fairness equilibrium. In a pioneering article, Rabin [26] starts from the observation that our behavior is often a reaction to the (expected) intentions of other people. If we feel that another person has been kind to us, we often have a desire to be kind as well. If we feel that somebody wanted to hurt us, we often have the desire to retaliate even if this is personally costly. And one more remark, considering the equal rights of citizens. The city is today the space for all kinds of meetings and, therefore, of all kinds of possibilities. At the same time it is the field of all contradictions and all dangers: in the urban space with its uncertain frontiers appear all those discriminations rooted in unemployment, poverty, the disdain for cultural differences, while at the same time civic and social practices of solidarity are sketched out and multiply. City life today involves the obligation to define certain rights more clearly, because we live in the city, we seek work, we move about. It imposes also on us the recognition of new rights: a respect for the environment, the guarantee of sound food, tranquility, possibilities of social interchange and leisure, etc. [11].

Table 3 Results of the questionnaire survey in the evaluation of the importance of criteria connected with the public space in the city

	Definitely yes	Rather yes	No opinion	Rather no	Definitely no
<i>Elements of public space</i>					
Unrestricted access to space	739	348	77	67	25
Joint rule of this space	409	451	197	149	44
Co-determination about this space	435	520	154	110	34
Joint incurring costs of using space	343	438	257	151	60
Access free of charge to this space	741	366	64	60	20
Label border of this space	366	388	244	183	72
Supervision of the safety of staying and using it	524	479	141	82	24
Freedom of behaviors of users	367	409	158	251	66
Equipped with benches, waste-paper baskets	820	330	50	36	16
Equipped with public restroom	696	357	103	69	28
Presence of a lot of green	716	332	100	80	25
<i>Priority access to public space</i>					
Pedestrian	934	235	41	19	27
Cyclist	529	479	107	89	46
Private passenger cars	239	354	248	285	127
Shared car (e.g. car pooling)	189	297	353	259	154
Public transport	557	433	131	65	64
<i>Parking cars in public space</i>					
Free everywhere	473	211	110	282	180
Free in designated places	537	366	90	101	167
Paid everywhere	30	31	89	295	806
Paid in designated places	274	370	121	183	305
Paid for some users	119	185	211	250	480
Forbidden	44	46	110	239	816
Allowed only for residents	92	147	170	326	521

5.1 Literature on General Criteria

The concept of fairness is often emphasized in religious, political and juridical texts that aim to shape society. The reason for this emphasis is that the concept of fairness affects the behaviors of individuals in a society or in a group; and it is also affected by these behaviors. In addition, as human rights are to be ensured in organizational,

as well as social life, organizational fairness also becomes an obligation. Consequently, what societal fairness means for a society can be said to have the same meaning in terms of organizational fairness [8]. Seeking the uniform set of criteria in such conditioning is sentenced to the failure. Due to the subjective nature of fairness, there is no single fairness criterion that is universally accepted by policymakers and academics alike. As such, a great challenge lies in identifying the appropriate fairness constraints that the allocation outcomes of a policy should ideally satisfy. In case of every examining feeling the social fairness an individual set of criteria, helping to describe the justice for the purposes of the examined group is being selected. They often belong to such sets: respectful partnership, systematic fairness, Life satisfaction, due to “Fair Learning Environment Questionnaire” developed by Lizzio et al. [21]. Majority of scientific works on fairness is being led in forms of public experiments and games. The behavioral observation of participants in experiments, in situations stimulated by researchers, allows for the inference.

Thus, real world examples where fairness concerns are likely to matter abound. Nevertheless, in the following we concentrate on clean experimental studies because in most real life situations it is impossible to unambiguously isolate the impact of fairness motives. A skeptic may always argue that the notion of fairness is only used for rhetorical purposes that disguise purely self-interested behavior in an equilibrium of a repeated game [12].

5.2 *Criteria in the Opinion of Residents of Big Polish Cities* —*Research Results*

The same procedure as presented in Sect. 4.2 was conducted. Participants were asked to mention elements consisting to the fairness but with reference to the dimension of the availability to the public space. They suggested that they made a decision on the availability as persons that not yet are using this space, but they are willing. The results are presented on Fig. 2. The second phase was questionnaire examination of 1400 residents. The results are presented in Table 4 and on the Fig. 3.

