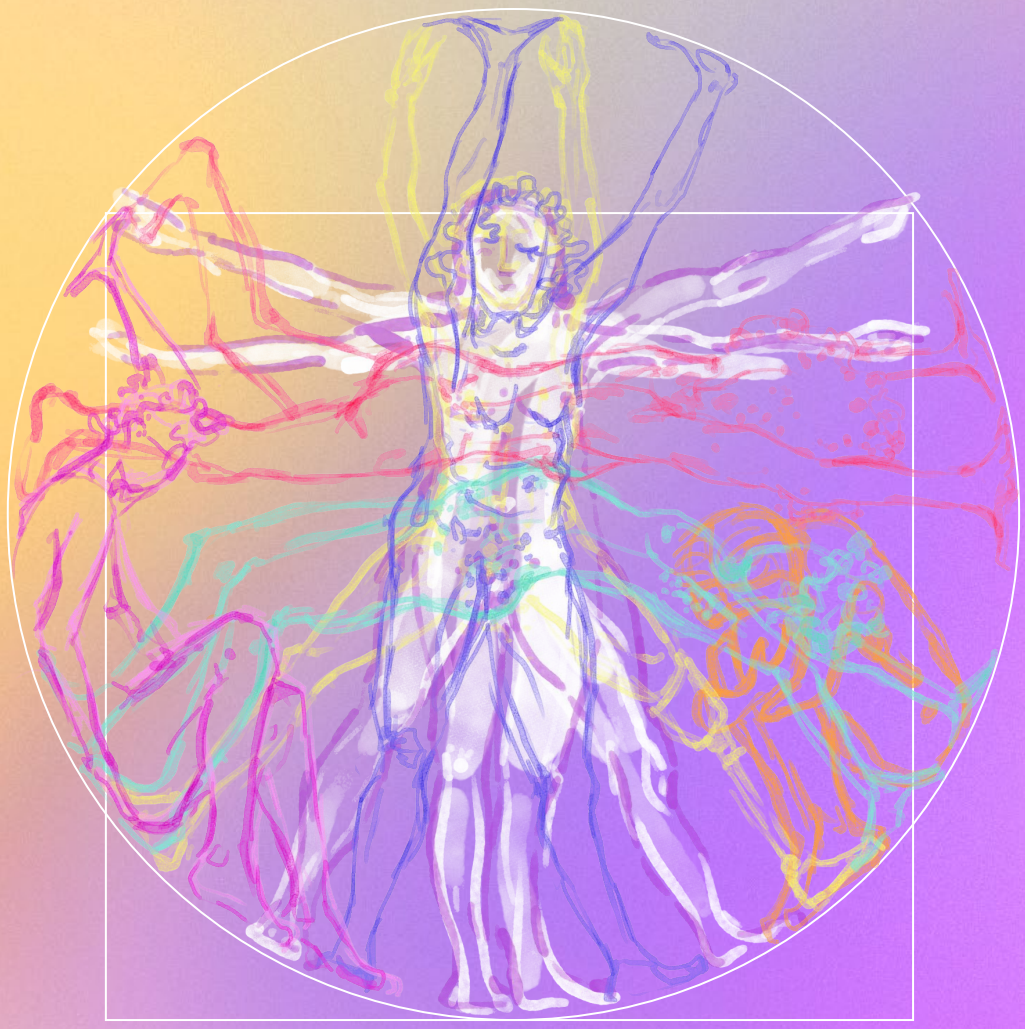
Disturbing Normativity

Queering Spatial Planning Towards Inclusive Communities in Poland

Final Report:// 19-06-2024

AUTHOR ://
Małgorzata M. Rybak



FIRST MENTOR ://
Caroline Newton

SECOND MENTOR ://
Birgit Hausleitner

Graduation Studio ://
Planning Complex Cities /

Technical University of Delft ://
MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences /

Colophon

Report by Małgorzata M. Rybak
Date :// 19-06-2024

Graduation Studio ://
Planning Complex Cities

First Mentor ://
Caroline Newton

Second Mentor ://
Birgit Hausleitner

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TU Delft University of Technology
Msc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment

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This research and data management plan has been approved by Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) [See appendix 1].

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“document o.o”

I oppose
understanding me as something monolithic I am not and not always
my goal is to domesticate sometimes I even produce images
over which I have no control

this kind of unpredictable effect
can occur at the very centre without
my consciousness although there are ways

to use a few dominant elements
in which the politics of aesthetic representation
role is played on me

Maria Cyranowicz
Poem from the volume “den.presja” 2009.
Translated by Małgorzata Rybak with author’s permission.

Figure ***v***
Valentine's Day 1993. Castle Square in Warsaw - the first public manifestation of gays and lesbians in Poland. Card from the Wolfgang Joehling albums. Source: Lambda Warszawa Archive

Abstract

This research investigates the intricate relationship between evolving socio-political dynamics, spatial planning and gender intolerance in Poland, with a specific focus on the experiences of the queer community. The study addresses the urgent need to bridge societal divides intensified by the rise of anti-LGBT resolutions and divisive political practices.

The problem statement underscores the gravity of gender intolerance in Poland and its direct consequences on the marginalized queer community. The escalating social polarisation serves as a call to action for research.

Methodologically, the research critically examines social norms, guided by theoretical concepts such as 'power', 'queering' and 'inclusivity'. It explicitly incorporates citizen engagement as a crucial component to enrich the understanding of the queer community's spatial experiences in urban environments.

The central research question explores how evolving socio-political dynamics and spatial planning can dismantle gender intolerance and promote inclusive communities in Poland. By uncovering the relationships between these dimensions, the study aims to provide insights and tools for designing truly inclusive environments. The goal is to create spaces that are inclusive, diverse, and equitable, reflecting a commitment to fostering a more just urban landscape.

KEY WORDS: //
LGBTQIA+/ queer/ heteronormative/ spatial planning/ diversity/ Poland

RESEARCH QUESTION: //
In what ways can evolving socio-political dynamics and spatial planning contribute to dismantling gender intolerance and fostering inclusive communities in Poland?

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CHAPTER 1:
Introduction

Emergency

Positioning

Glossary

Emergency

February 2019 was expected to mark a significant turning point in Poland, as the country aimed to take its first steps towards greater inclusion and tolerance for non-heteronormative individuals. Rafał Trzaskowski, the mayor of Warsaw, signed a declaration in support of LGBTQIA+ rights and expressed his commitment to follow the World Health Organization's guidelines on sexual education standards (Urząd Miasta Warszawa, 2019). This was the first such document in a Polish municipality, defining the city's policy towards non-heteronormative Varsovians. At the time, however, Poland had been governed for four years by a conservative majority government with another four years to go. The politicians from the Law and Justice (PiS) party caused strong opposition to the progressive Varsavian president. They argued that this new programme would sexualise children and pose a threat to Poland. This was enough to ignite the slow-burning division and intolerance in Polish society. Instead of building solidarity, the political forces focused on imposing the idea of a 'perfect Polish person'. This dynamic is what Foucault called "dividing practices" in his work "The Subject and Power" (1982). One might ask, how does it affect spatial dilemmas?

As a reaction to the changes in Warsaw, anti-LGBT resolutions were quickly drafted by the lowest administrative bodies (gminy), which supported the "Family Charter", a document that hides homophobia and danger for the queer community behind so-called 'perfect family' values. By June 2020, almost a third of Poland had become known as an "LGBT-free zone" (Jabłonowski, 2020). The undeniable and dangerous relationship between political power and spaces of exclusion became clearly visible. In response, activist and director Bart Staszewski travelled to these unwelcome spaces and marked them with the sign "LGBT free zone" (Ambroziak, 2020). Other activists Jakub Gawron, Paulina Pająk, Paweł Prenet and Kamil Maczuga mapped these areas and created the "Atlas of Hate", available online (Atlas of Hate, n. d.; https://atlasnienawisci.pl/).

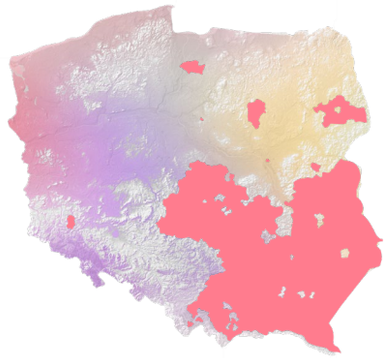
October 2023 marked a big change in the Polish parliament, when the democratic opposition won the majority of seats and ended the dominance of the conservative rule. A period of change and transformation began. There was a parliamentary meeting with representatives of LGBT foundations to launch "LGBT First Aid" with the main point to change the system in order to improve the situation of the community (Ambroziak, 2023). The government has started to talk about allowing same-sex marriages, promising to change the law and include hate speech based on sexual orientation as a crime (Senkowska, 2024). The frightening moment of the creation of "LGBT free zones" expressed this socio-political conflict in spaces of exclusion, which should never happen again.

February 2019

Rafał Trzaskowski, the Mayor of Warsaw, signed a declaration in support of LGBTQIA+ rights and expressed his commitment to following World Health Organization guidelines.

December 2019

Anti-LGBT resolutions were swiftly adopted by the lowest administrative bodies (gminy) who declared themselves free from 'LGBTIA+ ideology,' essentially excluding a certain segment of society from these territories.



June 2020

Nearly one-third of Poland had become known as an 'LGBT-free zone.'

October 2023

| Election of a parliament with a majority of democratic parties,

| Parliamentary meeting with LGBT foundations for 'LGBT first aid' resolutions

Figure 1 >
Author: Leszek Szymański; PAP

Figure 2 >
Author Bart Staszewski

Figure 3 >
Own work based on data: National Election Commission

Figure 4 >
Source: Stonewall Group Poland https://www.instagram.com/p/CzCK2A7r_QD/?img_index=3

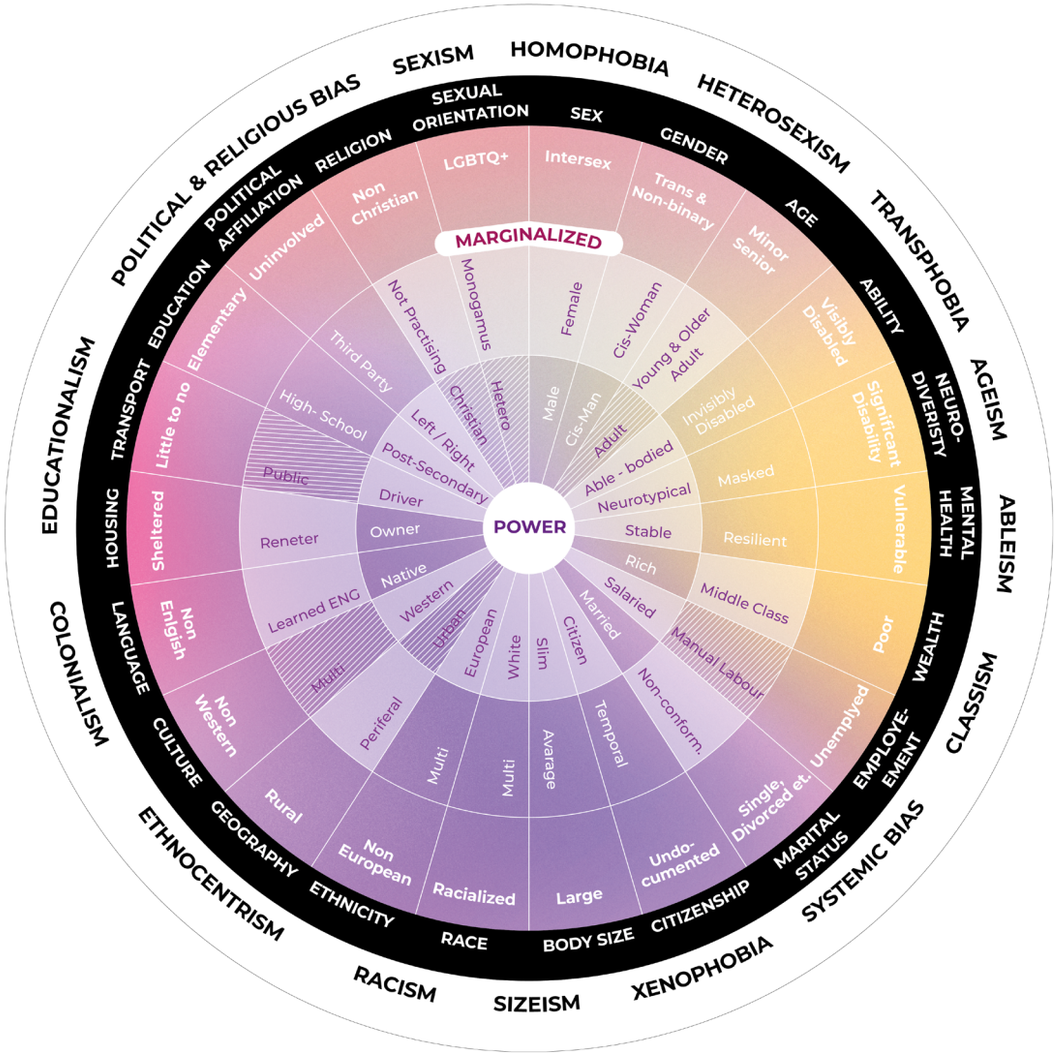
Figure 5 >
Source: Stonewall Group Poland https://www.instagram.com/stonewall_poland/

Positioning

This project is an attempt to understand and embrace some of the complexity that the modern world presents to us. In the cacophony of problems there is a personal interest in marginalisation and building solidarity. There is a desire to find relationships between socio-political problems and spatial dimensions, and through this to create a truly inclusive environment for all people beyond the norm.

Whilst dealing with contentious, complex settings involving diverse communities and exploring intricate relationships, as a planner it will be my high priority to maintain respect and caution throughout the research. The thesis focuses on the methods used to achieve goals such as gender diversity and the inclusion of minority groups. It highlights the important role of upholding the rights of minorities and amplifying their voices. Amidst existing divisions, I maintain a steadfast belief in our collective capacity to construct a world that affords us the freedom to love, dance, and truly live.

> *What concerns me the most is not who is in the right' but the danger of assault based on gandering on identity as a hazard for democracy*
> (Judith Butler, 2023)



Represents change

Figure 6 >

In this research project, I am delving into the framework of intersectionality to enhance my comprehension of power dynamics within society and to mitigate potential biases inherent in my perspective. The conceptualization of power and marginalisation within the context of this study serves as a reflective tool for acknowledging my own relatively privileged position. My objective is to leverage this privileged position and associated liberties to advocate for and amplify the voices of those who lack such agency.

Graphic made by author
Adapted from Sylvia Duckworth's wheel of power and privilege

Glossary

Ableism:

Policies, behaviours, rules, etc. that result in unfair or harmful treatment of disabled people (= people who have an illness, injury, or condition that makes it difficult for them to do things that most other people can do) and in a continued unfair advantage to people who are not disabled *(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)*.

Cis/cisgender

A person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth. A cis/cis/gender person who is not trans *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Cisnormativity:

The assumption that all individuals' genders match their birth-assigned sex, privilege given to cisgender male/female binaries, and neglect of the possibility and legitimacy of gender/sex diversity *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Civic Platform:

(Polish: Platforma Obywatelska, PO) is a centre-right liberal political party in Poland.

Family Law Charters:

The work on the document was initiated by the Synod of Bishops held in Rome in 1980, which was dedicated to 'The Tasks of the Christian Family in the Modern World'. The Charter is a universal document. It is specifically addressed to governments responsible for developing family-friendly policies, as well as to families themselves. The purpose of drafting the Charter was to present a complete and structured set of family rights.
(source: https://www.ore.edu.pl/2021/02/karta-praw-rodziny/)

Gender Fluid:

Not having only one gender, or moving freely between genders *(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)*.

Heteronormativity:

Assumptions that privilege dominant forms of heterosexual kinship and gendered practices, norms and relations have historically become culturally accepted as constituting the 'natural' social order *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Homonormative:

Practices and assumptions that, rather than challenging heteronormative, neo-liberal capitalist institutions – e.g. marriage and monogamy – support and sustain them, while upholding a depoliticised gay culture oriented around consumption and domesticity *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Law and Justice / Conservative Party:

(Polish: Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, PiS) is a right-wing populist and national-conservative political party in Poland.

LGBT Free Zone:

(Polish: Strefy wolne od LGBT) are municipalities and regions of Poland that have enacted 'Family Law Charter' or declared themselves unwelcoming of LGBT rights, in order to ban equality marches, other LGBT events and broader sexual education. By June 2020, some 100 municipalities and five voivodeships, encompassing a third of the country, had adopted resolutions which have been mainstreamed as "LGBT-free zones". As of October 2023, most of the resolutions have been revoked or withdrawn.

LGBTQ+:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer. The +/plus sign refers to further minority identities relating to gender, sex and sexuality, including intersex and asexual people *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

LGBTQ+ Allay:

An individual/ group who supports and advocates for the rights, well-being, and acceptance of people within the LGBTQ+ community *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Non-binary:

Identifying as a gender that is in-between or beyond the categories 'man' and 'woman', moves between 'man' and 'woman', or as having no gender, all or some of the time. Some, but not all, non-binary people identify as trans *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Trans / Transgender:

An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/ or gender expression does not fully correspond with their birth-assigned sex. This includes, but is not limited to, people who self-identify as trans, transgender, transsexual, non-binary, agender and gender queer *(Campkin & Marshall, 2017)*.

Queer:

Having or relating to a gender identity or a sexuality that does not fit society's traditional ideas about gender or sexuality *(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus © Cambridge University Press)*.

CHAPTER 2:
Problematisation

Social Dilemma

Political Dilemma

Spatial Dilemma

Wider Context

Problem Statement

Research Aim

Research Question

Social Dilemma

Poland is caught up in a current social dilemma characterised by deep-seated divisions along religious, class and political lines. These divisions create multiple layers of oppression and foster dangerous environments of segregation and alienation, such as “LGBT free zones”. The conservative establishment perpetuates an idealised image of the ‘perfect Polish person’, reinforcing norms that marginalise diversity and contribute to the desensitisation of individual identities. Non-heteronormative individuals face explicit threats to their safety, daily life and equal access within this restricted framework. In addition, there is a clear lack of inclusive planning and design, which hinders the participation of diverse social groups in decision-making processes. As a result, Poland’s social fabric is in urgent need of cohesive policies that address divisions, protect diverse identities and promote inclusive planning to mitigate ongoing social challenges.

Figure 9 >
Own work based on data: National Election Commission

Figure 10 >
SEBLUP poverty rate estimates at LAU 1 level in Poland Source: Łukasz Wawrowski elaboration based on EU-SILC 2011, NSP 2011 and LDB (Wawrowski, 2016).

^ Figure 7
Equality Parade 2019; author: Max Zieliński/ Greenpeace

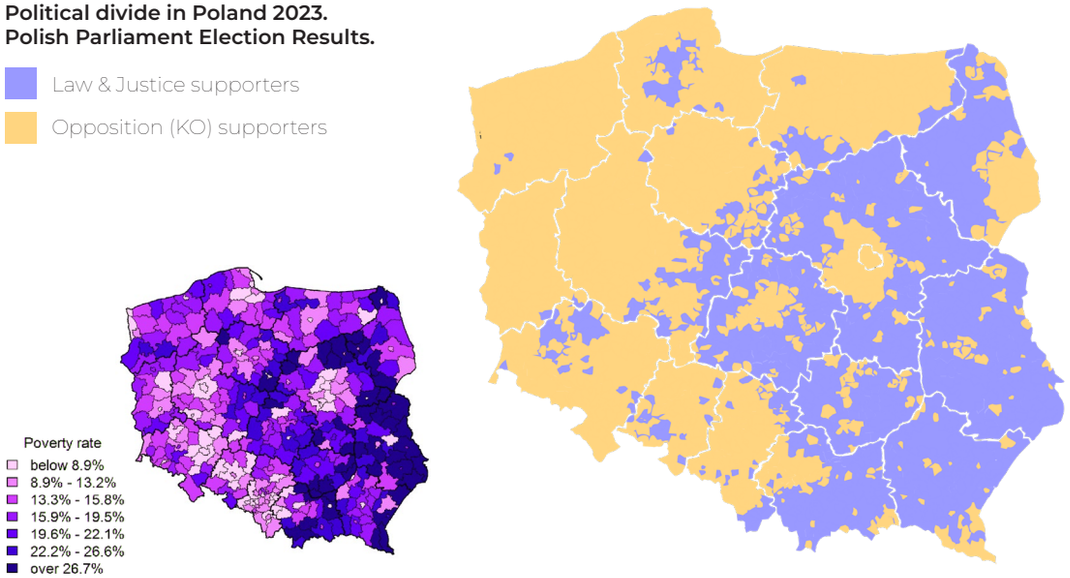
Figure 8 >
Anti-Equality Parade; author: marcinbunsch at flickr

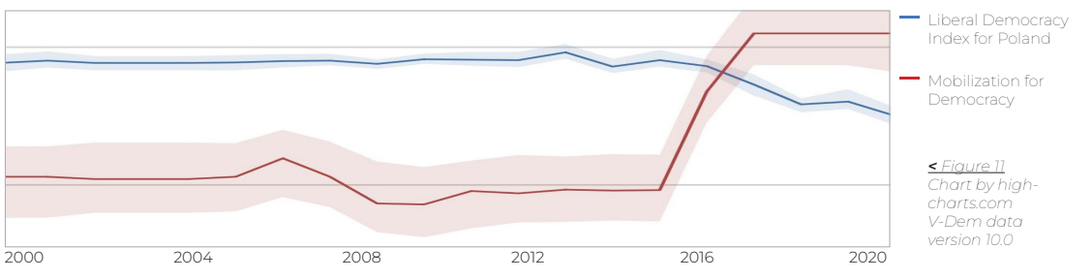
Political Dilemma

Social polarisation in Poland is intertwined with a political dilemma characterised by the intensification of social divisions for political gain. This has manifested itself in a lack of justice for all citizens, evident in challenges related to the distribution of power, civil protection and treatment of marginalised groups. The country’s declining position on the Democracy Index in recent years underlines the severity of the political challenges it faces (Fig. 11). The controversial concept of ‘LGBT-free zones’ reflects problems in the implementation of spatial planning, raising concerns about fundamental rights.

While the change of government in October 2023 marked the end of conservative rule, the current government is navigating a significant departure from previous governance. This could lead to a resurgence of divisive politics (Foucault, 1982). The needs of citizens who supported conservative rule for reasons of welfare rather than intolerance are in danger of being lost. To effectively address this political dilemma, a deeper analysis is needed, taking into account factors that contribute to regional inequalities and low tolerance for diversity.

Political divide in Poland 2023.
Polish Parliament Election Results.





< Figure 11
Chart by highcharts.com V-Dem data version 10.0

Spatial Dilemma

Poland faces a spatial dilemma concerning the queer community, with significant concerns surrounding access, visibility and the availability of tailored services. The planning process plays a crucial role in preventing the emergence of divisive phenomena such as ‘LGBT-free zones’, highlighting the need for an inclusive urban development strategy. Fostering diverse modes of cohabitation within public spaces becomes necessary for ensuring the safety and acceptance of the queer community.

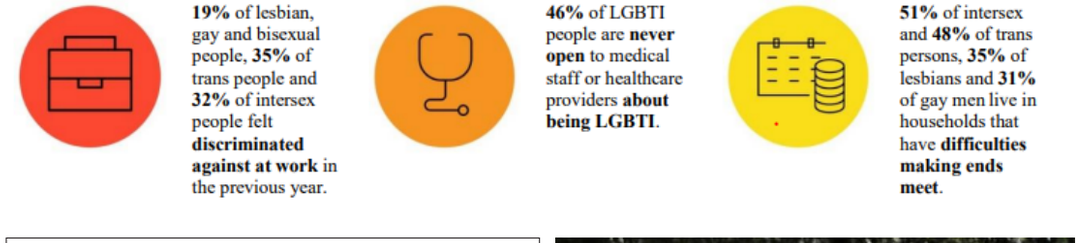
Additionally, a thorough investigation is required to uncover the nuanced differences in the experiences of non-heteronormative individuals between urban and rural environments within the specific context of the Polish queer community. Identifying spaces that serve as inclusive hubs where people can seamlessly integrate, encounter diversity and cultivate mutual understanding stands out as an important aspect in addressing the spatial challenges faced by the queer community in Poland.

v *Figure 12*
Mapped Queer Experiences in city of Wrocław made by author Map and data from Queer-ingthemap.com

Wider Context

In a broader context, gender inequality is a concern in global discourse, characterised by conflicting uses of space and normative approach. This extends to the fields of queering urbanism and spatial justice advocacy. Adapting international guidelines for queer inclusivity has an influence on the spatial landscape, intertwining with issues of division, peripheries, social cohesion, migration and the introduction of non-binary thinking (Fig.13 & 14).

Another issue is the rural-urban divide and the uncontrolled development of the periphery in Poland (Figure: Internal Migrations 2022). It is important to look at this and define opportunities and challenges for change. The perceived homogeneity of Polish citizenship (Figure: Non-Poles 2021) and limited tolerance for difference are systemic issues that affect the social fabric. An example is not only the queer community, but also the different approach to Ukrainian refugees and Muslim or Bialorussian ones. These issues are important to acknowledge in order to understand the wider context of the marginalised queer community in Poland.



Brussels, 12.11.2020
COM(2020) 698 final

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025

^ *Figure 13*
European Union LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025
Source: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combatting-discrimination/lesbian-gay-bi-trans-and-intersex-equality/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en

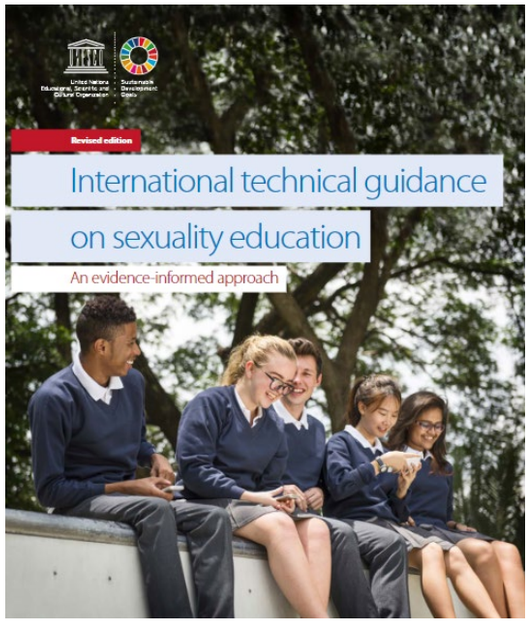
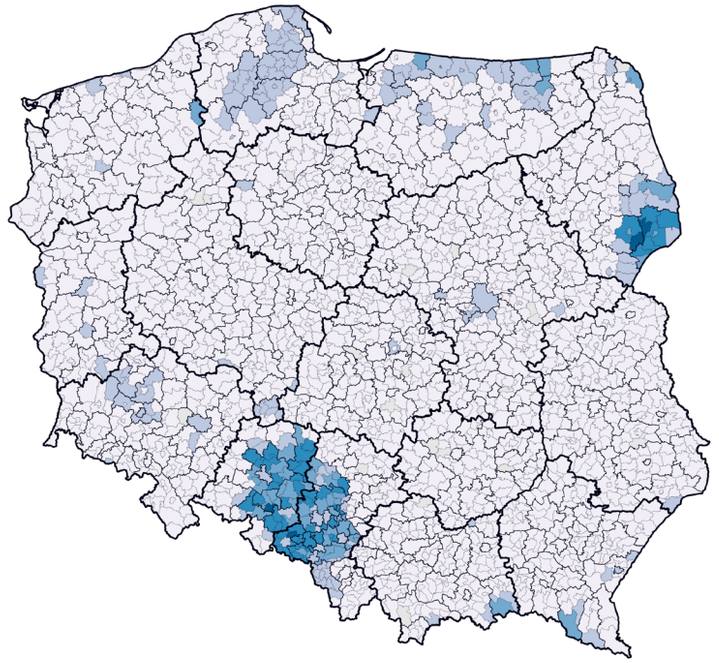


Figure 14 >
International technical guidance on sexuality education: an evidence-informed approach
Source: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260770

Non - Poles 2021

Percentage of persons not declaring Polish nationality.

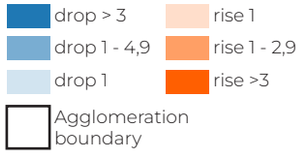
Author: Szymon Pifczyk (Kartografia Ekstremalna) 2021
Data: Central Statistical Office in Poland

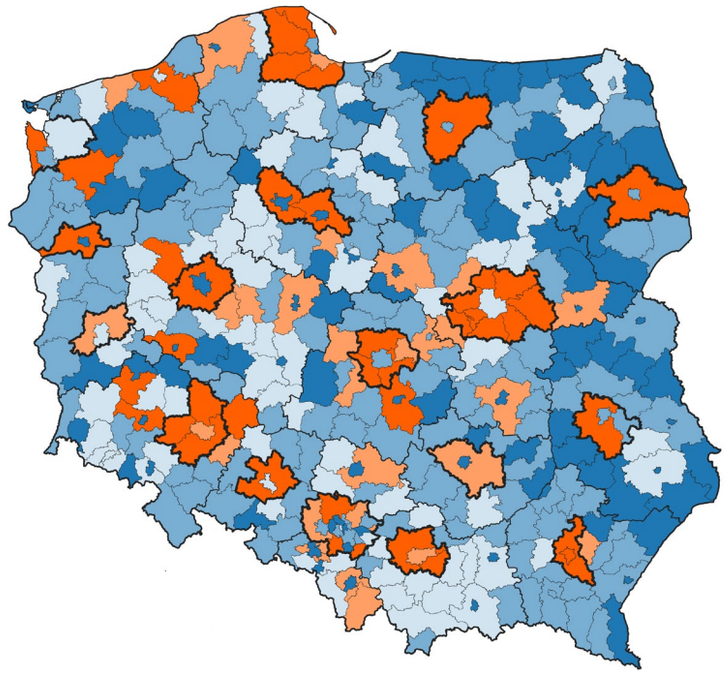


Internal Migrations 2022

Balance of internal migration in the districts in 2022 per 1,000 inhabitants

Author: Szymon Pifczyk (Kartografia Ekstremalna) 2022
Data: Central Statistical Office in Poland





Problem Statement

The problem statement highlights the rise of gender intolerance in Poland, where discrimination against non - heteronormative individuals has become increasingly widespread.

The growing polarisation of society is an alarming sign and an impulse to rethink how to bring society together. What are the roots of the problem and how can it be improved?

This issue encompasses three key dimensions: social norms, political influences & spatial planning, all of which contribute to the unjust environment for the marginalised communities (ex. queer).

To address this problem, research must explore socio-political dynamics that influence processes of space production and seek input from both communities to promote inclusivity and tolerance.

Rather than looking for ways to divide Poland, the focus will be on accepting diversity and catalysing respectful behaviours. In this thesis it will be important to look through queer theory into places or events that give opportunity for solidarity actions and ‘meeting’ of difference.

< *Figure 15*
Collage made by author

Research Aim

This research is an exploration across three interconnected dimensions: social, political, and spatial. In the social realm, a critical examination of societal norms that shape physical and non-physical spaces is essential. The project aims to delve into the definitions and theories of 'power,' 'queering,' and 'inclusivity,' constructing a strong theoretical foundation. Through research and analysis, the project aims to identify gaps and challenges, particularly those associated with heteronormative principles within Poland's current planning system and governance structures.

Moving beyond theoretical frameworks, these identified issues permeate everyday life and spaces. Thus, citizen engagement becomes very important. This research seeks to enrich our understanding of the queer community's spatial experiences in the urban environment. It aims to promote solidarity and mutual understanding between different communities, thereby contributing to the creation of more inclusive urban environments.

The central aim is to uncover relationships between the aforementioned socio-political challenges and spatial dimensions, contributing to the development of understanding and tools for creating a genuinely inclusive environment. Ultimately, the goal is to create spaces that are inclusive, diverse, and equitable, reflecting a commitment to fostering a more just urban landscape.

Research Question

Main Research Question

In what ways can evolving socio-political dynamics and spatial planning contribute to dismantling gender intolerance and fostering inclusive communities in Poland?

Supporting Research Questions

Power Dynamics

RQ1:

What are the socio-political factors influencing spatial planning decisions related to inclusivity in Poland?

"Norm"

RQ2:

How do 'norms' affect the environment in which people live?

Queering

RQ3_A:

How can queering contribute to more inclusive production of space?

RQ3_B:

What is the lived experience of non-heteronormative individuals and how does it relate to safe space in urban settings?

Urban Struggle

RQ4:

How can input from marginalised communities, especially the queer community, be included in urban planning for greater inclusivity and tolerance? How can urban design facilitate this?

CHAPTER 3:
Methodology

Project Framework

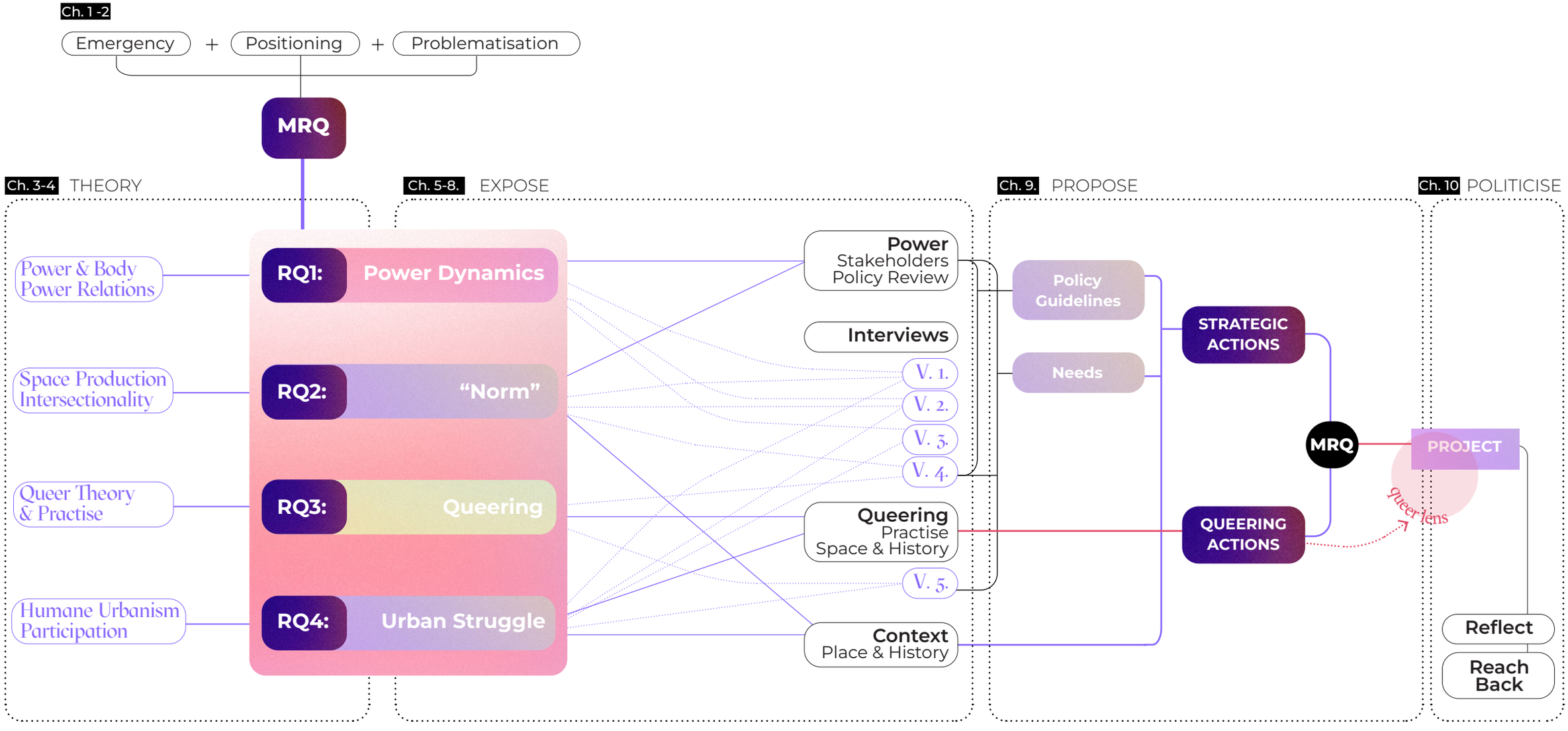
Conceptual Framework

Methods

Thesis Plan

Project Framework

The diagram below provides an overview of the project's structure. **Chapters 1 and 2** introduce the project, its challenges, and the research questions that will guide its development. The project can be divided into four main topics: Power Dynamics, Norm, Queering, and Urban Struggle. **Chapters 3 and 4** present the methodology and theories that support each theme, as well as an explanation of the approach. **Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8** build upon the preceding chapters and form part of the "Expose" block, which involves the analysis and exposure of the root of the problem (see p. 34). This block includes the presentation of context and place, stakeholder analysis, policy analysis, outcomes of interviews, and an analysis of queering practice. **Chapter 9** and the "Propose" block (p. 34) focus on formulating responses that address the problem. The introduction of new Equality Policy guidelines concludes the "Expose" block, which address the main needs identified. These contribute to the development of Strategic Actions and Queering actions, which are used as a tool to develop the project's vision for a more equal Jagodno. Queering actions are used as a lens to present the added value of actions by the LGBTQ+ community. This is in alignment with another block, **"Politicise" (chapter 10)**, which elucidates the political implications of the aforementioned exposure and proposal (Marcuse, 2009). In this concluding chapter, ethical considerations, reflection, and the scientific and social relevance of the thesis are presented. The plan outlines the translation of the thesis into Polish and the presentation of outcomes to participants of the interviews.



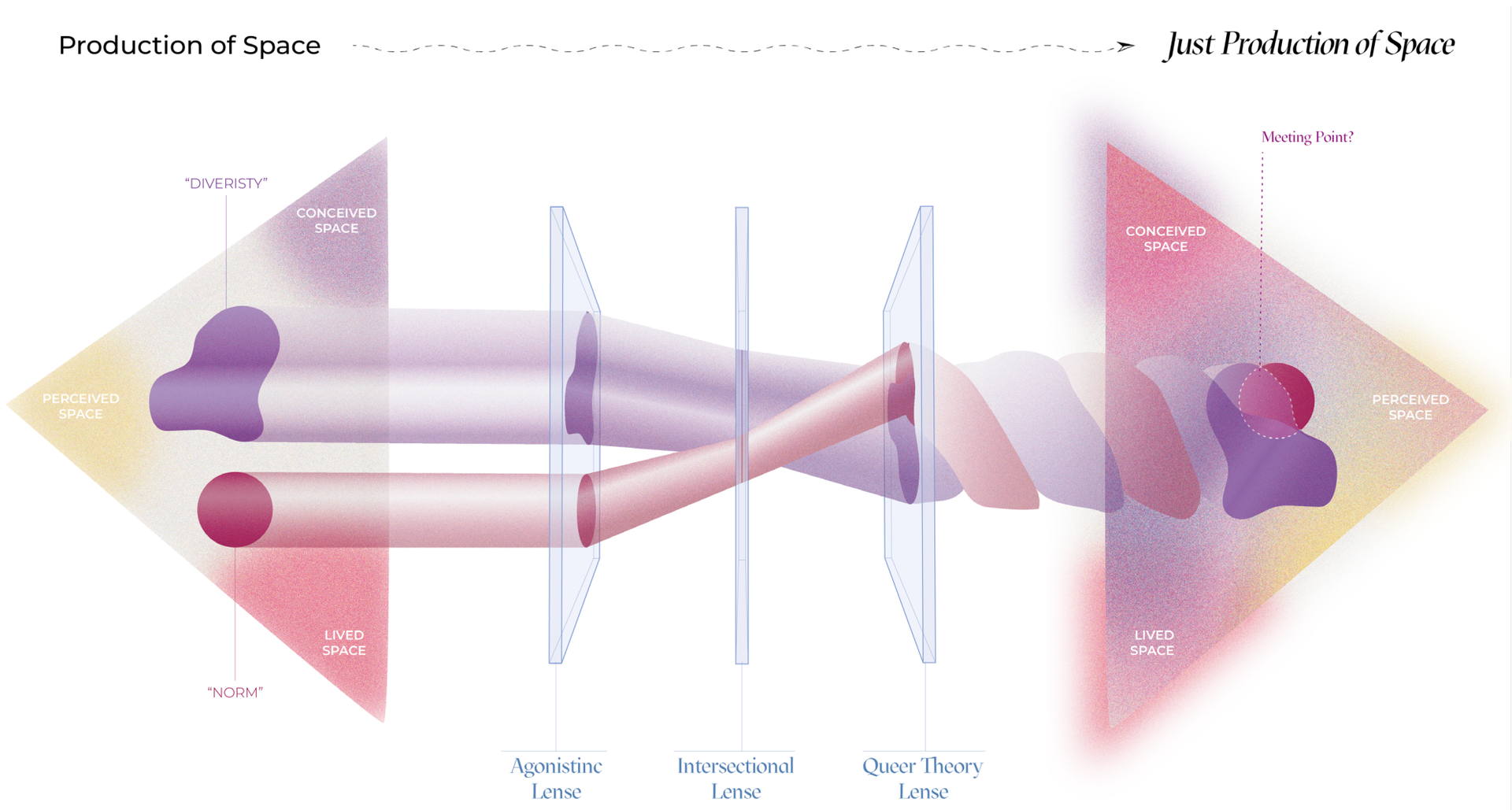
Conceptual Framework

One of the concepts used in this project is Henri Lefebvre's "production of space". It is a theoretical framework that explores how space is a dynamic social product influenced by social, economic, and political processes. Lefebvre introduced this idea in his seminal work "The Production of Space," published in 1974 (Lefebvre, 1991).

He divided space into three interconnected components: perceived space (the space of everyday life; spatial practice), conceived space (the space as planned and mapped by architects and planners; representation of space), and lived space (the space where social practices occur; representational space). The production of space involves the dialectical interplay between these three aspects.

The current Polish society is highly polarised, with 'norm' and 'diversity' existing in the same realm but not relating to each other. To achieve greater inclusivity and, hopefully, more just space production, I used three lenses in my research. The agonistic lens presents an opportunity in a conflict and insurgency, introducing a different approach to power relations than one based on dividing practices. The intersectional lens exposes layered oppressions as well as privileges. The approach is a tool to minimise bias and balance power relations. Finally, a Queer Theory lens is applied to explore the term 'queering' and its potential contribution to spatial planning and design. The goal is to achieve a more inclusive and equitable production of space, where there is room for both diversity and norm. The work investigates the intersections between these realms and the potential they hold.

**Theories will be discussed in greater detail in the 'Theory' chapter.*



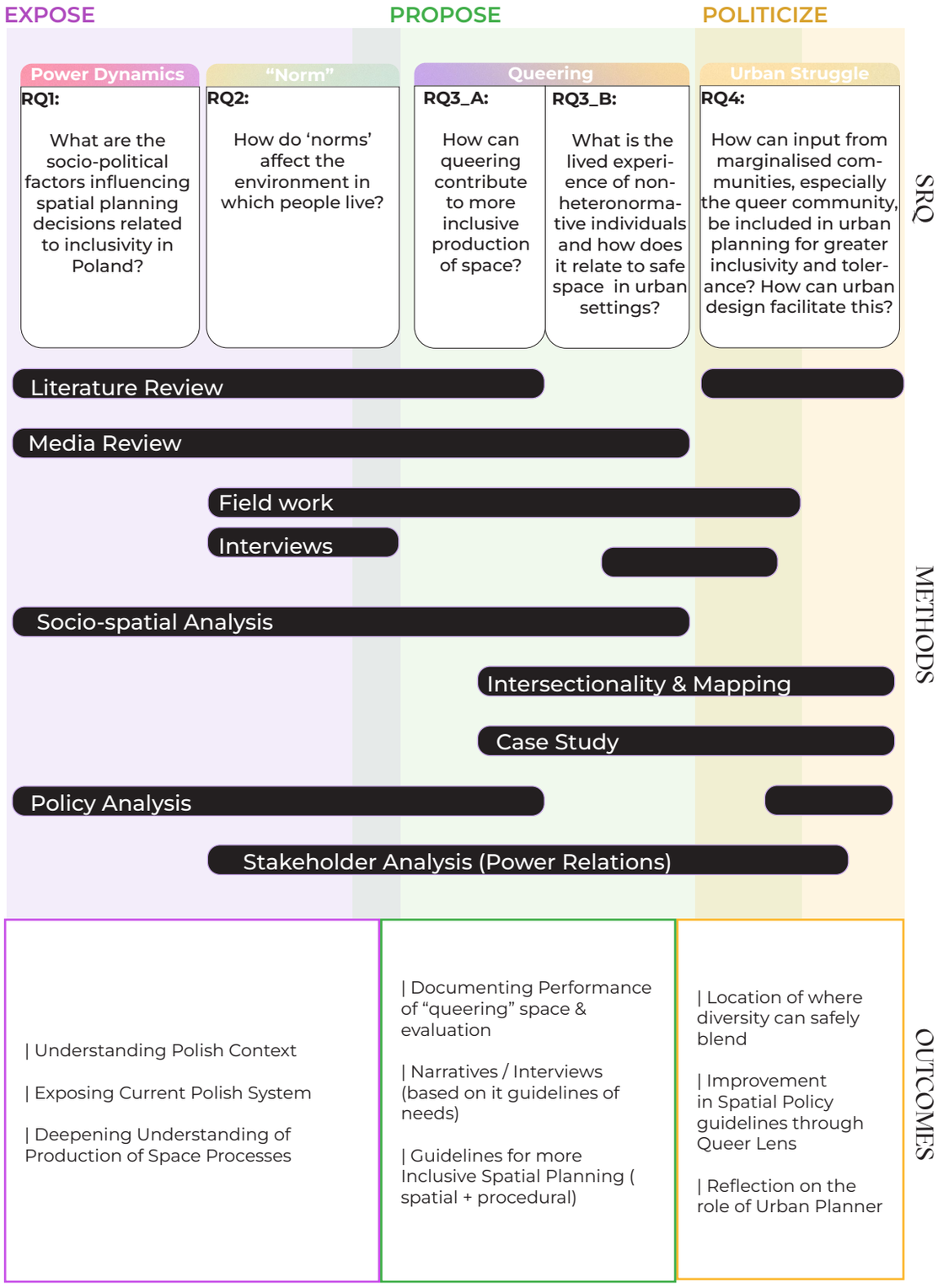
Methods

Each research question has an assigned thematic block that will aid in structuring the research project. These blocks are: power dynamics, 'norm', queering and urban struggle.

Peter Marcuse in his work 'From Critical Urban Theory to the Right to the City' (2009) proposes an approach of 'Expose – Propose – Politicize'. It will work as an important framework for the thematic blocks and a line of inquery.

> Expose – analysing the roots of the problem through clear analysis. It is important to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the existing system, nature of the problem and its intersection between urbanisation and capitalism. Expose the marginalisation and injustices embedded in urban settings (Brenner et al., 2009).
>
> Propose – importance of work with those actually affected in order to develop proposals, targets, strategies. Examine changing socio-political dynamics, socio-spatial inequalities and institutional arrangements. Formulate responses that address the root of the problem.
>
> Politicize – clarify political action implications of what was exposed and proposed, supporting proposals by informed action. Addresses issues of organisation strategy and day-to-day politics (Marcuse, 2009).

For it to work we need as well to take a critical position. By this, the author does not mean something pejorative. It urges us to critically expose the positive and the negative, the desire and the biases. Even though Marcuse does not clearly connect it with non binaries one can find a link between those approaches. To be open to diversity and complexity of perspectives, needs, values.



Methods

Explanation of the Process:

Power Dynamics

The current political and planning laws in Poland that limit gender inclusiveness are analysed. Introduction of historical context is important for full understanding of socio-political dynamics and analysis of origins of polarisation in Polish society. What is hidden behind the dialectic of “vilification” of marginalised groups by the government? The lens of queer history and a response through art is included as well. There is a need to pay attention to spaces of these historical changes, it contributes to the development of the design part of the thesis (e.g. spaces of disobedience).

“Norm”

This research exposes existing norms in the system, not only through analysis of policy and planning, but also through site-specific observations and interviews. Transcalar mapping and its relation to socio-political data help to understand a status quo in space at both national and local levels. There is a need to conduct interviews with professionals in the field to understand their view on the current situation. The voice of the queer community, as a marginalised group that can see norms and oppression more clearly, is also important.

Queering

To answer research question 3A, papers on queer planning, participation and insurgency are analysed. Observation of queer foundations and community activities help to identify opportunities and changes. To answer question 3B it was necessary to analyse the report on the living situation of LGBT people and to conduct interviews (Appendix 1: HREC approval and DMP). All those histories of queer association, art, magazine production, protest - they have their space in the city tissue. Mapping this and extracting lessons from these findings is crucial.

Urban Struggle

This part of the assignment focuses on evaluating and summarising previous findings. The focus is on developing guidelines for planning that can transform the field into a more gender inclusive. In addition to previous policy analysis, it is crucial to identify challenges and opportunities on the site to create more inclusive spaces. There is particular interest in the possibility of creating a strategy/design for spaces of disobedience, of democratic expression, where differences can respectfully meet and be heard.

Here is a more detailed explanation of the methods for each thematic block.

Power Dynamics	“Norm”
RQ1: What are the socio-political factors influencing spatial planning decisions related to inclusivity in Poland?	**RQ2:** How do ‘norms’ affect the environment in which people live?
Methods: | Literature Review | Media Review | Policy Analysis | Socio - Spatial Analysis	**Methods:** | Literature Review | Media Review | Policy Analysis | Socio - Spatial Analysis | Field work | Interviews | Stakeholder Analysis
Process: In order to analyse socio-political dynamics and their influence on spatial planning, it is necessary to create a strong theoretical background on issues of power, marginalisation and inclusion. Media analysis help to understand the dynamically changing Polish context, as well as to trace the history of socio-spatial reactions to political changes. Spatial planning policy analysis is necessary to understand procedures in Poland and opportunities for change or improvement in the planning process. Socio-spatial analysis help to understand the Polish context and track strengths and weaknesses of the current system.	**Process:** Literature review deepens understanding of production of space processes, critical urban theory and intersectionality. Socio-spatial analysis, fieldwork and interviews are used to observe and document how norms influence lived space and its users. Measured data and spatial observations are compared with expert and local narratives. This information contributes to a comprehensive stakeholder analysis. This provides an understanding of local actors and power relations.
Outcome: | Understanding Polish Planning System and Socio-political Context | Exposing Current Polish System, opportunities and challenges | Deepening Understanding of Production of Space Processes	**Outcome:** | Exposure of Norms and binaries of Spatial Planning | Local Narratives

Methods

Queering

RQ3_A:

How can queering contribute to more inclusive production of space?

Methods:

| Literature Review
| Media Review
| Policy Analysis
| Case Study
| Socio - Spatial Analysis
| Field work

Process:

Through the strong theoretical background of Queer Theory, the term ‘queering’ and its relationship to space are explained.

Policy and media research are examined through a queer lens to identify opportunities and insurgencies within the system. Tracing influence of queer art is also important.

In this part of the research, the case study “Wroclaw & its periphery” is presented in more detail. The socio-spatial analysis helps to locate binary and non-binary spaces and their characteristics.
Socio-spatial analysis as well as field work serves as a tool to document ‘queered’ spaces and queer performances recently and in the past.

Outcome:

| Documenting queering practices & queer space & evaluation
| Guidelines for more Inclusive Spatial Planning (spatial + procedural)

Queering

RQ3_B:

What is the lived experience of non-heteronormative individulas and how does it relate to safe space in urban settings?

Methods:

| Media Review
| Socio - Spatial Analysis
| Field work
| Interviews
| Stakeholder Analysis
| Soft Maps

Process:

Media review and socio-spatial analysis are needed to collect data about the queer community, their activity, influence and struggles.
Fieldwork and interviews are used to observe and document how queer community influence lived space and what their needs are.
Measured data and spatial observations are compared with expert and local narratives. It is important to include in the interviews allays of queer community, professionals from Poland in the field of architecture and opponents of queer culture.
This information contributes to a comprehensive stakeholder analysis. This provides an understanding of local actors and power relations.
“Soft maps” visually represent qualitative informations about urban spaces, often emphasising subjective experiences, perceptions and social dynamics rather than just physical attributes.

Outcome:

| Narratives / Interviews
(based on it guidelines of needs)
| Guidelines for more Inclusive Spatial Planning (spatial + procedural)

Urban Struggle

RQ4:

How can input from marginalised communities, especially the queer community, be included in urban planning for greater inclusivity and tolerance? How can urban design facilitate this?

Methods:

| Literature Review
| Policy Review
| Case Study
| Intersectionality & Mapping
| Soft Maps

Process:

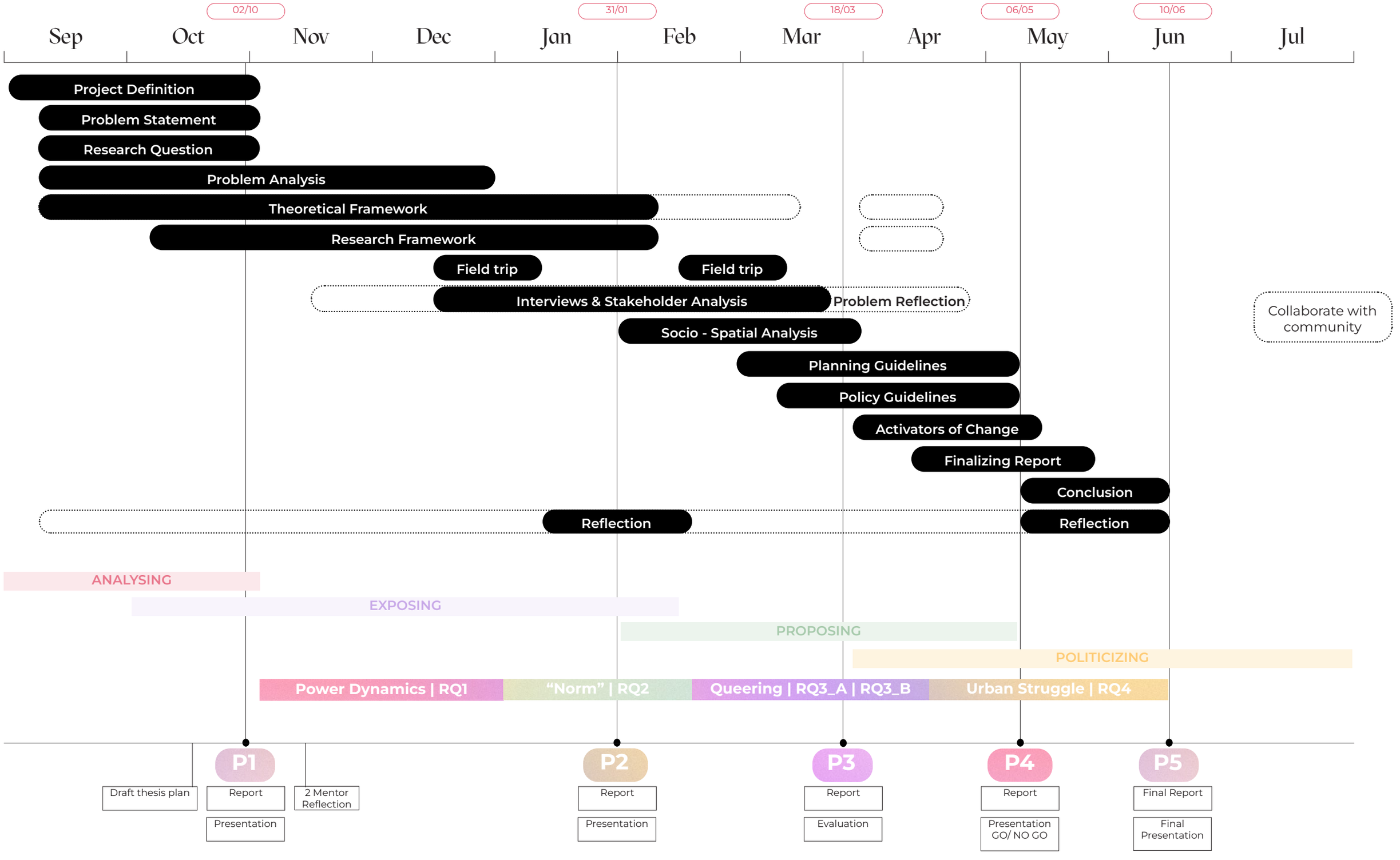
This part of the research brings together the conclusions and analysis from the previous chapters in order to propose spatial planning guidelines and design components.

The literature review introduces the notions of insurgency, participation and solidarity in the production of space.
Previous policy review, interviews, stakeholder analysis and interviews are used to assess needs and opportunities in the case study and spatial planning process to enable a more inclusive approach.
Intersectional approach and mapping are used as a tools to represent coexisting realities and ‘meeting points’ where binarism is outlawed.

Outcome:

| Improvement in Spatial Policy guidelines through Queer Lens
| A more equitable urban landscape vision
| Reflection on the role of Urban Planner

Thesis Plan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Project Definition
Problem Statement
Research Question
Problem Analysis
Theoretical Framework
Research Framework
Field trip
Field trip
Interviews & Stakeholder Analysis
Problem Reflection
Socio - Spatial Analysis
Planning Guidelines
Policy Guidelines
Activators of Change
Finalizing Report
Conclusion
Reflection
Reflection
Collaborate with community
ANALYSING
EXPOSING
PROPOSING
POLITICIZING
Power Dynamics | RQ1
"Norm" | RQ2
Queering | RQ3_A | RQ3_B
Urban Struggle | RQ4
P1
P2
P3
P4
P5
Draft thesis plan
Report
Presentation
2 Mentor Reflection
Report
Presentation
Report
Evaluation
Report
Presentation GO/ NO GO
Final Report
Final Presentation

CHAPTER 4:
Theory

Theoretical Framework

Key Concepts

Power Dynamics

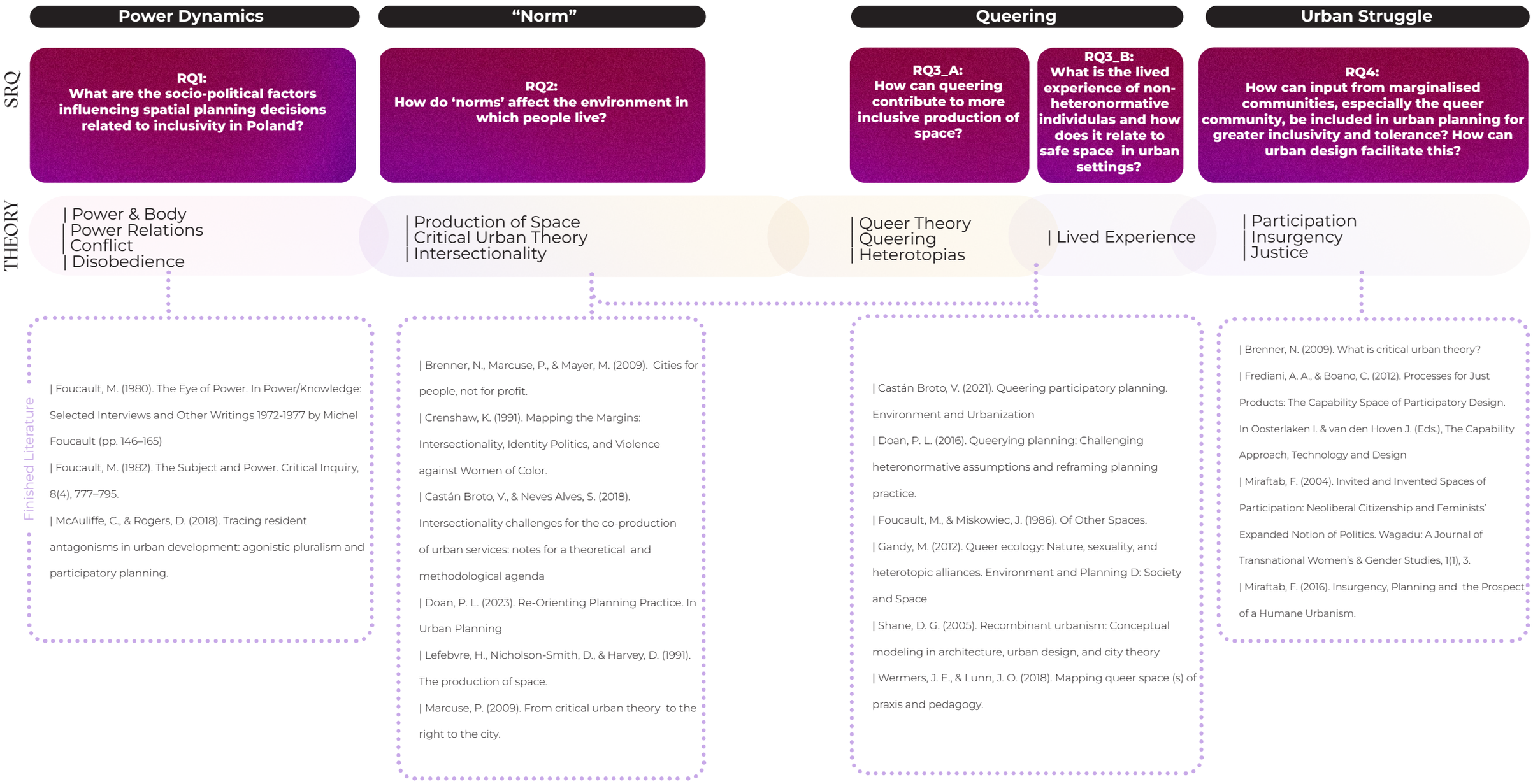
Space Production

Queering

Urban Struggle

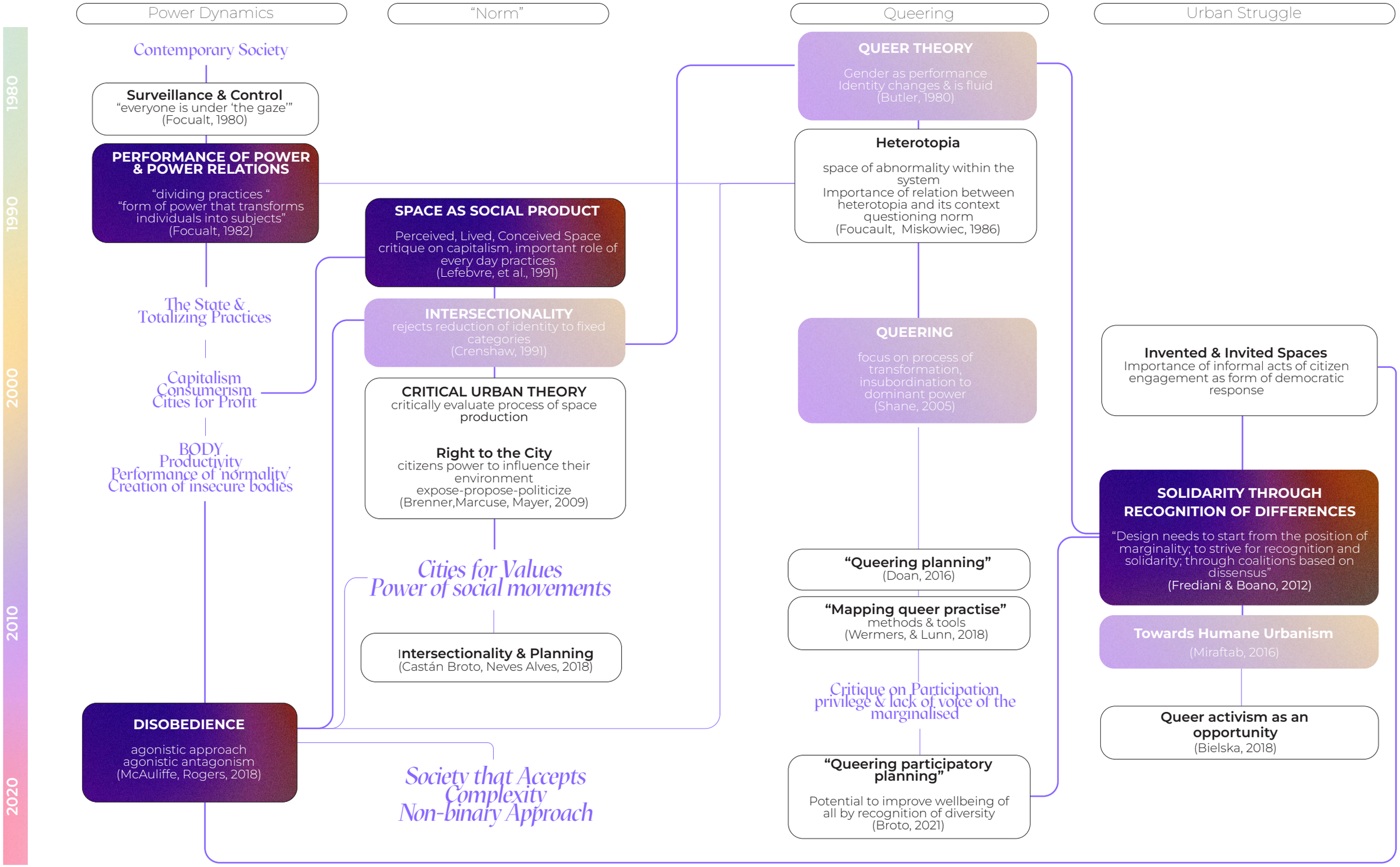
Theoretical Framework

This chapter introduces the theories used for the development of the research project. It begins with the theoretical framework and presents the main literature assigned to each thematic block related to research questions.



Key Concepts

Through unpacking the main literature, key concepts are presented with their relation to each other and in a time frame. This helps to realize nuances and influences between them. The following subchapter will provide a more in-depth explanation of the main theories in respect of each thematic block.



Power Dynamics

This sub-section is a starting point for a more thorough introduction to the theories that are explored in this research project.

Power & Body

> *A whole history remains to be written of spaces-which would at the same time be the history of powers[..] - from the great strategies of geo-politics to the little tactics of the habitat'* (Foucault, 1980).

In alignment with Foucault's perspective, it becomes nearly impossible to conceptualise spaces without considering their connection to expressions of power. Consequently, this project places an importance on reflecting upon power relations and their impact.

Foucault, in dialogue with Jean Pierre-Bureau and Michelle Perrot, delved into the architectural and psychological implications of the prison concept, particularly the 'Panopticon.' Mentally, it operated as a mechanism for 'self-monitoring,' introducing a power technology aimed at resolving the surveillance dilemma (Foucault, 1980). The oversight of the 'gaze' compelled individuals to regulate their behaviours and conform to the perceived 'norm.' The significance lies not just in the spatial arrangement but in the intricate connection between the expression of power and those subject to it.

Contemporary Polish society places an emphasis on body identification and the performance of 'normality.' While it oversimplifies to assert that modern exercises of power solely rely on visibility, it is undeniably a dominant mode deeply rooted in today's productivity-driven society (Butler, 1990). The body has transformed into an instrument for exercising power in daily routines, with the entire society acting as 'controllers' of the expected 'normality' (Foucault, 1980). Even within the realms of the economy and consumer capitalism, there exists a narrative dictating that we need certain things to be a whole (Auris, 2021). These dynamics can contribute to the creation of insecure bodies rather than fostering explorative ones.

Power Relations

Power relations at their core involve ongoing categorization (based on gender, identity, class, age, ability, race, etc.) (Auris, 2021). During the rule of the conservative Law and Justice party in Poland from 2015 to 2023, the notion of an 'Ideal Polish Citizen' was promoted without due consideration for the complexity of citizens' identities. Foucault termed this form of power as 'dividing practices,' a mode of objectification that transforms individuals into subjects. This manifestation of power operates in everyday life, categorising individuals based on unique traits, binding them to specific identities, and imposing a standard of truth (Foucault, 1982). However, this expression is fundamentally binary and disregards the diversity of citizens, as well as the potential for identities to evolve. This becomes even more dangerous when considering the spatial expression of division, exemplified by the creation of 'LGBT-free zones.'

It is crucial to resist this form of divisive power, focusing on the system itself rather than targeting a specific group or institution. In the 2023 elections in Poland, left-wing parties secured the majority, initiating immediate changes to conservative ministers and the funding associated with conservative parties. While some may perceive this as an attack on a particular group representing a segment of society, it prompts reflection on the human needs within this group and whether they are being overlooked in the shifting balance of power within the Polish government.

Disobedience

> *It would not be possible for power relations to exist without points of insubordination which, by definition, are means of escape.'*
> (Foucault, 1982).

Agonism, as proposed by Foucault (1982), introduces a dynamic relationship characterised by mutual influence and conflict, fostering an ongoing challenge rather than a stagnant confrontation. The objective should not solely be victory but, more importantly, the acceptance of struggle as an integral aspect of societal change. Insurgency emerges as a means for marginalised groups to voice their perspectives amidst transformative shifts.

McAuliffe and Rogers (2018) explore various types of agonistic behaviours. Critically, agonistic politics calls for an openness to plural values and ideas, acknowledging disagreement through action, dialogue, and debate (McAuliffe & Rogers, 2018). This approach encourages citizen groups and alliances to engage with the development politics of the city, recognizing the importance of embracing diverse perspectives instead of eliminating them for organisational success in the ever-evolving political landscape.

For the development of this thesis the agonistic perspective will be important in the sense of promoting non-binary thinking and embracement of complexity, where queering space could contribute to inclusive changes and be itself a form of disobedience. This will be further explained in the 'Queering' Chapter of Theory.

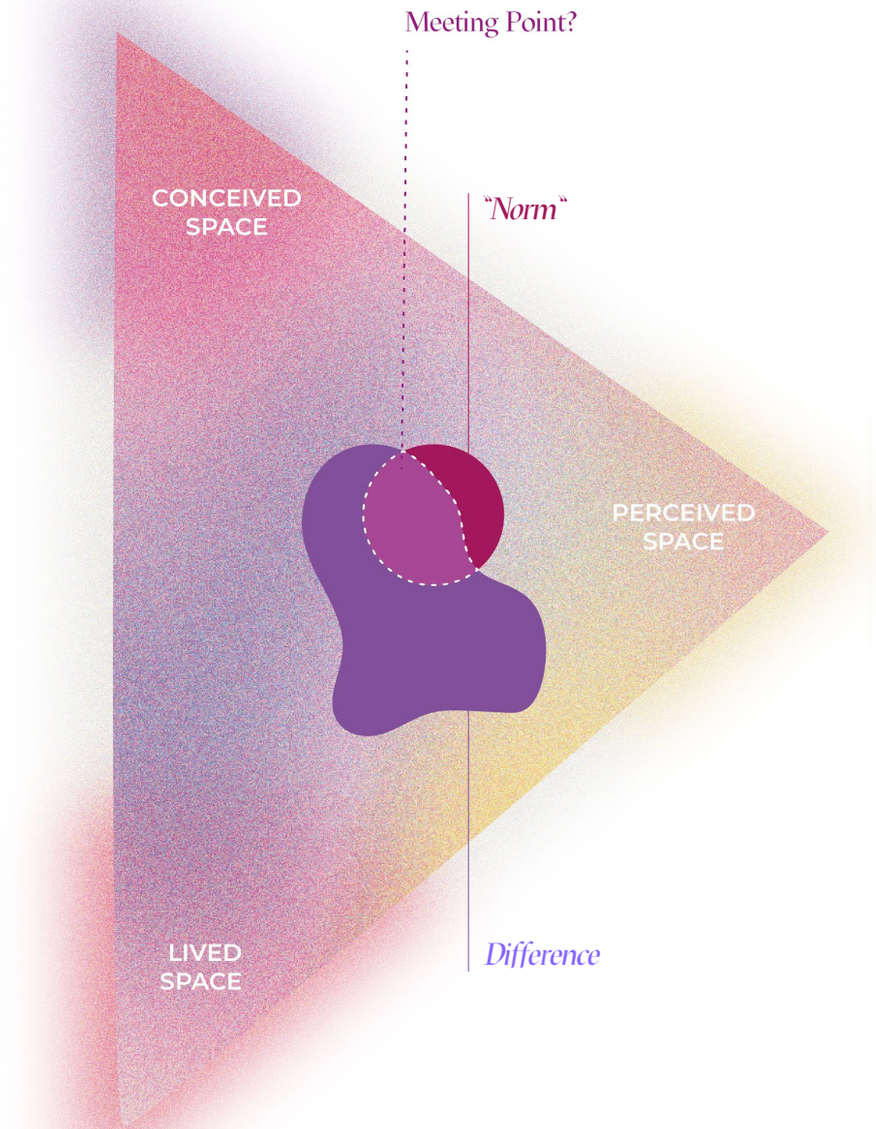
Space Production

In subsection “Conceptual Framework” Lefebvre’s “Production of Space” (1991) was introduced. He contends that in societies driven by capitalism, there is a production of abstract space, characterised by the supremacy of mental space over natural and social dimensions (1991). His work also introduced the concept of the “right to the city,” emphasising the idea that citizens should have the power to shape and participate in the creation of urban space. He argued for a more participatory and democratic approach to urban planning and development.

Like Foucault (1982) and Lefebvre (1991), Peter Marcuse (2009) and Neil Brenner (2009) are other voices criticizing the current totalizing system and its capitalistic ‘profit motive’. They point out how it emotionally disconnects us and builds on our insecurity. It changes the value system to one focused on a very tangible, calculable base (Brenner et al., 2009).

> *Anti-abortion activists, religious fundamentalists, defenders of family values', are as much a reflection of emotional impoverishment as hunger and homelessness are of material deprivation* (Marcuse, 2009).

Can we find a way out of the current status quo towards a future world based on a supportive society, a politics that operates outside of capitalism, where the oppressed have a space to be heard? We have collective rights of citizens, rights to the future city, that can be a signal, a demand, a driver of change. There is a transformative potential hidden in social movements, hence there is a need to observe their dynamics closely.



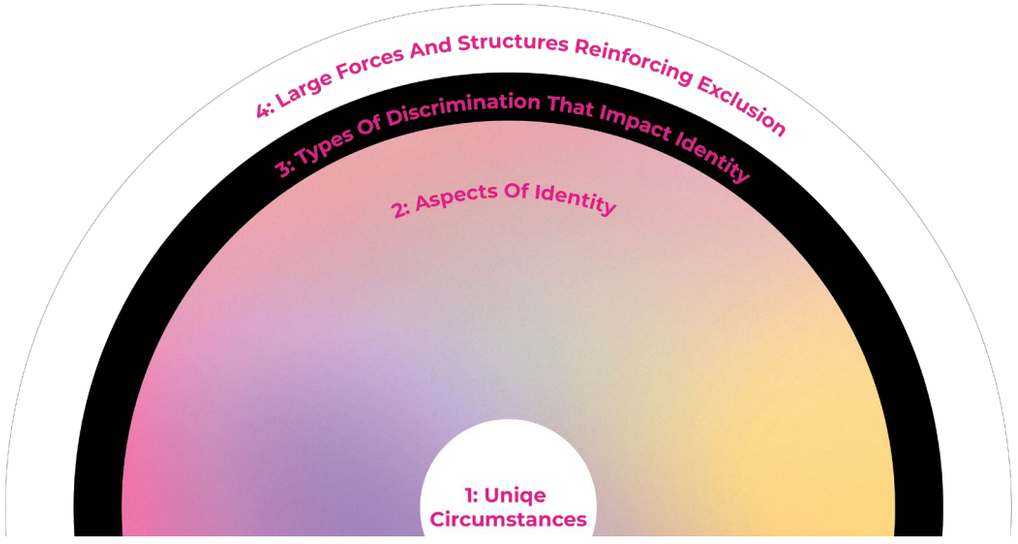
Space Production

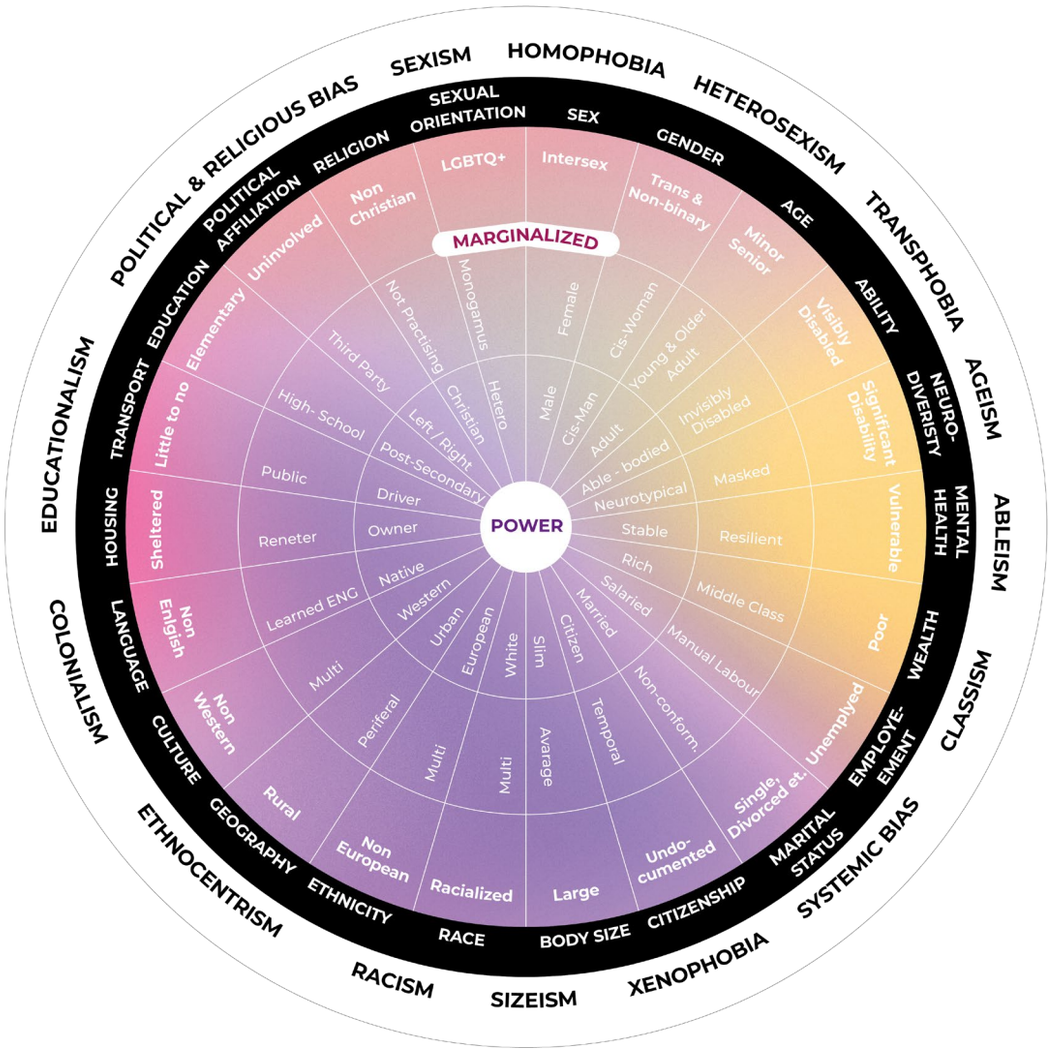
Intersectionality

The intersectional approach serves as a crucial lens for research and analysis in the development of this thesis, ensuring a comprehensive consideration of marginalised groups, biases, and oppressions. It rejects the reduction of identity to categories such as gender, age, sexuality, race, and ethnicity, emphasising the compound nature of identity. This perspective acknowledges the dynamic nature of identities, which change and fluctuate throughout the life course in response to various experiences, necessitating constant negotiation (Castán Broto & Neves Alves, 2018).

Intersectionality not only represents the diversity and fluidity of individual identities but also challenges fixed categories by highlighting the intersections between them. This characteristic aligns with Queer Theory, as both perspectives reject rigid categorizations. Moreover, the lens of intersectionality underscores the production of exclusion and oppression within intersections, incorporating power structures and symbolic representations of identity. Recognition of specific lived experiences and inequalities among diverse social groups is essential for this approach.

The application of the intersectional lens serves as a reminder that simplified analyses of complex social categories misrepresent individual identities and diminish the political efficacy of actions aimed at resisting heterosexism. Without adopting this approach, addressing collective projects of emancipation and inclusion becomes challenging (Doan, 2023). Therefore, incorporating intersectionality into the research framework is imperative for a nuanced examination of social dynamics.





< ^ *Figures 16 & 17*
Graphics made by author
Adapted from Sylvia Duckworth's wheel of power and privilege

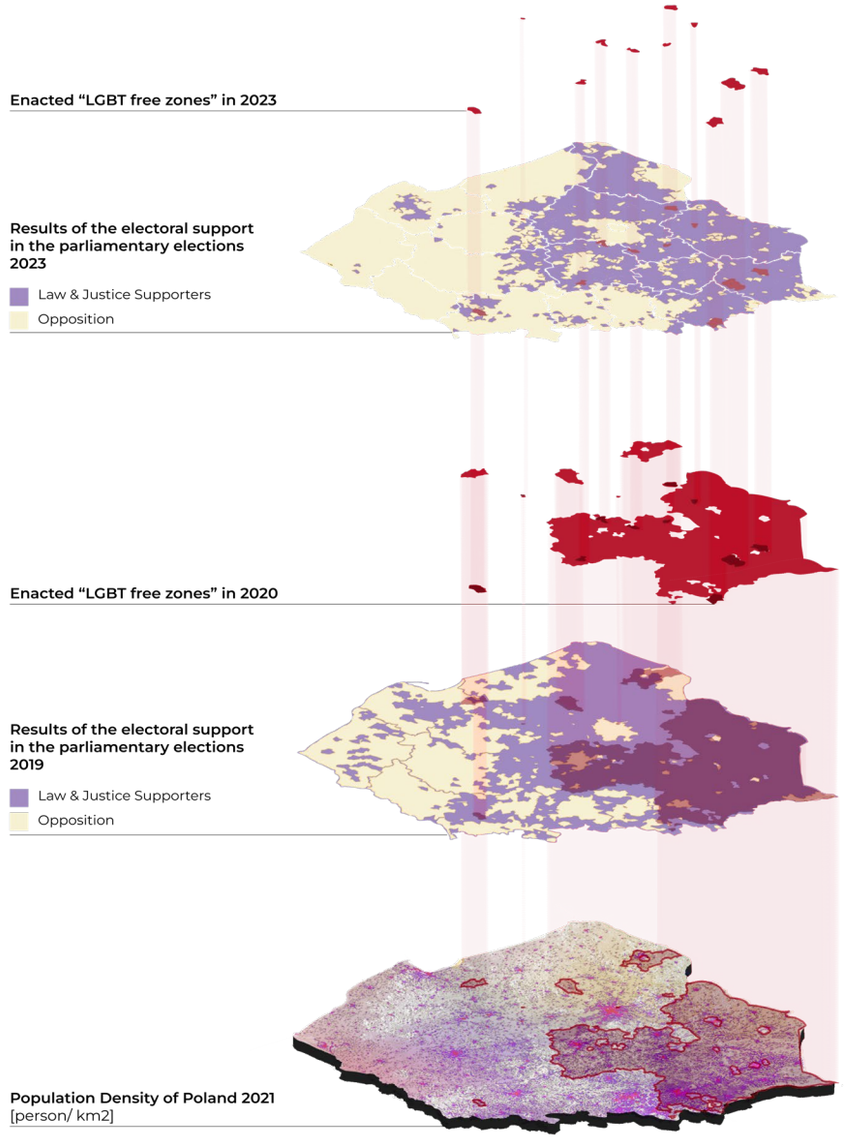
Conflicting heterotopias

(Material appears in the Magazine “Atlantis. Heterotopia 34.2” (2024, February))

Queerness and heterotopia are linked by their common tendency to challenge norms and create alternative spaces. What raises my curiosity is the dichotomy of exclusion and inclusion in Poland. After all, heterotopias present themselves in relation to their surroundings (Foucault, 1986). The idea of “LGBT+ free zones’’ in Poland could be seen as an attempt to create a heterotopic space within the larger social context. These zones, proclaimed by certain municipalities in Poland, aim to oppose or reject LGBT+ ideals and rights by marking a space where certain norms or values differ significantly from those of western society. Nevertheless, the “LGBT free zone” can never mean a zone without queer people, but these areas impose on this community to shed the expression of their identity. They are juxtaposed with the wider territory where all Polish citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the right to travel and live in the country. Anyhow, within these zones, some of them are excluded by the very fact of entering them (Foucault, 1986). Time plays an important role in this phenomenon: “Heterotopia begins to function at full capacity when men arrive at a sort of absolute break with their traditional time” (Foucault, 1986, p.26). It marks a moment of transition in Polish society, it reflects a socio-political struggle in space. There is a danger that Foucault mentioned in his work: “The relationship between rationalisation and excesses of political power is evident. And we should not need to wait for bureaucracy or concentration camps to recognize the existence of such relations’ ‘. (1982, p. 779). On the one hand, there are these zones that symbolise the influence of certain political factions that want to reinforce traditional values and social norms. On the other hand, there is the backlash against these zones by LGBTQ+ activists and allies who are challenging these exclusionary spaces. What can be done in the face of such dangerously contradicting heterotopias?

We can observe the recent impulse to “tidy up” or “smooth” the city, which may be linked to a particular conception of morality and public culture (Ghandy, 2012; Boer, 2023). But the world we live in is heterogeneous, full of intertwined and interrelated spaces. Denying ourselves diversity and complexity deprives us of the stimulation from ‘outside’ that we need to develop self-knowledge (Sennett, 2023). For Richard Sennett, this can be a risk of “sensory death” - an inability to learn new things or perspectives. Suggested and worth developing is the idea of creating opportunities for interaction, making the edges of society more porous to counteract dangerous exclusion and intolerance. It is important to recognise the political value in the resistance and insurgency actions of queer collectives. To quote Faranak Miraftab: “Grassroots oppositional practices invent new spaces of citizenship practice and offer a significant force transcending legal civil citizenship to achieve substantive citizenship” (2004, p.4).

The recent struggle in Poland is a warning sign. The challenge for the next government will be to move away from divisive politics and uncover what lies beneath the conflicting heterotopias. In a given context, their emergence symbolises transformation, but also a potentially huge risk for a marginalised group. Adequate support from the relevant authorities is needed to ensure that they do not become dangerous places. Perhaps it is time to stop thinking of the world as binary and allow ourselves to introduce complexity and teach our future generation the capacity that humans have - to be part of and understand a complex, non-binary world.



< *Figure 18*
Graphics made by author
Data based on:
National Election Commission
wbdata.pl;
& atlasnienawiści.pl

Queering

Queer theory & Queering

The emergence of non-binary activists and binary supporters creating forms of site-specific spatial insurgency - protests, LGBTQIA+ hotels, libraries, clubs, cafes, foundations - can be observed all over the world, not only in Poland, and marks certain transitions in the global community. Queerness as a concept encompasses an expansive understanding of identities and expressions that don't conform to conventional norms. It challenges fixed categories of sexuality, gender and identity and promotes fluidity and non-conformity.

Judith Butler (1990) contributed in a great way to the development of the queer theory. In her work "Gender Trouble" she presents a critical view on any kind of categorization or fixed identity. Gender and Sexuality is a performance, what we do and not what we are. She also strongly linked gender discourse with power relations, creating "Gender Trouble". Queer discourse reminds us about diversity within queer society itself, about difference between gay or lesbian or trans experiences, and additional forms of oppression because of binary perceptions of gender and body.

Heteronormativity based on binary categorization creates exclusion. Queer identities are opening doors to a new realm of understanding ourselves, fluid, possible to change and transform, within life time and because of our relationships. Queer theory can be useful in analysing complexity and indeterminacy. It helps to approach the spatial planning as a complex field, engaged in consistent transformation.

'(Social) space is a (social) product' (Lefebvre, 1991).

For this project, it is crucial to distinguish between 'queer space' and 'queered space' and to explore the latter. According to Aron Betsky (1995), an architectural historian, 'queer space' is 'a space of otherness', a place of uncertainty, potential, and freedom. However, the term 'otherness' has been subject to criticism and problematisation. The concept of 'oppositional otherness' reduces diversity by categorising it solely as 'being distinct from', often implying inferiority (Gorny, van den Heuvel, 2017). Recently, there has been an increase in the use of the term 'queering', which suggests a focus on relations, a process, a performance, an act. In this sense, queering space can drive change within the dominant system by challenging societal norms and unleashing marginalised desires (Shane, 2005). This perspective provides critical lenses to scrutinise exclusive or non-relational notions of space, promoting diversity and opportunities through inclusivity.

Approaching a graduation project with a 'queering' lens is a lesson and challenge in itself, in unlearning the way the world was explained to the author (me) through most current lived experience.

^ Figure 19
A popular crusing spot in Warsaw in the 1980s-1990s
Source: Lambda Warszawa Archives

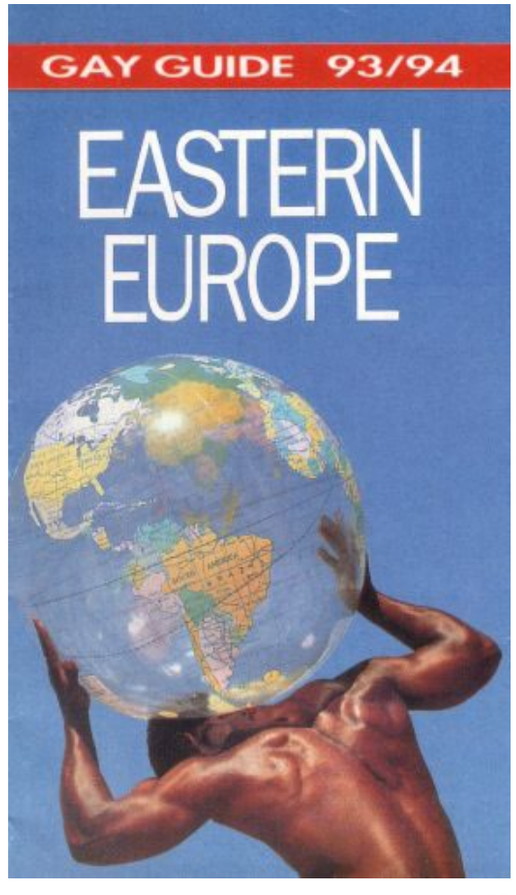


Figure 20 >
A gay and lesbian guide to Central and Eastern Europe, published by Softpress Publishing House
Source: Lambda Warszawa Archives

Urban Struggle

The link between queering and insurgency was previously mentioned in a Theory Part 'Disobedience'. Queer theory can be reflected in spaces of insurgency. When applied spatially, it highlights unclassifiable differences or marginalisation, rather than simply emphasising sexuality itself (Ghandy, 2012).

Doan links queering to spatial planning and participation (2023). She argues that 'queering participatory planning' has the potential to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable populations and increase their political representation and engagement. This is achieved by challenging conventional expert assessments of wellbeing, particularly in the realms of identity and sexuality politics, and by disrupting fundamental assumptions about the structure of society (Doan, 2023). Castan Broto (2021) presents barriers to queering participatory planning (Figure 21.): isolation of queer issues in participatory processes, heteronormative practices in planning, putting the safety of the queer community at risk through visibility.

> *By not recognizing difference, feminist theorists have pointed out, the universal claims of a liberal citizenship discourse inherently favour men and those with power*" (Miraftab, 2004).

There is a certain criticism of participatory planning, specifically the question of who can participate and that there is a need for emancipatory action to give voice to discriminated groups (Castán Broto & Neves Alves, 2018). Are there other than formal ways of expressing needs and aspirations? Faranak Miraftab, an urban scholar, introduced the concept of insurgent planning and deepened feminist theory in urban discourse. She recognised the importance of community based activism and the informal arena of politics and citizenship (Miraftab, 2004). She introduces the concepts of 'invited' and 'invented' spaces of participation. The first, includes spaces appropriated by grassroots movements and their associated non-governmental organisations, which gain legitimacy through donor support and government intervention. In contrast, the category of 'invented' spaces refers to spaces that are also claimed by grassroots efforts through collective action, but which involve direct confrontation with authorities and the established status quo (Miraftab, 2004).

It is then important to recognise the participatory acts of resistance as equally valuable political actions and not divide them from the 'formal' one creating yet another binary system. In 'queering' spatial practice and participation there is a potential of introducing this complexity.

> *Design needs to start from the position of marginality; to strive for recognition and solidarity; through coalitions based on dissensus*"
> (Frediani & Boano, 2012)

Fostering solidarity through recognizing differences is a beacon of hope for the future. Practitioners in that process act as guides, offering a repertoire of possibilities, not final designs, to pave the way for socially just and culturally sensitive urban spaces. The question and interest of further analysis in this thesis is where and how these places of opportunity, meeting points can be created?

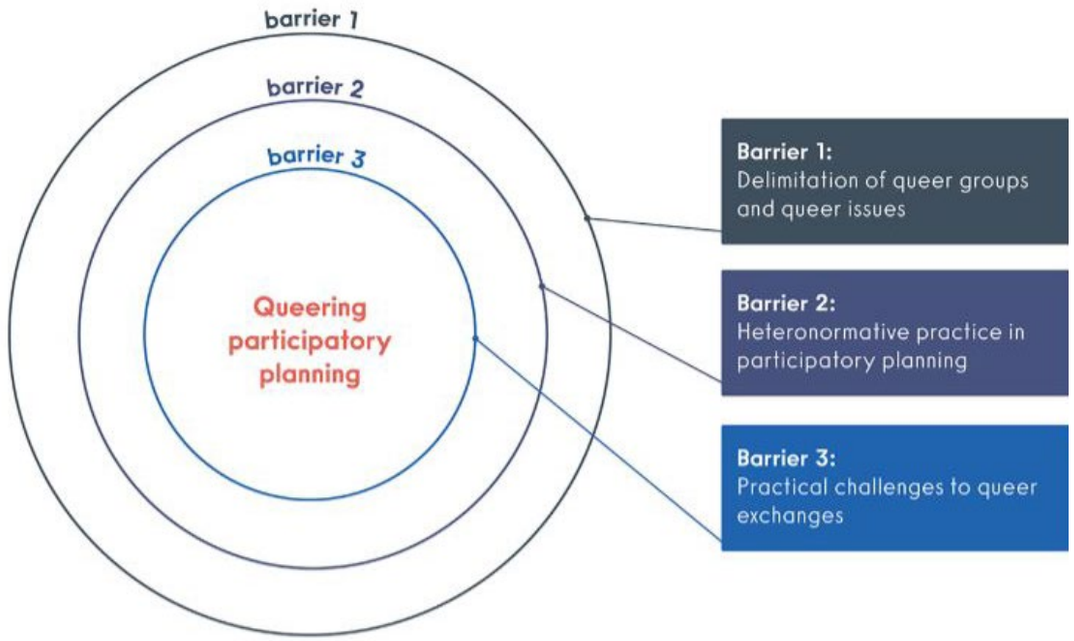


Figure 21: Barriers to queering participatory planning.