Fig. 2 Wordcloud presenting the results of phase 1 of the project—establishing criteria for fairness distinction



Table 4 Results of the questionnaire survey in the evaluation of the importance of criteria connected with fair access to the public space in the city

	Definitely yes	Rather yes	No opinion	Rather no	Definitely no
<i>The fair access to the public sphere consists in the principle</i>					
of free access	732	348	68	70	35
of unlimited access	598	368	110	120	63
diversified for all sorts groups of people	262	273	231	238	240
community of beliefs	174	225	329	244	287
safety	734	361	87	35	29
after complying with the requirements—e.g. of the appropriate dress and the behavior	212	320	253	244	222
honesties of everyone towards everyone	613	404	145	51	46
of democratic access	490	345	234	90	87
of access of only residents	100	103	174	434	439

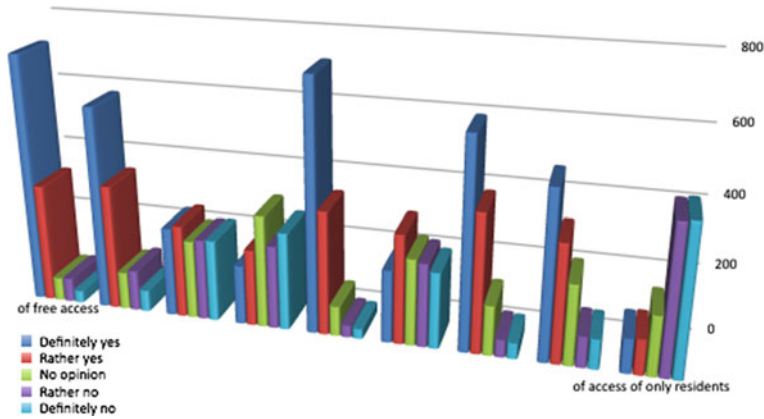


Fig. 3 The answers to the question: “the fair access to the public sphere consists in the principle...”

Difference between the research on elements, making characteristics of the public sphere up and the fairness in conveniently to the space is visible in pictures in the form of the size of fonts. Thus, unlike the first part of examinations, it is worthwhile commenting one—feature standing out—Equity. Equity is a base of functioning of the good city, described in the definition presented in this paper. We know very well that not all city dwellers are equal—after all, there are different social groups existing in the city, having a different impact on development and a

success of the city. I mention this in the article. However the idealistic aspiration to equality, justice, and freedom manifests itself in examinations of persons irrespective of their membership to of the one whether of other social group.

Equity comes from the idea of moral equality, that people should be treated as equals. Thinking about equity can help us decide how to distribute goods and services across society, holding the state responsible for its influence over how goods and services are distributed in a society, and using this influence to ensure fair treatment for all citizens. Applying these ideas in a specific country context involves hard choices, and embedding discussions of distributive justice into domestic political and policy debates is central to national development, but three areas of considerable consensus can be identified [19]. In order of priority, these are:

1. Equal life chances: There should be no differences in outcomes based on factors for which people cannot be held responsible.
2. Equal concern for people's needs: Some goods and services are necessities, and should be distributed according solely to the level of need.
3. Meritocracy: Positions in society and rewards should reflect differences in effort and ability, based on fair competition.

Considering above mentioned elements I decided not to include proposed features of the fair access of the notion in the list "equity", making the specific dispersion of this notion to other suggested features.

6 Discussions

Two phenomena were put through this examination—features marking the public space in the city and matters of the fair access to such spaces. Both mentioned phenomena were (1) identified by residents of big Polish cities, participating at first in the process of the identification and selection of elements, and (2) in the evaluation of the identified elements. Received results were confronted with theoretical studies and brought for discussion.

Elements forming the public space in the city:

In a group of "good location and availability of space" there were placed the following elements (having the bigger number votes for "definitely yes" + "yes"): *pedestrian* (934 + 235), *public transport* (557 + 433), *cyclist* (529 + 433) which can be combined with *unrestricted access to space* (739 + 348) and *access free of charge to this space* (741 + 366). From one side these results confirm the significance of the factors identified to be 'main' (see Table 2). On the other side there is a sequence of factors that exists in practice of the public sphere and that are not relevant for any emotional evaluation.