Source: Vanesa Castan Broto (2021), design by Erika Conchis.

CHAPTER 5:
Understanding Context

History

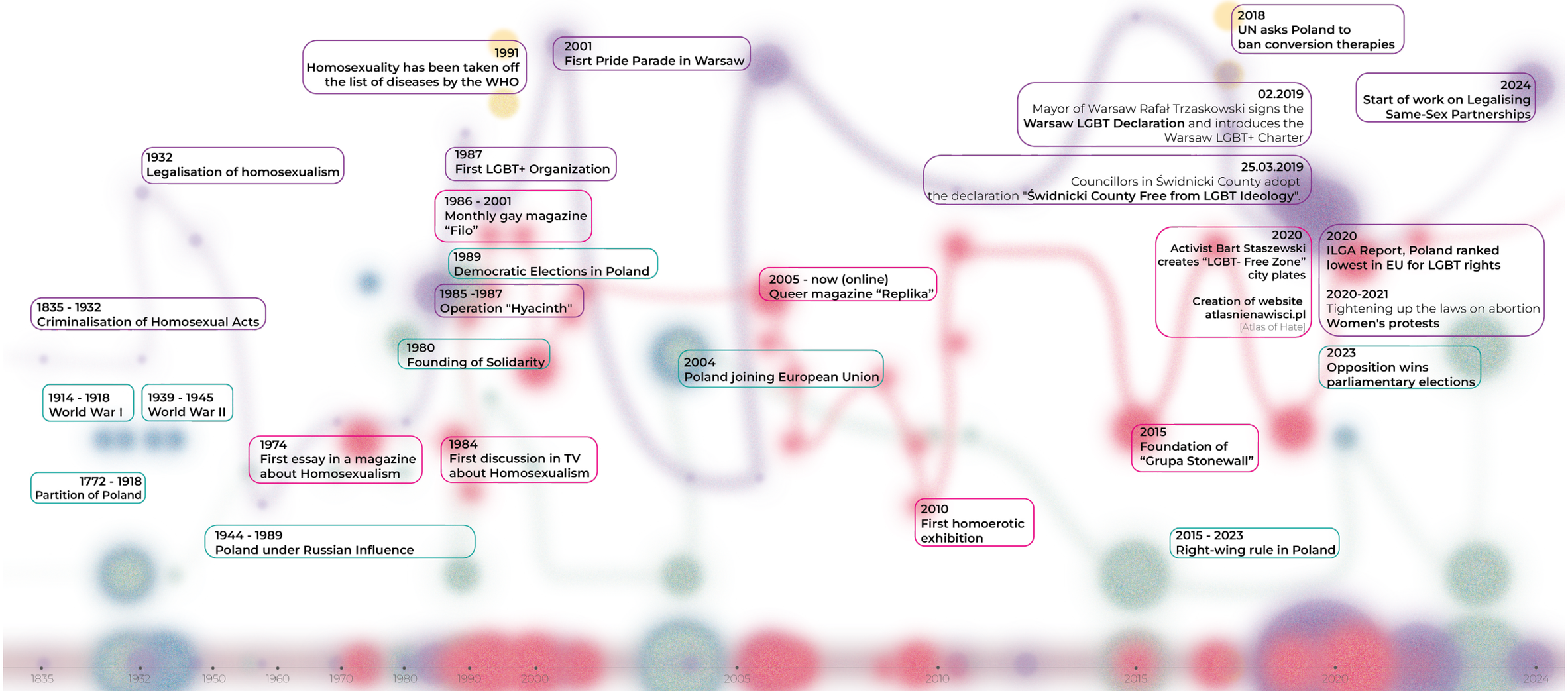
Place

History
Timeline

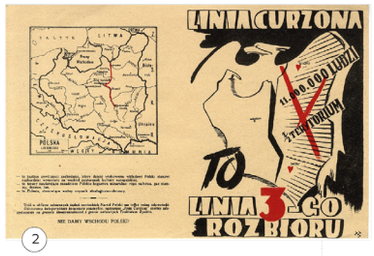
In Lefebvres Production of Space (1991) strong emphasis was put on the role of everyday practices in the production of space. Spaces are shaped and transformed through the routine activities and social interactions of people. This includes not only formal activities but also cultural practices, rituals, and symbolic meanings associated with particular spaces.

In order to understand the situation in Poland, it is important to introduce a context. In this subsection three timelines are presented: political line, queer history line, media and art response line. Below, the overlap of these three lines is visible, with the main events highlighted.

Graphical representations of “ups” and “downs” in the situation of the queer community in Polish history help to notice moments of reaction and resistance to repressive politics, and moments of development and progress in periods of stable and more tolerant politics. There is also a clearly visible rise in actions of queer & art resistance by the end of communism and the end of conservative dominant rule in Poland. Each timeline is described in more detail in the following subsections.



History
Political line



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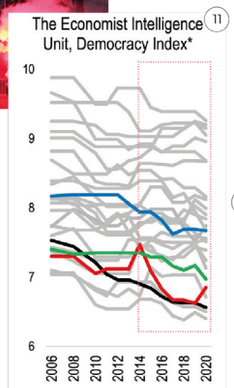

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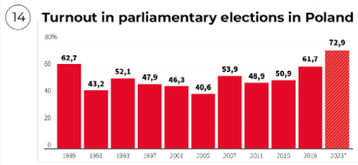

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1978
John Paul II elected Pope
The Catholic Church, now a social force of resistance to the new regime (still exerting a significant influence on the life of Poles)

1989
Democratic Elections in Poland
(end of Russian Influence)

1980
Founding of Solidarity
(Independent Self-Governing Trade Union)

2004
Poland joining European Union
(opting out Fundamental Rights Charter; conservative party fearing 'european' morality)

2023
Opposition wins parliamentary elections
(end of Right-wing dominancy)

1914 - 1918
World War I

1939 - 1945
World War II

1956 - 1980
Worker's Protests
Rulling of Władysław Gomółka, then Edward Gierek

1990
Termination of Communistic Police and Security Services

2010
The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union extended rights for the LGBT community

2011
First queer member of Polish Parliment
First Transgender woman in Parliment
Robert Biedroń & Anna Grodzka

2021
The European Commission initiates a formal infringement procedure against Poland

1772 - 1918
Partition of Poland
between the Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Prussia, the Habsburg Monarchy

1997
Establishment of the Criminal Code (does not include crimes based on sexual orientation)

1944 - 1989
Poland under Russian Influence
"Communism"

1989 - 2004
Democratic Transformation

2004 - 2015
Period of transition - "Civic Platform" government
still strong position of Law and Justice

2015 - 2023
Right-wing rule in Poland
strong position of Law and Justice

1835 1932 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2024

With regard to the polarised society in Poland, it is important to note the correlation between the relatively new borders drawn in 1932 and then again in 1945 and their relation to the socio-political divisions as well as the level of development in these areas (Figures 1,2,3). It is clear that the former territories of the Russian partition are less developed. In the last decade, Poland scored low on the Democracy Index and the conservative government successfully increased social polarisation (Figure 11). Voter turnout in the parliamentary elections of 2023 was higher than at the time of the fall of communism. Interest in politics is also higher in the society (Photo: 12, 13, 14).

Photo 1. Own art based on data: Grzegorzus Ludi Map (Partitions of Poland on present map with gminas from 1866 to 1914)
Photo 2. Anti-Communist leaflet on the demarcation line pushed by Stalin; http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/en/galeria.html?catid=93&PageNo=2;
Photo 3. Niemals Oder-Neisse-Linie Wählt: CDU | Archiv für Christlich-Demokratische Politik (ACDP) https://www.kas.de/de/

Photo 4. Gdansk Shipyard strike 1980; author: Muzeum Historii Polski 2024; https://muzhp.pl/wiedza-on-line/tak-rodzila-sie-solidarnosc-sierpien-80-w-gdansku
Photo 5. Mass for the Homeland at the end of the communist era; author: Stiopa https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plik:BozeCosPolske.jpg
Photo 6. Elections in communist Poland; https://historia.org.pl/2020/07/13/historia-frekwencji-wyborczej-w-polsce/

Photo 7. Author" Mateusz Szymański / Bankier.pl
Photo 8. Lambda Warszawa Archive https://queerstoria.pl/wyszukiwarka/
Photo 9. Author: Łukasz Dejnarowicz / Forum / POLITYKA Sp. z o.o. S.K.A.
Photo 10. Independence March 2015; author: Piotr Drabik
Photo 11. Authors: Kamil Jonski & Wojciech Rogowski (2022); Legislative inflation in Poland: bird's eye view on three decades after the the1989 breakthrough; The Journal of Legislative Studies
Photo 12. Screenshot from youtoube page https://www.youtube.com/@SejmRP_PL
Photo 13. " Parliament at the Cinema", increased interest in politics in Poland; https://cdaction.pl/newsy/obrady-sejmu-w-kinie-pierwszy-raz-w-historii-polski-a-moze-i-swiata
Photo 14. Turnout in elections in Poland; source: PKW, survey Ipsol late poll

History
Queer line

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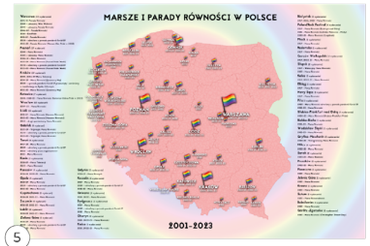

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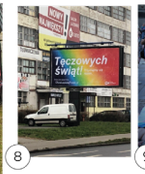

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1991
Homosexuality has been taken off the list of diseases by the WHO

2001
Fisrt Pride Parade in Warsaw
Estalishement of Campagne Agains Homophobia

2005
Homosexuals can be blood doners

2006
Day of Silence - protest against homophobia in schools

2015
Acceptance of same-sex partnerships contracted abroad

2018
UN asks Poland to ban conversion therapies

2018
Establishment of the 'Faith & Rainbow' Foundation

2024
Start of work on Legalising Same-Sex Partnerships
(EU demand)
Proposition of "LGBT First Aid"

1987
First LGBT+ Organization
"Warszawski Ruch Homoseksualny"

2011-2013
Work on same-sex partnership rights (rejection by the new government)

08.10.2018
Equality parade in Lublin banned by mayor

1932
Legalisation of homosexualism

1990 - Creation of Queer Foundation "Lambda" Warsaw
1993 - First Public Manifestation of LGBT Community (Warsaw)
Pass of the Polish Anti-Abortion Law
1995 - Gay Pride Day recognition

02.2019
Mayor of Warsaw Rafał Trzaskowski signs the **Warsaw LGBT Declaration** and introduces the Warsaw LGBT+ Charter

2020
ILGA Report, Poland ranked lowest in EU for LGBT rights

1948
Setting **the legal age of consent** for hetero- and homosexual sexual intercourse

1985 -1987
Operation "Hyacinth"
Involved surveillance and collection of material on Polish gays and their environment, resulting in the establishment of some 11,000 personal files of the Security Service ('Pink Papers', still being held by the governement)

25.03.2019
Councillors in Świdnicki County adopt the declaration "**Świdnicki County Free from LGBT Ideology**".

Since then, over 105 cities and municipalities have adopted "LGBT-free zone" declarations. About 30 of these municipalities also signed a "Local Government Charter of the Right of the Family"initiated by Ordo Iuris, a far right religion-based foundation, that has been campaigning against LGBTI rights, nondiscrimination education in schools, and for a total ban of abortion rights in Poland.

2020
First arrest of Margot Szustowicz (activist)
Reson: her involvement in the destruction of one of the homphobic vans

07.08.2020
Rainbow Night
mass arrest of queer activists

1835 - 1932
Criminalisation of Homosexual Acts
1845 - Russia penalized homosexuality with forced resettlement to Syberia

1970-1980
Worse Situation of LGBT Community

2004 - 2005
President bans Equality marches

03.04.2019
First car with Anti - LGBT slogans appear in Gniezno

2019
Equality Parade in Białystok attacked by far - right groups.
Equality parade in Lublin, far-right groups brought explosives to the event (caught by police)

2020-2021
Tightening up the laws on abortion
Women's protests
On 28 October, police recorded 410 protests across the country

European Commission's refusal to include LGBTI-free zone Polish towns as part of the EU's Town Twinning scheme, the Ministry of Justice of Poland will financially compensate those towns under their Justice Fund.

1959
Michael Foucault pushed to leave Poland because of his sexuality
He was a director of the French Centre at the University of Warsaw in 1958–1959

1835 1932 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2024

Besides radical politics, the queer community was always there, finding their space and creating resistance and support. During communism in Poland it was dangerous to be openly queer due to "Operation Hyacinth" ordered by the security services (Photo 1). But the community still met to support each other and produced small informative magazines that later became official media. It is important to note that gay movements were more visible at that time. In the last decades in Poland there was a rise in protests, harmful misinformation about queer people and less freedom to express yourself. In 2020, Poland also had the lowest score in the EU in the ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association) ranking. There is a visible importance of visibility and actions in the public or private space. And their purpose: to fight for one's rights or just for the possibility of development and expression.
Could improving visibility in everyday spaces improve the level of acceptance?

Photo 1. The 1986 weekly "In the Service of the Nation" about the "Hyacinth" action.; author: Kacper M. Krajewski; Forum
Photo 2. Warsaw Gay Movement arms author: Waldemar Zboralski
Photo 3, 4. Lambda Warszawa Archive https://queerstoria.pl/wyszukiwarka/
Photo 5. Map of equality marches and parades in Poland; author Maciej Pokrzywa
Photo 6. info.elblag.pl; author: Adrian Sajko
Photo 7. PRO Foundation van on the streets of Gdansk - 2019 https://www.zawszepomorze.pl/kierowca-homofobusa-prawomocnie-skazany-wyrok-za-homofobiczne-hasla
Photo 8. Fundacja Miłość nie Wyklucza [Love Does Not Exclude Foundation]
Photo 9. https://oko.press/policjant-o-tec-zowej-nocy-otrzymalismy-polecenie-za-trzymania-wszystkich-oznakowanych-bar-wami-lgbt
Photo 10. Equality Parade 2019; author: Max Zieliński/Greenpeace
Photo 11. Anti-Equality Parade; author: marcinbunsch at flickr
Photo 12. 'Polish Women Fighters' poster linked to the Black protest; author: Czarne Szmaty CzSz; graphics: Jacek Rudzki2017
Photo 13. Women Protest; author: Karolina Misztal
Photos 14-15. https://www.instagram.com/stonewall_poland/
Photos 16. "Love does not exclude" Conference of the Coalition for Civil Partnership and Marriage Equality; author: Tomek Kaczor

History

Art & Media li

1990 - 1992
First queer club in Warsaw
"Cafe Fiolka"

1990 - 2002
Monthly queer magazine
"Inaczej" [Differently]

1986 - 2001
Monthly gay magazine
"Filo"

1996
Fisrt 'queered' Festival " Night of Walpurgia"
Polish Feminist Lesbian Archive was established
Creation of a website "Different Site"
(still existing as queer.pl)

1974
First essay in a magazine about Homosexualism
(positive)
"Homoseksualizm a opinia" (Życie literackie, 1974, nr 17)

1984
First discussion in TV about Homosexualism

1985
Dariusz Prorok in a magazin "Polityka"
published the text 'Jestesmy inni' ("We are different")
(first public gay voice)

2005 - now (online)
Queer magazine "Replika"

2005 - 2011
Lesbian cabaret "Barbie Girl"

2006 - 2008
Firs queer TV Show
"Homofonia"

2006
Queer Broadcast in TOK.FM
"Lepiej Późno niż wcale"

2009
Queer Radio
Queer.fm

2010
First homoerotic exhibition
in Warsaw National Musuem
'Ars Homo Erotica'

Growing Amount of queer art & artists

2020
Activist Bart Staszewski creates "LGBT- Free Zone" city plates

Creation of website atlasnienawisci.pl
[Atlas of Hate]

First LGBT+ Hostel
Cracov

2015
Foundation of "Grupa Stonewall"
organisation supporting LGBT+ community

2019
Distribution of free stickers with the text "LGBT-free Zone"
announced by Gazeta Polska (a far-right weekly newspaper in Poland)

A documentary is aired on public TV - "LGBT Invasion".
(negative represetation of LGBT+ community)

2022
Opening of Queer bookstore in Poznań
"Stonewall bookstore"

1835 1932 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2024

Throughout history, the media has played an important role in information, expression and documentation. Thanks to the development of queer magazines and the creation of the first official foundations, the queer community gained a legitimate safe way of expression and a point of contact in time of crisis. It contributed greatly to the development of sex education and medical information about sexually transmitted diseases. In recent years those spaces of queer art and communities are creating more formal centers in cities (Photo 12, 15, 16). During the rule of the conservative party, Nation TV and the national magazine were very often commenting negatively and absurdly on the queer community, deepening the social divide. Can everyday places be media of information where every person has possibility to access fair information? How could we achieve this?

Photos: 1, 4-7, 9, source: Lambda Warszawa Archive https://queerstoria.pl/wyszukiwarka/
Photos: 2-3, Information by Ryszard Kisiel on gay meeting places in Trójmieście, 1988; source: Lambda Warszawa Archive https://queerstoria.pl/wyszukiwarka/

Photo 8, Ars Erotica Exhibition National Museum in Warsaw; photo by Raman Tratsiuk, 2010
Wróblewska, M., & Ariese, C. E. (2022). 6 Embracing Vulnerability. Practicing Decoloniality in Museums: A Guide with Global Examples, 97-112.
Photo 10, Rainbow Mother of God, authors: Elżbieta Podleśna, Anna P. oraz Joanna Gzyra-Iskander

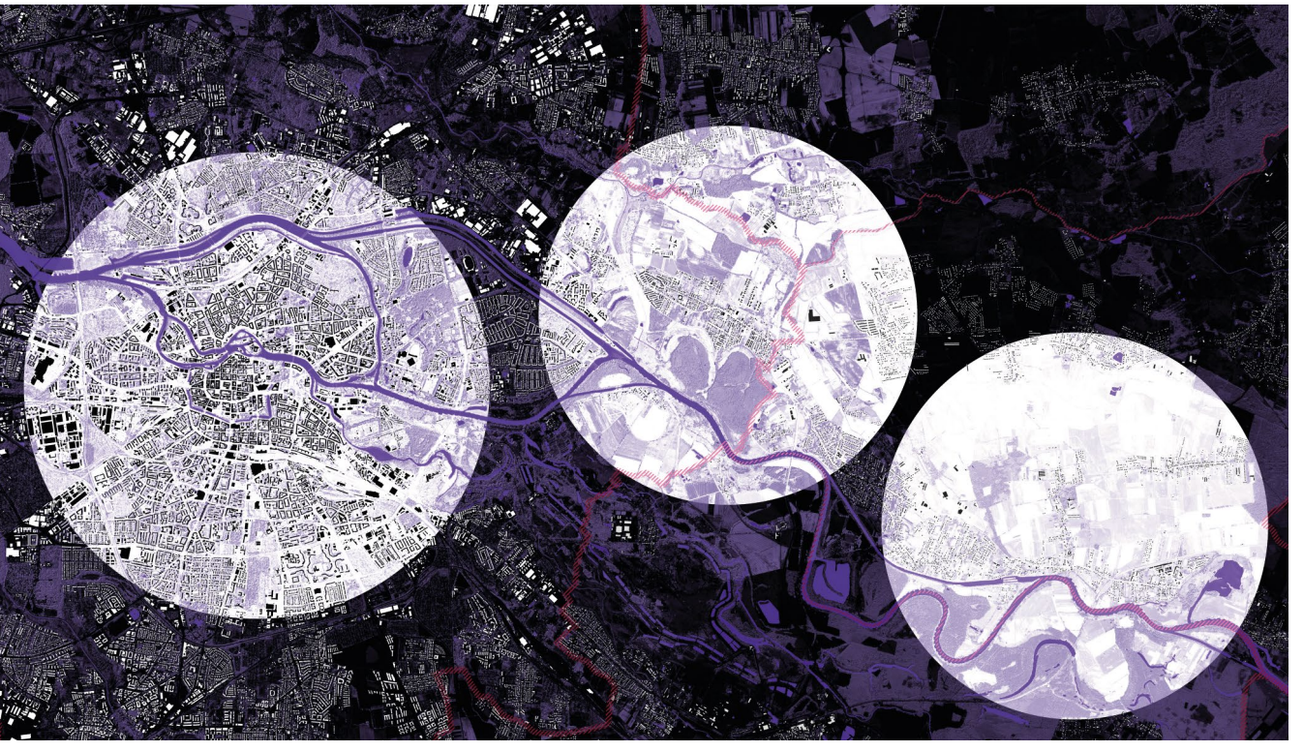
Photos: 11., 15., https://www.instagram.com/stonewall_poland/
Photos: 12., 16., Stonewall Group Poland, https://grupa-stonewall.pl/wsparcie/grupa-dla-mlodziezy/, https://www.vogue.pl/a/queerowa-ksiegarnia-stonewall-w-poznaniu
Photo 13, Author Bart Staszewski
Photo 14, Atlas of Hate https://atlasnienawisci.pl/

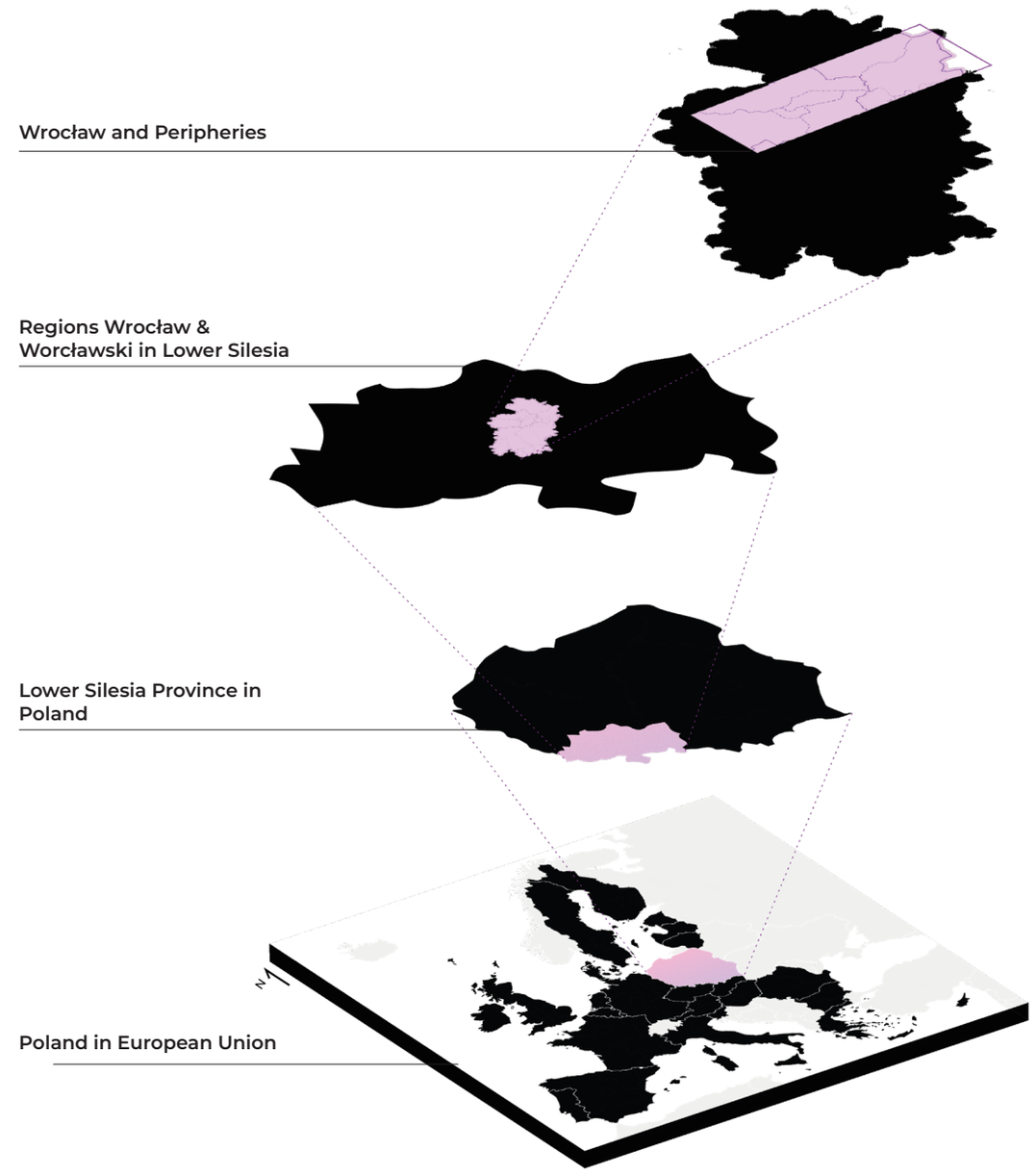
Place

The focus of this research project is Wroclaw in Poland and its urban and rural peripheries. In the further development of the project, one of the zoomed areas is selected for more detailed development - Jagodno. It is important to recognise differences in modes of living and levels of acceptance or opportunities for the queer community in each area. As ‘LGBT Free Zones’ have been strongly associated with more rural and remote areas, there is an interest in uncovering the underlying issues of rural-urban differences in Poland (more in Appendix 2).

Wroclaw is the third largest city in Poland and its government is open to the queer community. It is also my city of origin, which gives me more freedom to contact active groups of professionals, queer centers and activists. For this research, interviews and relationship with citizens are very important.

Between Rural & Urban





Place
Poland

Poland has a medium population density. It is characterised by an uneven distribution of the population, with the majority of citizens living in urban or peri-urban areas.

Poland was divided for a long time. The relatively new borders and their interdependence with the differentiation of society are noteworthy. The former Russian and Habsburg territories are also the areas where the most conservative voters and more religious citizens live.

In the country as a whole, there are fewer believers who attend Sunday services and take communion. Religion plays an important role in Polish history and in the recent decade Polish religious institutions were not supportive towards queer citizens. Nevertheless, it is important to note that religious identification coexists with all types of gender or sexual identification, as well as political affiliation.

Partitions of Poland on from 1866 to 1914

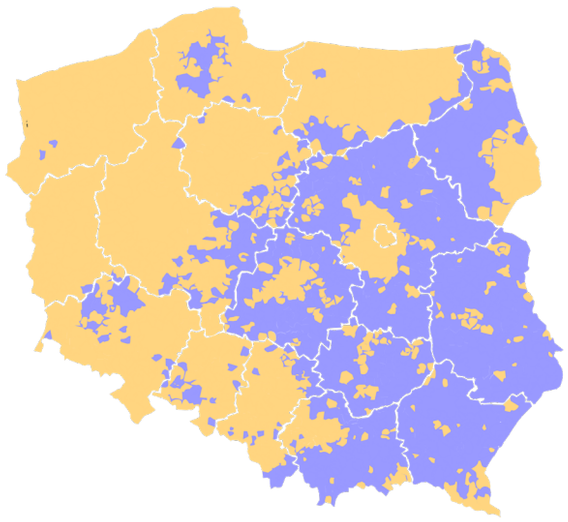
Data: Grzegorzus Ludi Map

Political divide in Poland 2023. Polish Parliament Election Results.

Own work based on data: National Election Commission

Law & Justice supporters

Opposition (KO) supporters



Population density in 2021 [person/ 1km²]

Data: Szymon Pifczyk (Kartografia Ekstremalna) & Central Statistical Office in Poland

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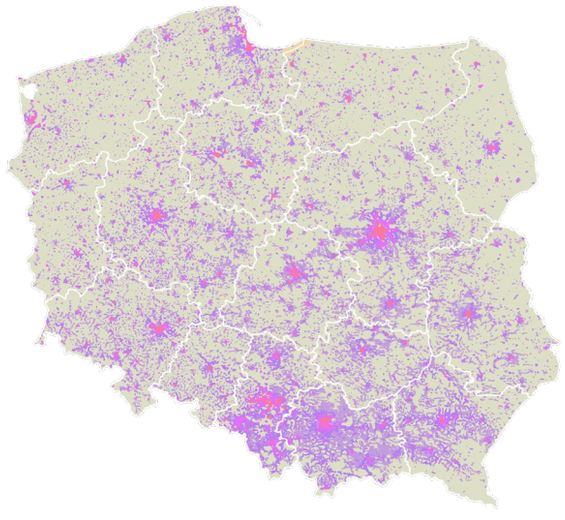

Dominicantes rates in 2021 by parish

Data: Institute of Statistics of the Catholic Church SAC in Poland

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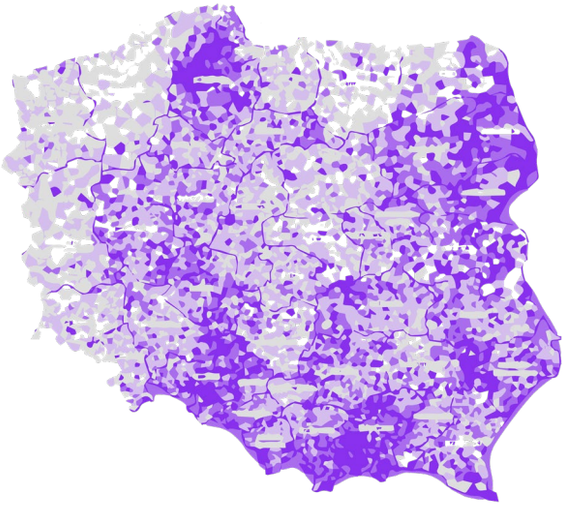


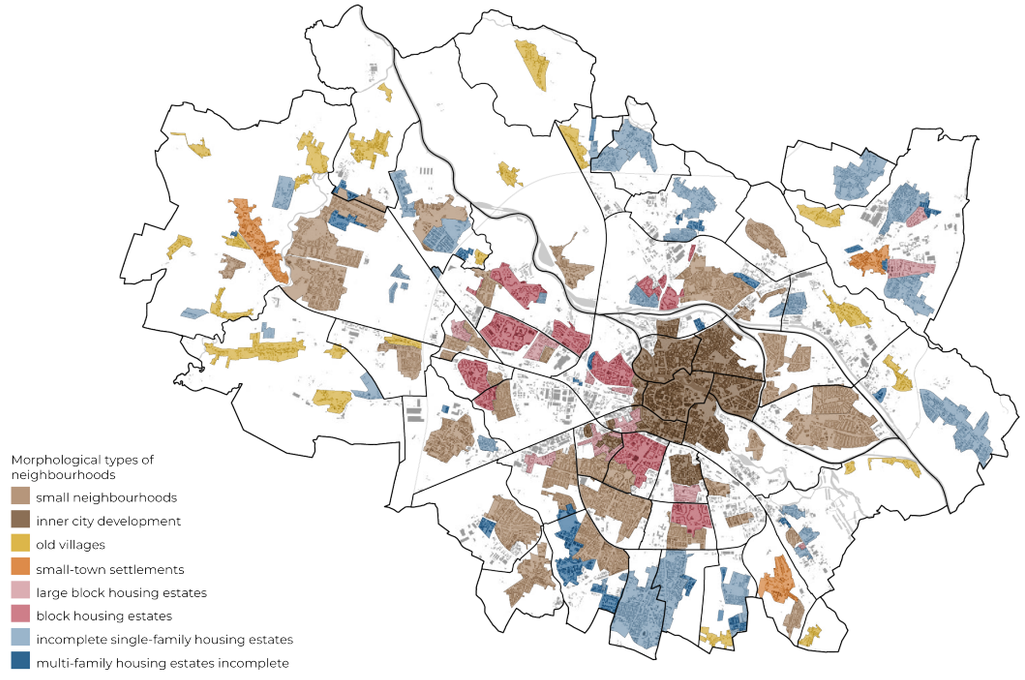
Place
Wrocław

Wrocław stands as Poland's third most populous city, boasting a population of 674,132 as of June 30, 2023, and ranking fifth in terms of land area, covering 292.81 km² (GUS stat.gov.pl, 2023-11-18; bip.um.wroc.pl, 2023-12-29).

The physical layout of its settlements exhibits notable spatial fragmentation, as depicted in the map " Types of Neigborhoods". Beyond the central city districts, the remaining areas are often divided by functional zones or undeveloped spaces, restricting opportunities for communal interaction among residents. Even where communal spaces like parks or sports facilities exist, adjacent structures typically share similar morphological characteristics, fostering a sense of homogeneity among the city's architectural fabric (Mironowicz, 2017). This layout poses a considerable challenge, as it hampers the emergence of diverse elements crucial for fostering interaction and innovation. The city's ability to adapt and innovate relies on the introduction of new features and characteristics, promoting diversity and facilitating spatial proximity to encourage interaction and growth.

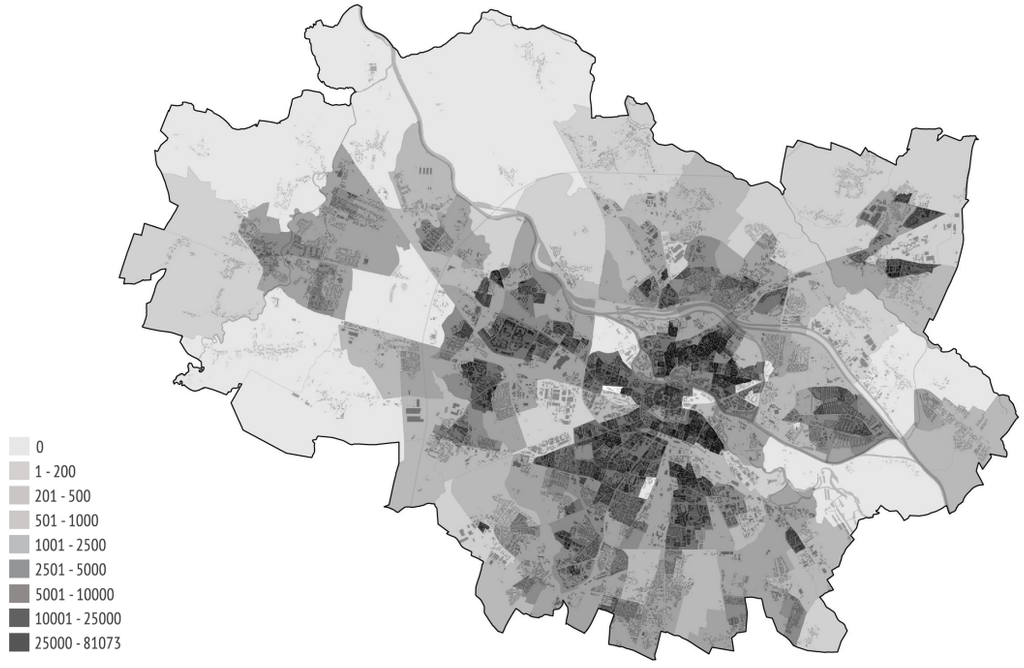
Types of neighbourhoods

Map: Mironowicz, I. (2017). Analiza funkcjonalna osiedli Wrocławia.



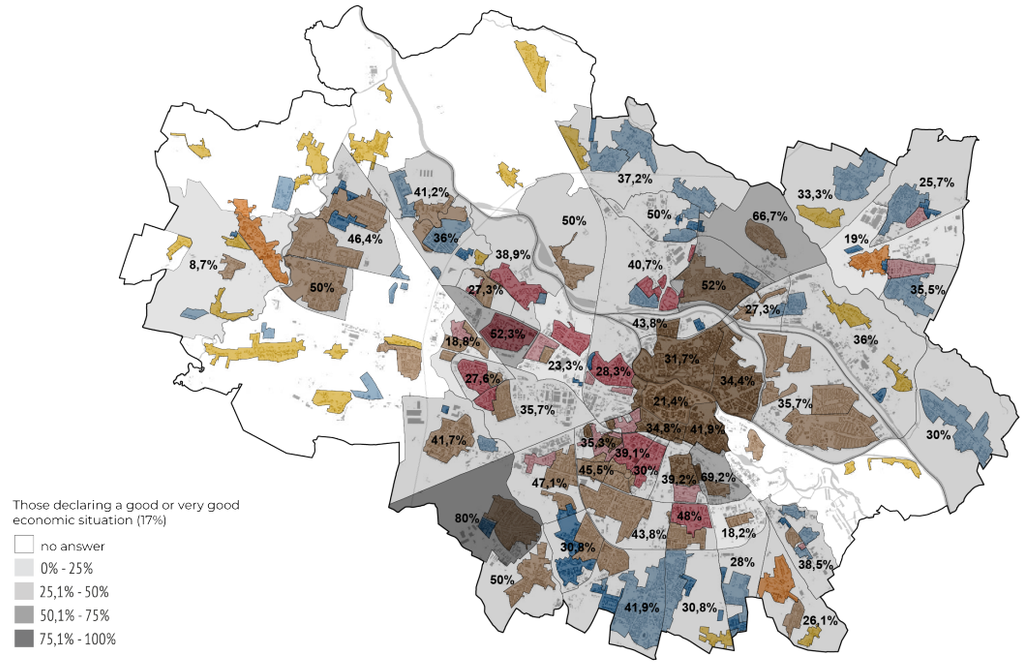
Population density by neighbourhoods

Map: Mironowicz, I. (2017). Analiza funkcjonalna osiedli Wrocławia.



Wealth by neighbourhood

Map: Mironowicz, I. (2017). Analiza funkcjonalna osiedli Wrocławia.



Place

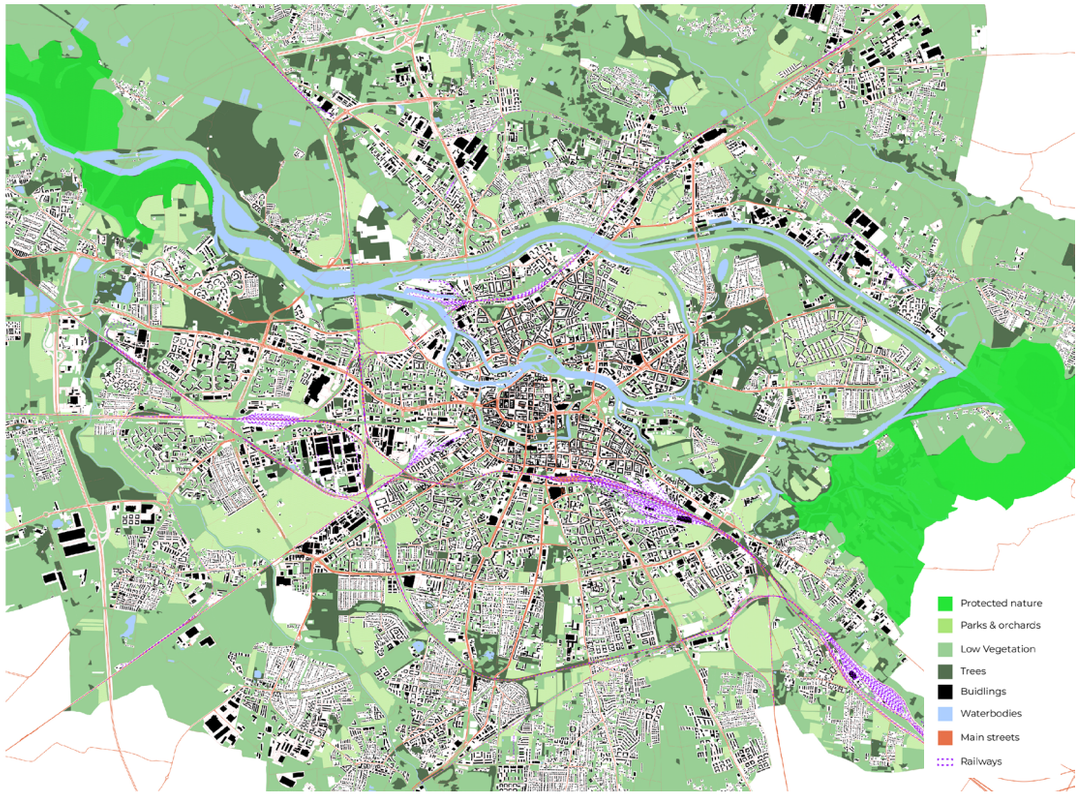
Wrocław inner city

Throughout its history, Wrocław, much like many other European cities, was granted the authority to expand its territory in the early 19th century. It was during this period that the development of housing complexes, delineating distinct spatial units, began to take shape. By the late 1920s, an administrative framework had already been established, outlining the boundaries of Wrocław's individual settlements. Subsequent expansions in the 1950s and 1970s further extended the city's limits, culminating in its current administrative configuration (Mironowicz, 2017). Presently, Wrocław encompasses 48 settlements within its administrative boundaries, as illustrated in the "Historical development by neighborhoods" map.

The map of functions in Wrocław demonstrates that the city is a centralised urban area, with the majority of services and diversity concentrated in the historical centre. The peripheral areas of the city are characterised by a prevalence of residential buildings, which do not facilitate the growth and development of local identities. The map of "Historical development by neighbourhoods" also illustrates the significant expansion of new neighbourhoods in the peripheries. This is a consequence of the rising prices of apartments in the inner city and the city's growing population.

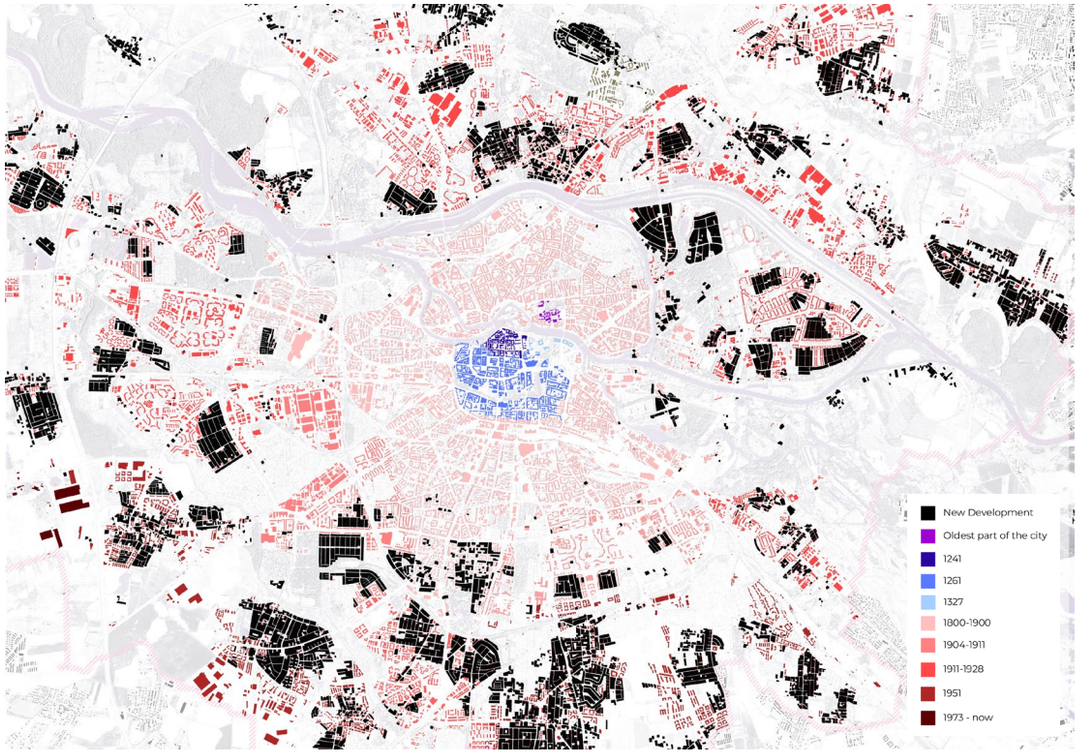
General Map of Wrocław inner city

Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



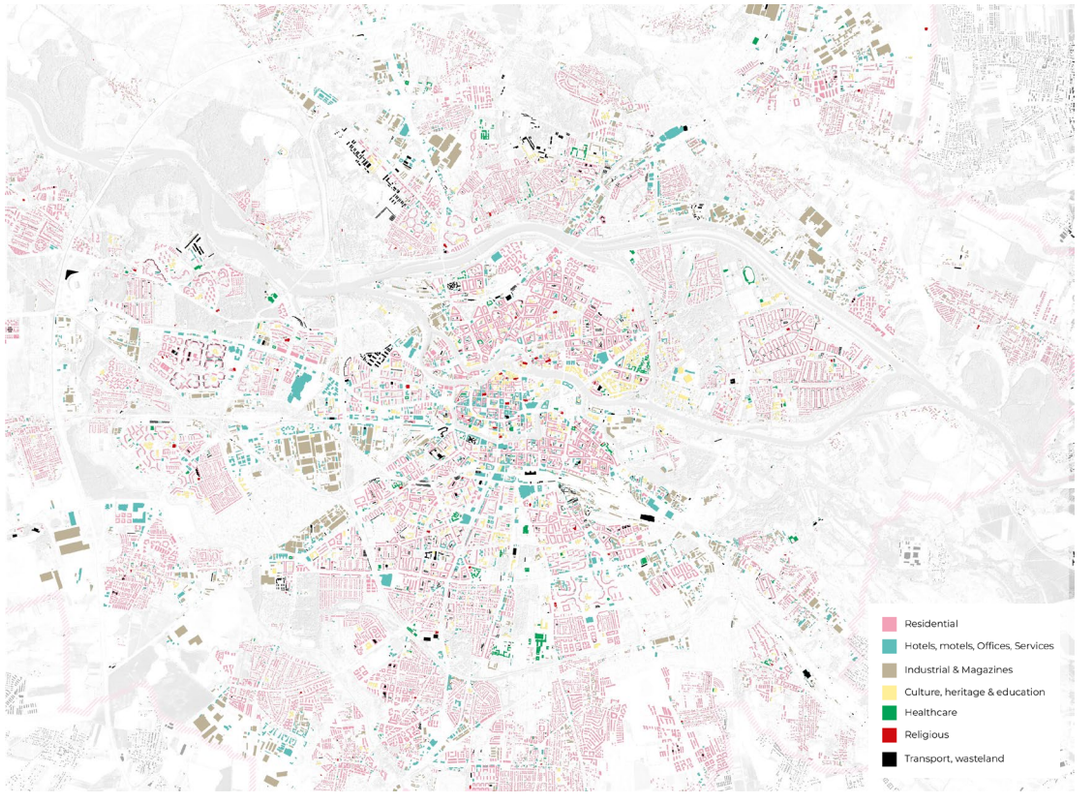
Historical development by neighbourhoods

Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



Functions

Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



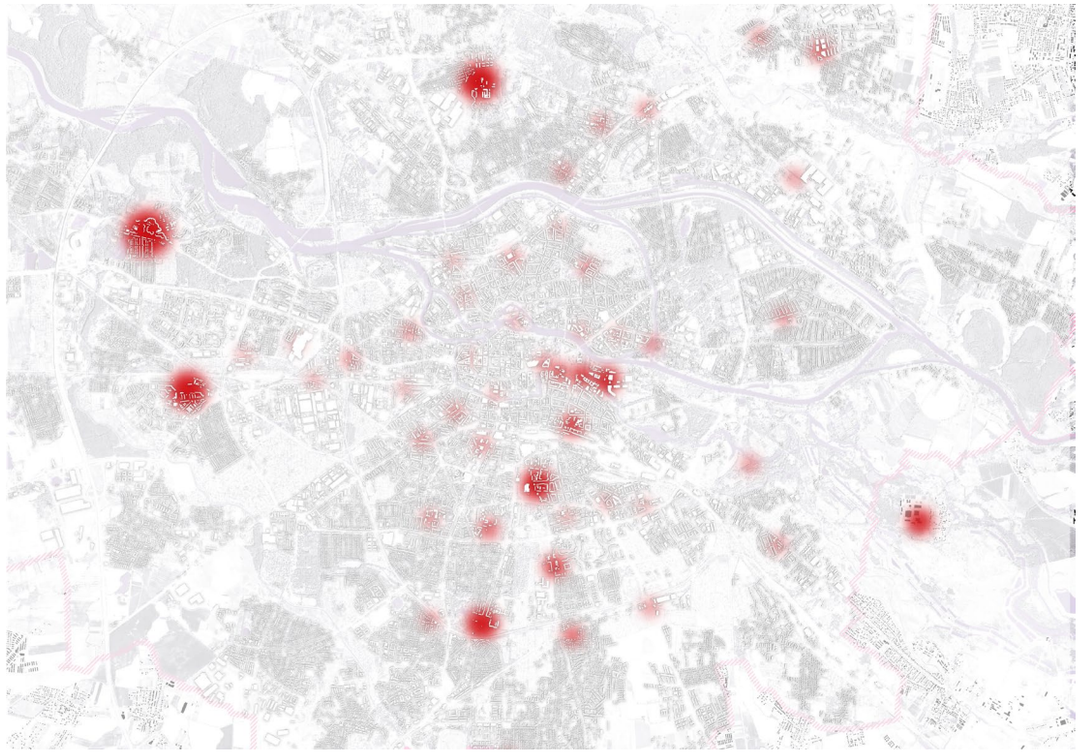
Place
Wrocław

The analysis of crime rates in the city enables the identification of areas with potential challenges. It is crucial to recognise that the aforementioned crime rates encompass a spectrum of criminal activities, ranging from assault to vehicular accidents and noise disturbances.

An analysis of the accessibility of the city structure reveals potential locations for civic actions and their limitations. The public spaces within the city do not provide a conducive environment for informal interaction or growth. The inner city offers a greater diversity of opportunities, but these are often limited to those who can afford certain access. When we examine the peripheries, we find that they are predominantly residential areas. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for these areas to be gated, which has the effect of reducing the likelihood of interactions and the appearance of new spatial elements.

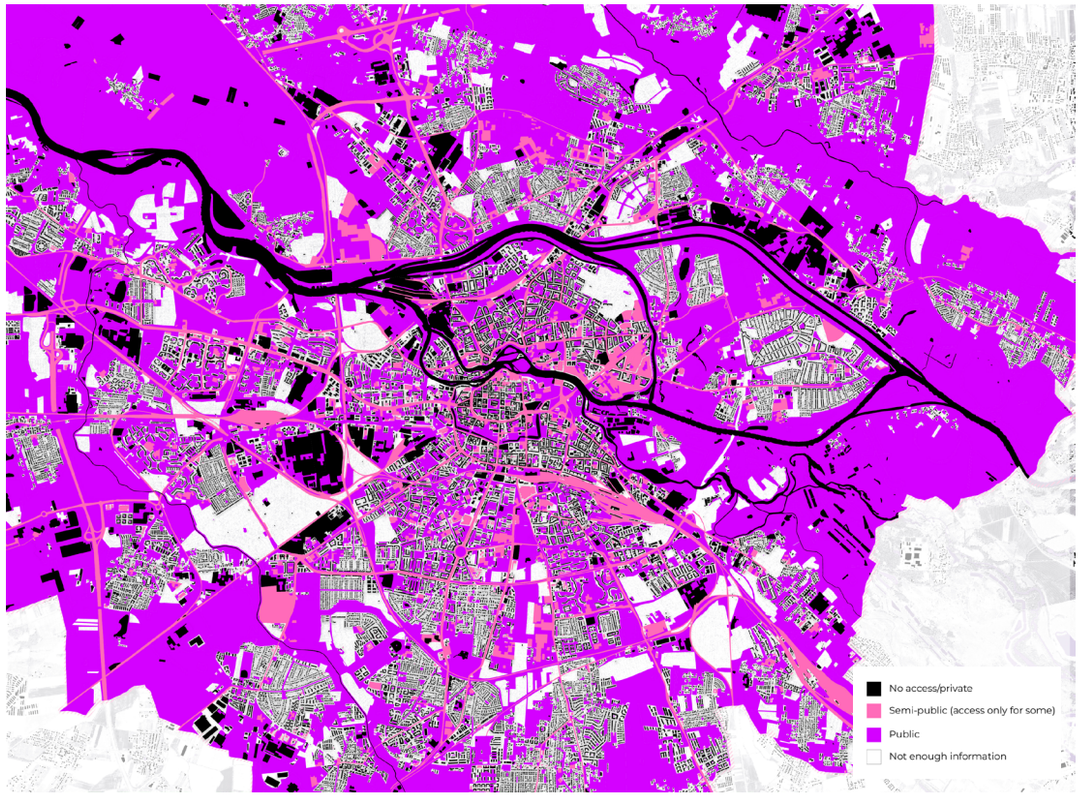
High crime rates

Data: Krajowa Mapa Zagrożeń Bezpieczeństwa (https://mapy.geoportal.gov.pl/iMapLite/KMZBPublic.html, May 2024)



Accessibility

Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



CHAPTER 6:
Voices

Method

Voice 1. Location A

Voice 2. Location B & C

Voice 3. Location D

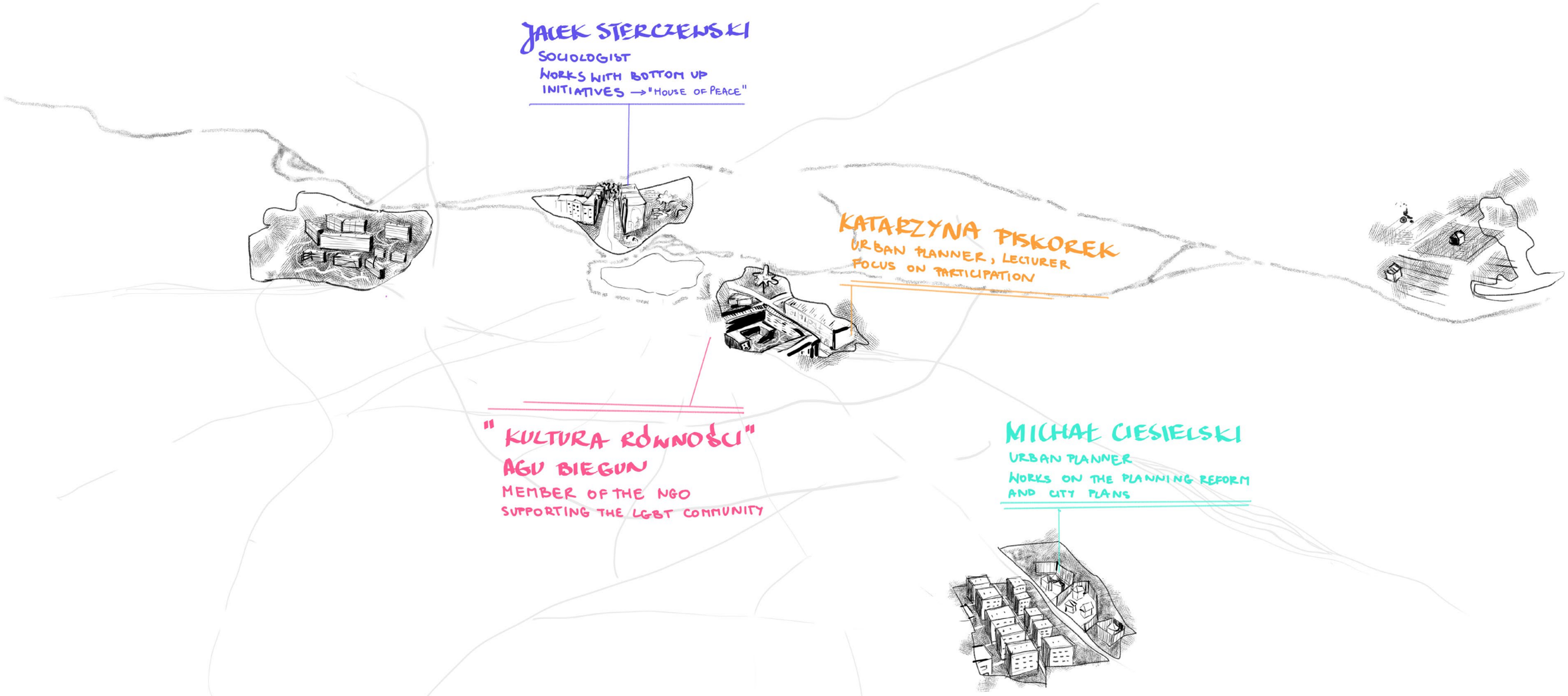
Voice 4. Location E

Conclusions

Method

For the development of this project, 4 interviews were conducted. With Jacek Sterczewski (representative of the House of Peace Foundation, sociologist, journalist and active researcher in the field of socio-spatial dimension), Katarzyna Piskorek (architect, urbanist, lecturer at the University of Science and Technology in Wroclaw, specialising in issues of participation and civic engagement), Michał Ciesielski (urbanist, working on development plans and improving planning policies in Wrocław and other cities in Poland), Agu Biegun (representative of the LGBTQ+ foundation “Kultura Równości”, activist and important actor in supporting the queer community in Wrocław). Each person focused on different areas and range of challenges/ opportunities in the city (see graphic below). All these voices were important in understanding systemic problems, context and socio-spatial needs of citizens and the city.

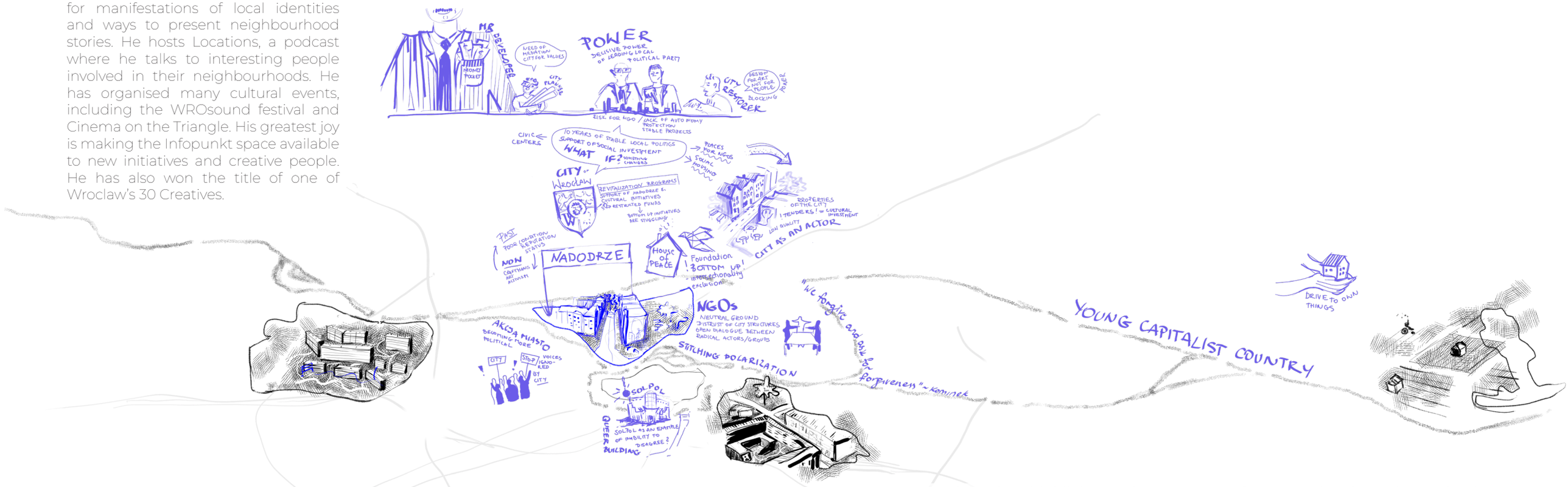
The results were presented through “soft maps”. A method that helps to represent intangible elements, actors’ perspectives and experiences of the city, which strongly contribute to its development and character.



Voice 1:
Jacek Sterczwski

BIO:
He currently works at the Zajezdnia History Centre. The initiator of Triangle Day and two micro-grant projects - Triangle Shop Chronicles and Suburban Tenements. As a sociologist, he looks for manifestations of local identities and ways to present neighbourhood stories. He hosts Locations, a podcast where he talks to interesting people involved in their neighbourhoods. He has organised many cultural events, including the WROsound festival and Cinema on the Triangle. His greatest joy is making the Infopunkt space available to new initiatives and creative people. He has also won the title of one of Wroclaw's 30 Creatives.

Location A:
Nadodrze



<u>The interview highlights various aspects of community dynamics and urban development in Wroclaw:</u>

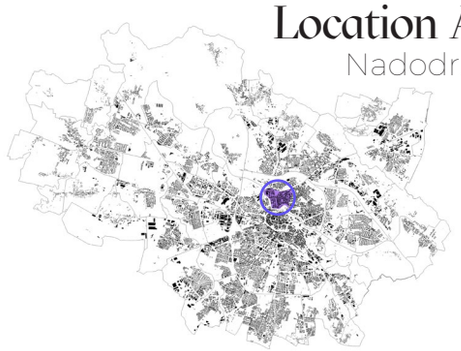
The Peace House Foundation takes an intersectional approach, focusing particularly on marginalised people in the Nadodrze area, which has historically been characterised by poverty, violence and unemployment. In this area, the city owns a lot of ground floor properties that have been converted into businesses that support the local community and artists, which greatly improved reputation of Nadodrze. This has been successful thanks to the support of the city.

Working with Wroclaw's revitalisation efforts reveals a mixed picture: while the city supports riverside initiatives, the burden of investment often falls on institutions, despite their focus on the welfare of citizens. Society is polarised and distrustful of city authorities, challenging democratic principles. Concerns about potential changes in authority raise issues of stability and autonomy for NGOs, emphasising the need for consistent support and protection of grassroots initiatives.

The allocation and management of urban space poses challenges, with city-owned spaces often inaccessible or subject to restrictive regulations that hinder their adaptation for marginalised groups. The lack of coordinated urban planning and property management strategies exacerbates these challenges.
Cultural inclusivity, particularly regarding queer communities, demands increased visibility and integration into socio-cultural investments.

Voice 1:
Jacek Sterczwski

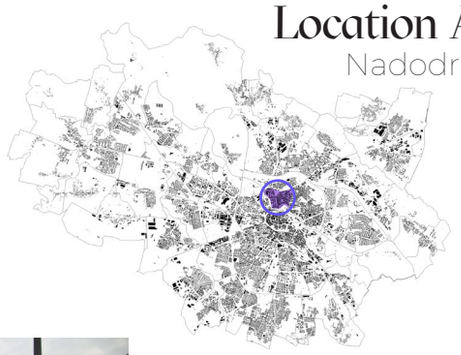
Location A:
Nadodrze



Infopoint Nadodrze serves as a central hub for community consultations, addressing informations, tackling problems within the community. The Peace House Foundation facilitates dialogue in Nadodrze, albeit informally, to bridge social divides and avoid exclusion.
While current funding relies on the city, exploring alternative funding models could increase community autonomy. Nadodrze's unique ownership model, with significant city-owned housing and commercial space, mitigates gentrification and supports social projects.
Nadodrze's diverse public spaces, influenced by business and cultural identity, shape the character of the neighbourhood and underline the importance of community-driven urban planning.

Voice 1:
Jacek Sterczwski

Location A:
Nadodrze



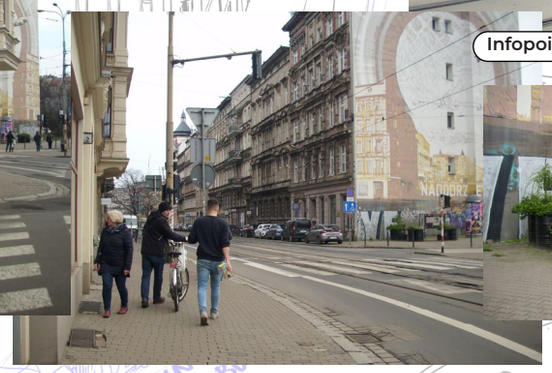
Observations of the area during field work.

Informal Market

Park & public toilet

Local Business

Future location of queer NGO

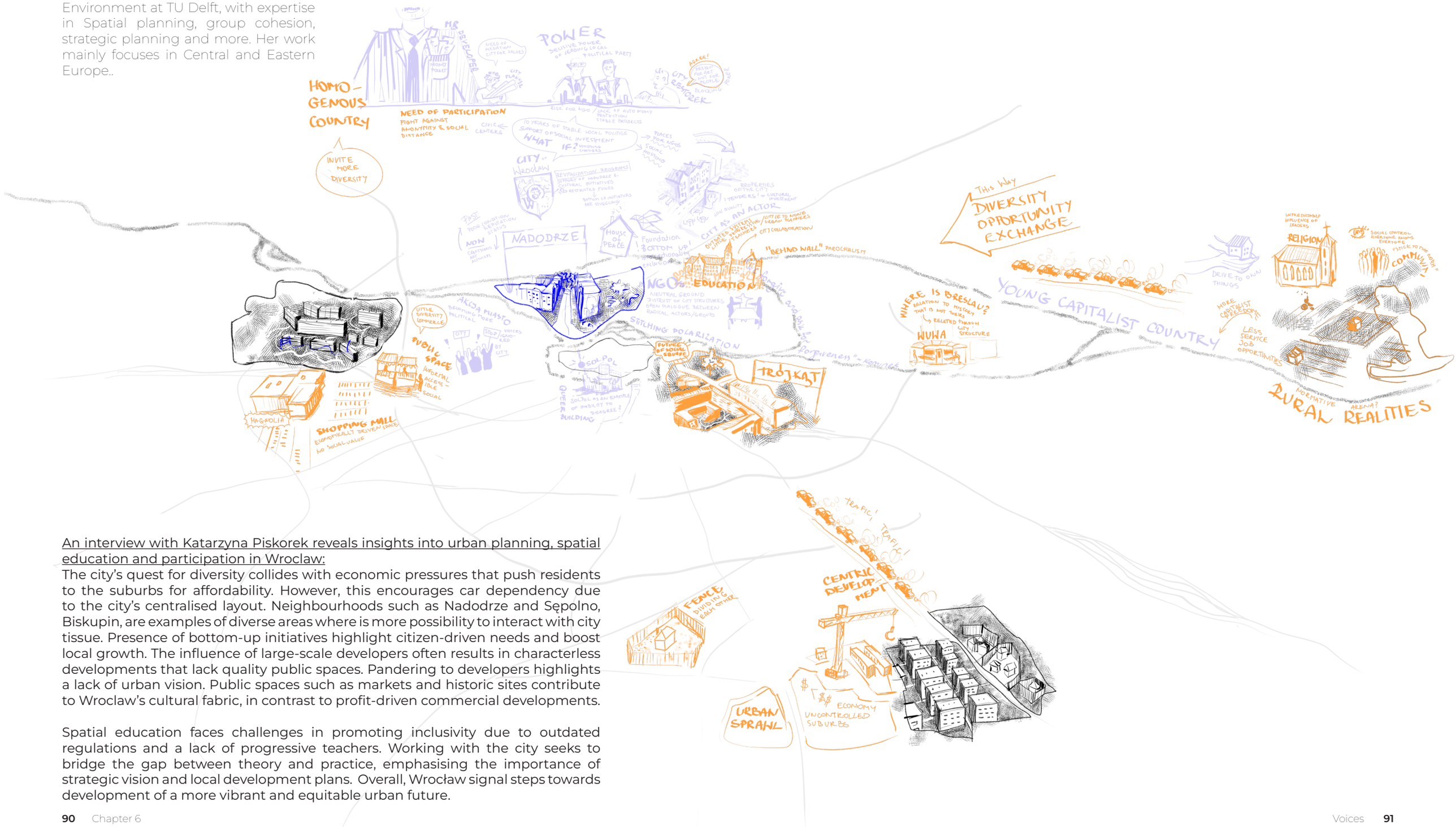


Infopoint Nadodrze

Voice 2:
Katarzyna Piskorek

BIO:
Katarzyna Piskorek is currently an Assistant Professor at Wrocław University of Science and Technology. She was a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft, with expertise in Spatial planning, group cohesion, strategic planning and more. Her work mainly focuses in Central and Eastern Europe..

Location B:
Przedmieście Oławskie “Trójkąt”



<u>An interview with Katarzyna Piskorek reveals insights into urban planning, spatial education and participation in Wroclaw:</u>
The city’s quest for diversity collides with economic pressures that push residents to the suburbs for affordability. However, this encourages car dependency due to the city’s centralised layout. Neighbourhoods such as Nadodrze and Sępolno, Biskupin, are examples of diverse areas where is more possibility to interact with city tissue. Presence of bottom-up initiatives highlight citizen-driven needs and boost local growth. The influence of large-scale developers often results in characterless developments that lack quality public spaces. Pandering to developers highlights a lack of urban vision. Public spaces such as markets and historic sites contribute to Wroclaw’s cultural fabric, in contrast to profit-driven commercial developments.

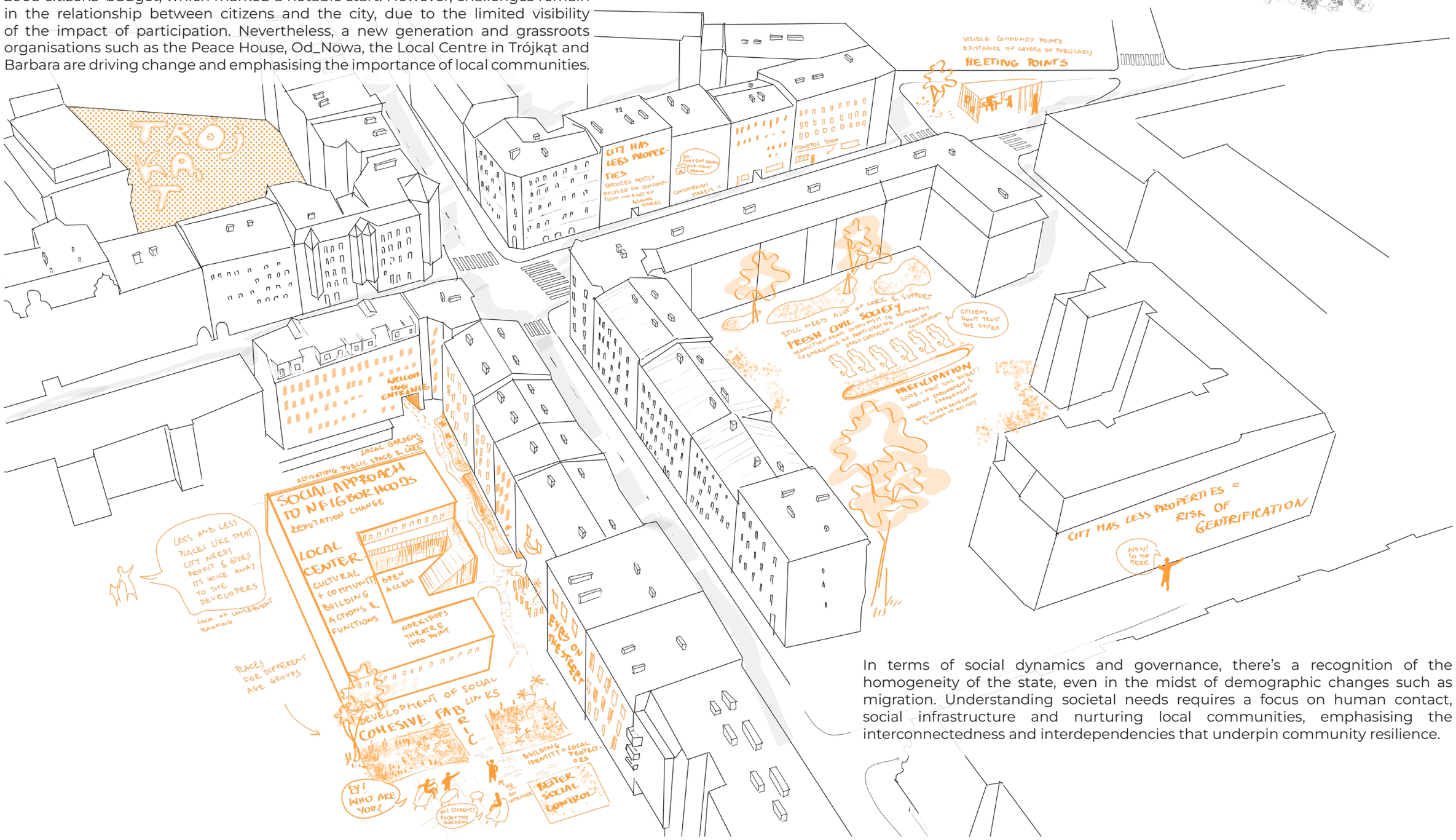
Spatial education faces challenges in promoting inclusivity due to outdated regulations and a lack of progressive teachers. Working with the city seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice, emphasising the importance of strategic vision and local development plans. Overall, Wrocław signal steps towards development of a more vibrant and equitable urban future.

Voice 2:
Katarzyna Piskorek

Location B:
Przedmieście Oławskie “Trójkąt”

The development of civil society in Poland emerges as an important theme that can be linked to the country’s transition from communism to democracy. The emergence of participation coincided with early capitalism, which was characterised by a sense of freedom but also carried a stigma, reflected in the urban landscape.

There have been important milestones on the road to participation, including the 2008 citizens’ budget, which marked a notable start. However, challenges remain in the relationship between citizens and the city, due to the limited visibility of the impact of participation. Nevertheless, a new generation and grassroots organisations such as the Peace House, Od_Nowa, the Local Centre in Trójkąt and Barbara are driving change and emphasising the importance of local communities.

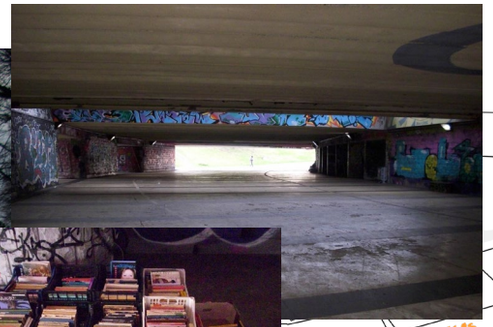


In terms of social dynamics and governance, there’s a recognition of the homogeneity of the state, even in the midst of demographic changes such as migration. Understanding societal needs requires a focus on human contact, social infrastructure and nurturing local communities, emphasising the interconnectedness and interdependencies that underpin community resilience.

Voice 2:
Katarzyna Piskorek

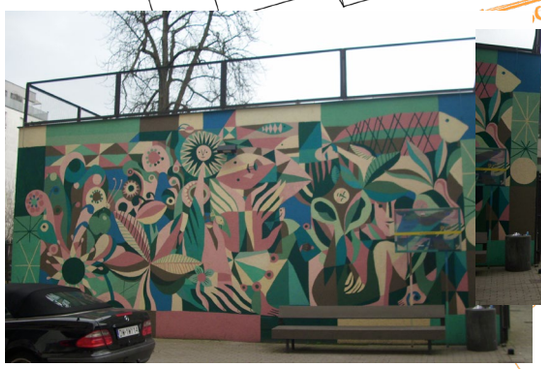
Location B:
Przedmieście Oławskie “Trójkąt”

Observations of the area during field work.



Pavilion by Mentol Architects

Entrance to Local Center

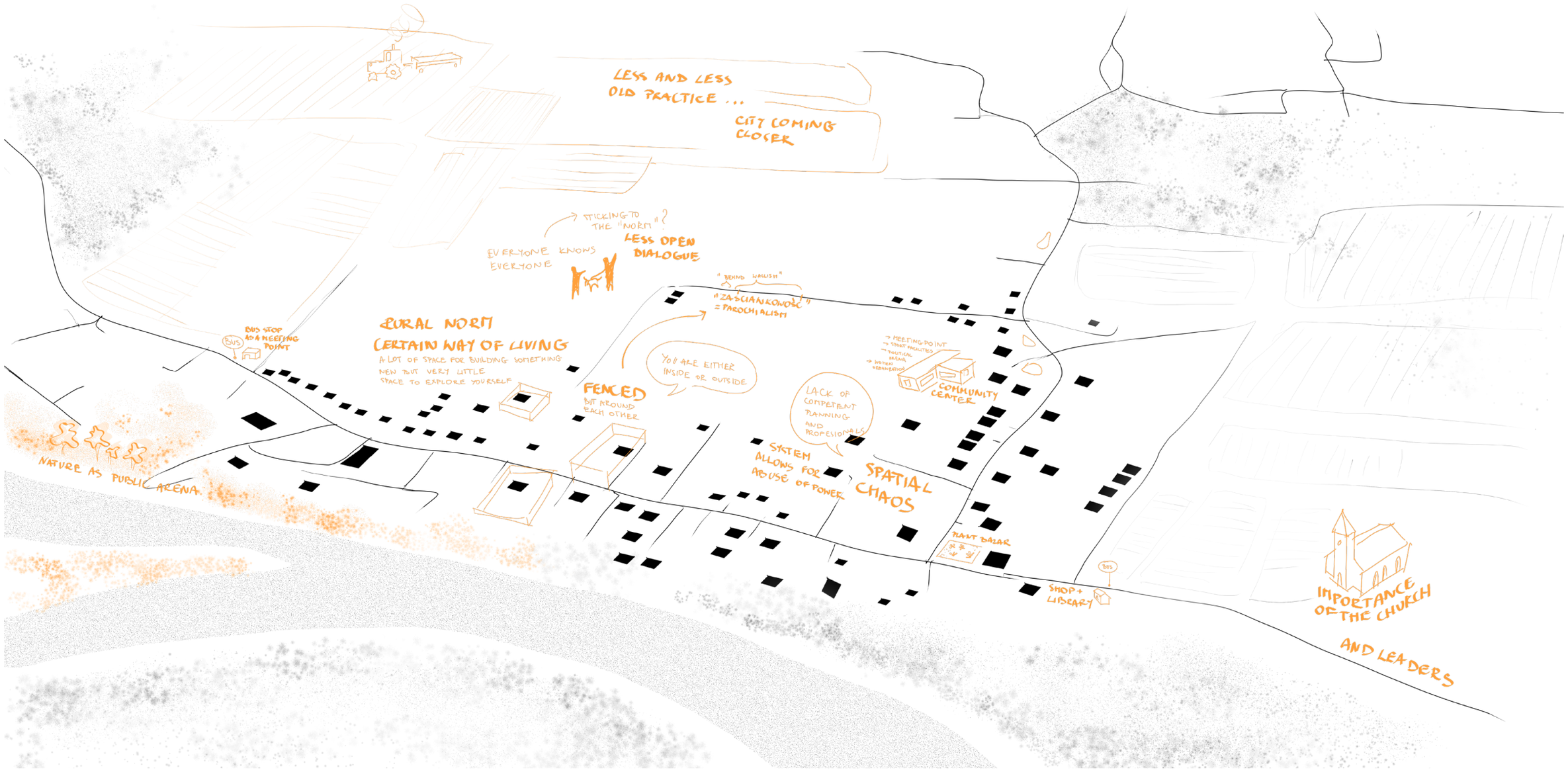


Local Center in Trójkąt

Voice 2:
Katarzyna Piskorek

Location C:
Village

In the Polish village, various factors shape the socio-cultural landscape, including different points of view, cultural differences, levels of education and employment prospects. There are many opportunities for spatial development but less spaces to express yourself. With close-knit communities where everyone knows each other, social norms are enforced through mutual accountability, leading to a lack of alternative perspectives. In addition, the influence of local leaders and the clergy introduces different narratives that further shape the collective mindset within the community. This dynamic interplay of factors underlines the intricate social fabric of Polish villages, where tradition, religion and social cohesion intersect to define the everyday realities of rural life.



Voice 2:
Katarzyna Piskorek

Location C:
Village

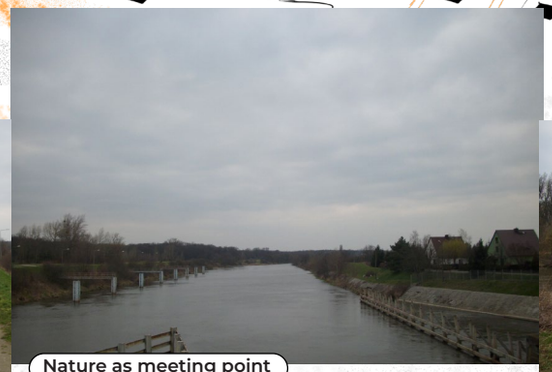
Observations of the area during field work.

Christian symbols

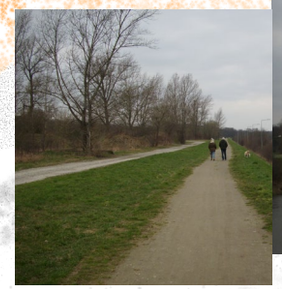
Bus stop & local shop

Local Center

Need to divide



Nature as meeting point



Shop “Żabka”

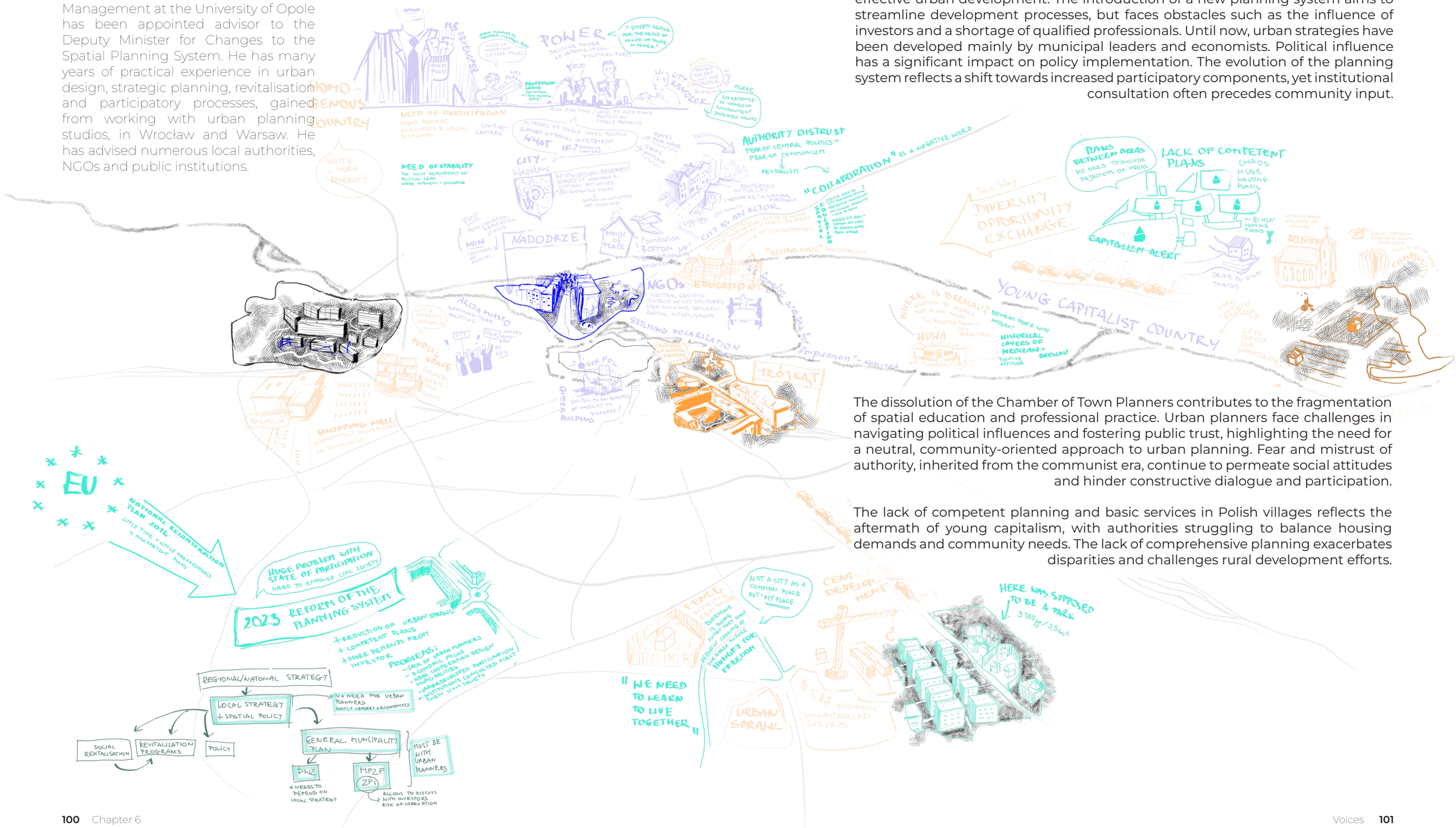
Voice 3:
Michał Ciesielski

BIO:
Michał Ciesielski from the Department of Urban Planning and Spatial Management at Wrocław University of Technology and the Institute of Social and Economic Geography and Spatial Management at the University of Opole has been appointed advisor to the Deputy Minister for Changes to the Spatial Planning System. He has many years of practical experience in urban design, strategic planning, revitalisation and participatory processes, gained from working with urban planning studios, in Wrocław and Warsaw. He has advised numerous local authorities, NGOs and public institutions.

Location D:
Jagodno

<u>The conversation with Michał Ciesielski gave a great insight into the planning system in Wrocław, it's challenges and opportunities:</u>

The implementation of the National Reconstruction Plan, scheduled for 2026, aims to address spatial challenges in Wrocław. However, limited time and expertise among professionals leads to the creation of incompetent plans, hindering effective urban development. The introduction of a new planning system aims to streamline development processes, but faces obstacles such as the influence of investors and a shortage of qualified professionals. Until now, urban strategies have been developed mainly by municipal leaders and economists. Political influence has a significant impact on policy implementation. The evolution of the planning system reflects a shift towards increased participatory components, yet institutional consultation often precedes community input.



The dissolution of the Chamber of Town Planners contributes to the fragmentation of spatial education and professional practice. Urban planners face challenges in navigating political influences and fostering public trust, highlighting the need for a neutral, community-oriented approach to urban planning. Fear and mistrust of authority, inherited from the communist era, continue to permeate social attitudes and hinder constructive dialogue and participation.

The lack of competent planning and basic services in Polish villages reflects the aftermath of young capitalism, with authorities struggling to balance housing demands and community needs. The lack of comprehensive planning exacerbates disparities and challenges rural development efforts.

Voice 3:
Michał Ciesielski

Location D:
Jagodno

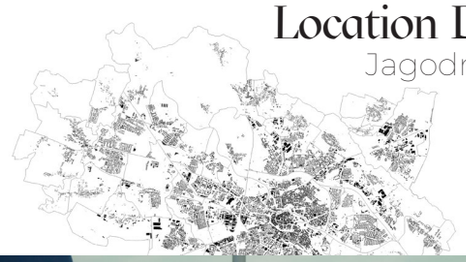
Education of those in power and empowerment of self-government are essential steps to ensure that representatives prioritise community interests and communicate transparently. The case of Jagodno, which was originally planned as a park but turned into a dense development, highlights the shortcomings of the previous planning system. Planning reform aims to hold investors accountable for community infrastructure such as schools and kindergartens. However, challenges remain, with a lack of participatory mechanisms and opportunities for corruption.

The discussion delves into societal trends, such as Poland's increasing urbanisation since 1968 and the prevalence of investment in real estate over equities. These trends shape not only housing preferences, but also community dynamics, potentially affecting social consent and relations with neighbours. Developers prioritise meeting the immediate needs of buyers, often resulting in gated communities that limit social interaction and community cohesion. While perceived as providing security, fencing can paradoxically reduce social control and restrict communal spaces.

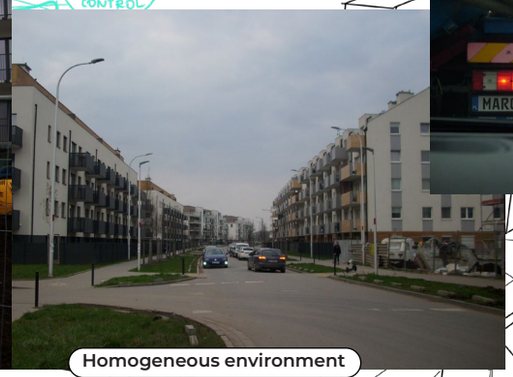
Voice 3:
Michał Ciesielski

Observations of the area during field work.

Location D:
Jagodno



Continuous development

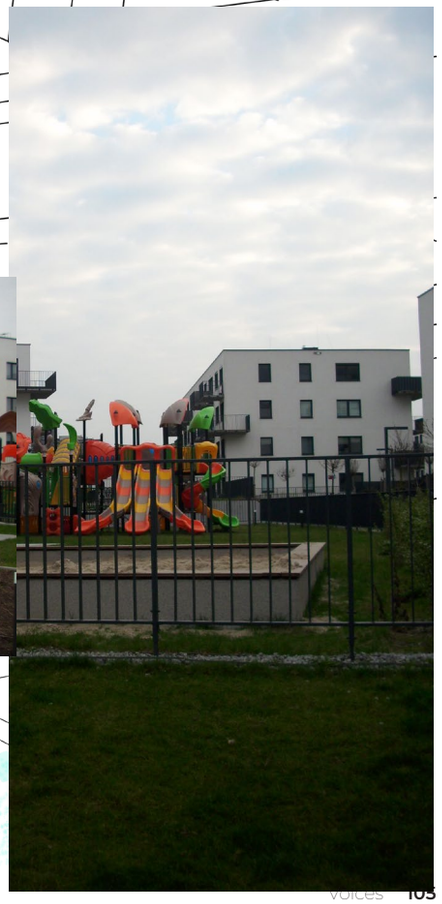


Homogeneous environment

Poor infrastructure

Corner shop “Żabka”

Normative public spaces

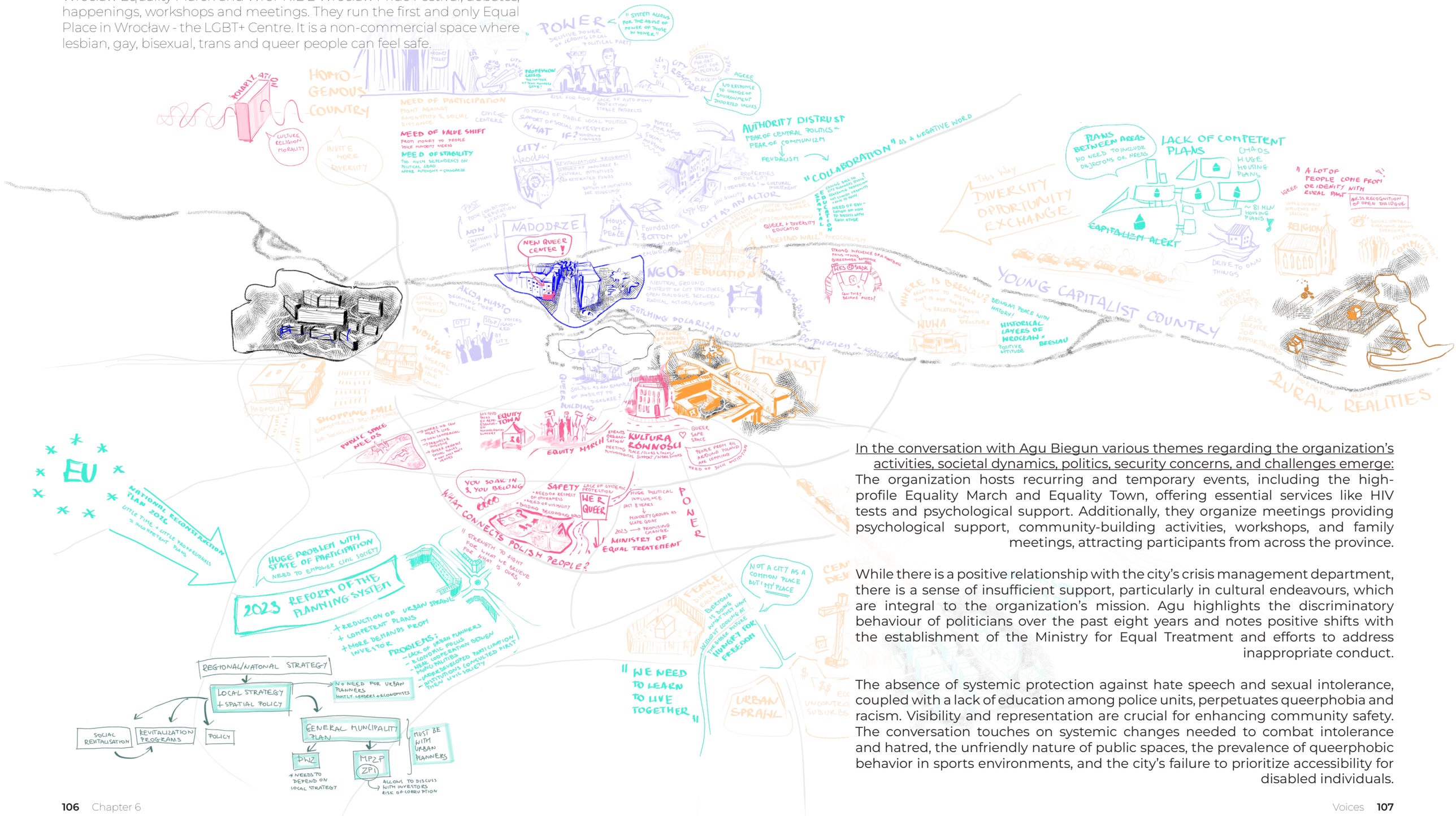


Voice 4:
Agu Biegun “Kultura Równości”

BIO:

Agu Biegun is a Board Member of the LGBTQ+ foundation ‘Culture of Equality’. They are an active activist and campaigner for the safety of non-heteronormative people and increased equality in Wrocław. “Culture of Equality” has been operating in Wrocław since 2014. It integrates and educates Wrocław’s LGBT+ community and their allies. They organise the Wrocław Equality March and WroPRIDE Wrocław Pride Festival, debates, happenings, workshops and meetings. They run the first and only Equal Place in Wrocław - the LGBT+ Centre. It is a non-commercial space where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people can feel safe.