In a group of "perception of place" there were placed the following elements:

equipped with benches, waste-paper baskets (820 + 330), presence of a lot of green (716 + 332), equipped with public restroom (696 + 357) that may fulfill the elements listed in Table 2.

In a group of “diversifying the space and ways for/of using it” the following elements were placed: there are significant elements that received lot of votes for “definitely yes” and “yes”.

And so respondents perceive the public space in the city as the place relatively readily available in the financial dimension. This space should be available free of charge and should be adapted above all to the slow migration—for pedestrians, for cyclists.

The journey to this space should also be available on foot, by bicycle, or by public transport (557 + 433), at least with some surprise one should accept the high readiness for the possibility of free parking everywhere (473 + 211), in designated places (537 + 366), at the explicit strong opposition against paying everywhere (295 + 806—“yes” + “definitely yes”) or forbidden parking (against 239 + 816).

Respondents think that the space should be the green space (716 + 332), equipped with places aimed at rest (benches) and facilitating keeping the place clean (waste-paper baskets) and public conveniences. In this respect the requirements concerning the public space are similar to the requirements directed at the address of urban parks. Such a space than should be marked (366 + 368) and co-managed by its users (524 + 479) that also means the participation in the democracy on the local level.

In the case of such a space users are able to incur some part of the costs provided the costs are identified with the owners. Using the public space should allow for some freedom of behaviors (367 + 409) and want on their own to care about their safety (524 + 479). They are among features that do not have strongly expressed evaluations. Two of factors subject to this research—possibility of using private passenger cars and the system of the car sharing—were not attributed any decisive evaluations.

Elements forming the principles of fair access to public space:

An evenness of city dwellers is an important component of justice. It results not only from beliefs of respondents, but also is written in the definition of the city, not distinguishing any group amongst persons living in a town. Even more—for everyone is assigning equal rights and regular duties to residents. Probably therefore, every depriving of one group of people of even some little entitlement causes feeling of injustice.

Respondents recognized access to the public sphere in the city to be just when the access is free of charge (732 + 348), based on principles of the honesty (613 + 404), unrestricted (598 + 368) and safe (734 + 361). I believe that it is possible to describe this access to be “relatively democratic” (490 + 345) Some danger in certain circumstances may appear, especially when the majority takes control of the space.

Lack of strong bonds with the requirements that determine dress codes or behaviours being social labels that allow for using the public space is positive.

Answers “not” and “definitely not” should be treated as some negation of the fair access.

Additionally, a limited access exclusively for owners (then such a space loses attributes of the public space) and diversification of the access depending on the membership to a specific social group are not recognized in positive manner.

An attitude of respondents to the issue of ties of beliefs is alarming. The largest number of votes (329) was given by those who are not clear in this issue (option “no opinion”).

Votes for and against are more or less equal. There is a slight majority of opponents of limiting access to public space this way.

Votes “for” and “against” shared evenly, in addition with the light majority of opponents of such a restrictive attempt at the just access to the space.

7 Conclusions and Reflections

In creating public spaces that would reflect a city’s signature character and the way its inhabitants live, attention should be paid to residents’ opinions about location, furnishings/equipment, and the regime governing space use.

A decision about principles regulating the use of public sphere will inevitably touch on the sensibilities of some groups of residents, and may cause their dissatisfaction. Every city constitutes a separate, inimitable financial and social entity, which means that relying on copy book solutions, particularly in the social context, may end up in a failure. Therefore:

1. The decision-making processes on creating and maintaining the public sphere in cities should begin with examining what residents have to say on the subject.
2. As part of this process, rules should be established to govern access to the city space. Every city should study the requirements of residents in this respect.
3. The city authorities who listen to citizens’ views on the use of municipal space receive additional insights on how residents perceive municipal cohesion and how far they are willing to participate in local democracy.

From the viewpoint of theoretical background verifications, being used for recognizing principles of creating the public spheres in cities I stated:

1. An examination of public space features demonstrates that the criteria developed in theory accurately describe the public sphere in cities.
2. The conducted examinations show the existence of a number of additional criteria, supplementing the characteristics of the public sphere.
3. The conducted examinations point to criteria of fair access to the public sphere. It is possible in the future to hierarchize these criteria depending on intensity of readings by respondents.

4. The criteria that do not have clear preferences may provide an area in which to create the fair access principles (number of votes for and against is similar); this also holds for those where the number of neutral votes is high.

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