Location E:
“Kultura Równości”



<u>In the conversation with Agu Biegun various themes regarding the organization’s activities, societal dynamics, politics, security concerns, and challenges emerge:</u>

The organization hosts recurring and temporary events, including the high-profile Equality March and Equality Town, offering essential services like HIV tests and psychological support. Additionally, they organize meetings providing psychological support, community-building activities, workshops, and family meetings, attracting participants from across the province.

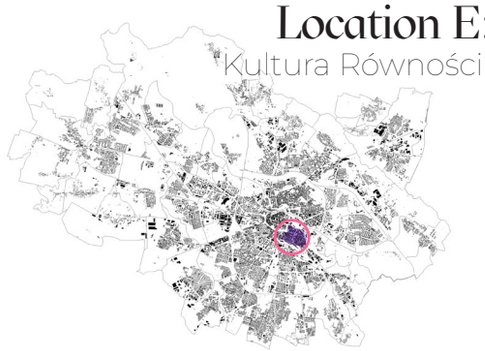
While there is a positive relationship with the city’s crisis management department, there is a sense of insufficient support, particularly in cultural endeavours, which are integral to the organization’s mission. Agu highlights the discriminatory behaviour of politicians over the past eight years and notes positive shifts with the establishment of the Ministry for Equal Treatment and efforts to address inappropriate conduct.

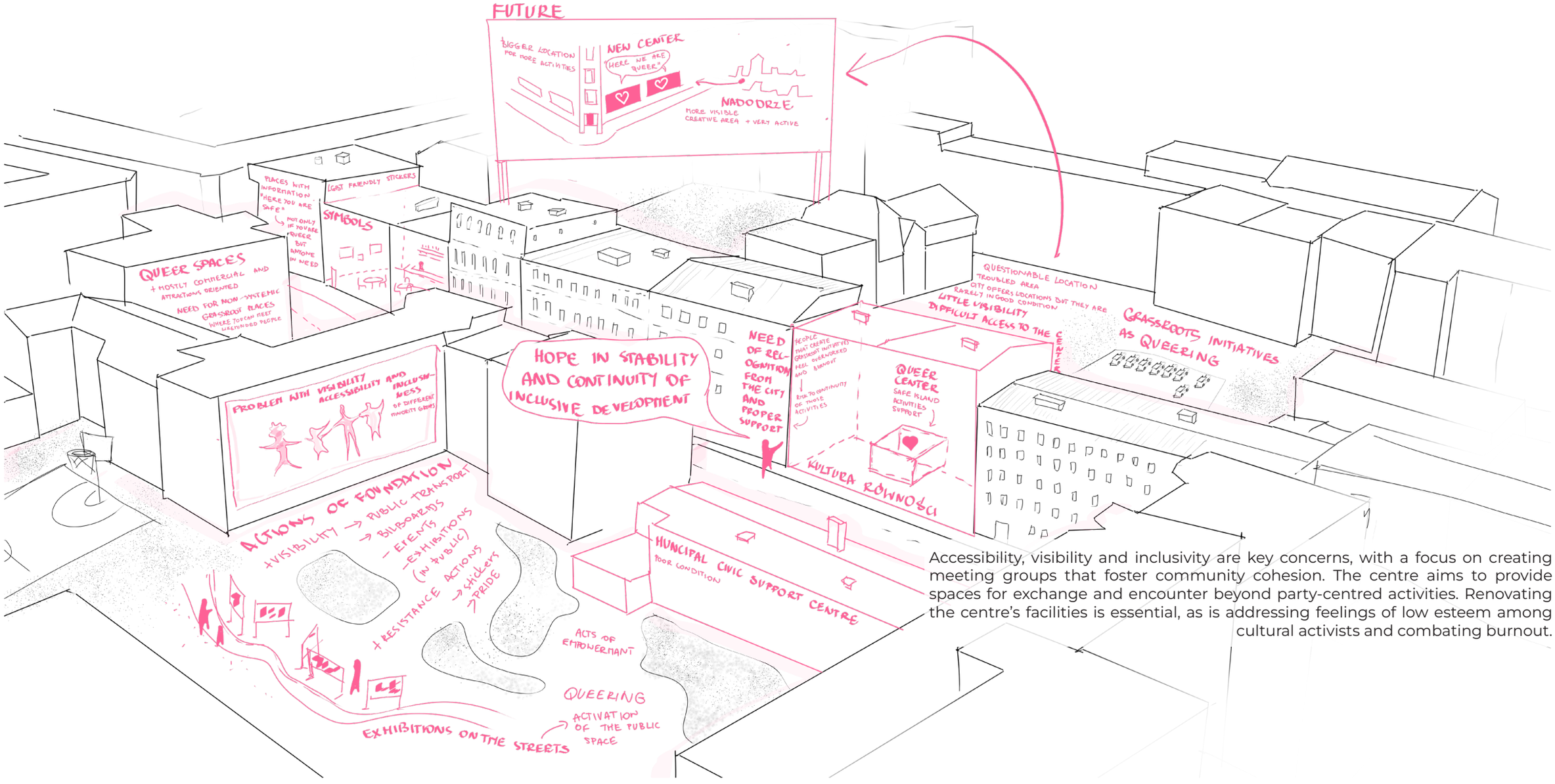
The absence of systemic protection against hate speech and sexual intolerance, coupled with a lack of education among police units, perpetuates queerphobia and racism. Visibility and representation are crucial for enhancing community safety. The conversation touches on systemic changes needed to combat intolerance and hatred, the unfriendly nature of public spaces, the prevalence of queerphobic behavior in sports environments, and the city’s failure to prioritize accessibility for disabled individuals.

Voice 4:
Agu Biegun “Kultura Równości”

The Queer Centre’s headquarters, funded by the city, faces challenges in finding suitable and accessible locations. The forthcoming move to Łokietka 2 promises expanded activities and visibility. Grassroots initiatives play a crucial role in providing safe spaces for the queer community, emphasizing the need for non-commercial venues. The centre prioritises visibility through various means such as displays in public transport, billboards, posters and events such as exhibitions. Resistance actions provide avenues for community expression outside the system.

Location E:
“Kultura Równości”



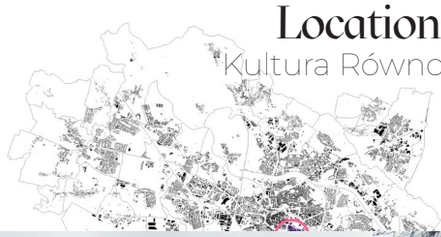


Accessibility, visibility and inclusivity are key concerns, with a focus on creating meeting groups that foster community cohesion. The centre aims to provide spaces for exchange and encounter beyond party-centred activities. Renovating the centre’s facilities is essential, as is addressing feelings of low esteem among cultural activists and combating burnout.

Voice 4:
Agu Biegun “Kultura Równości”

Observations of the area during field work.

Location E:
“Kultura Równości”



Back of LGBTQ+ fundation “Kultura Równości”

Courtyard

Front of LGBTQ+ fundation “Kultura Równości”

Courtyard

Conclusions

The interviews brought attention to many important issues about power dynamics, systemic challenges, civic engagement, situation of the planning profession, work and needs of the LGBTQ+ community. This was summarised in the soft maps on the previous pages but also in main needs according to 4 themes: power, norm, queering, urban struggle. They are presented below in the form of cards. They will be used as an important indicator in the further development of strategic action in chapter 9.

CHAPTER 7:
Power

Stakeholders

Equality Action Plan

Policy Review

Conclusions & Suggestions

Stakeholders

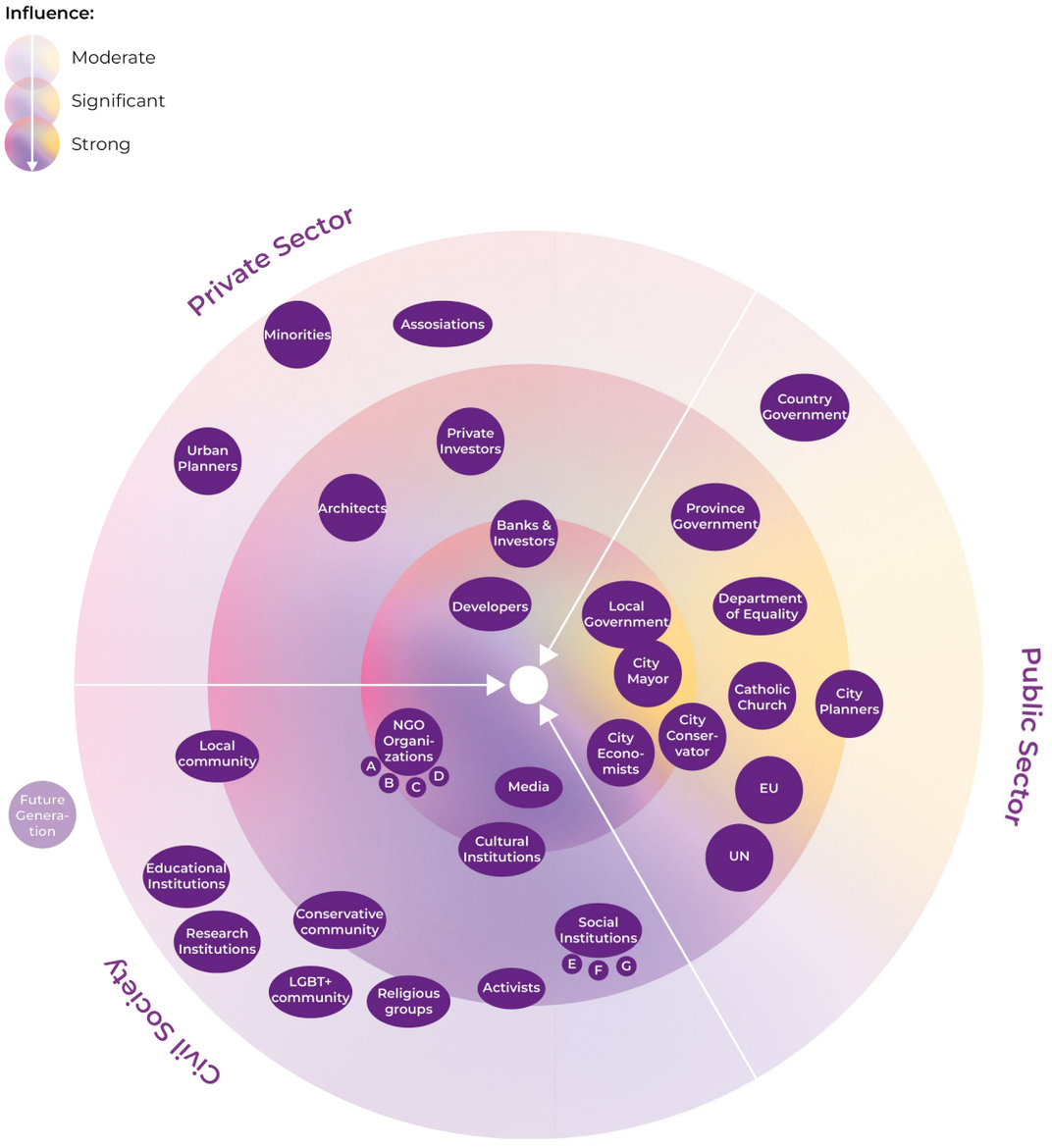
Stakeholders analysis provides an understanding of the individuals, groups, or organisations with an interest or that may be affected by the project's outcomes. This analysis facilitates more effective decision-making but also enhances stakeholder engagement, which in turn contributes to the project's overall success.

In this project 3 sectors of stakeholder were identified: Private, Public, Civil Society. They are presented on a diagram in range of influence from moderate to strong.

Public Sector: In the matter of equality, diversity and spatial planning, local government, municipal and city economists currently exert a greater influence on decision-making than city planners, civil society (participation processes) or the European Union. This creates a significant risk and places a considerable amount of power in the hands of leading political parties. The role of City Conservator became increasingly significant. This individual possesses considerable influence over the approval of new developments or improvements to infrastructure, even if such developments result in reduced accessibility or a deterioration in quality of life. It is necessary to undertake a re-evaluation of this role and to update the standards associated with it.

Private Sector: Poland is a young capitalist democracy with a strong drive towards investment and development. Consequently, a significant degree of power and ownership is concentrated in the hands of banks and developers, who are seldom subject to any socially oriented restrictions on their investments. Spatial planning is underdeveloped and not accorded sufficient respect. This has resulted in a dearth of professionals in the field and, consequently, a paucity of influence on decision-making and city development.

Civil Society: Local NGO organisations, media and cultural institutions are making a valuable contribution to social equity and the protection of minorities. They offer a great deal to citizens, yet they are not adequately rewarded or recognised by the city. A systemic issue exists with regard to participation. This is manifested in a lack of binding commitment to the process, which silences the voices of minorities or local communities, which often possess the most knowledge about the place in question and should therefore be respected.



A. Kultura Równości
B. Dom Pokoju
C. Lambda
D. Herstory

E. Municipal Social Welfare Centre
F. Centre for Social and Family Work
G. Homeless and Refugee Team

Stakeholders

Power - Interest matrix

The power-interest matrix presents the stakeholders of the project in three categories: private (black), public (purple) and civil (pink). Future generations have a high interest in an equitable change, but lack the power to intervene. This representation is presented in the project for the purpose of considering the influence of the present actions on future generations.

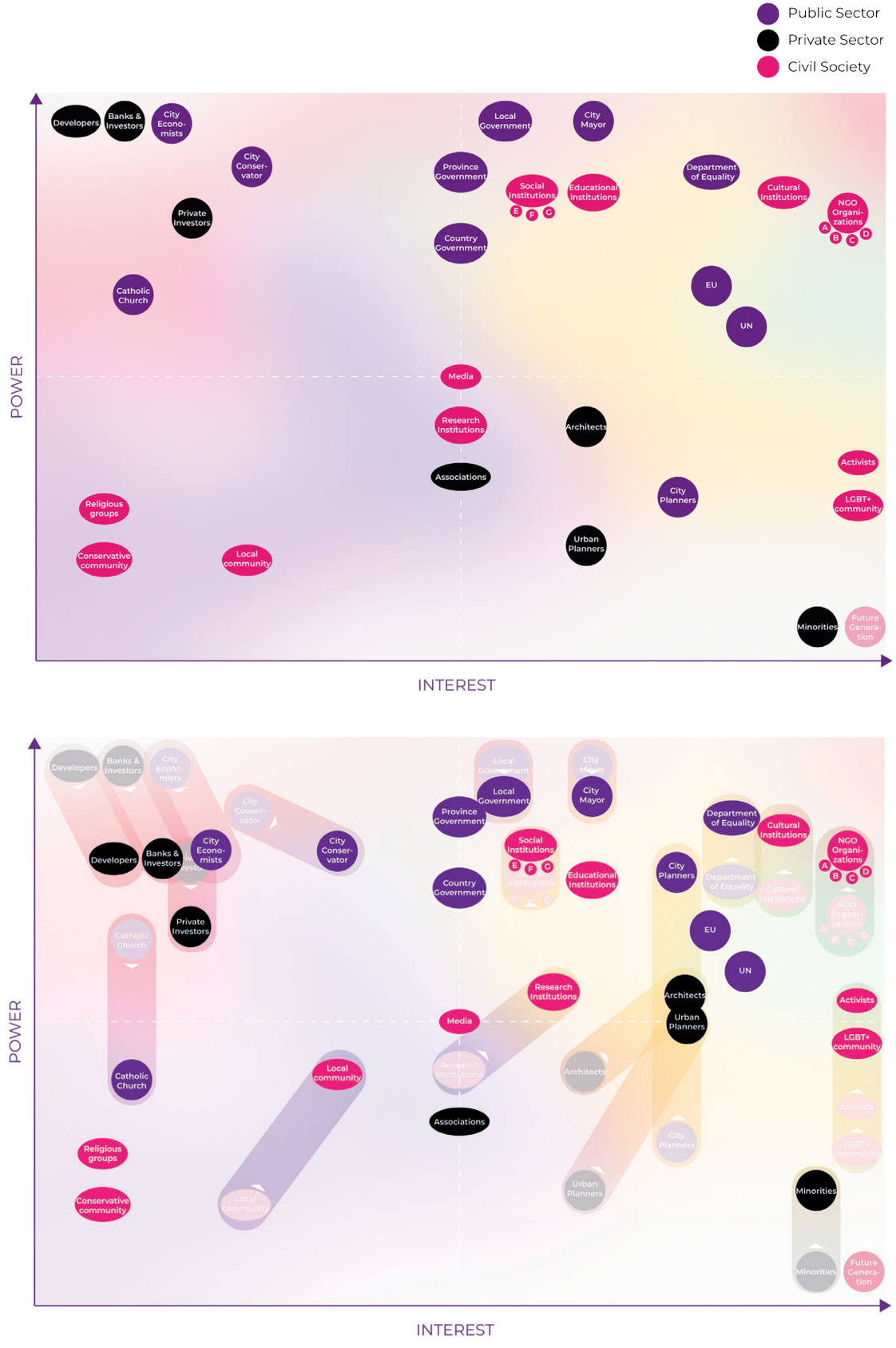
The diagram below presents a series of suggestions for potential changes. It is necessary to determine which stakeholders require empowerment, which require more information, and which should have less influence. These decisions represent the culmination of the previously presented stakeholder analysis.

<u>Empower:</u> Minorities, City Planners, Social Institutions, Department of Equity, Cultural institutions, NGO Organizations, Activists;

<u>Empower & Inform:</u> Local community, Architects & Urban Planners, Research institutions;

<u>Inform & reduce influence:</u> Developers, Banks, City Economists, City Conservator;

<u>Reduce influence:</u> Catholic church, Private Investors, Local Government, City Mayor.



Wroclaw Equality Action Plan 2024-2026

As of the 2023 elections, the new government in Poland has created a national Department of Equality, with a requirement for each region to elect a local equality department and representative. The city of Wroclaw, with a starting date of 2024, took this opportunity and started working on the “Equality Action Plan 2024-2026”.

On 5 March 2024, I had the pleasure of participating in public consultations with other residents of Wroclaw, including representatives of NGOs working on the following issues: women’s rights, anti-violence, gender equality, senior citizens, people with disabilities, migrants, LGBT+ people. It turned out that I was the only representative with knowledge of spatial planning, which added a lot to the discussion. Knowing the needs and perspectives of residents and NGOs gave us a lot of insight into the challenges and opportunities of Wroclaw’s just future. Together we went through all the objectives and sub-objectives of the draft “Equity Action Plan 2024-2026”, proposed changes or related actions.

The civic consultation on the equity action plan for Wrocław highlights several key points. The Wrocław City Office could stands as a model for equitable practices. There is a pressing need to map existing activities, networks, and resources within social institutions.

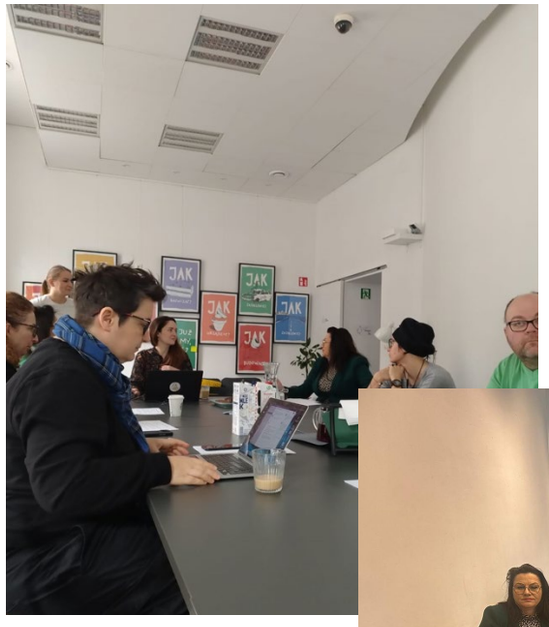
The language of the plan is still quite binary (man – woman), the inclusivity of it could be greatly improved. Increasing visibility and directness in addressing gender issues are crucial for enhancing safety and inclusivity. There is a notable absence of relations with the police, posing a challenge to community engagement efforts.

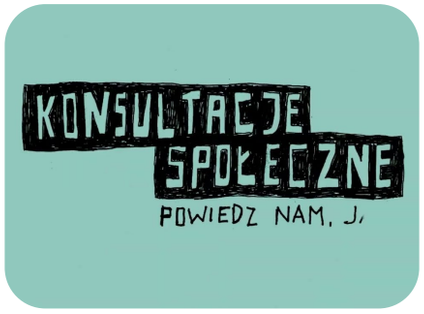
Concerns also arise regarding the lack of diversity in public spaces and the absence of a clear spatial vision for fostering inclusivity. Additionally, the limited budget allocated for action underscores the significance of this being the first initiative under the Minister for Equal Treatment and a new project overall.

^ *Figure 22*
Author: K. Domażalska
Source: Wydział Partycypacji Społecznej Wrocław

GOAL 1:	Promote the principles of equal treatment, gender equality, non-discrimination
GOAL 2:	Promoting equal participation of women and men in political representation, public life and civic activities
GOAL 3:	Support for employers/institutions in the area of diversity management in the workplace
GOAL 4:	Addressing all forms of gender-based violence
GOAL 5:	Taking into account the needs of women and men in different areas of life: health, culture, sport, social assistance, etc.
GOAL 6:	Development of a society open to diversity and building a culture of inclusion

v *Figure 23*
Author: K. Domażalska
Source: Wydział Partycypacji Społecznej Wrocław





Policy Review

It is important to note that the “Equality Action Plan 2024-2026” is the first document of this kind in Wroclaw, which can lead to it being too general or theoretical. Therefore, a policy review was carried out in order to broaden the knowledge of challenges and opportunities for a fairer city.

Various documents were selected to be examined, ranging from international (UN Habitat “Gender Mainstreaming In Spatial Planning”; European Union “LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025”), national (Poland “National Action Programme on Equal Treatment 2022-2030”) to local (Vienna “Gender Sensitive Urban Planning”; London “Gender and Spatial Planning Guide”).

GOALS & VALUES	**Gender Tolerance** **Safety** **Building LGBTIQ inclusive societies** **Leading the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world** **Fostering an enabling environment for civil society**	**Guide for Gender sensitive approach** **Participation**	**Responsibility & Accountability** **Awareness & Education** **Access & Participation** **Visibility & Representation** *Financial support	**Democratic engagement & participation for all genders** **Promoting incluivity** **Creation & adaptation of Equal Treatment Programme**	**Safety** **Environmental justice** **Access and mobility** **Affordable housing**	**Use terms and formulations that reflect gender sensitivity** **Collect and analyse gendered data** **Equal access to services** **Equal participation of women and men in decision-making** **Equal treatment as the basis of the process of managing and evaluating public policies**	**Solidarity** **Safety** **Inclusivity** · Equality Department creation · Citizen Engagement Projects · Respectful Language Promotion · Participation · Visibility & Expression · Empowerment of Young People
SPATIAL	· Non-Discrimination: in all areas of life, including employment, education, healthcare, and housing · Healthcare Access & Services · Public Space & Housing: social Inclusion, safety · Educational spaces that promote diversity and inclusion · Social spaces for connecting	Use of Gender analysis and spatial indicators: · Level of usage by women and men · Satisfaction with services among women and men · Patterns of use among women and men · Time saved as a result of introduction of services for women and men separately · Housing · Mobility · Green Areas · Public Areas · Tailored Services · Safety & Lighting	· Cultural institutions · Local steering committees, centers · Healthcare, childcare centers · Research Institutions · Making local LGBTIQ history visible · Dedicated LGBTIQ offices & municipal structures · Memorials · Barrier free · Safety islands in public spaces · All gender services · Public Transport · Housing for different family types · Permanent visibility	· Affordable & accessible housing · Taking into consideration spatial, transport and economic development plans and land use policies · Inclusive facilities and services · Inclusive & accessible transport	· Place for safe intimacy in public realm · Queer visibility & safe space · Housing policy: different types of family · Spaces visibly inclusive · Affordable housing · Local facilities: shops, community facilities for children and elder care · Accessible: Schools, meeting places, parks, leisure facilities and play spaces · Public services: Recycling facilities, seating and shelter · Public toilets	· Equitable mobility · Women’s Work City · Gender-Neutral Facilities · Safe Public Spaces · Incorporating gender perspectives into urban planning processes · Women-Friendly Infrastructure · Gender-Responsive Housing	· Public space : safe & welcoming · Services: designed and redeveloped with needs of marginalized groups in mind · Public transport: takes into account the needs of different groups · Visibility & Expression
INTANGIBLE	· Promoting awareness and understanding of LGBTIQ community · Collaborating with international organizations, civil society groups		· SISTER CITIES STAND TOGETHER – Exchange Program for activists and Local Governments · Workshops, classes, mentoring · Cultural festivals, weeks or events · Supporting projects for community · Exhibitions · Queer history month projects · Trainings · Round tables · Tool to report non LGBTIQ inclusive infrastructure		· Cyclical workshops · Pride Celebrations · Events & Festivals	· Representation, participation and co-creation · Community Engagement · Gender-Equal Employment Practices	· Cyclical workshops on anti-discrimination and inclusion

Conclusions & Suggestions

Previously conducted interviews, analysis of policies and the “Equality Action Plan 2024-2026” for Wroclaw are concluded in suggestions for improvements and additions to the policy proposal. The focus is on spatial interventions (solid line), intangible actions in space or guidelines that enable spatial consequences or changes (dashed line).

On the right, suggestions for improvement are presented according to each of the six goals of the Wrocław Equality Action Plan, and below lessons learnt from other gender equality guidelines or policies. These are further developed into strategic actions presented in Chapter 9.

Lessons learnt from policy review

Spatial policy / guideline

- Housing: affordable, diverse
- Mobility
- Local steering committees, centers
- Making local LGBTIQ history visible
- Dedicated LGBTIQ offices & municipal structures
- Memorials
- Place for safe intimacy in public realm
- Public services: Recycling facilities, seating and shelter

- Exchange Program for activists and Local Governments
- Workshops, classes, mentoring
- Cultural festivals, weeks or events
- Supporting projects for community
- Exhibitions
- Tool to report non LGBTIQ inclusive infrastructure
- Representation, participation and co-creation

Spatial policy / guideline

GOAL 1:

- Public space as education arena
- Educational spaces that promote diversity and inclusion
- Permanent & temporary visibility in the city

GOAL 2:

- Educational and community building events
- Support of caretakers & care services
- Participatory planning: women walks

GOAL 3:

- Promotion of Micro-grants
- Collaboration with educational & research institutions
- Municipality as visible example of equality
- Academia Business Class: collaboration of NGOs+business+Universities

GOAL 4:

- Cooperation with safety services
- Education in space
- Safety islands in public spaces
- Safe design

GOAL 5:

- Sexual education events, projects, workshops
- Collecting data on the needs of different genders and minority groups
- Healthcare Access & Services: City gynaecological and urological office, Equipped breastfeeding rooms, more public toilets
- Cultural infrastructure sensitive to the different needs of gender/minority groups
- Public Space visibly inclusive & safe: Sports infrastructure sensitive to the different needs of gender/minority groups
- Green infrastructure
- Youth centers
- Barrier free: Accessibility for the elderly, disabled, etc.
- Social spaces for connecting

GOAL 6:

- Culture & sport as tools for social inclusion and promotion of diversity - accessibility
- Enriching libraries’ offer on diversity
- Educational workshops

CHAPTER 8:
Queering

Queer x Place

Queer Space

Queering Space

Queering elements

Queer x Place
National Network

This chapter is dedicated to an examination of the LGBTQ+ places, practices and history in Wrocław. The analysis was conducted through the use of literature, fieldwork, interviews and spatial observations.
In recent years, there has been a notable increase in the mobilisation and growth of networks of LGBTQ+ community allies, associations and foundations in Poland. One of the reasons for this is that the years 2015-2023 of conservative political leadership demanded from the queer community to demonstrate greater resistance. The map below presents the national network of different associations and foundations that create a resilient web of support and tolerance. It should be noted that this is the state for 05.2024, and that there may be smaller associations missing due to limited information. It will therefore be necessary to update and deepen knowledge about this LGBT+ national web.

Sources >
https://gayplaces.pl/search/Wroc%C5%82aw/Wroc%C5%82aw; https://mnw.org.pl/polska-lgbt/; https://serwis-rodzinny.pl/gfx-upload/Organizacje_LGBT_w_Polsce_01102019_do_druku.pdf; https://gazetawroclawska.pl/14-najlepszych-miejsc-lgbtq-we-wroclawiu-zdjecia-film/ga/c1-15228048/zd/45904120; https://noizz.pl/lgbt/seria-wideoprzewodnikow-po-teczowej-polsce-miejsca-przyjazne-lgbtq/m3f9bhr; https://wroclaw.naszemiasto.pl/wroclaw-oto-kluby-i-bary-przyjazne-gejom-zobaczcie-galeria/ga/c1-7871565/zd/55786841; https://miejsce.lgbt/ https://dodaj.miejsce.lgbt/news; https://queer.pl/miejsca/lista/region/3; https://kulturarownosci.org/centrumlgbt/; https://miejsce.lgbt/znajdz

^ *Figure 24*
Made by Małgorzata Rybak
Data: Szymon Pifczyk (Kartografia Ekstremalna) & Central Statistical Office in Poland

1. The Association of Families and Friends of LGBT Persons Acceptance
2. The Asfera Association
3. The Equality Bank Association; the Kalisz Equality March
4. The Silent Rainbow Foundation
5. The Diversity Poland Foundation
6. The Equality Factory Association
7. The Wave of Equality Foundation; the Koszalin Equality March
8. The Fund for Variety
9. Milo Mazurkiewicz Solidarity Fund
10. The Perpetual Help Group
11. Homokomando Association
12. The Campaign Against Homophobia Association
13. The Lambda Warsaw Association
14. The LGBT+rights Association
15. The Love Does Not Exclude Association
16. We, parents association
17. The Equality Parade; the Equality Volunteers Foundation
18. Positive Rainbow Union
19. Queer UW
20. Replica magazine
21. Sistrum Association
22. The Trans-Fusion Foundation
23. Choir Voces Gaudii
24. Volup Warsaw Sports Club
25. The Feminist Fund (FemFund)
26. The Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law
27. Society for Anti-discrimination Education
28. The Parish of the United Ecumenical Catholic Church of the Archangels of the Lord
29. The Stacja Programme Association
30. The Institute for Positive Sexuality
31. The Foundation for Social Education
32. Pro Diversity
33. Salvation foundation
34. Bears of Poland
35. Open cycling workshop
36. Po Drugie Foundation
37. Stonewall Group Association
38. Equality Institute Association
39. Krakofonia association
40. Lambda Szczecin Association
41. Equality March Piła
42. The Equality March in Gniezno
43. Equality March in Konin
44. The Equality March Association in Lublin
45. The Equality March in Rzeszów
46. The Equality March in Toruń
47. The Olsztyn Equality March
48. The Płock Equality March
49. The Equality Province Association
50. Queer on the Oder River
51. Queer May Association
52. Equator Centre; Diversity Workshop
53. Equality.org.pl Foundation
54. State of Equality Association
55. TęczArt Association
56. Rainbow Częstochowa Association
57. Tęczowe Opole Association
58. Tęczowe Podbeskidzie
59. The Rainbow Families Foundation
60. The Rainbow Association
61. The Rainbow Białystok Association
62. Tęczowy Tarnów Association
63. RainbowUJ
64. The Tolerado Association
65. The Faith and Rainbow Foundation
66. Znaki Równości Federation; DOM EQ - Krakow Equality Centre
67. KIAR Foundation
68. Voice of the Heart Foundation
69. Homo Faber
70. Sisters of Perpetual Pleasure
71. INPRO International Projects Association
72. Rainbow Equal Opportunities Association
73. Equal Culture Association
74. TĘCZA Lower Silesian Group of Gays and Lesbians

Online:

A. Atlas of Hate
B. Coalition of Marching Cities
C. Queer Tour
D. Queer.pl
E. Neutral Language Council collective
F. Tranzycja.pl project
G. sexed.pl
H. https://rownosc.eu/

Queer x Place
History

Prior to the Second World War, Wrocław was a part of Germany and was known as Breslau. During the 1920s, Germany was renowned for its progressive and tolerant attitudes. Breslau was regarded as one of the cities that were Queer friendly. It was here that the queer sculptor Theodor von Gosen resided. He created statues of “Orpheus” (Fig. 5) and “Amor on Pegasus” (Fig. 15) that became meeting spots for the queer community (Dudra, 2022). The first association for homosexual men was probably founded in Breslau in 1919/1920 on today’s Grunwaldzka Street (Fig. 21). It was founded by the journalist Ernst Bellenbaum and was called Sagitta (Dudra, 2022). Other important places from that time are presented in figure 6, 11 & 17. Of interest is Kosciuszko Square (previously Tauenzienplatz, Fig. 10), where in the 1920s numerous establishments in Breslau catered to non-heteronormative individuals. However, by the 1930s, this situation had changed dramatically. A neon sign declaring loyalty to Hitler soon appeared above the square, marking the end of the era of freedom and tolerance (Dudra, 2022).

This points out the significance of safeguarding institutionalised spaces for minority groups, as these can be easily targeted and placed in danger due to their visibility. It is intriguing to observe how the history of other nations, which no longer reside in the city, continues to influence it through the historical imprint embedded in the city’s fabric. The current Polish queer community, in particular, relates to this history with pride and hope.

Two key sources of information about post-war times in Wrocław were the book of Jan Snarski, entitled Bez Tajemnic [“Without Secrets”], and the Gay Guide 93/94 Eastern Europe, created by ILGA. These sources provided valuable insights into meeting places and cruising spots in Wrocław. They also demonstrated the significant influence of the media and archiving. Figures 2, 3, 4, 12, 16 and 19 were part of a “Rainbow Trail” or “Trail of Shame,” which served as a meeting place for non-heteronormative individuals engaged in cruising or simply socializing and exchanging information/ gossiping. In addition, locations such as restaurants and cafés that were known for their welcoming atmosphere towards the LGBTQ+ community are also included (figures: 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, 18, 20). It is crucial to highlight the proximity between more commercial LGBT+ places and public spaces, as well as the proximity of more hidden cruising places in urban nature or around public toilets. Proximity to the city centre also plays a role, offering more social control and possibilities for exit or entry.

Photos >
Photos nr: 1,5, 10, 11, 14, 16,5, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21
Source: Irek Jozwik (https://grupabi-wakowa.pl/daw-na-laznia-miejs-ka-we-wroclawiu/) fotopolska.eu

1. Club “Studio” ul. Popowicka

2. Cruising spot

3. Cruising area - “Rainbow trail”

4. Cruising spot - public toilet

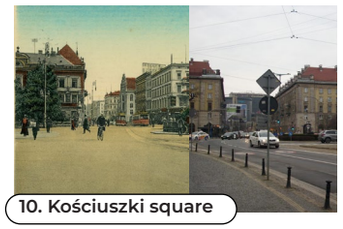
5. Cruising - Orpheus statue

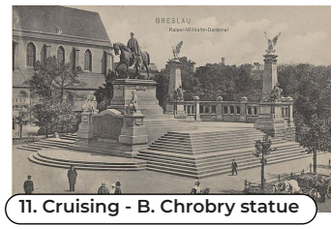
6. Police headquarters

7. Cafe “Monopol”

8. Cafe “Teatralna”

9. Bar bistro “Expresso”


10. Kościuszki square


11. Cruising - B. Chrobry statue

12. Cruising - public toilet

13. Cafe “Centralna” & “Czardasz”

14. Public baths

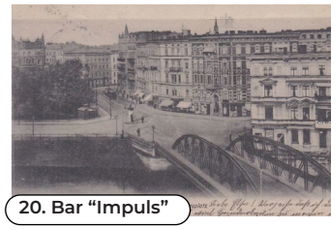
15. Cruising - Amor on Pegasus

16. Cruising - public toilet

17. Restaurant “Place for friends”

18. Bar “Super Micha”

19. Cruising - Polski Square


20. Bar “Impuls”

21. LGBT association from 1920

Queer x Place
Current situation

The city centre of Wroclaw offers a greater variety of queer spaces and informalities than peripheries or rural tissue. It conceals a greater number of layers of visibility and publicity, which create opportunities for interventions. There is noticeably more commercial places advertising themselves as “LGBT+ friendly”, yet that is not always the case. What is of interest is the close proximity of well-known LGBT party areas and more commercial areas that are considered less safe (No. 1 Niepold Square & No. 16 Neons Courtyard; No. 2 Słodowa Island & No. 17 “Tamka” Club). Although they are visibly close to each other, there is less direct connection between them for citizens to walk through. Unfortunately, the location of the intended Queer Centre was not as accessible as it could have been (No. 15). The centre was situated in an area of the city that has been identified as a troubled.

A mapping of the city’s semi-public areas, informal markets or kiosks, information columns and state canteens with cheap meals revealed few opportunities for social mixing, meeting of diversity or circulation of information.

Legend for Map:

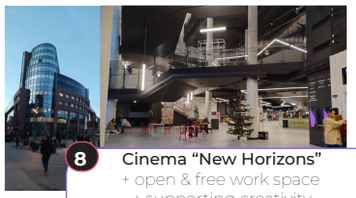
- Buildings
- Formal queer spaces
- Queer spaces based on profit but engaged in community
- Solely profit based LGBTQIA+ freindly spaces
- Profit places that are actually LGBTQIA+ friendly
- Out of Norm (markets, social bistro, anarchists)
- Sex shops
- Open spaces
- Cruising spaces
- Destroyed places
- Administrative borders
- Water Bodies

NORM

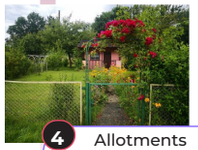
1 Niepold Square / clubs
- bad reputation
- unsafe
-not LGBT friendly
+ lively

2 Słodowa Island
-not LGBT friendly
-/+ legal outdoor drinking
-/+ lively in spring/summer
+ free & open

3 Bar Barbara
+ City Culture Centre
+ open & free work space
+/- class divide



8 Cinema “New Horizons”
+ open & free work space
+ supporting creativity
+/- class divide

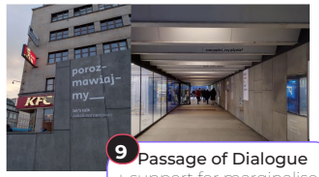


4 Allotments
+ relatively open
-/+ space of informality

5 Bar Mleczny (canteen)
+ supported by the state
+ cheap meals every day
+/- class divide

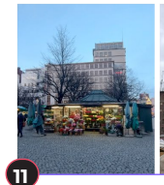
6 Information column & kiosk
+ informality & access to info.

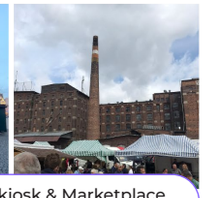
7



9 Passage of Dialogue
+ support for marginalised
+ open & free work space
+ provocations

10 Municipal Social Care Centre
+ close to LGBT centre
+ visible & active
-/+ poorer part of the city



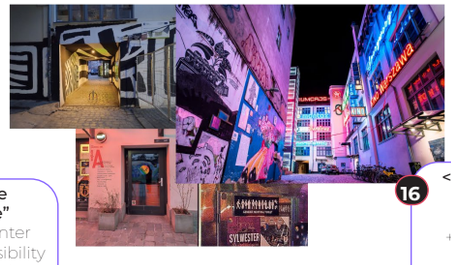


11 24/7 Flower kiosk & Marketplace
+ informality & grey economy

13 Statue of the 100th anniversary of the granting of voting rights to Polish women

14 Solpol
+ First Postmodern building in PL
- Destroyed by profit driven city

15 “Równe Miejsce”
+ LGBT canter
-/+ lack of visibility
- little activity
-/+ poorer part of the city



16 <Neons courtyard “Tamka” > / clubs
+ good reputation
+ safe
+ LGBT friendly & actively supporting
+ LGBT visibility
+ lively

17

QUEERING

Queer Space

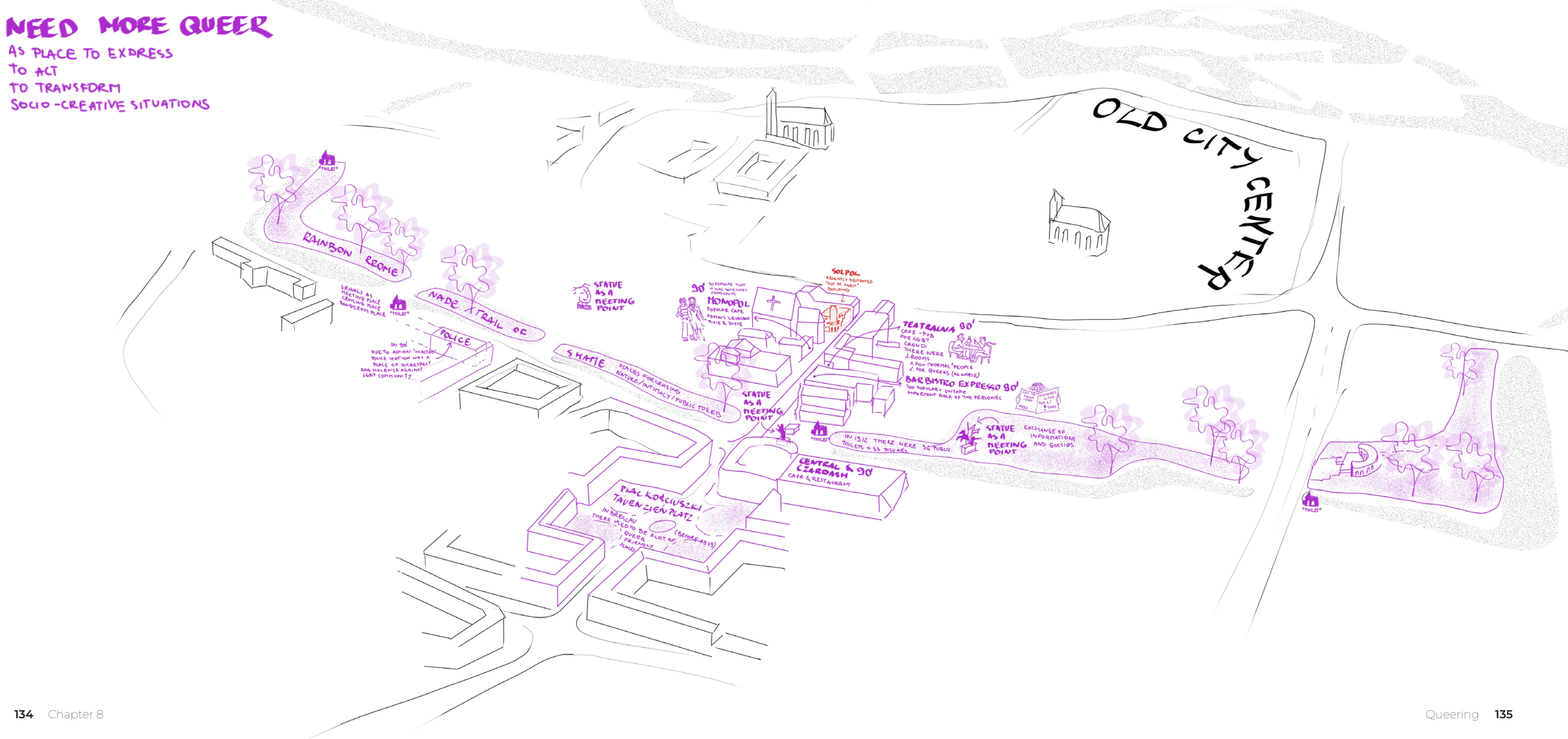
Lecture: Piotr Buśko

BIO:
Piotr Buśko is a board member of the LGBTQ+ Culture of Equality Foundation. He is an active activist and campaigner for the safety of non-heteronormative people and for greater equality in Wroclaw. He creates the podcast 'Równe rozmowy' (Fair Conversations), he performs as a drag queen 'Twoja Stara'. I had the pleasure of attending his lecture "Nieopowiedziane queerstorie Wrocławia" (Untold Queerstories of Wrocław) on 14 March 2024.

The lecture was largely based on Jan Snarski's book "Bez Tajemnic" ["Without Secrets"] (2022), about the life of the LGBTQ+ community in Wroclaw in the 1960-1970s. Piotr Buśko focused on places that became queer, but also on practices of queering space.

Firstly, queer spaces are presented through this soft map. The focus was mainly on the city centre of Wroclaw. There were restaurants like "Teatralna", "Centralna", "Czasrdasz", "Monopol" czy "Bar Bistro Expresso", known for their openness to non-heteronormative people. It is important to note their proximity to the "Rainbow Trail" - a moat and park surrounding the Old Town that was known as a meeting place for the LGBTQ+ community and cruising. There were many statues and public toilets, which provided ample opportunity for informal gatherings. Yet it was close enough to more central areas that provided social control and possible outlets.

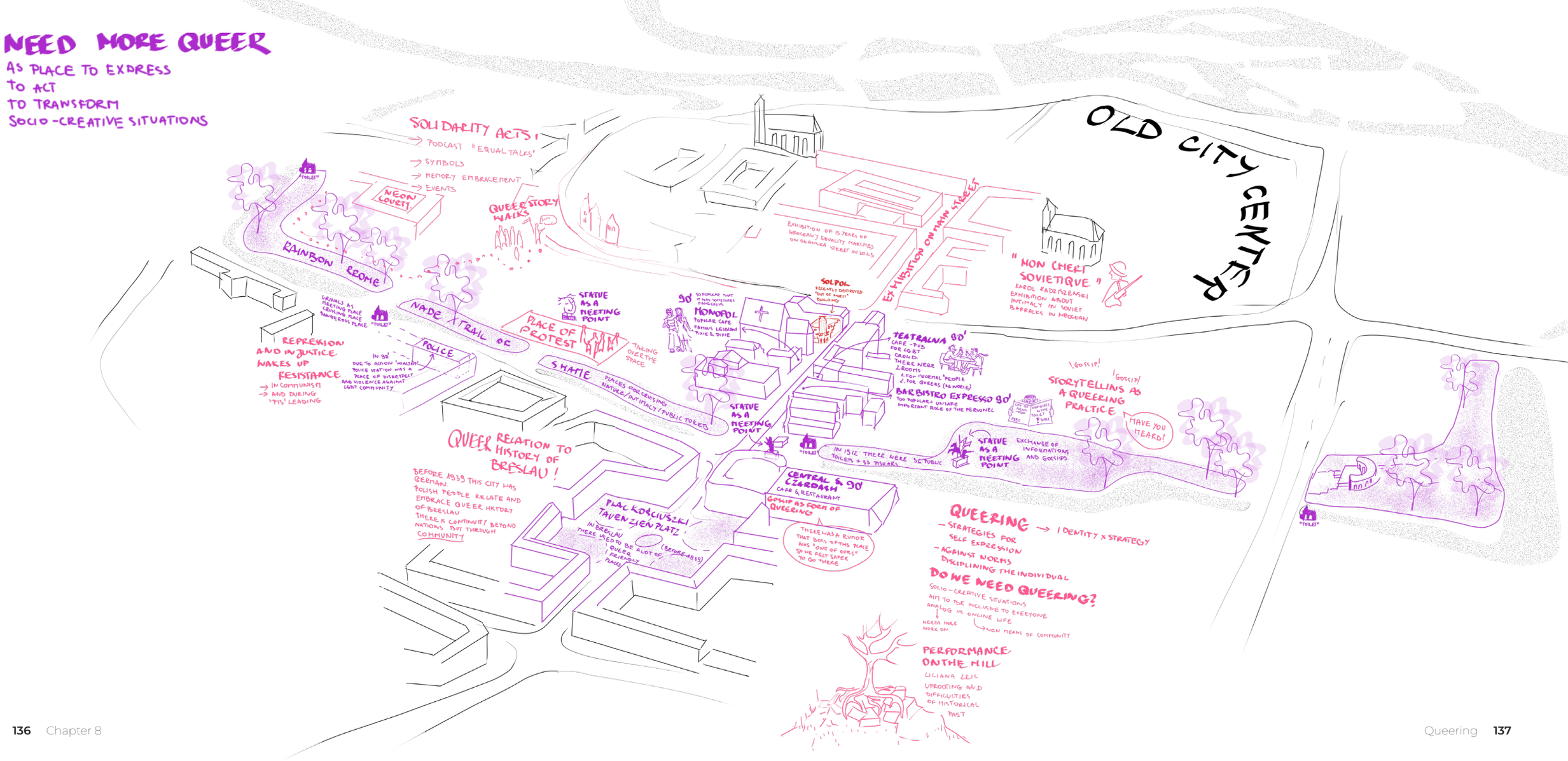
One building was highlighted in red - Solpol. It was the first post-modernist building in the province. It had an expressive form, pastel colours from pink to blue and a variety of shapes. For years this building was a topic of discussion among local citizens, historians and architects. Unfortunately, after fights and protests in 2022, this building was destroyed by the decision of the owners and the city failed to protect an important heritage. This building is mentioned here because many would say that it was "queer" itself. And society had to decide whether it should be there or not. Does it represent the inability of Polish society to disagree, to accept things and let them be?



Queering Space

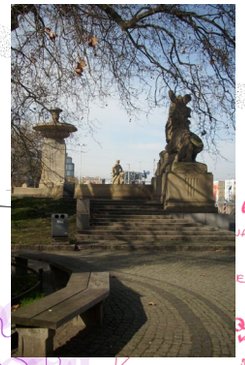
Lecture: Piotr Buśko

In his presentation, Piotr Buśko introduced and highlighted the importance of queering as a practice. One of them was acts of resistance, like protest and disobedience, another was building community and queer network. Art also plays an important role. Methods such as exhibitions, performances, visual arts, storytelling or media were important examples of sharing information, challenging the status quo or simply expressing oneself. Those actions that temporarily or permanently transform public space and expose citizens to queer, at the same time make it more “normal” or acceptable in the environment. Other ways of queering were walks, events, archiving and gossiping. For example, some gossiped that the boss of the café “Centralna” was a homosexual man. Will we ever know the truth? Probably not, but this medium, “gossip”, was enough to create information of safety in some places. Queering can be seen as a form of transformation, an expression of identity, a strategy for expressing oneself outside the norm.



Queering Space

Observations of the area during field work.



Locations where LGBT+ locals used to be in 1960-1970

“Rainbow path”

“Amor on Pegasus”

Conclusions

Fieldwork, literature analysis, media and interviews lead to the observation of different types of queer spaces or queering practices that can occur. These have been presented as cards (see page 147) that have the power to transform and add value to places. Their use is presented in more detail on pages 176-185.

Queer space:

- Invited: spaces appropriated by grassroots movements and their associated non-governmental organisations (Miraftab, 2004).
- Invented: spaces that are claimed by grassroots efforts through collective action, but which involve direct confrontation with authorities or the established status quo (Miraftab, 2004).
- Historical Continuity: Places that embed history of LGBTQ+ community and are still recognized over time.
- Meeting Points

Queering practice:

- Archive
- Walks
- Gossip
- Art & Performance
- Story Telling
- Media
- Symbols
- Activism & Network

It is important to note that this categorisation is based on findings from the case study of Wroclaw. It is sure that there are more variations of queer spaces or ways to queer place that are site-specific or related to different cultures. This would require further research.

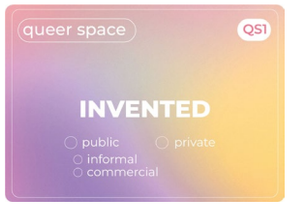
"Exit points, entry points, transversal thinking and making beyond our discipline"

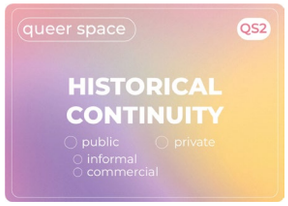
"Gender perspective but also wider - against general norms or barriers "

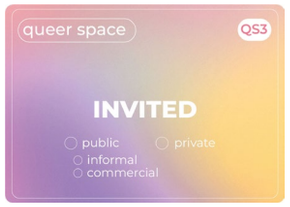
" Maybe we don't need queer maybe its enough when its safe for all? "

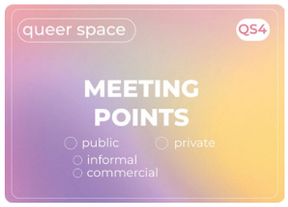
Photos >
Sources: Queerstoria Archive, Kultura Równości, Queer walks with Ewa Pluta bluetram.pl, Mon cheri sovietique Karol Radziszewski

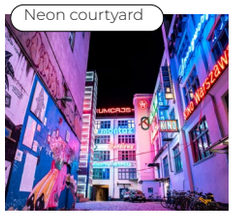
QUEER SPACE



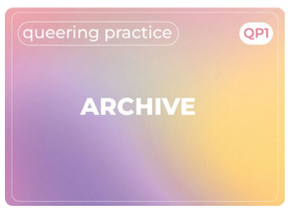


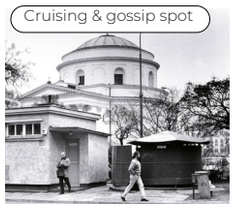


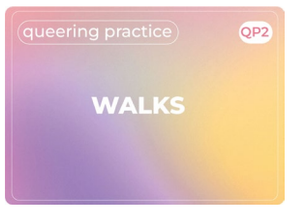


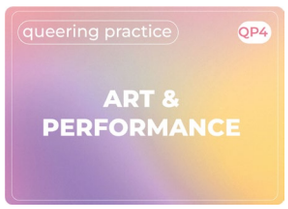


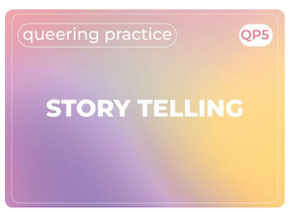
QUEERING PRACTICE

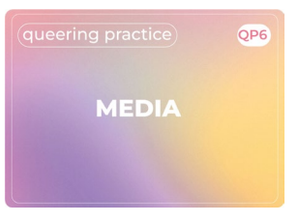


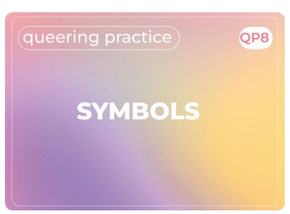


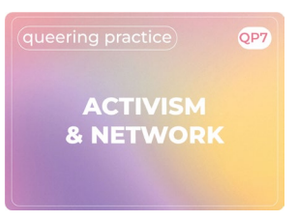












CHAPTER 9:
What can we learn from queering?

Strategic Actions

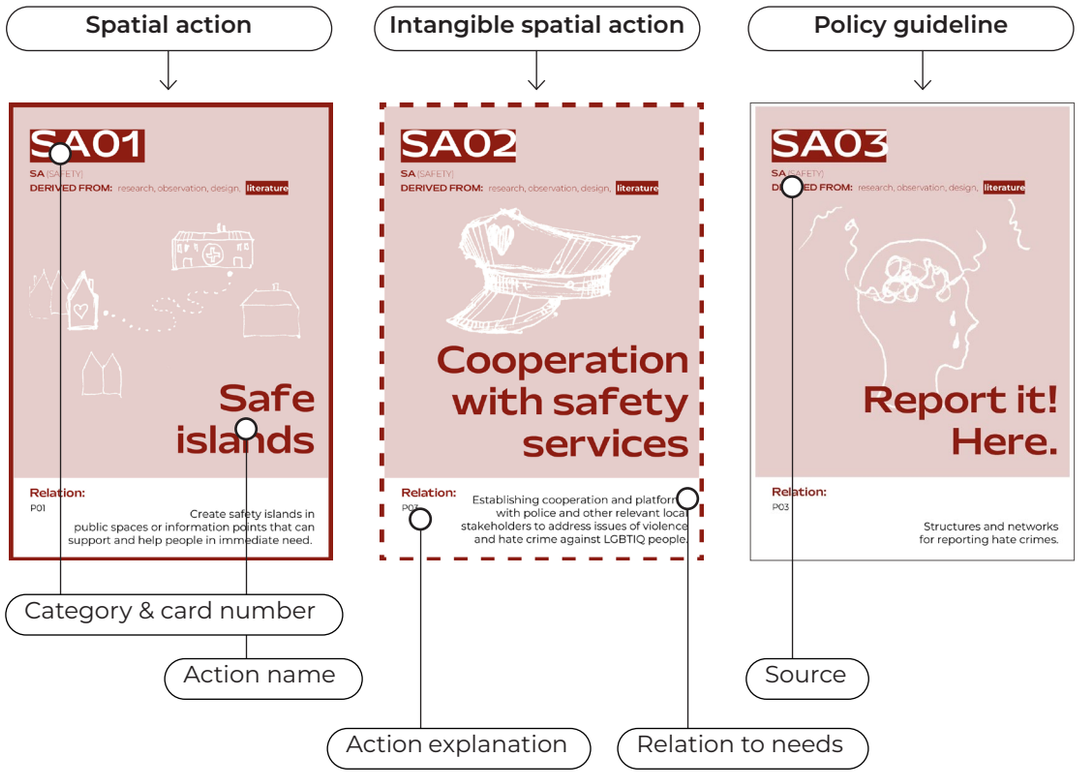
Queer Lens

Catalogue of enabling spatial qualities

Place: Jagodno

Strategic Actions

Previously presented research, interviews, fieldwork and policy analysis resulted in the development of the main needs according to each of the thesis focus topics: Power Dynamics, Norm, Queering, Urban Struggle. These needs, together with the project findings, helped to create strategic action cards. The cards are suggestions of policy change, tangible interventions in space and temporal interventions in space that help to build more just and gender equal environments. The cards are separated into nine categories: Systemic change (adjustments that are necessary for further equal development), green infrastructure, mobility, visibility, safety, services, economy, housing, education. These are presented in greater detail in the following pages.
Depending on the area of interest, the main needs can be chosen, which will then relate to specific cards that suggest actions for improvement.



Needs

- power 01 — Need of stability and protection from political disturbance
- power 02 — Need of improved participation & civic society empowerment
- power 03 — Need of collaboration & trust
- power 04 — Need of value shift: from profit to care
- norm 01 — Need of minority empowerment
- norm 02 — Need to introduce more diversity
- norm 03 — Need of places that represent various modes of living
- norm 04 — Need of education
- norm 05 — Need of economic consideration
- urban struggle 01 — Need of empower-ment of urban planners and planning reform
- urban struggle 02 — Need to fight against spatial divide
- urban struggle 03 — Need of more diverse, non-insti-tutionalised public spaces
- urban struggle 04 — Need of spatial education
- queer x art 01 — To express yourself, to create socio-creative situations
- queer x history 02 — To create community beyond nations
- queer x politics 03 — To be yourself beyond political vision
- queer x insurgency 04 — Ways of exit and entrance, to act & transform

Categories

- Green infrastructure
- Systemic change
- Mobility
- Visibility
- Safety
- Services
- Economy
- Housing
- Education

Strategic Actions

Systemic Change:
These actions indicate deficiencies within the current planning system & participation in Poland, as well as shortcomings in gender equality measures or empowerment of civic society. It is necessary to consider these factors in order to achieve a more just future.

SY01
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Planning reform

Relation:
P01 More requirements for investors (srvices, social housing, etc.). Bring back the urban planning department as a more neutral political actor.

SY02
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Participation

Relation:
P02, N01 Demand for participation from the very beginning of the planning process and its binding influence.

SY03
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Transparency

Relation:
P03 Transparency of planning processes and informing society about them. Active participation of citizens in planning processes.

SY04
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Bottom up!

Relation:
P03 Involving bottom-up/activist actors in planning processes and involving them in the co-creation process: important source of knowledge.

SY05
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Taking stands

Relation:
P01, N02, N03 Recognising different ways of life, not one view of the citizens. Explicitly oppose far-right and other radical discriminatory groups or movements.

SY06
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Support commons

Relation:
P03, N05, Q04 Investing in local communities and the commons. Support for community projects.

SY07
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

We want insurgency

Relation:
Q03, Q04 Acceptance and recognition of democratic acts of insurgency.

SY08
SY (SYSTEMIC CHANGE)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, **research**

Where are spatial planners?

Relation:
U01 Demand for mandatory involvement of spatial professionals in planning processes & creation of a spatial planning department in the city.

Facilitating change of "status quo"

Recommendations for changes in spatial planning system

SY01
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Planning reform

| Establish a Department of Urban Planners to act as a neutral entity focused on the city's wellbeing and its citizens.

|| Make the approval of city planners mandatory for developing city strategies.

||| Ensure the city retains ownership of some properties rather than selling all for profit.

IV Require investors in new developments to provide public services, infrastructure, and a percentage of social housing in residential buildings.

V Increase planning and land control over rural areas with mandatory approval from urban planners for new development plans.

SY02
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Participation

| Mandate extensive, high-level participation in new development processes and significant spatial plan changes.

|| Ensure municipal authorities include minority groups in participation processes.

|| Make the outcomes of participation processes binding rather than just advisory.

IV Improve the current inadequate level of participation in Poland.

SY03
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Transparency

| Consult city plans with citizens, ensuring well-informed and transparent processes.

|| Make municipal authorities responsible for informing local residents about significant changes in their vicinity.

SY08
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Where are spatial planners?

| Make the involvement and mandatory approval of spatial planners in planning processes compulsory.

|| Create a City Department of Spatial Planning.

||| Promote education on planning as a critically engaged practice that mediates between different actors and their aspirations (personal or political).

SY04
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Bottom up!

| Recognize activists, bottom-up actors, and NGOs as respected voices in planning processes.

|| Include these groups in the consultation process for developing spatial plans.

||| Encourage their involvement in the co-creation process.

SY05
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Taking stands

| Explicitly oppose far-right and dangerously radical political parties/ movements that threaten international human rights (e.g., anti-LGBTQ movements).

|| Acknowledge various modes of living and focus on developing a city FOR ALL.

SY06
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Support commons

| Ensure services and institutions that protect and help less powerful groups/ minorities, so they are not dependent on political aspirations.

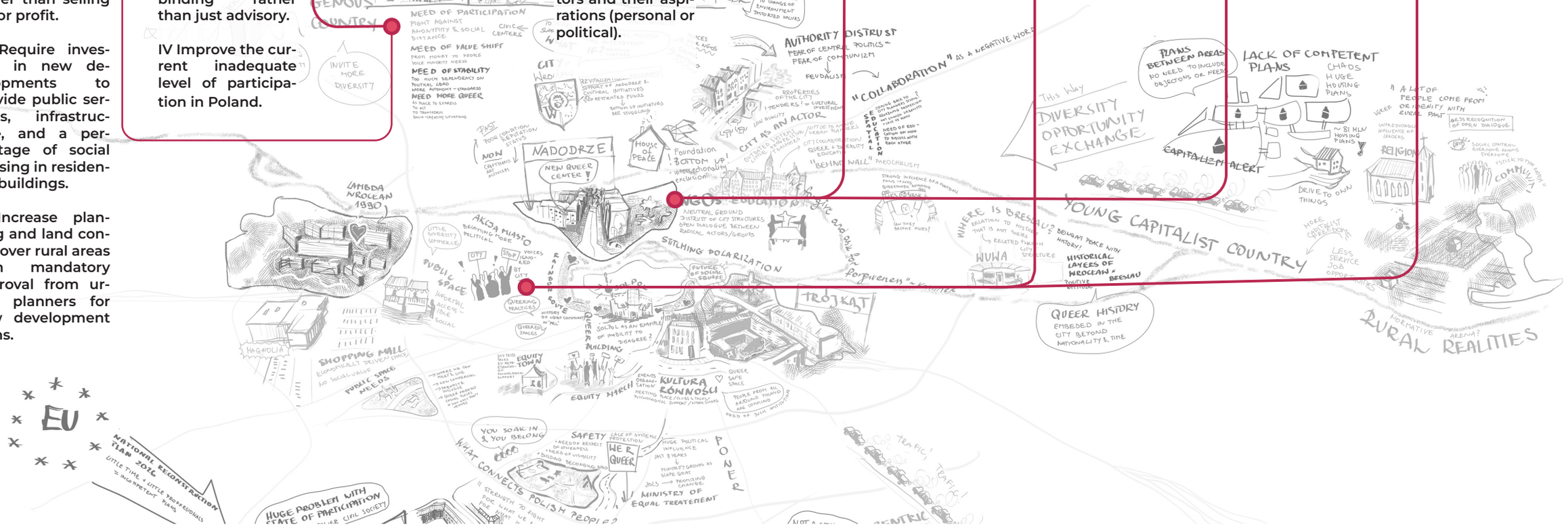
|| Invest in local communities, commons, and support bottom-up projects.

SY07
SY SYSTEMIC CHANGE
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

We want insurgency

| End divisive politics and treat insurgent institutions/ activists with democratic respect, acknowledging their perspectives on problems and challenges.

|| Create a platform dedicated to democratic acts of insurgency.



Strategic Actions

Education:
Highlights the necessity for enhanced spatial planning education, sexual education, and knowledge about tolerance. It is crucial to contemplate accessibility of knowledge and facilitate its availability, as well as intergenerational disparities and, in consequence, the implementation of workshops or the empowerment of young voices.

ED01

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: literature, research, design, **observation**

Education on agonism

Relation:
P01, P04

Conflict resolution training and involvement in social issues as part of the school curriculum.

ED02

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Staff training

Relation:
P02

Training of municipal and administrative staff on equality policies and gender tolerance.

ED03

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Empower

Relation:
P02

Civil society empowerment actions. Muncipal efforts to activate citizens.

ED04

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Collaborate

Relation:
P03

Collaboration with educational and research institutions to advance gender mainstreaming.

ED05

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Community - buidling

Relation:
N01, N04, Q01

Education and community-building events in superdiversity: Workshops, courses, mentoring.

ED06

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Educational space

Relation:
N01, N04, Q01

Events that improve access to education and information: Workshops, courses, mentoring.

ED07

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Sexual education

Relation:
Q01, N04

Events, projects, workshops that contribute to sexual education and improve safety.

ED08

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Funded projects

Relation:
N05

Financial support for projects that address diversity, gender equality and the needs of LGBTQ+ people.

ED09

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Public space as education arena

Relation:
U04, Q02

Using public space as a means of spreading education and information on equality (educational walks, information pillars, memorials, etc.).

ED10

ED (EDUCATION)
DERIVED FROM: observation, research, design, **literature**

Young voices

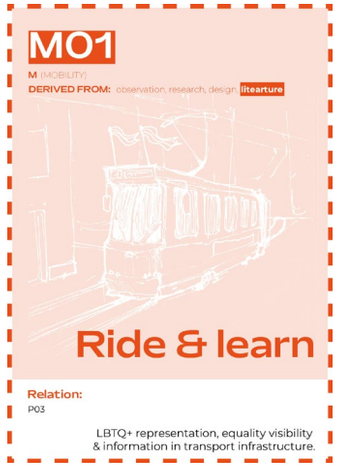
Relation:
U01

Providing a platform for young generations to express their views. Education and empowerment of young people: workshops, lectures.

Strategic Actions

Mobility:
The realm of public transport offers a potential sphere for the sharing of both information and education. It is a location where the majority of citizens interact, which can also result in tensions. Such actions indicate an improvement in the provision of alternative modes of transport that focus on the safety of women and other vulnerable groups.

Housing:
The current Polish new development offers homogenous and normative housing systems. Socially, there is also pursued a certain way of living. These actions highlight the importance of diversity and the existence of different modes of living in order to facilitate the growth and happiness of all citizens.



Relation:
P03

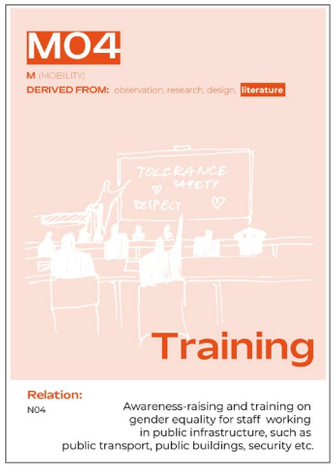
LBTQ+ representation, equality visibility & information in transport infrastructure.

Relation:
P04, N01, U02

Ensuring that public transport is safe and accessible for citizens of all genders or minorities.

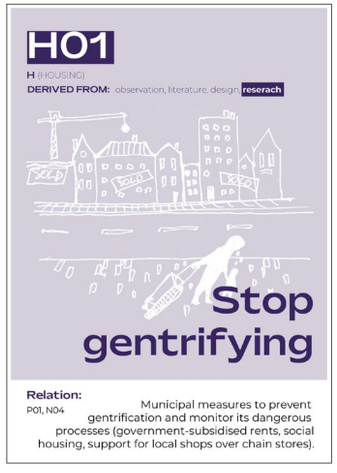
Relation:
N02

Implementing affordable alternative modes of transport ensuring safe public transport for citizens of all genders and minorities (e.g. at night or in remote or dangerous areas)



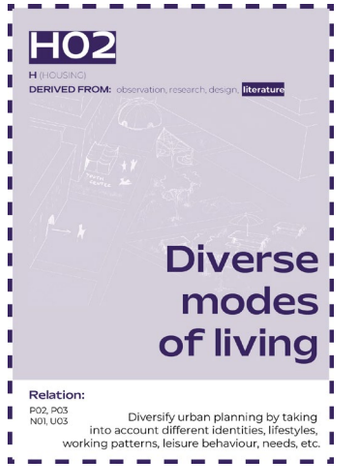
Relation:
N04

Awareness-raising and training on gender equality for staff working in public infrastructure, such as public transport, public buildings, security etc.



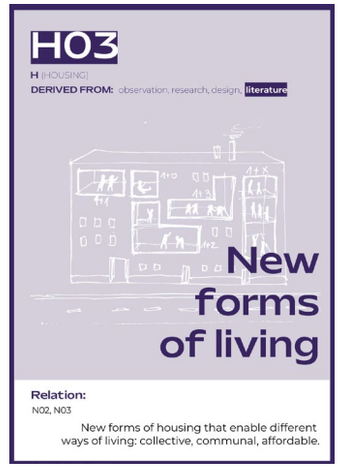
Relation:
P01, N04

Municipal measures to prevent gentrification and monitor its dangerous processes (government-subsidised rents, social housing, support for local shops over chain stores).



Relation:
P02, P03
N01, U03

Diversify urban planning by taking into account different identities, lifestyles, working patterns, leisure behaviour, needs, etc.

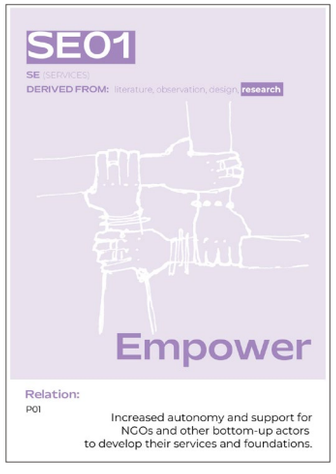


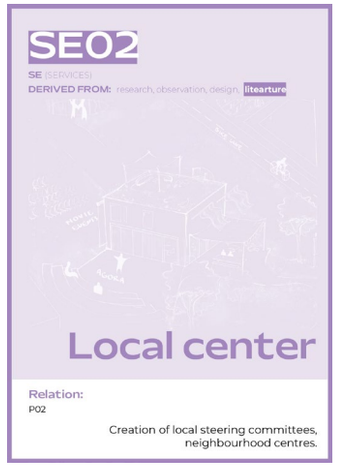
Relation:
N02, N03

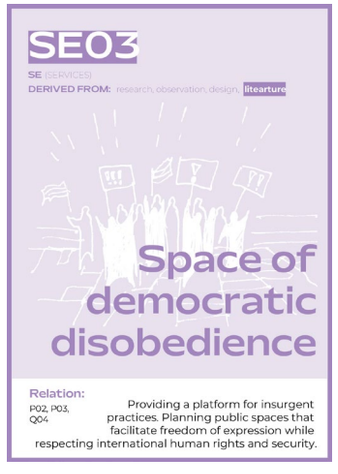
New forms of housing that enable different ways of living: collective, communal, affordable.

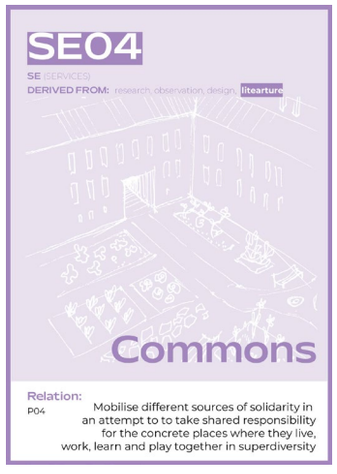
Strategic Actions

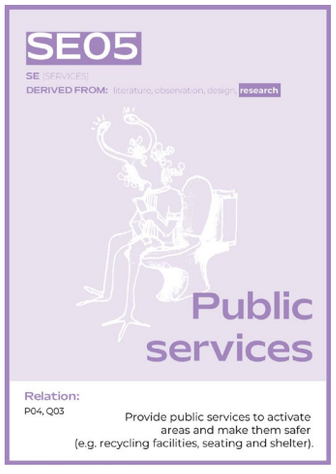
Services:
The actions serve to illustrate the significance of civic society involvement in the development of the city, as well as the necessity of considering their needs. Additionally, they underscores the significance of allocating resources to local community centres, care services, and commons. The establishment of institutions that are not overly reliant on the influence of political parties can facilitate greater citizen empowerment and trust.

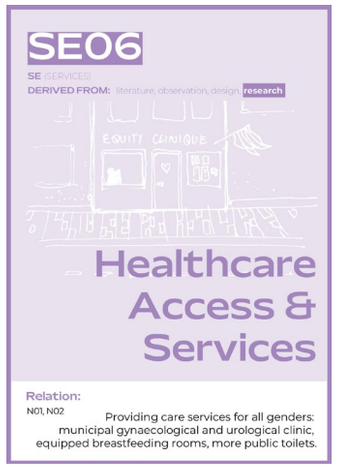


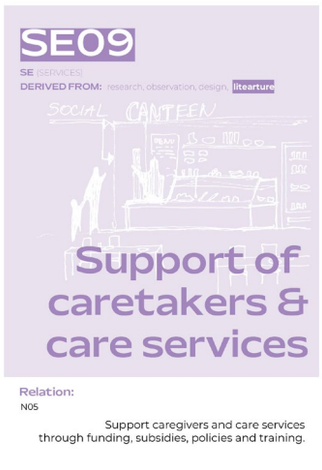


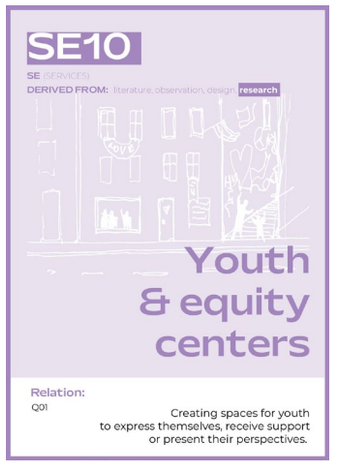


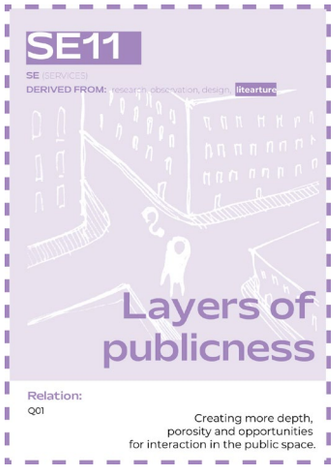








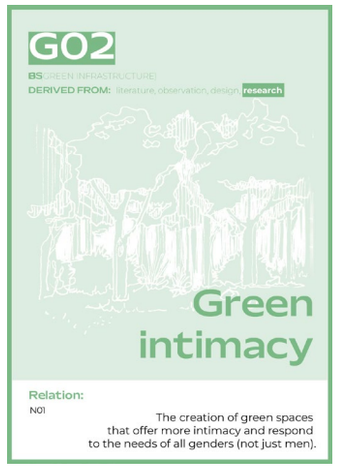


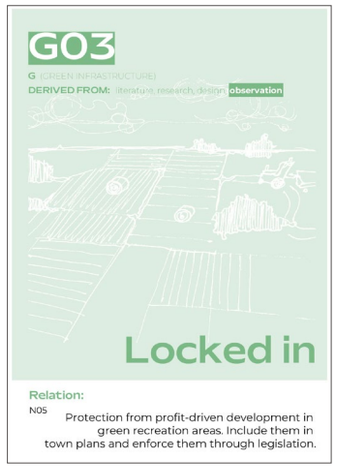


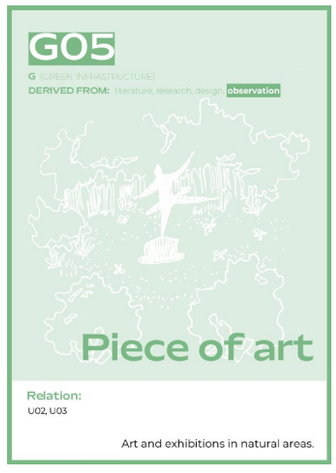
Strategic Actions

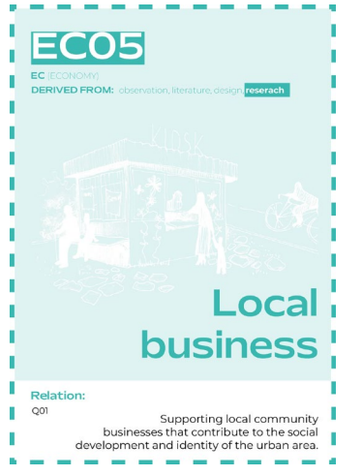
Green Infrastructure:
This highlights the significance of green spaces and sport infrastructure that have been adapted to the needs of different gender groups. Currently, the focus is predominantly on the male audience. Furthermore, the actions proposed suggest the protection of green areas from developers' investments, their multifunctionality, and their predisposition to create intimacy.

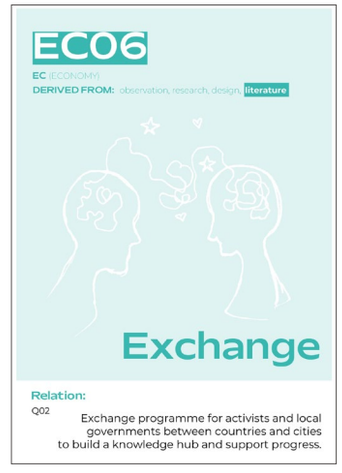
Economy:
In order to learn from the example of the Nadodrze neighbourhood, it is important to empower local businesses, craftspeople and artists, as they play a significant role in the development of the area's character and the activation of surrounding space (courtyards, streets). The establishment of queer economies can enhance the circumstances of the LGBTQ+ community and facilitate the creation of secure environments for social interaction, beyond the context of party-oriented venues.





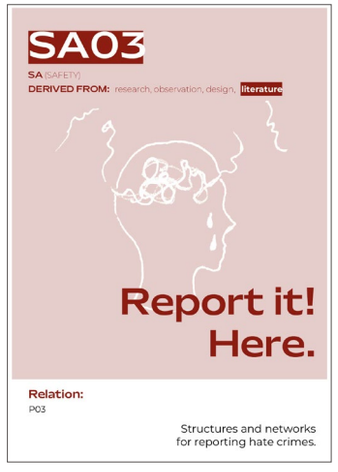


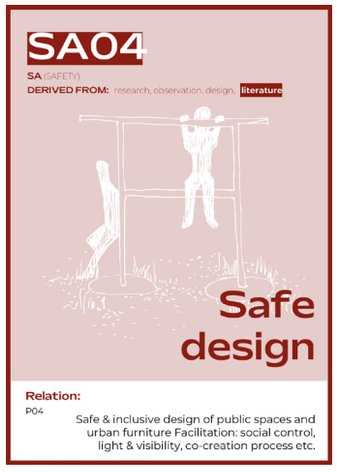


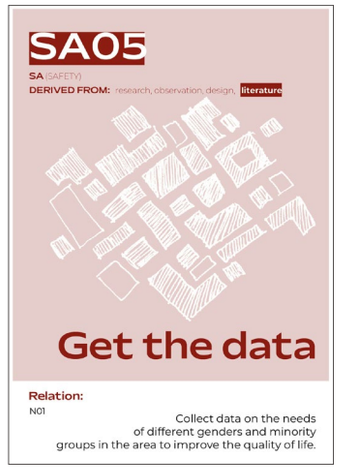


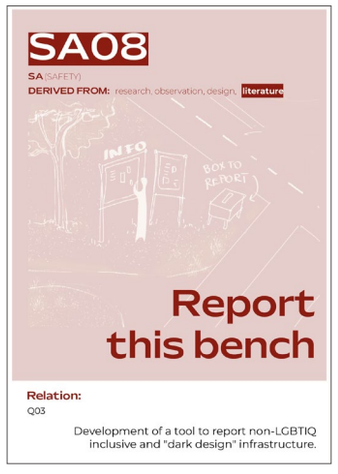
Strategic Actions

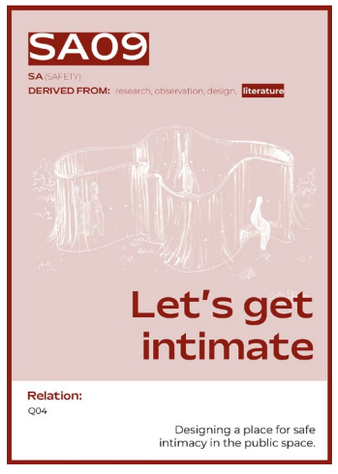
Safety:
It is of the utmost importance to implement safety measures in order to facilitate the creation of just and equal environments. These actions serve to illustrate the significance of considering the specific needs, problems, and challenges of minorities. The adaptation of an intersectional approach would greatly contribute to the advancement of knowledge in this field. Other crucial actions include the implementation of inclusive and secure design principles, as well as the creation of social control mechanisms through the activation of streets or the establishment of connection points. The creation of locations within neighbourhoods that can be considered “safe islands” could enhance the perception of support and safety within the wider community.

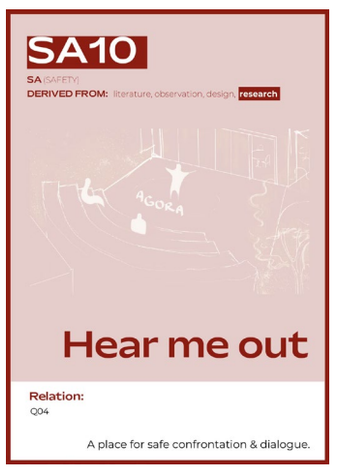


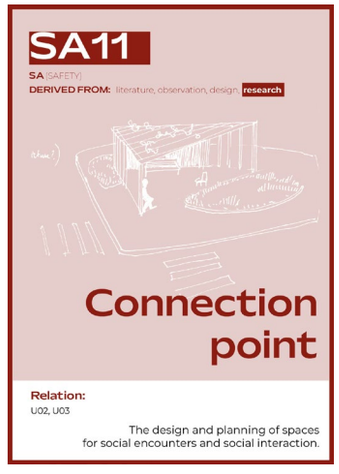












Strategic Actions

Visibility:
The implementation of actions that enhance the visibility of different gender groups and minorities in public spaces can facilitate their acceptance and create a sense of community where they are safe and welcomed. It is important to consider the potential for tension to arise as a result of the visibility of certain signs. In order to mitigate this, it is essential to implement measures to ensure the safety and social control of these areas, in order to minimise any unwanted behaviours. The open visibility of LGBTQ+ knowledge, memorials, and sexual education can also be a valuable means of sharing information. The concept of a space of doubt and a space of expression is a valuable lesson derived from the activities of the LGBTQ+ community. It is necessary to create spaces where individuals can express themselves freely, without fear.

V01
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Represen-tation

Relation:
P02, N01, N02, Q01

Representation of minorities.
Permanent & temporary visibility in the city.

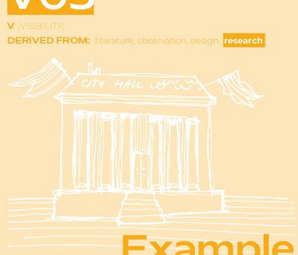
V02
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Participation Point

Relation:
P02

Space for participation
& co-creation in the city.

V03
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research



Example from above

Relation:
P03, Q03

Municipality and other institutions
as a visible example of gender equality.
Dedicated LGBTIQ offices & municipal structures.

V04
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Events

Relation:
N01, N02, N04, Q01

Representation of minorities through events:
Cultural festivals, weeks or events.

V05
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Exhibition

Relation:
N01, N02, N04, Q01

Representing minorities and
promoting dialogue through exhibitions.

V06
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Now you know!

Relation:
N04

Ensuring that information is accessible
in both tangible and intangible spaces.

V07
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Memorials

Relation:
Q02

Continuity and recognition of the history of
minorities through: Memorials, events, symbols.

V08
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, observation, design, research

Queer Memorials

Relation:
Q02

Making local LGBTIQ history visible
through: Memorials, events, symbols.

V09
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, research, design, observation

Space of expression

Relation:
Q03, Q04

Where it is safe to be yourself.
Planning practices to create public
spaces that facilitate freedom
of expression while respecting others and safety.

V10
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, research, design, observation

Space of doubt

Relation:
Q03, Q04

Where you can safely doubt yourself.
Planning practices to create
public spaces that facilitate freedom
of expression while respecting others and safety.

V11
V (VISIBILITY)
DERIVED FROM: literature, research, design, observation

Who are planners?

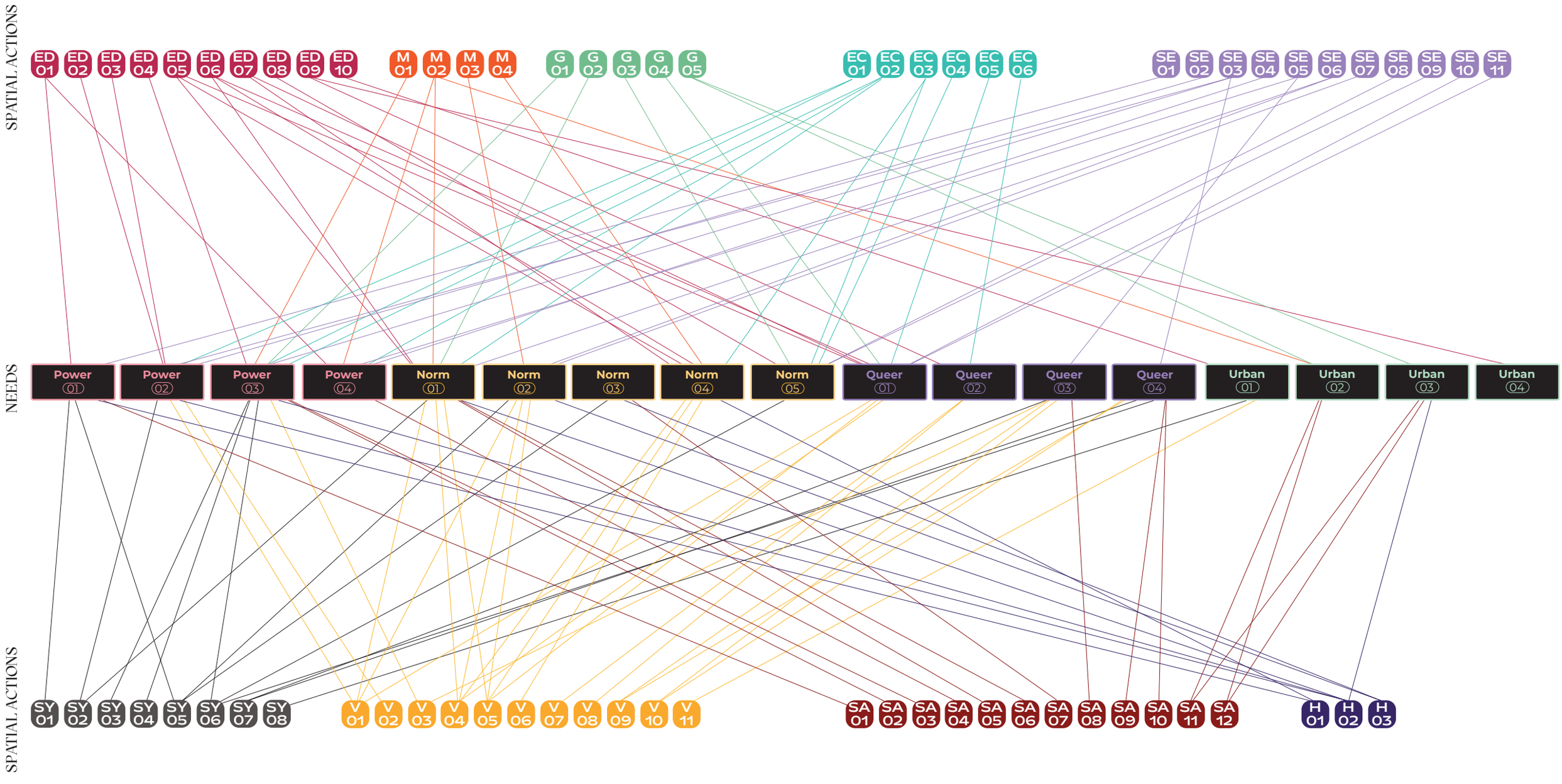
Relation:
U01

Promotion and education of planning
practices, profession and urbanism.

Strategic Actions

Related to needs; example

As previously stated, strategic actions are related to different needs.
The diagram below presents this complex structure.



Strategic Actions

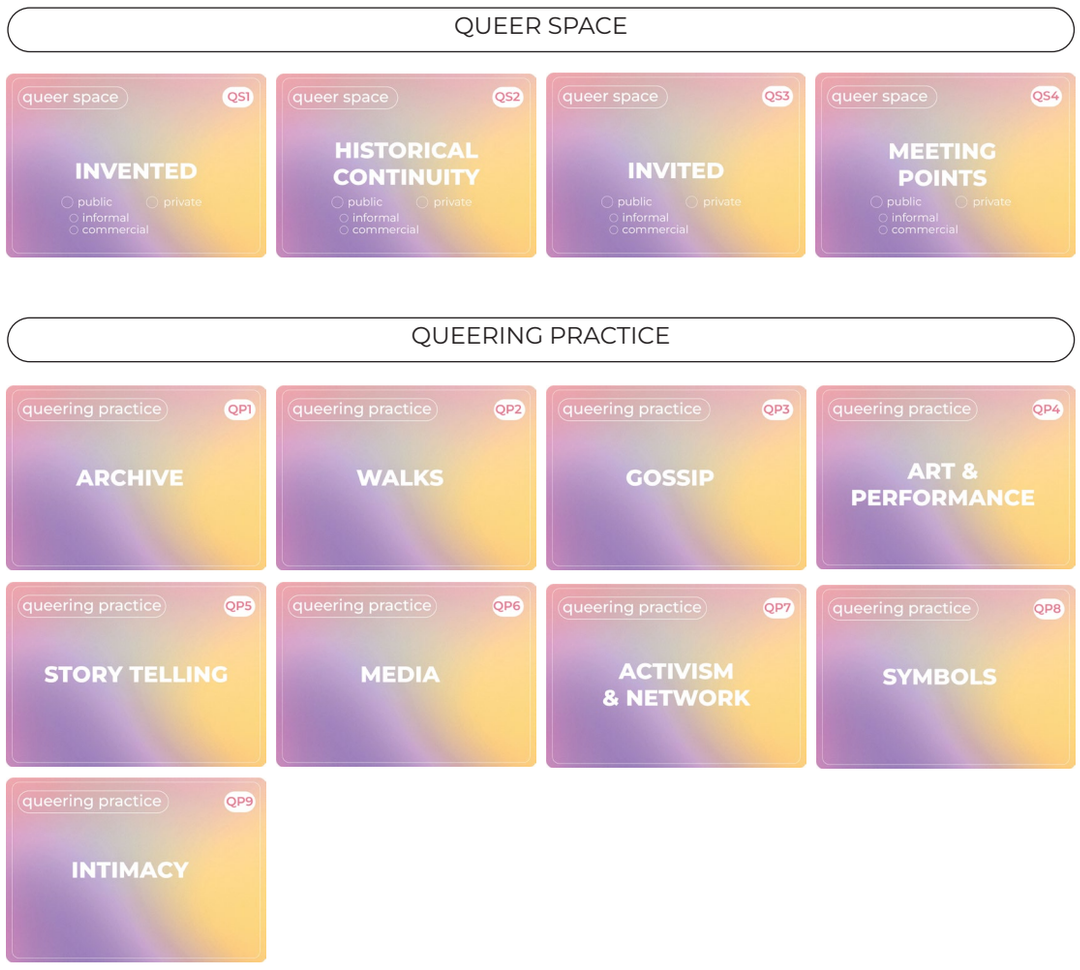
Related to needs; example

The diagram below illustrates the interrelationship between three distinct needs identified within the “Queering” theme and the strategic actions that address them. It also demonstrates the degree of overlap between these needs and the actions they inform.

Queer Lens

As previously presented on pages 146-147, fieldwork, literature analysis, media and interviews have revealed the existence of a diverse range of queer spaces and queering practices. These activities possess the potential to alter and enhance the character of locations, serving as a unique perspective through which specific places or contexts can be reimagined and transformed into something distinctively queer. The next step is to identify the values that are added and to consider how urban planning can learn from them (for example, by facilitating more inclusive environments).

It’s essential to acknowledge that this classification is drawn from the Wroclaw case study. It’s plausible that there exist additional manifestations of queer spaces or methods of queering places that are context-dependent or rooted in different cultural contexts. Further investigation is needed to uncover these variations.



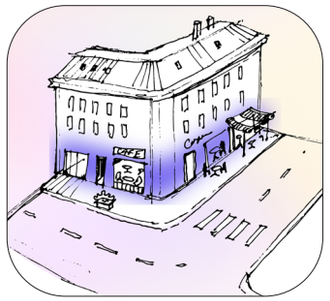
Enabling elements: catalogue

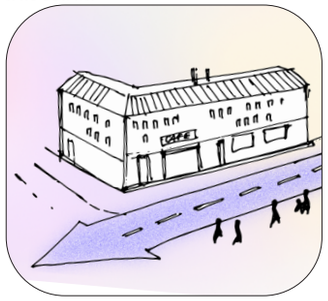
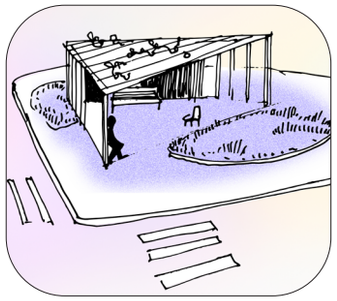
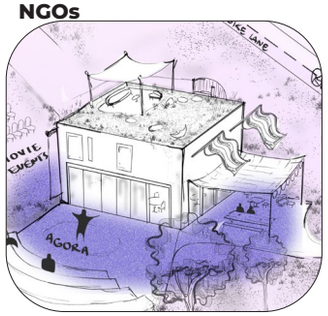
A. Equality Strategic Actions

A retrospective analysis of the research, fieldwork and action cards was a key method in the process of creating a catalogue of spatial qualities that facilitate the aforementioned actions. Together with strategic actions it creates a tool for reimagining urban environments. Two catalogues were developed: A. For Equality Strategic Actions, B. For Queering Practices.

Neigbourhood type

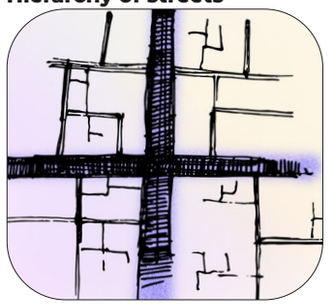
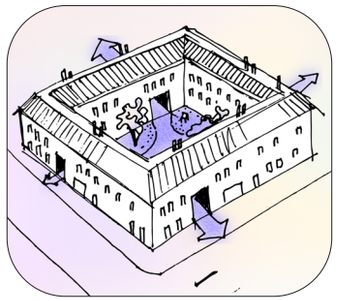
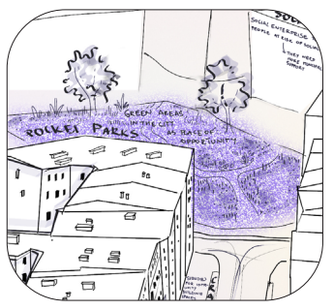
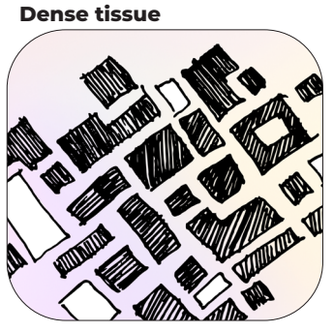
INNER CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD

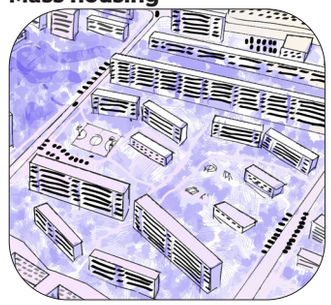
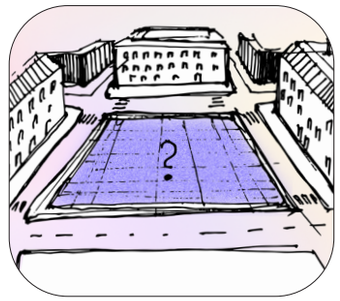
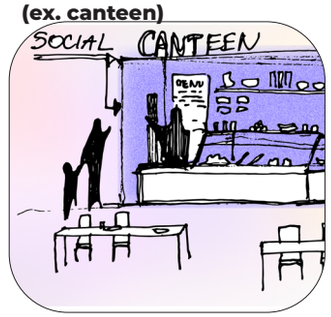
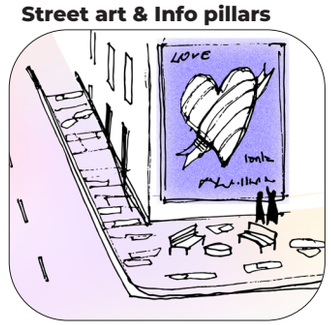
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Ground floor services 	Creation of outside areas, street activation, local promotion, encounters, visibility & safety	Footnotes: Avoid! Danger of consumerism and focus on profiting	**ED03, ED04, ED05, ED06, H01, SE02, SE04, SE06, SE10, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12, V01, V02, V04, V05, V06, V09, V10**
Commons (ex. community gardens)	Meeting place, encounters, beautification, community building	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED01, ED03, ED05, ED08, SE01, SE03, SE04, SE09, SE11, G01, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA11, V02, V04, V09, V10**

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Proximity to main roads and services 	Active street, meeting point, encounters, information, social control	Footnotes: Avoid! Consumerism, anonymity, lack of locality, too busy	**M02, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12**
Designed spaces for public encounters (urban furniture) 	Activation, Meeting point, Encounters, Information	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED04, ED08, , SE03, SE05, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA11, V01, V05, V06, V07, V08, V09 ,V10**
Existing centres of the NGOs 	Activation, Meeting point, Support of minorities, Safety islands, Information point	Footnotes: Avoid! Political dependence or municipal aspirations, little autonomy	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED06, ED08,ED10, SE01, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC03, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA05, SA06, SA10, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V06, V09, V10**
Narrow streets	Visibility, Social control, Higher activity, Minimise car pressure, Encounters	Footnotes: Avoid! Can be overtaken by powerful groups, need light at night	**ED09, SE05, SE11, G03, SA02, SA04, SA07, SA12**

Enabling elements: catalogue

A. Equality Strategic Actions

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Hierarchy of streets 	Hierarchy of activities & intensity, social control, less cars, network of services	Footnotes: Avoid! Favouring one road over another, car congestion	**M02, SE05, SE11, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA02, SA04, SA05, SA07, SA12**
Open courtyards 	Semi-private activities, shared areas, relaxation, community activities	Footnotes: Avoid! Ownership dilemma - unwanted visitors, care dilemma	**ED03, ED05, SE01, SE02, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE07, SE10, SE11, G01, G03, G04, G05, EC03, EC05, SA04, SA07, SA11, V01, V02, V04, V09, V10**
Pocket parks 	Porosity of the city, spaces of exit & rest, intimacy	Footnotes: Avoid! Less visibility, unwanted intimacy	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**
Dense tissue 	Visibility, social control, information sharing, commons	Footnotes: Avoid! Little intimacy, space for encounters, need for porosity	**ED05, ED09, H01, SE05, SE11, G03, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA02, SA11, SA12, V01**

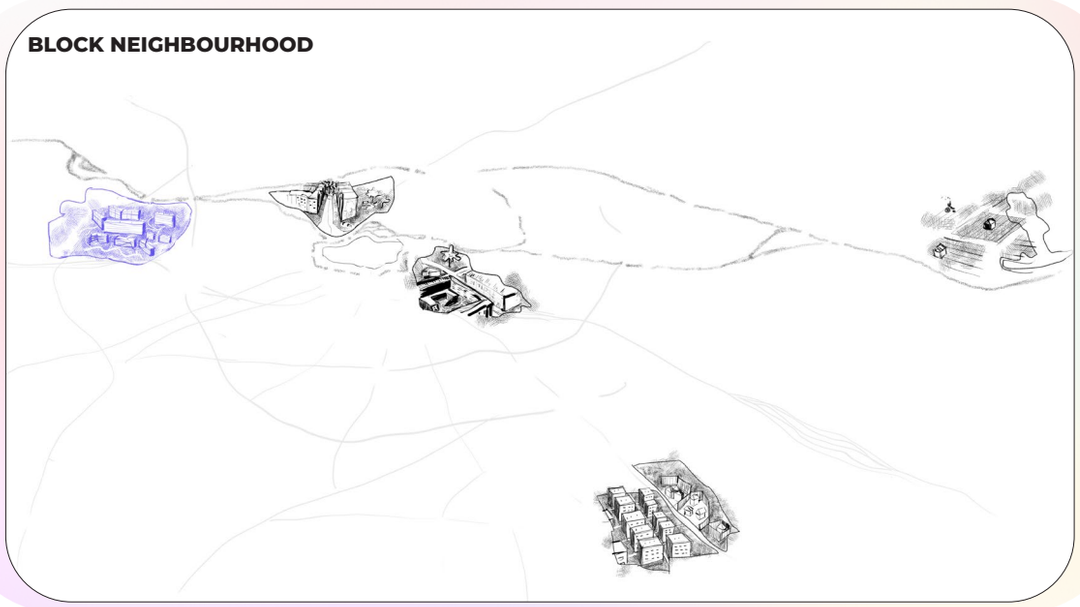
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Public transport	Encounters, exchange of information, education	Footnotes: Avoid! Need for co-operation, risk of propaganda	**ED02, ED04, ED09, M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA03, SA11, V01, V03, V06**
Mass housing 	Interior public spaces, communal areas, diversity of services	Footnotes: Avoid! Shared responsibility, different values	**ED03, ED05, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SA03, SA10, SA11, V01, V06**
Square 	Expression, encounter/confrontation, activities for the public	Footnotes: Avoid! Representation of dangerous beliefs in public, heat island	**ED03, ED09, SE03, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA10, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**
Public services (ex. canteen) 	Including & helping, Encounters, Intimacy, Social mixing	Footnotes: Avoid! Dilemma of care & responsibility, financial support	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11**
Street art & Info pillars 	Spreading information, familiarity & signs, beautification, expression	Footnotes: Avoid! Between art & vandalism, ownership and rights of use	**ED04, ED09, ED10, SE03, EC03, SA12, V01, V05, V06, V09, V10**

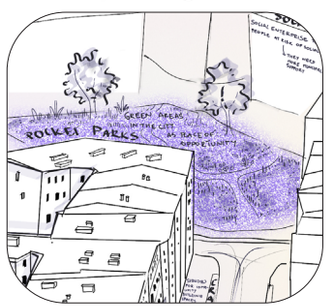
Enabling elements: catalogue

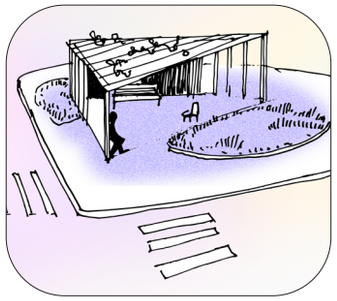
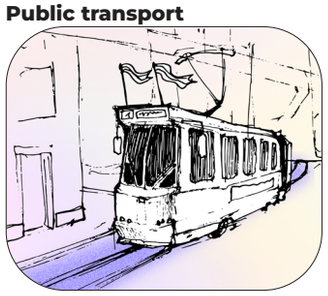
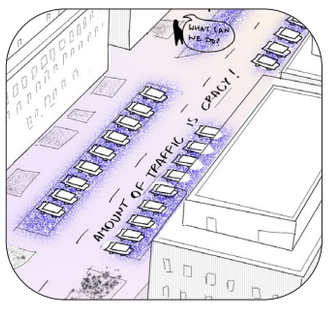
A. Equality Strategic Actions

Neigbourhood type

BLOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD

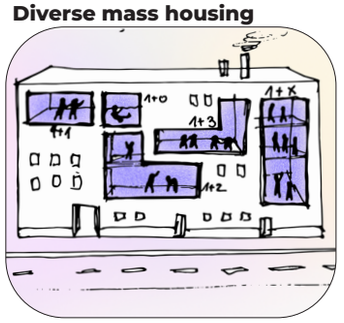
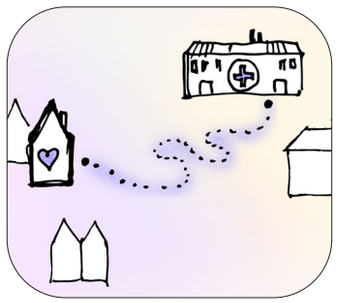
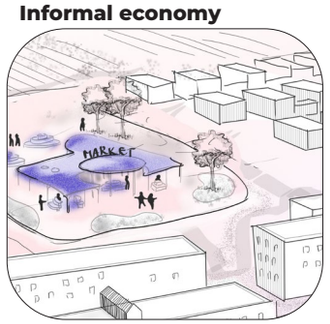


Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Hierarchy of streets	Hierarchy of activities & intensity, social control, less cars, network of services	Footnotes: Avoid! Favouring one road over another, car congestion	**M02, SE05, SE11, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA02, SA04, SA05, SA07, SA12**
Pocket parks / green areas 	Porosity of the city, spaces of exit & rest, intimacy	Footnotes: Avoid! Less visibility, unwanted intimacy	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Kiosks	Informal economy, social encounters, visibility, meeting place, historical continuity	Footnotes: Avoid! Maintenance, profit oriented, responsibility & care for additional facilities (e.g. WC)	**ED04, ED06, H01, SE01, SE11, G01, EC02, EC03, EC05, SA01, SA03, SA04, SA11, SA12, V01, V06**
Designed spaces for public encounters (urban furniture) 	Activation, Meeting point, Encounters, Information	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED04, ED08, , SE03, SE05, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA11, V01, V05, V06, V07, V08, V09 ,V10**
Public facilities	Including & helping, Encounters, Intimacy, Social mixing	Footnotes: Avoid! Dilemma of care & responsibility, financial support	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11**
Public transport 	Encounters, exchange of information, education	Footnotes: Avoid! Need for cooperation, risk of propaganda	**ED02, ED04, ED09, M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA03, SA11, V01, V03, V06**
Parking along main street 	Overtaking this space as a public meeting place or green area	Footnotes: Avoid! Dependence on the car, air quality, danger	**ED08, ED09, M01, M02, SE11, G01, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA12, V05, V07, V08, V11**

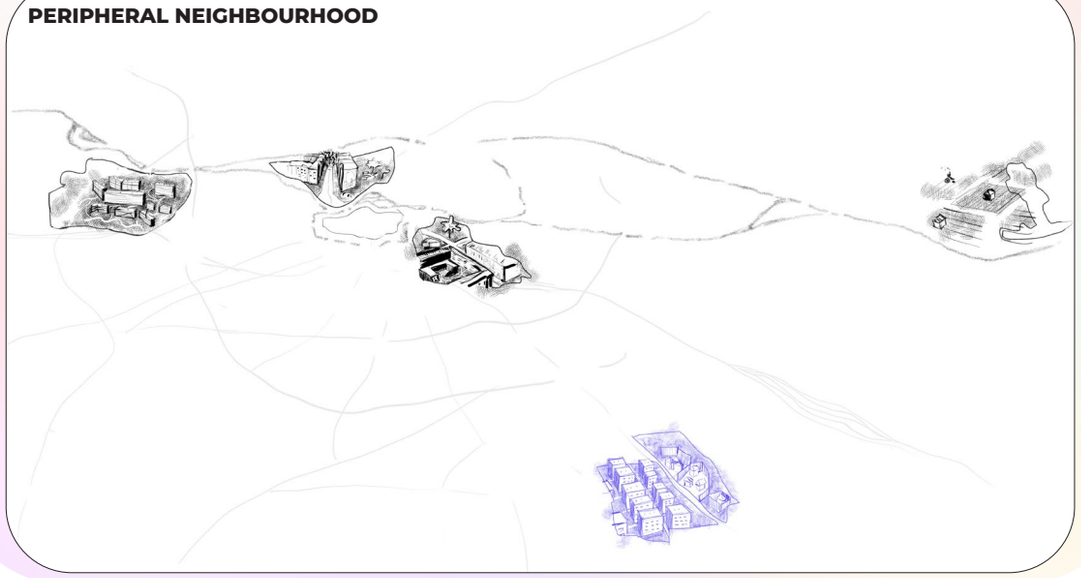
Enabling elements: catalogue

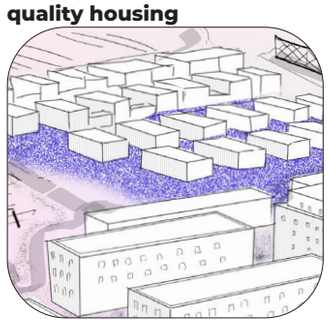
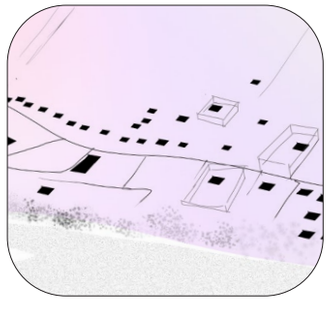
A. Equality Strategic Actions

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Diverse mass housing 	Diversity of housing & apartments types, affordability, social mix	Footnotes: Avoid! Maintenance & responsibility, overtaking space by powerful group	**ED03, ED05, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SA03, SA10, SA11, V01, V06**
Public services and housing in close proximity 	Livability, inclusivity, community building & encounters	Footnotes: Avoid! Creation of enclaves	**ED05, ED09, M01, M02, H01, H02, SE01, SE04, SE05, SE06, SE07, SE09, SE10, SE11, EC05, SA04, SA06, SA07, SA12**
Information boards	In close proximity to housing, information sharing, familiarity & signs, communication	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, ownership and rights, maintenance	**ED09, SE05, SA03, SA05, SA08, SA10, SA11, V06, V09**
Informal economy 	Informal economy, social encounters, meeting place, historical continuity, affordability	Footnotes: Avoid! Dilemma of care & responsibility, funding, maintenance	**ED03, ED04, ED05, ED10, H01, SE01, SE03, SE05, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12, V04, V05, V06, V09**

Neigbourhood type

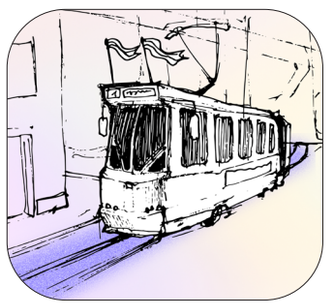
PERIPHERAL NEIGHBOURHOOD

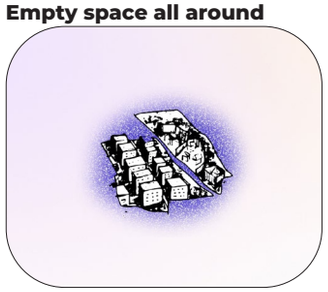
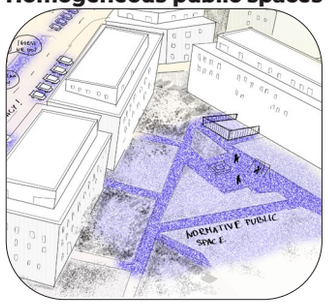
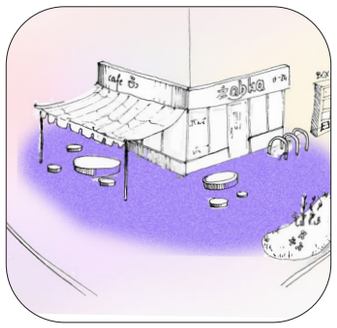
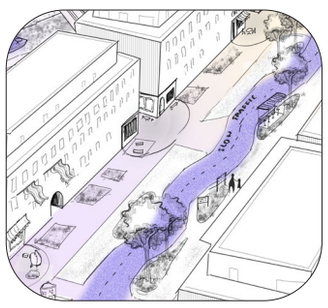


Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Homogeneous & poor quality housing 	Opportunity to create diversity, affordable	Footnotes: Avoid! Presentation of a way of life, property, city not in control	**ED03, ED05, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SA03, SA10, SA11, V01, V06**
Lack of spatial plan 	Opportunity for growth and visioning	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of protection or general rules	**ED03, ED04, ED06, ED08, M01, M02, M03, M04, H02, H03, SE02, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE06, SE07, SE09, SE10, SE11, G01, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA05, SA06, SA07, SA09, SA10, V02, V07, V09, V10, V11**

Enabling elements: catalogue

A. Equality Strategic Actions

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Lack of public services	Community mobilisation, city engagement, communication efforts	Footnotes: Avoid! Low levels of quality of life and satisfaction	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11**
Car dependence	A lot of space for cars, which could be overtaken by community spaces or green areas	Footnotes: Avoid! Congestion, traffic, wasted time, danger	**M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA04, V11**
Poor public transport 	Opportunity to create a transport hub, meeting place, centre	Footnotes: Avoid! Congestion, traffic, wasted time, danger, dependence on car	**ED02, ED04, ED09, M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA03, SA11, V01, V03, V06**
Urban & rural meeting point	Mixed services, opportunity for rural areas benefit, informal areas creation, nature areas protection, more porosity	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of planning & protection, fencing	**ED01, ED03, ED04, ED05, M01, M02, M03, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SE05, SE07, SE11, G01, G02, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA09, SA11, V11**

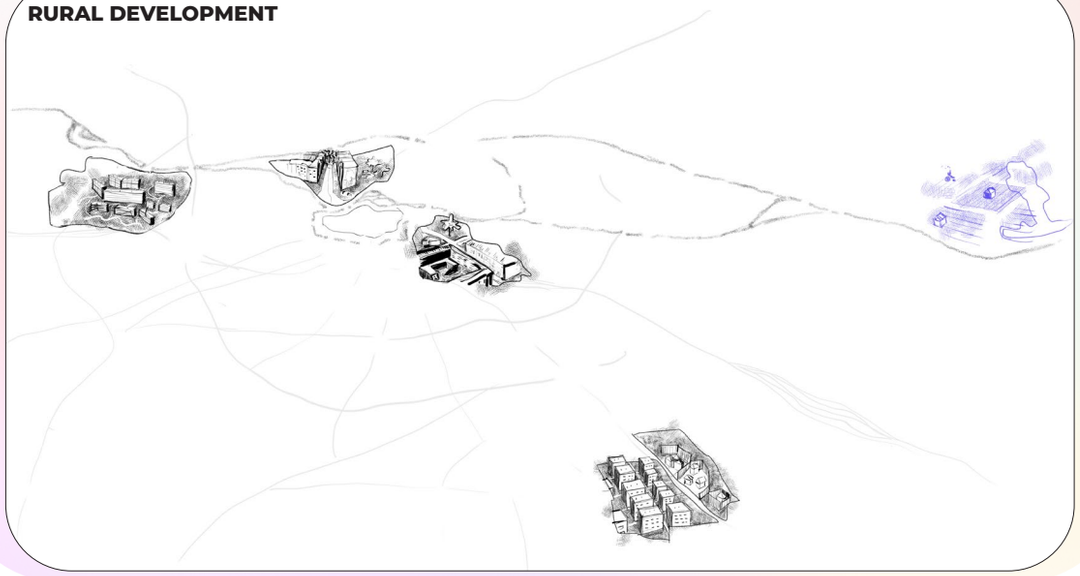
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Empty space all around 	Possibility of growth and development, connection with nature	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of planning, focus on profit, city lacks control	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**
Homogeneous public spaces 	Possibility of transformation & reimagination, informal actions that activate space	Footnotes: Avoid! Presentation of one lifestyle, tedious	**ED04, ED05, ED08, ED09, ED10, H03, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE07, SE11, G01, G02, G04, G05, EC03, EC05, SA04, SA06, SA07, SA08, SA09, SA12, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**
Corner shops 	Visibility, social control, increased activity, encounters, street activation	Footnotes: Avoid! Focus on profit and consumption	**EED05, ED09, SE11, G01, G05, EC02, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA11, SA12, V01, V04, V05, V06**
Wider streets 	A lot of space for cars, which could be overtaken by community spaces or green areas	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of protection or general rules/plans	**ED08, ED09, M02, M03, SE05, SE11, G01, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA04, SA06, SA08, SA12, V05, V07, V08, V11**

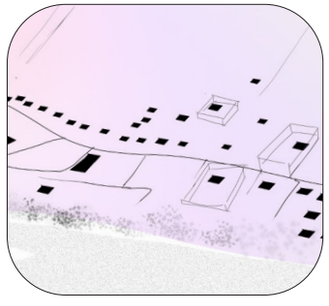
Enabling elements: catalogue

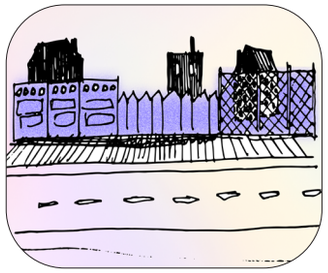
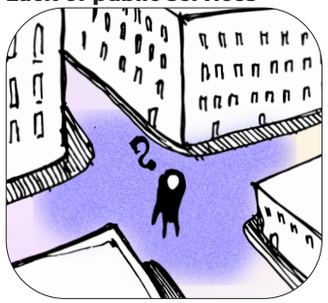
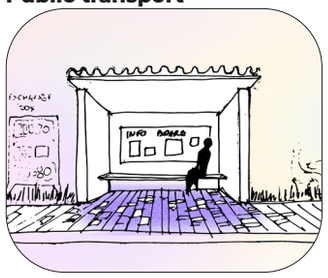
A. Equality Strategic Actions

Neigbourhood type

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

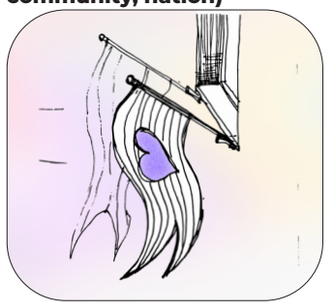
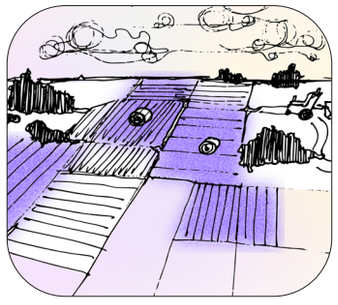
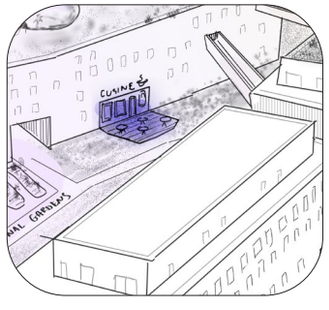


Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Hierarchy of streets / one main street	Possibility of centre creation, relaxation of streets, social control, less cars, network of services	Footnotes: Avoid! Turning into a motorway in larger scale plans	**ED08, ED09, M01, M02, M03, SE05, SE11, G01, G05, EC03, SA04, SA06, SA08, SA12, V05, V07, V08, V11**
Lack of spatial plan 	Opportunity for growth and visioning	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of protection or general rules	**ED03, ED04, ED06, ED08, M01, M02, M03, M04, H02, H03, SE02, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE06, SE07, SE09, SE10, SE11, G01, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA05, SA06, SA07, SA09, SA10, V02, V07, V09, V10, V11**

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Dividing fences 	Make them more porous, distort them, activate the road, improve social control	Footnotes: Avoid! No community, anonymity	**ED01, ED05, H02, H03, SE11, SA04, SA07, SA08, V11**
Lack of public services 	Community mobilisation, city engagement, communication efforts, local investment	Footnotes: Avoid! Low levels of quality of life and satisfaction, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11**
Nature	Relaxation, Protection, Intimacy, Sport & recreation	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of land protection or general regulations	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10**
Public transport 	Opportunity to create a hub, meeting place, info point, community connection	Footnotes: Avoid! Disconnection, car dependency, funding	**ED02, ED04, ED09, M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA03, SA11, V01, V03, V06**
Informal meeting places	Encounters, meeting places, information, exchange	Footnotes: Avoid! Overtaking by powerful groups	**ED03, ED05, ED08, ED09, ED10, SE03, SE04, SE11, G02, G04, EC03, SA07, SA09, SA11, V04, V06, V09, V10**

Enabling elements: catalogue

A. Equality Strategic Actions

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Symbols (religion, community, nation) 	Change symbols, improve positive visibility	Footnotes: Avoid! Centred on the community, lack of expression or self-experience	**ED03, ED04, ED09, ED10, G05, SA04, SA07, SA08, V01, V07, V08**
Open spaces/landscapes 	Relaxation, Protection, Intimacy, Sports & recreation, Growth/Vision	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of a land protection or general rules	**ED08, M02, M03, H03, SE03, SE07, SE11, G01, G02, G03, G04, EC03, SA04, SA06, SA09, V11**
Community centre	Activism, meeting place, support for minorities, safety islands, information point	Footnotes: Avoid! Political dependence or municipal aspirations	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED06, ED08,ED10, SE01, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC03, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA05, SA06, SA10, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V06, V09, V10**
Small-scale local economies 	Activisation, meeting point, grey economy, community building	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of a land protection or general rules, lack of support	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED08, ED10, SE01, SE05, SE09, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA05, SA11, SA12, V01, V03**

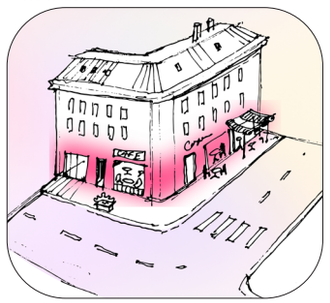
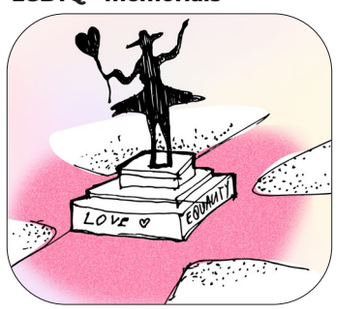
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Church	Activation, meeting place, community building, reimagining	Footnotes: Avoid! One part of community-centred, traditional, leader-dependent	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED06, ED10, SE02, SE04, SE08, SA01, SA03, SA05, SA07, SA10, SA11, V01, V03, V04, V06, V09, V10**

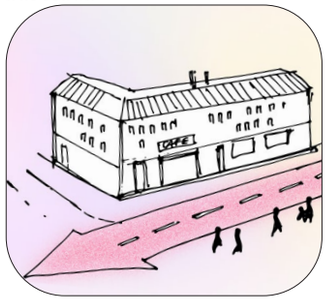
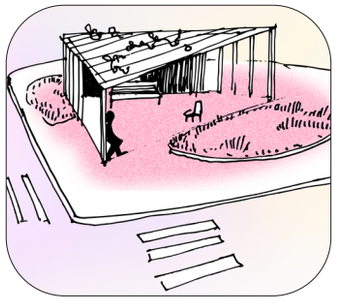
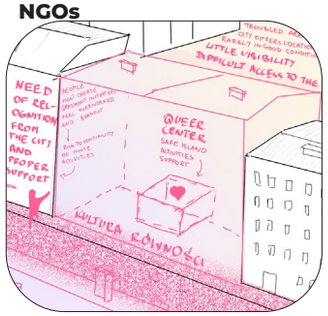
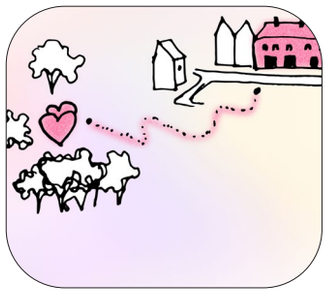
Enabling elements: catalogue

B. Queering Actions

Neigbourhood type

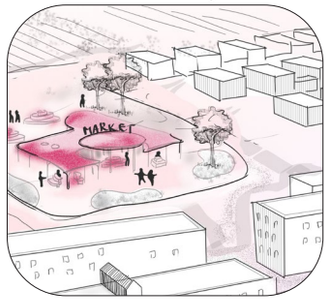
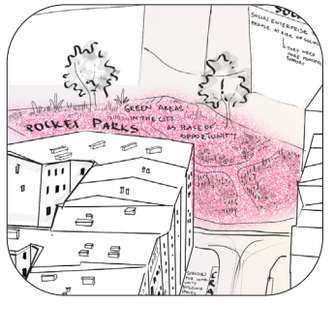
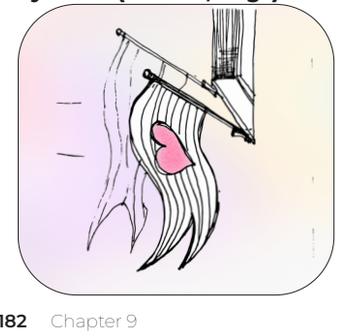
INNER CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD

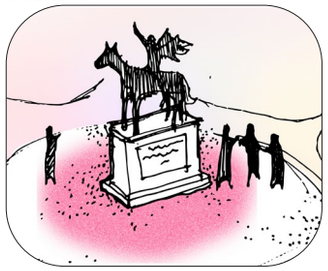
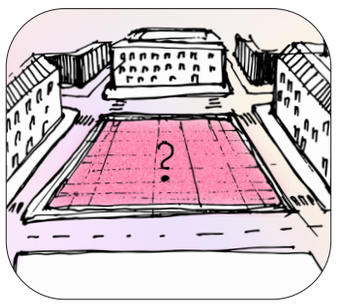
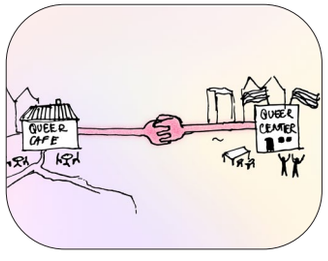
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Ground floor services 	Creation of outside areas, street activation, local promotion, encounters, visibility & safety	Footnotes: Avoid! Danger of consumerism and focus on profiting, stigma	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11** QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP8
LGBTQ+ memorials 	Meeting place, encounters, remembrance, community building, information point	Footnotes: Financing, need of a city support, risk of vandalism, acceptance	**ED03, ED04, ED09, ED10, G05, SA04, SA07, SA08, V01, V07, V08** QS2, QS3, QP1, QP2, QP4, QP5, QP8

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Proximity to main roads and services 	Social control, network, safe space, information point, encounters, community buidling	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of acceptance, vandalizm	**M02, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12** QS3, QS4, QP2, QP4, QP8
Designed spaces for public encounters (urban furniture) 	Activation, Meeting point, Encounters, Information	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED04, ED08, , SE03, SE05, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA11, V01, V05, V06, V07, V08, V09 ,V10** QS4, QP3, QP4, QP5, QP9
Existing centres of the NGOs 	Activation, Meeting point, Support of minorities, Safety islands, Information point	Footnotes: Avoid! Political dependence or municipal aspirations, little autonomy, vandalism, lack of acceptance	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED06, ED08,ED10, SE01, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC03, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA05, SA06, SA10, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V06, V09, V10** QS3, QS4, QP1, QP7, QP8
Close proximity of services/ central areas to cruising spots 	Social control, network, safe space, information point, meeting place, community building	Footnotes: Avoid! Easy target, Danger, Vandalism, need of a city support	**ED07, M03, H01, SE03, SE05, SE06, SE11, G02, EC01, EC02, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA07, SA09, SA11, V06, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QS2, QS4, QP3, QP7, QP9

Enabling elements: catalogue

B. Queering Actions

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Informal economy 	Informal economy, social encounters, meeting place, historical continuity, affordability	Footnotes: Avoid! Dilemma of care & responsibility, funding, maintenance	**ED03, ED04, ED05, ED10, H01, SE01, SE03, SE05, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12, V04, V05, V06, V09** QS1, QS4, QP3, QP4, QP7
Public toilets	Encounters, cruising spots, gossip, meeting point	Footnotes: Avoid! Funding & maintenance, need for city support, vandalism, lack of acceptance	**ED07, SE05, SE09, SE11, G02, SA02, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA09, V06, V08** QS1, QS2, QS4, QP3, QP7, QP9
Pocket parks 	Porosity of the city, spaces of exit & rest, intimacy	Footnotes: Avoid! Less visibility, unwanted intimacy, abuse	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QS4, QP2, QP3, QP4, QP8, QP9
Symbols (colours, flags) 	Visibility, remembrance, community building, safety, support	Footnotes: Avoid! Funding, need of a city support, vandalism, low acceptance	**ED03, ED04, ED09, ED10, G05, SA04, SA07, SA08, V01, V07, V08** QS1, QS2, QS3, QP1, QP4, QP6, QP8

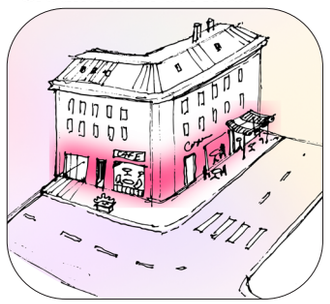
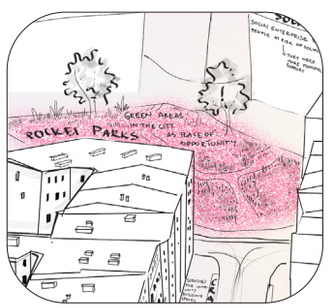
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Statues 	Encounters, cruising spots, gossip, meeting point	Footnotes: Avoid! Need of a city support, vandalism, lack of acceptance	**ED03, ED04, ED09, ED10, G05, SA04, SA07, SA08, V01, V07, V08** QS1, QS2, QS4, QP3, QP7, QP8, QP9
Party venues	Activation, meeting place, “normalisation”, visibility	Footnotes: Avoid! Funding, need of a city support, vandalism, lack of acceptance	**ED02, ED05, ED07, M03, H01, SE11, G02, G04, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA02, SA03, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V03, V04, V05, V06, V08, V09, V10** QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP8, QP9
Square 	Expression, encounter/confrontation, activities for the public	Footnotes: Avoid! Representation of dangerous beliefs in public, heat island	**ED03, ED09, SE03, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA10, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QP2, QP4, QP7, QP8
Proximity to services/ institutions that are allies 	Social control, network, safe space, information point, meetings, community building	Footnotes: Avoid! Easy target, Danger, Vandalism, need of a city support	**ED04, ED05, ED07, H01, SE01, SE04, SE08, SE09, SE11, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V03, V04, V05, V06, V08, V09, V10** QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP6, QP7, QP8, QP9
Extraordinary/colourful buildings (e.g. Solpol, Wroclaw)	Visibility, “normalisation”, belonging, security, support	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED01, ED05, ED06, ED10, H01, SE11, SA07, SA08, SA12, V01, V03, V04, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QP3, QP5, QP6, QP8

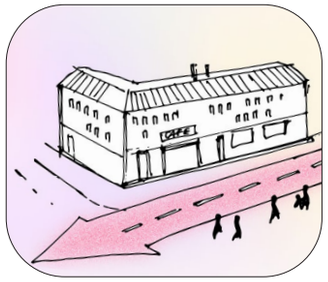
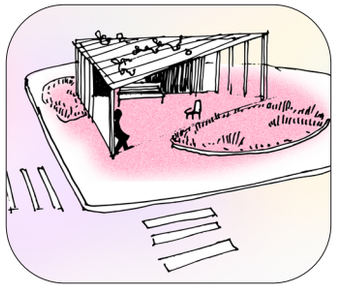
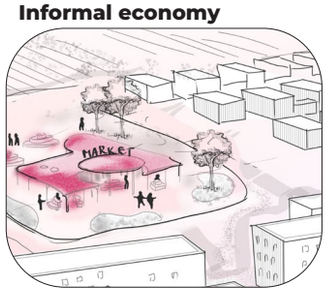
Enabling elements: catalogue

B. Queering Actions

Neigbourhood type

BLOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD

Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Ground floor services 	Creation of outside areas, street activation, local promotion, encounters, visibility & safety	Footnotes: Avoid! Danger of consumerism and focus on profiting, stigma	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11** QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP8
Pocket parks 	Porosity of the city, spaces of exit & rest, intimacy	Footnotes: Avoid! Less visibility, unwanted intimacy, abuse	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QS4, QP2, QP3, QP4, QP8, QP9

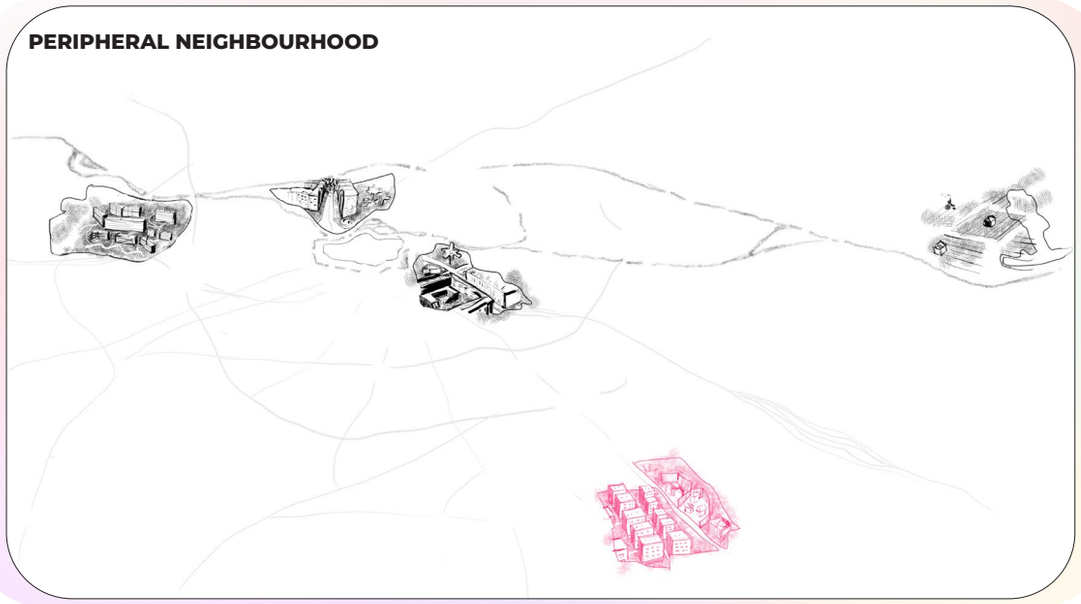
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Proximity to main roads and services 	Social control, network, safe space, information point, encounters, community buidling	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of acceptance, vandalizm	**M02, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12** QS3, QS4, QP2, QP4, QP8
Designed spaces for public encounters (urban furniture) 	Activation, Meeting point, Encounters, Information	Footnotes: Avoid! Vandalism, maintenance, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED04, ED08, , SE03, SE05, SE11, EC03, SA04, SA07, SA08, SA11, V01, V05, V06, V07, V08, V09 ,V10** QS4, QP3, QP4, QP5, QP9
Diverse mass housing	Diversity of housing & apartments types, affordability, social blending	Footnotes: Avoid! Maintenance & responsibility, overtaking space by powerful group	**ED03, ED05, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SA03, SA10, SA11, V01, V06** QS1, QS3, QP3, QP6
Informal economy 	Informal economy, social encounters, meeting place, historical continuity, affordability	Footnotes: Avoid! Dilemma of care & responsibility, funding, maintenance	**ED03, ED04, ED05, ED10, H01, SE01, SE03, SE05, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA04, SA07, SA11, SA12, V04, V05, V06, V09** QS1, QS4, QP3, QP4, QP7
Public services (ex. canteen)	Support, specialised facilities, social integration	Footnotes: Avoid! what is a target and focus group (risk of profit of powerful), vandalism	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11** QS3, QP6, QP7

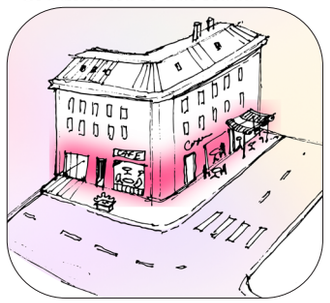
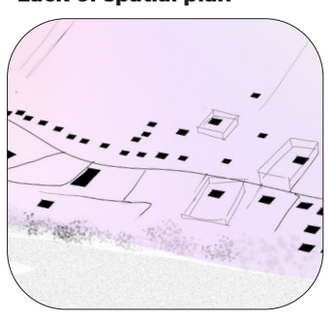
Enabling elements: catalogue

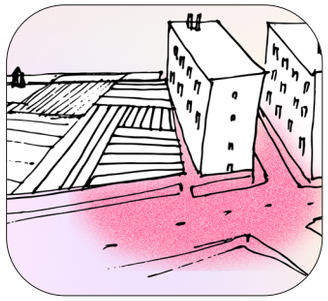
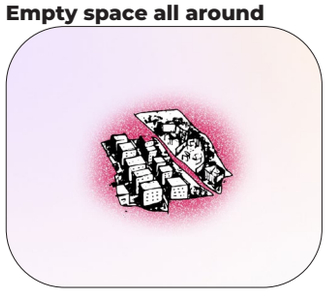
B. Queering Actions

Neigbourhood type

PERIPHERAL NEIGHBOURHOOD



Spatial quality	Enabling quality	Related cards
Ground floor services 	Creation of outside areas, street activation, local promotion, encounters, visibility & safety Footnotes: Avoid! Danger of consumerism and focus on profiting, stigma	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11** QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP8
Lack of spatial plan 	Opportunity for growth and visioning, queer paradises Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of protection or general rules	**ED03, ED04, ED06, ED08, M01, M02, M03, M04, H02, H03, SE02, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE06, SE07, SE09, SE10, SE11, G01, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA05, SA06, SA07, SA09, SA10, V02, V07, V09, V10, V11** QS1, QS3, QP2, QP3, QP7, QP9

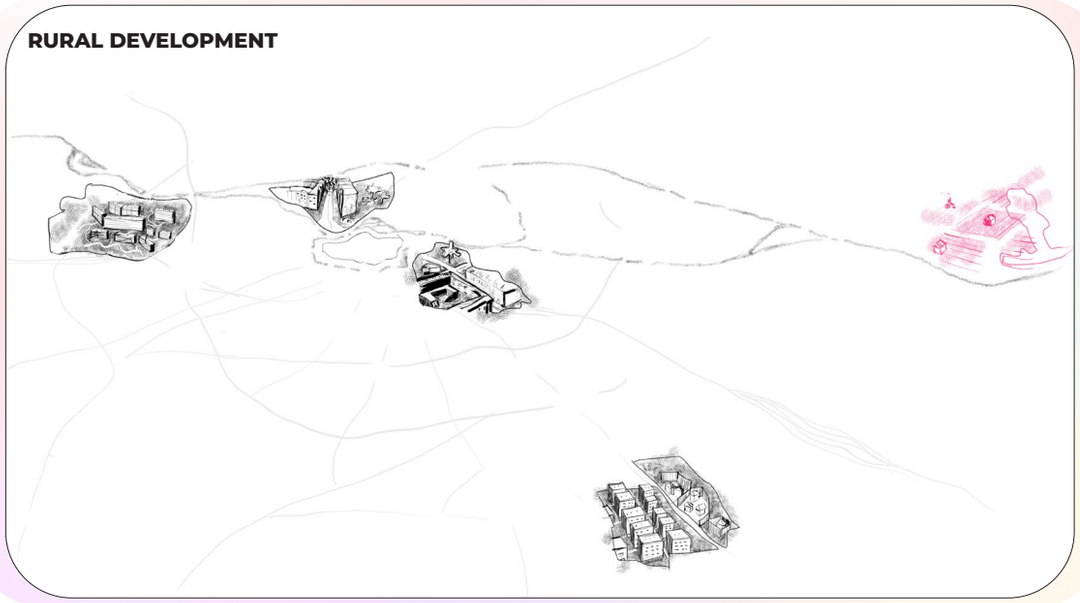
Spatial quality	Enabling quality	Related cards
Public transport 	Visibility & representation, encounters, information exchange, educationin space Footnotes: Avoid! Need of co-operation, risk of stigma	**ED02, ED04, ED09, M01, M02, M03, M04, EC03, SA02, SA03, SA11, V01, V03, V06** QP4, QP6, QP8
Urban & rural meeting point 	Mixed services, opportunity for rural areas benefit, informal areas creation, Information distribution & support Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of planning, clash of values, stigma	**ED01, ED03, ED04, ED05, M01, M02, M03, H01, H02, H03, SE04, SE05, SE07, SE11, G01, G02, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA09, SA11, V11** QS1, QS3, QS4, QP4, QP5, QP6, QP7
Empty space all around 	Possibility of growth and development, connection with nature Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of planning, focus on profit, city lacks control	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QS4, QP2, QP3, QP8, QP9

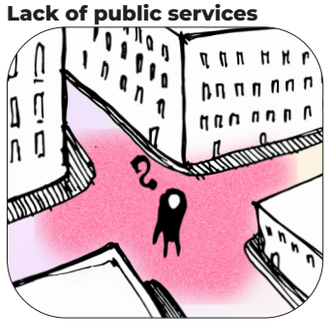
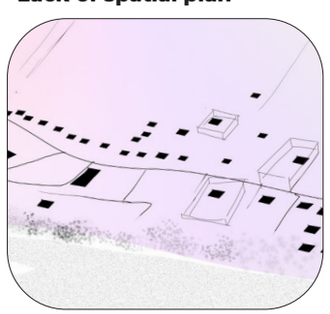
Enabling elements: catalogue

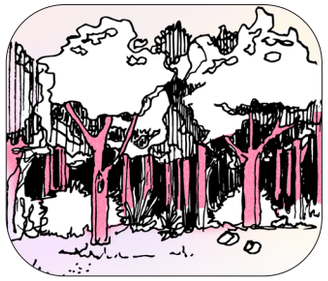
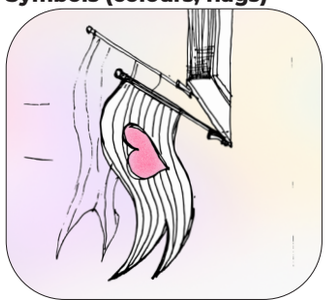
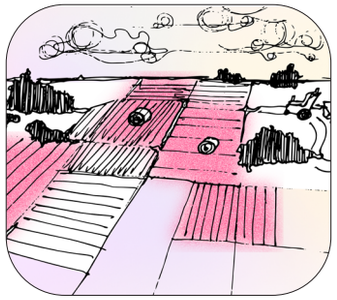
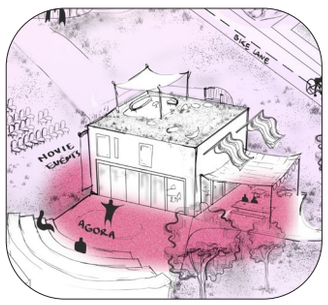
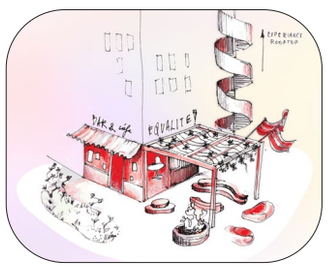
B. Queering Actions

Neigbourhood type

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Lack of public services 	Community mobilisation, space for creation and local investment for the queer community	Footnotes: Avoid! Low levels of quality of life and satisfaction, overtaking by powerful groups	**ED02, ED04, ED05, ED08, H01, SE02, SE05, SE06, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC02, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V05, V06, V11** QS3, QP7
Lack of spatial plan 	Opportunity for growth and visioning, queer paradises	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of protection or general rules	**ED03, ED04, ED06, ED08, M01, M02, M03, M04, H02, H03, SE02, SE03, SE04, SE05, SE06, SE07, SE09, SE10, SE11, G01, G03, G04, EC02, EC03, EC05, SA01, SA04, SA05, SA06, SA07, SA09, SA10, V02, V07, V09, V10, V11** QS1, QS3, QP2, QP3, QP7, QP9

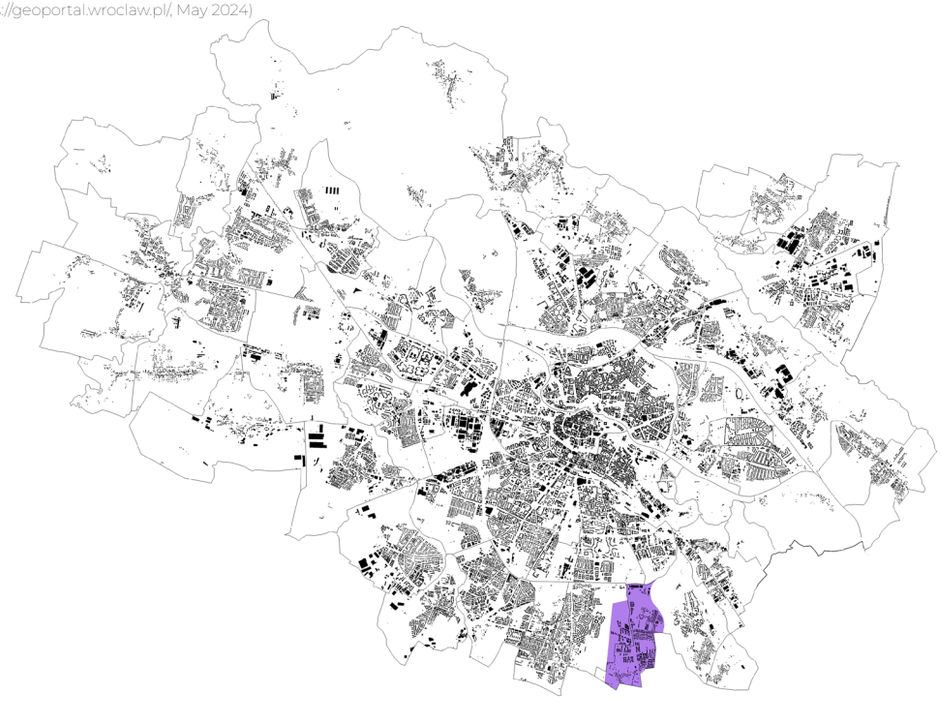
Spatial quality	Enabling quality		Related cards
Nature 	Relaxation, Protection, Intimacy,	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of land protection or general regulations	**ED05, ED06, SE05, SE07, SE11, G02, G03, G04, G05, EC03, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA04, SA07, SA09, SA11, V01, V04, V05, V07, V08, V09, V10** QS1, QS4, QP2, QP3, QP4, QP8, QP9
Symbols (colours, flags) 	Visibility, remembrance, community building, safety, support	Footnotes: Avoid! Funding, need of a city support, vandalism, low acceptance	**ED03, ED04, ED09, ED10, G05, SA04, SA07, SA08, V01, V07, V08** QS1, QS2, QS3, QP1, QP4, QP6, QP8
Open spaces/landscapes 	Relaxation, Protection, Intimacy, Sports & recreation, Growth/Vision	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of a land protection or general rules	**ED08, M02, M03, H03, SE03, SE07, SE11, G01, G02, G03, G04, EC03, SA04, SA06, SA09, V11** QS1, QS4, QP2, QP3, QP8, QP9
Community centre 	Activism, meeting place, support for minorities, safety islands, information point	Footnotes: Avoid! Political dependence or municipal aspirations	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED06, ED08,ED10, SE01, SE09, SE10, EC01, EC03, EC04, EC06, SA01, SA02, SA03, SA05, SA06, SA10, SA11, V01, V02, V03, V04, V06, V09, V10** QS2, QS3, QP1, QP2, QP4, QP5, QP8
Small-scale local economies 	Activisation, meeting point, grey economy, community building, queer economy	Footnotes: Avoid! Lack of a land protection or general rules, lack of support, stigma	**ED02, ED03, ED04, ED05, ED08, ED10, SE01, SE05, SE09, SE11, EC02, EC03, EC04, EC05, SA05, SA11, SA12, V01, V03** QS3, QP3, QP7, QP8

Place
Jagodno

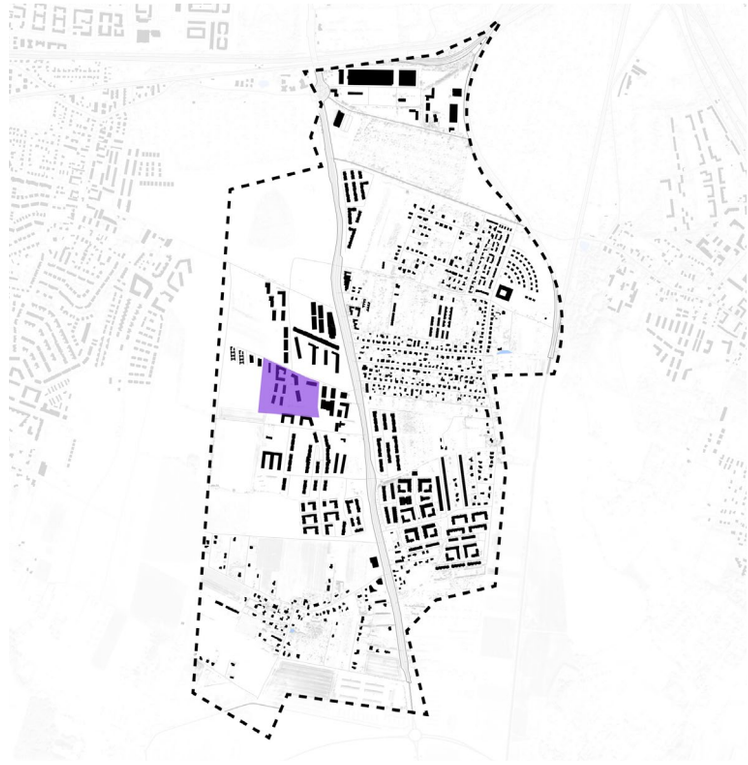
In order to illustrate the potential efficacy of strategic and Queer actions, one of the previously mentioned case studies, Jagodno, was selected for analysis.

Jagodno is a peripheral housing estate in the southern part of Wrocław. Intensive development of this area began in 2003 with the construction by Wrocław-based Archicom of the first in a series of enclosed “Four Seasons” estates. Neighbourhoods in Jagodno, primarily single-family, are often incomplete due to recent development or ongoing construction. They lack essential amenities like schools and medical facilities, leading to a temporary situation. Despite clear street layouts, they suffer from a lack of central gathering places and green areas. High-density construction and limited open spaces characterize these neighbourhoods, with some relying on neighbouring areas for services.

Location of Jagodno in scale of the city
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia
(https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



Focus area in Jagodno
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia
(https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



Functions
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia
(https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)

- Orchards
- Low vegetation
- Trees
- Squares & parkings
- Open sport facilities
- Residential
- Hotels
- Office & Services
- Culture
- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Religious
- Industrial & magazines

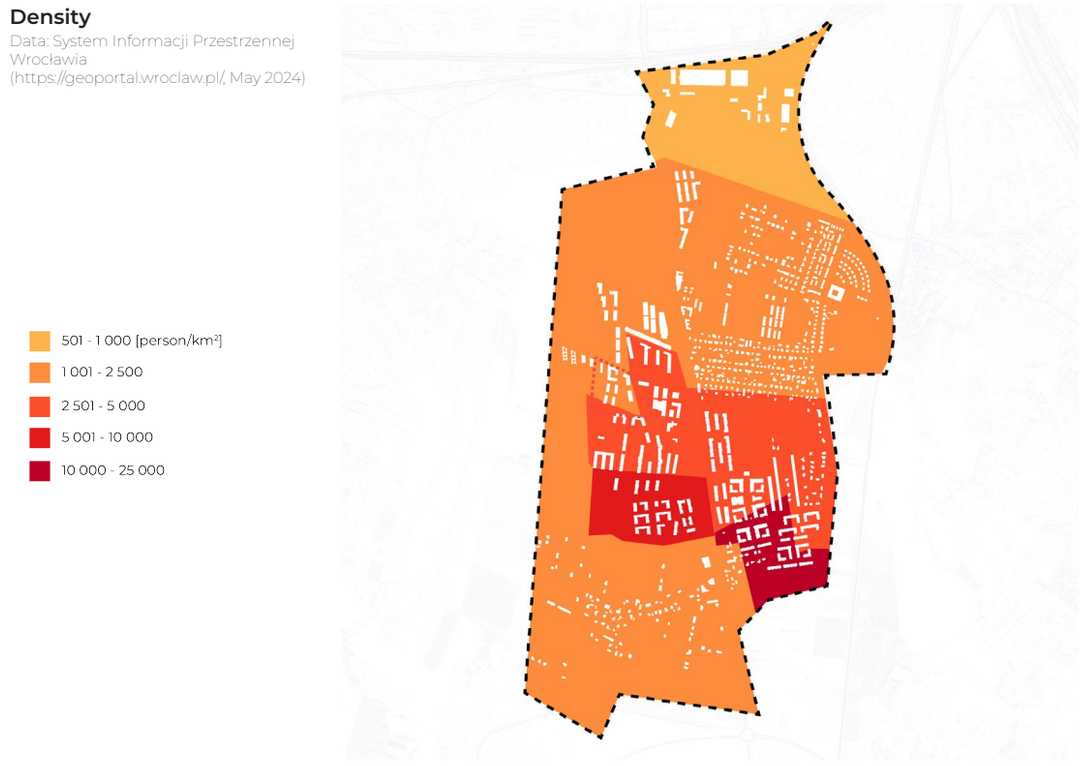
Place
Jagodno

The main street of the settlement, connecting it with the centre of Wrocław, is Buforowa Street, which is part of provincial road. This causes a lot of traffic, noise and car dependency in the area.

Jagodno is also one of the densest new developments in Wrocław. The estate attracted considerable media attention following the 2023 general election, with reports of record-breaking queues of approximately 1,000 people at the polling station on 15 October. According to the commission, the last vote was cast a few minutes before 3 a.m. on 16 October.

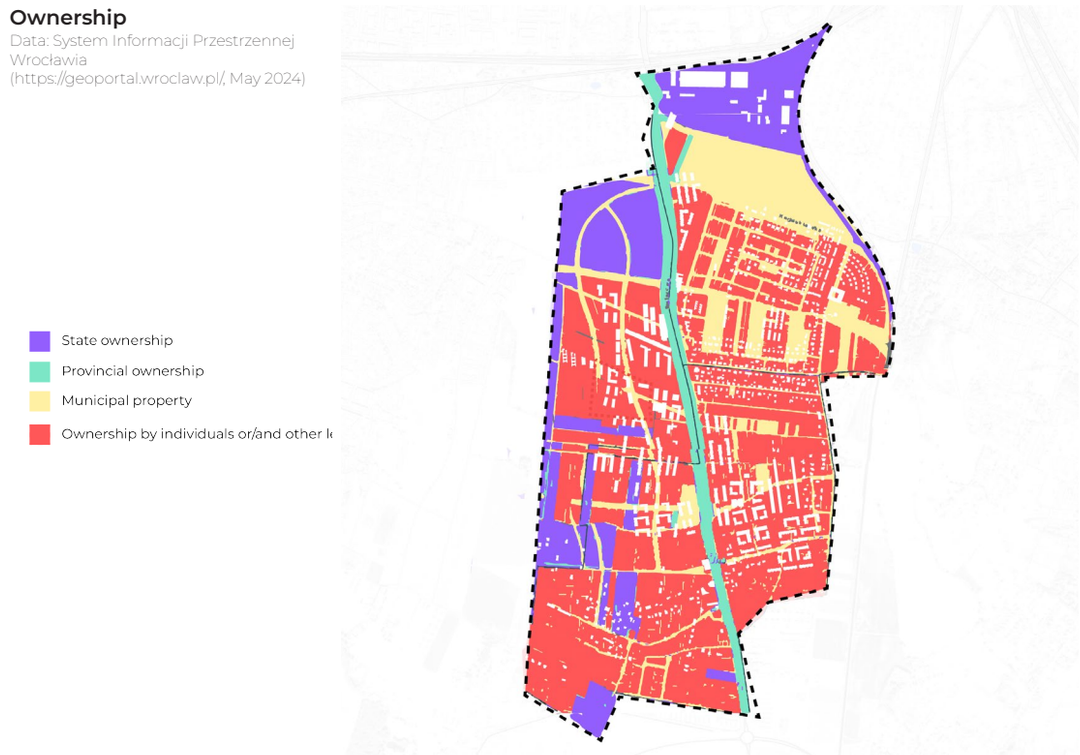
The majority of this area is privately owned or developed by private entities. The absence of appropriate policies has resulted in the development projects in question failing to meet the needs of the local community in terms of the provision of essential services. It is important to note that this area was originally designated as a park in the city's strategic plan. The lack of an effective system allowed for the sale of this area, resulting in the emergence of uncontrolled development that disregarded the original plans.

Density
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



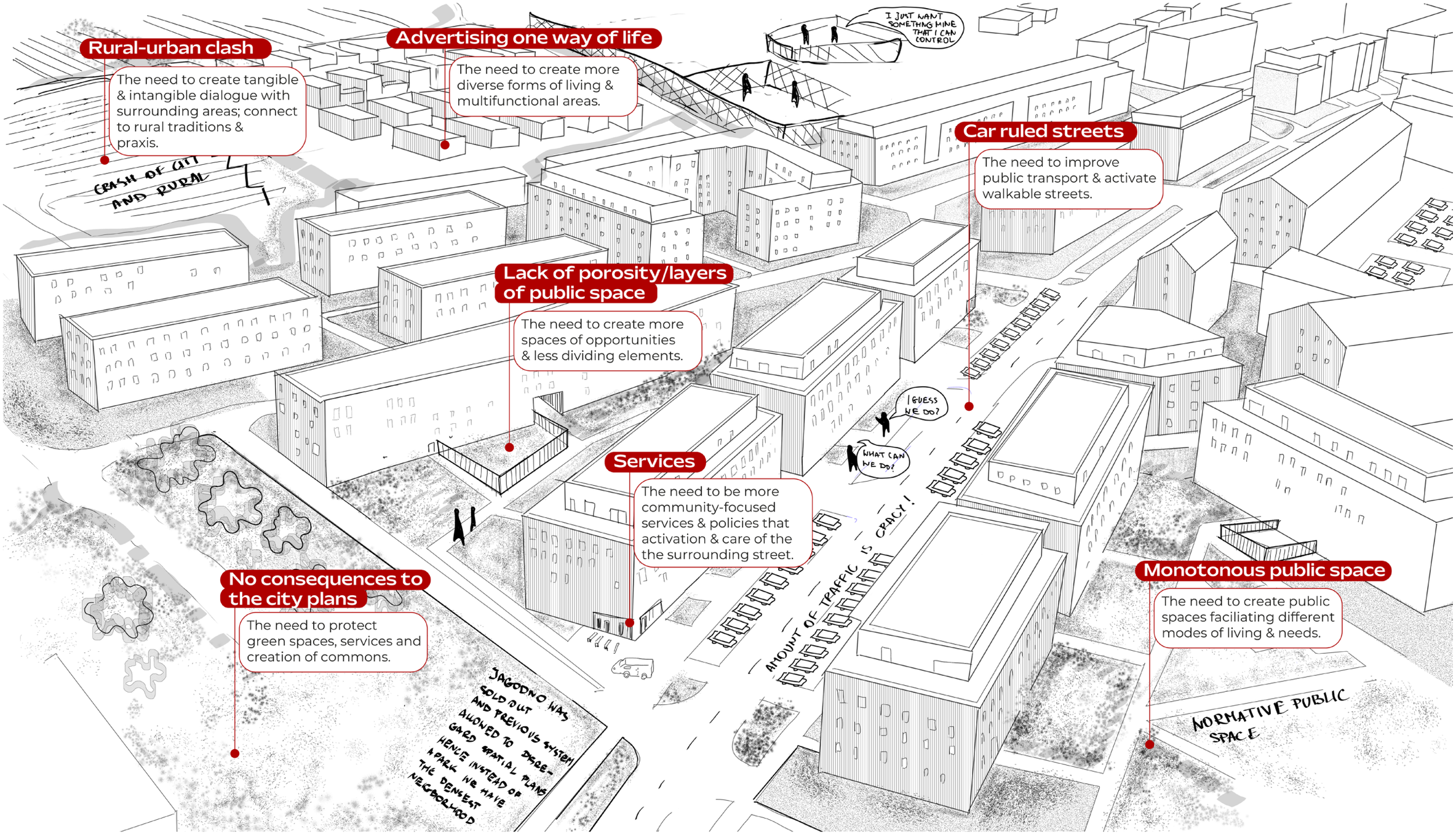
Mobility
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)

Ownership
Data: System Informacji Przestrzennej Wrocławia (https://geoportal.wroclaw.pl/, May 2024)



Jagodno
Challanges

The graphic below presents the focus area within Jagodno, accompanied by a list of the challenges and opportunities that have been identified.



Jagodno
Equality actions

The following section presents a vision of how strategic equality actions could be employed to enhance the quality of life in the area.

SE01 Empower
SE02 Local center
SE03 Space of democratic disobediance
SE04 Commons
SE07 Culture & sport as tools

V02 Participation Point
V04 Events

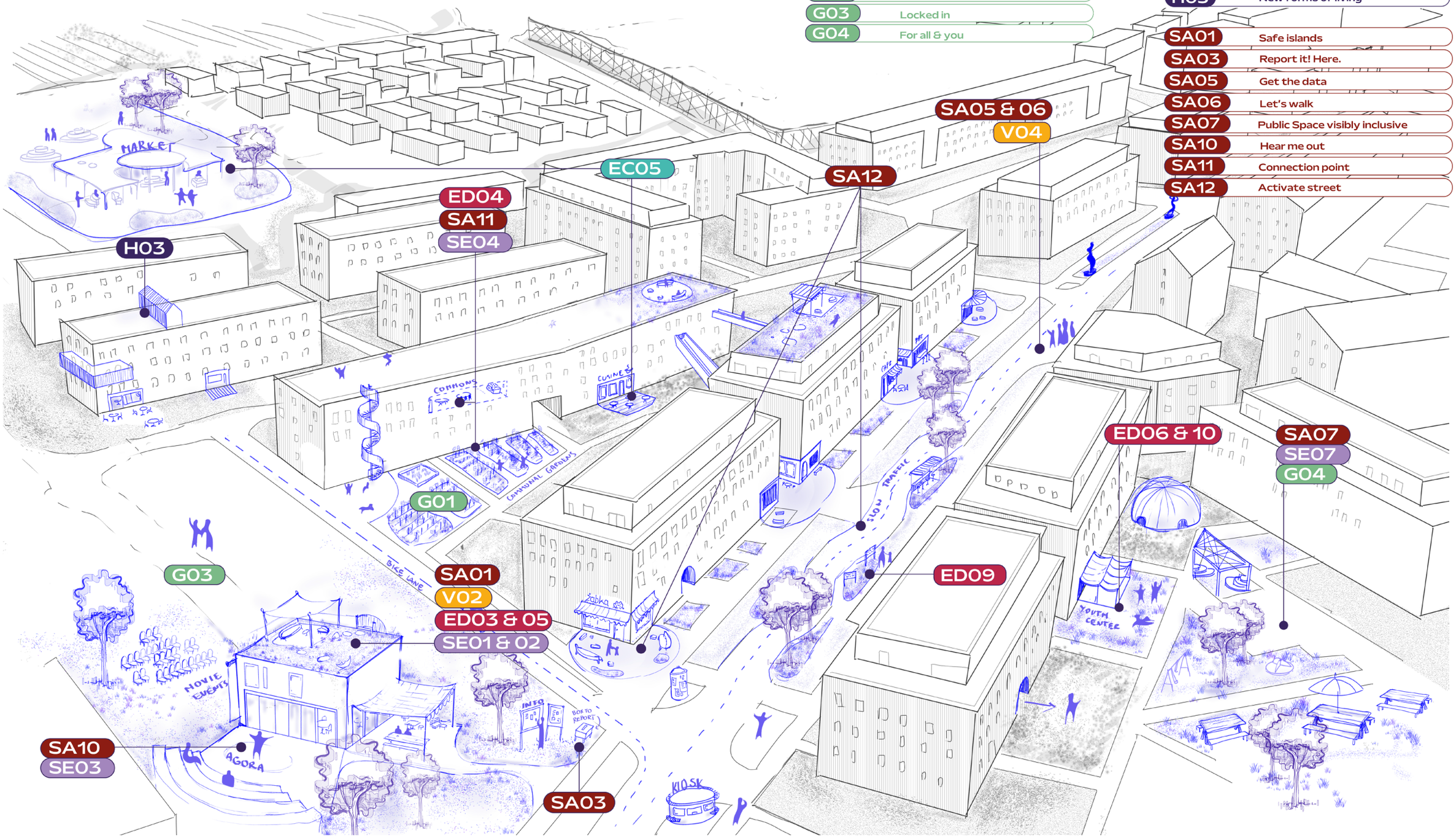
G01 Green commons
G03 Locked in
G04 For all & you

ED03 Empower
ED04 Collaborate
ED05 Community buidling
ED06 Educational space
ED09 Public space as education arena
ED10 Young voices

EC05 Local buisness

H03 New forms of living

SA01 Safe islands
SA03 Report it! Here.
SA05 Get the data
SA06 Let's walk
SA07 Public Space visibly inclusive
SA10 Hear me out
SA11 Connection point
SA12 Activate street



Jagodno
Queer lens

What are the implications of incorporating a queer perspective into this vision? The following section presents an illustrative example of how this could be achieved. It is crucial to assess the proximity between queer businesses/centres and locations where intimacy, expression or doubt are experienced. The hierarchy of visibility and the level of social control also play an important role.

Queer practise

ART GOSSIP SYMBOLS

Queer space

INVENTED INVITED

SA04 Safe design

SA09 Let's get intimate

V01 Representation

V06 Now you know!

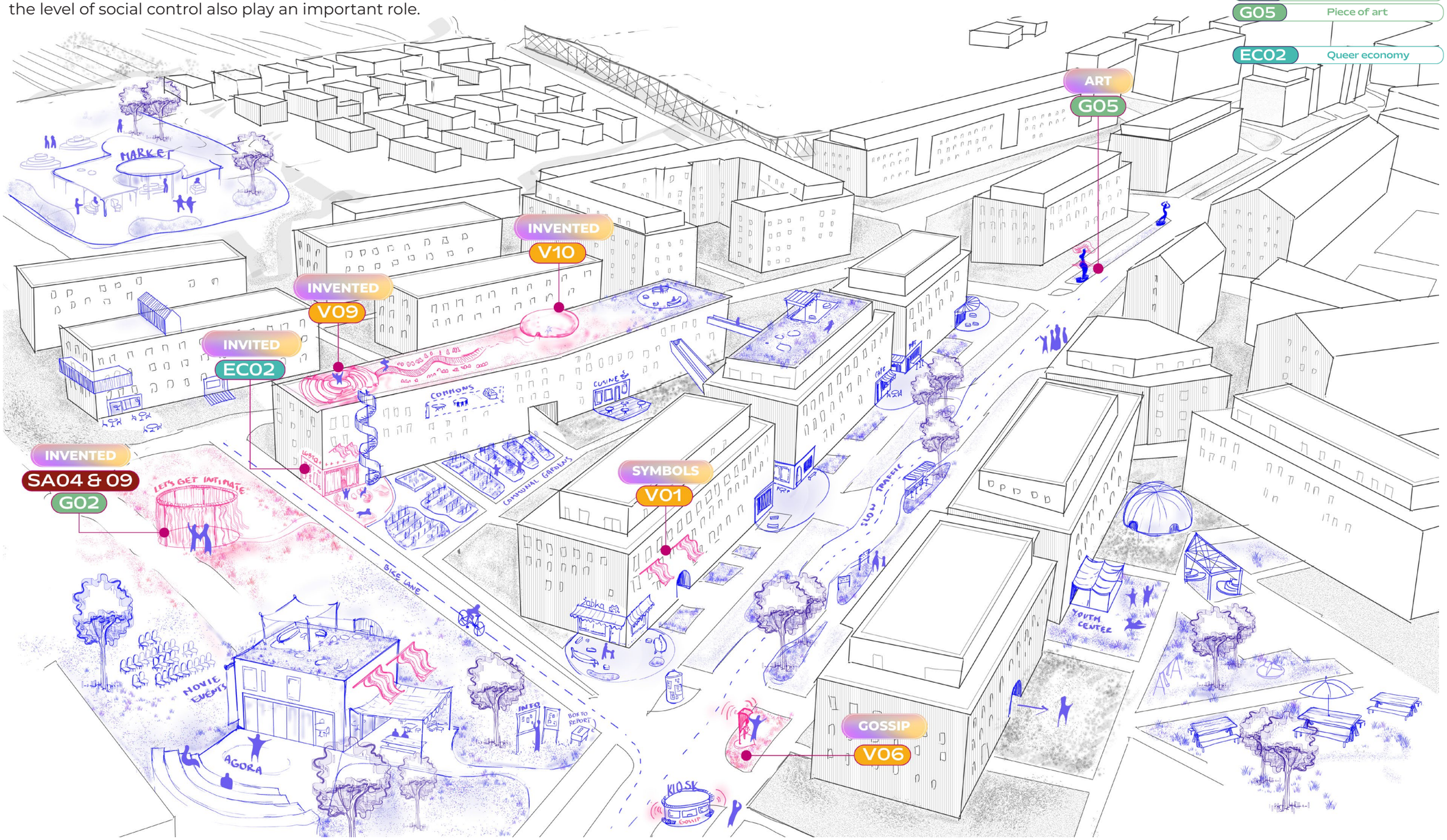
V09 Space of expression

V10 Space of doubt

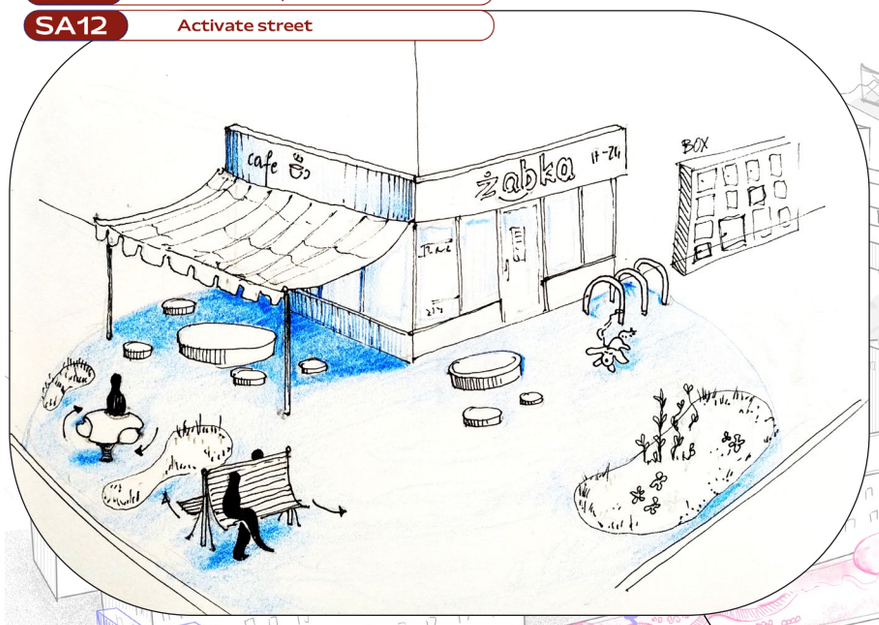
G02 Green intimacy

G05 Piece of art

EC02 Queer economy

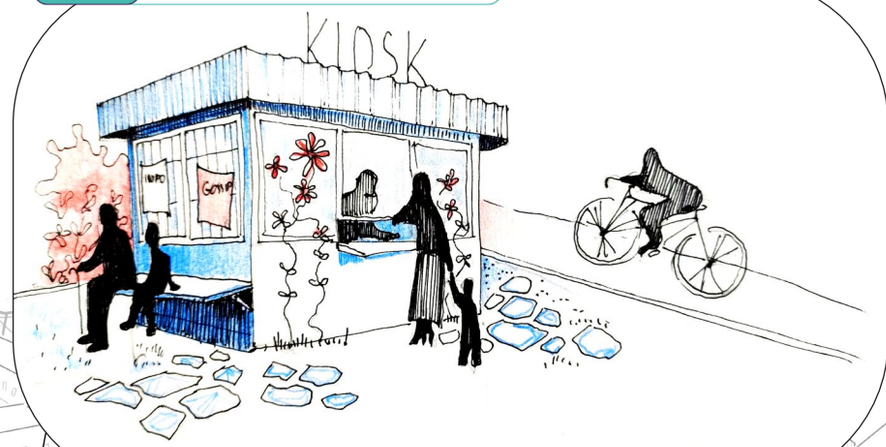


SA11 Connection point
SA12 Activate street



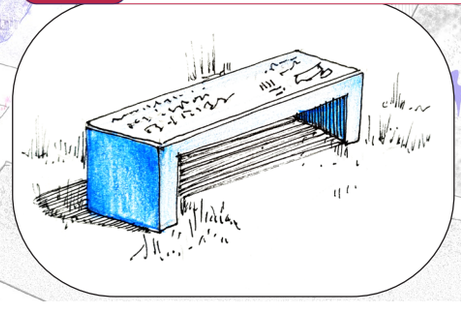
Corner shop “Żabka”:
Żabka is a chain of small grocery stores operating in Poland, with 10,018 shops run by more than 8,600 franchisees. It has somehow become a symbol of the city or growing cities in Poland. As this sign has become so well-known and embedded in the culture, there is an opportunity to develop a more socially oriented focus of these shops. Most Polish people use them several times a week. New policy guidelines could require franchisees to develop places to rest and sit outside or inside these small shops. This would create meeting points, activate the street and improve social control.

GOSSIP
VO6 Now you know!
SA01 Safe islands
SA11 Connection point
ED04 Collaborate
EC05 Local buisness



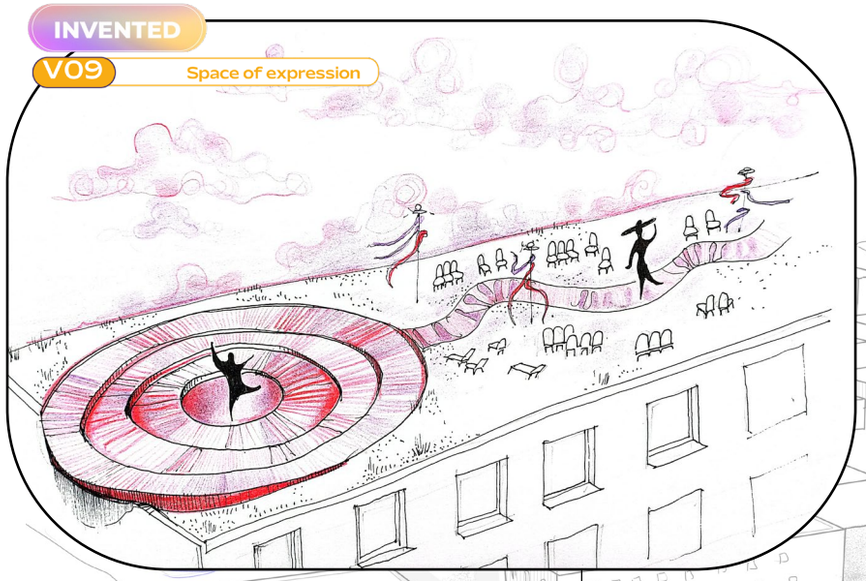
Kiosk:
“Kiosks” in Poland are small, stand-alone retail structures typically found in urban areas. They are usually made of metal, glass or wood and are often brightly coloured. Kiosks serve a variety of purposes, including the sale of newspapers, magazines, snacks, drinks, tobacco products and other convenience items. They can also provide services such as the sale of public transport tickets or public toilet. Embracing these structures and adding a resting place, an information table and some greenery could contribute to a more diverse streetscape and a meeting place for different people. In those structures there is embedded history of past times that can connect generations.

ED09 Public space as education arena



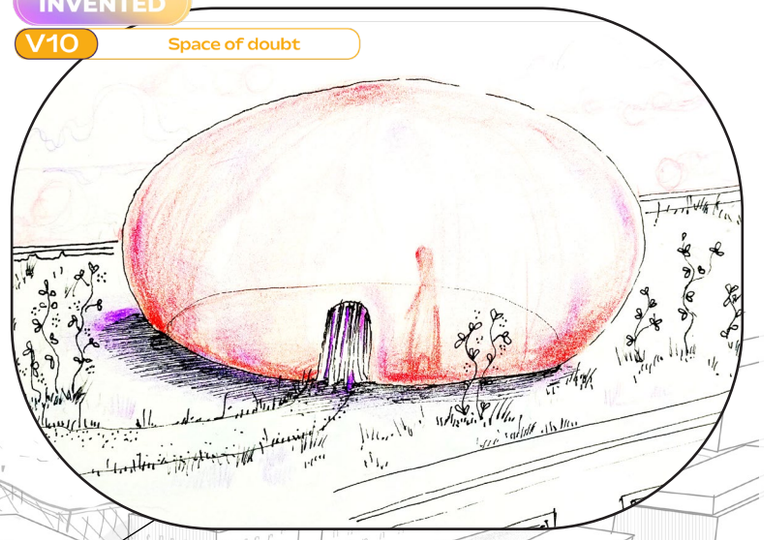
Education in public space:
Different elements of the streetscape could be multifunctional. Engraved information about local history or educational facts on benches could be just one of them. Exhibitions in the space, around paths or on the pavement could contribute to a more dynamic space.

INVENTED
V09 Space of expression



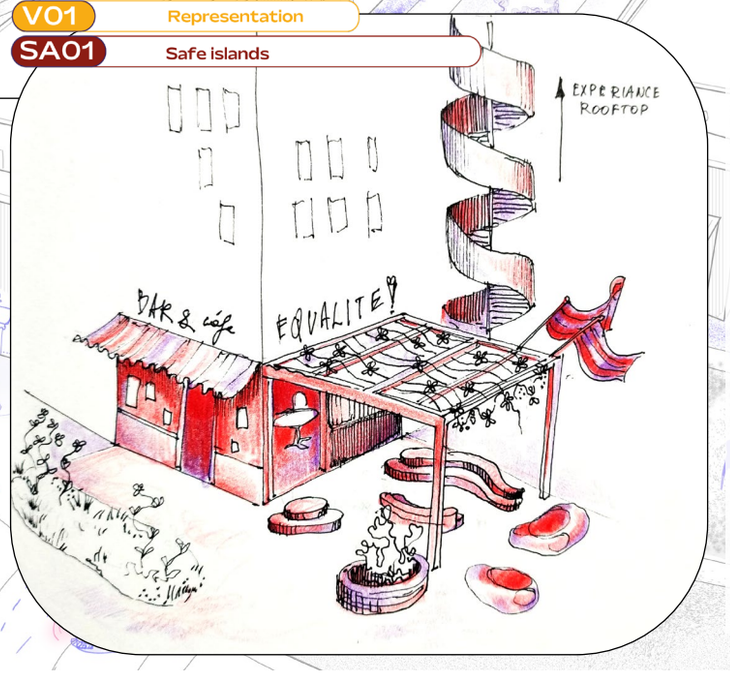
Space of expression:
Just above the local LGBTQ+ centre & café, a spiral staircase leads to the roof of the building, where a safe space for expression is created. This proximity creates a secure relationship and sense of social control. Elevated position and open view create opportunity and feeling of freedom. The circular scene, slightly lowered, creates almost an agora of expression. Coming out of it, one can embrace oneself directly on a catwalk that is used on some nights for drag queen shows.

INVENTED
V10 Space of doubt



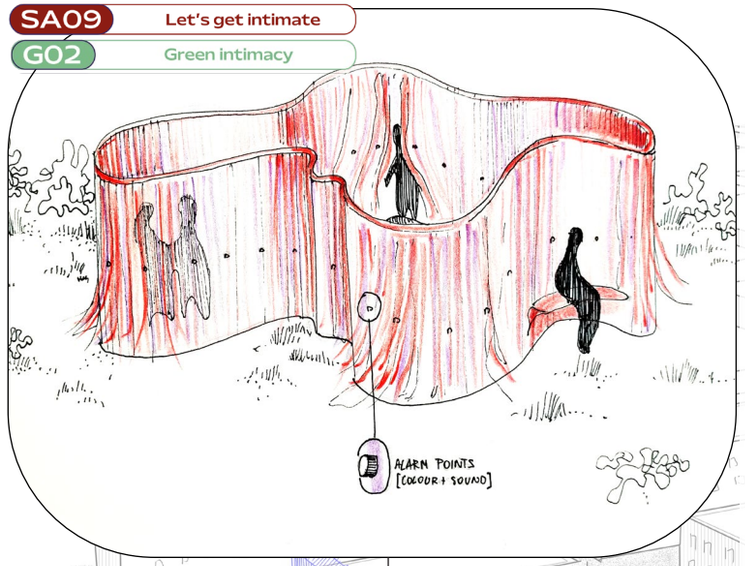
Space of doubt:
Can there be a space for expression without a place for doubt? The LGBTQ+ community creates a safe place to discover one's identity and be open to doubt or transformation. Creating a pavilion where individuals can enter, rest, feel a little isolated and hidden from direct view provides an opportunity to rethink one's existence or actions. It teaches us to tame the feeling of insecurity, not as something negative, but as something that helps us to grow.

INVITED
ECO2 Queer economy
V01 Representation
SA01 Safe islands



Safe island:
It is here that the LGBTQ+ community has its place of expression, meetings, workshops and celebrations. It plays an important role as a safe point where people can seek help and support, not only from queer society. Every member of staff is trained in equality policies and gender tolerance. The local police station works closely with the centre to identify any needs or challenges in the area and to ensure a safe environment. For the local community this place is known for vibrant events, openness and never ending creativity. Centre is in close proximity to space of expression, doubt and green intimacy that creates a network of safety and visibility. The proximity to the main street and the main local centre is important to create a more secure environment.

INVENTED
SA04 Safe design
SA09 Let's get intimate
G02 Green intimacy

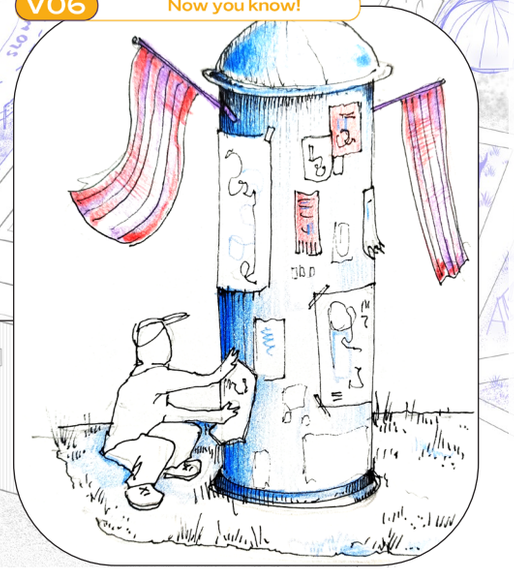


Let's get intimate:
Close to the local centre and the LGBTQ+ centre, in the seclusion of the park, there is a pavilion that offers more intimacy and peace. This development responds to the needs of other genders than male activities. Women can meet and rest here, children play with colourful textiles that fly in the wind. Some gossip that at night the proximity to LGBTQ+ centres creates an opportunity for the community to get to know each other better. The pavilion has hidden alarm buttons that can be used if unwanted or dangerous behaviour is noticed. It lights up and makes alarming sounds.

GOSSIP
V06 Now you know!

Gossip phone:
What can we do with the leftover structures of street phones? Queering practices such as gossip brings up the idea of creativity and playfulness. These phones can become informal information points where news can be recorded and circulated. Every week there could be necessary updates and control over harmful messages. In times of crisis, these elements could be an important point of coded information according the safety of the marginalised group.

SYMBOLS
V01 Representation
V06 Now you know!



Representation & information point:
These information poles are remnants of the German influence in the city before the Second World War. They are embedded in the fabric and history of the city, visible on most streets. They could be brought back to life as a point of information, education, gossip, but also of representation. The renovation of these elements, the addition of rainbow flags or colours, would make them more visible and more familiar to the citizens in their daily lives.

Conclusions

The strategic action cards outlined in this chapter offer practical interventions to promote inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive urban environments. Based on research, they address a range of needs in different thematic areas, from systemic change to visibility and safety. Civil society engagement and participation is crucial to identify the key needs, expectations and aspirations of communities and to ensure that interventions are responsive and inclusive. By suggesting specific actions within each category, the Strategic Action Cards serve as practical tools for policy makers, urban planners and community organisers seeking to bring about positive change in their communities. This has been enriched by a catalogue of spatial qualities that enable certain actions in space. Catalogue makes it more understandable and comfortable to use as a design/reimagining tool.

Queer practices bring vibrancy, playfulness and experimentation to public spaces, but must be adapted to the social context of each area. While they may signal openness and safety, they can still be perceived as exclusive by more traditional or modest people. It's therefore important to develop local centres and events that promote greater equality and tolerance, while taking into account safety, social control and strong support networks. Collaboration between different institutions, local citizens and government agencies is essential to achieving equitable development. Queering actions often prioritise social interventions and appear in safer areas with higher social control level or proximity to LGBTQ+ supporting institutions. This highlights the importance of supporting development that is not solely profit-driven. An intersectional approach, taking into account the needs of different minority groups, enriches our understanding and improves the livability and safety of urban environments.

Despite the potential of these strategic action cards, several challenges remain. One of the key challenges is the need for systemic change within the current planning system in Poland, which often overlooks gender equality measures and fails to address the diverse needs of communities. Furthermore, ensuring the implementation of these policies in practice requires overcoming bureaucratic hurdles, securing funding and gaining political support. Looking forward, there are many opportunities for further research in this area. One theme to explore is the impact of these strategic action maps on the lived experiences of marginalised communities, particularly in relation to their sense of safety, belonging and inclusion in urban spaces.

In conclusion, by embracing civic engagement, thoughtfully adapting queer practices, promoting broader equality and tolerance, and fostering collaboration between stakeholders, we can continue to make progress towards more inclusive and equitable urban spaces.

> *Figure*
Collage made by the author. Source s of images: Queerstoria Archives of Lambda Warsaw, Solpol zostaje, Ignacy Płażewski

CHAPTER 10: *Conclusion*

Conclusion

Acknowledgements

Conclusion

This research focused on investigating the relationship between socio-political dynamics, spatial planning and gender intolerance in Wroclaw, Poland. The aim of the project was to develop tools to bridge the spatial and societal divide with a focus on the experiences of the queer community.

MRQ: In what ways can evolving socio-political dynamics and spatial planning contribute to dismantling gender intolerance and fostering inclusive communities in Poland?

In order to arrive at valuable conclusions, I have built a theoretical framework through topics of power dynamics, intersectionality, queer theory, insurgency & space production. Works by Foucault, Marcuse, Crenshaw, Lefebvre, Doan & Miraftab were of great influence. Understanding the cultural, political and historical landscape of Poland was important in recognising the dynamics that shape the city and the ways in which it can be transformed. The methods of interviews, fieldwork and participation contributed greatly to the development of the observation of needs and challenges that might facilitate or hinder the development of equity actions in the city of Wroclaw. As there is no simple answer to this question, further sub-questions were developed to support this project.

RQ1: What are the socio-political factors influencing spatial planning decisions related to inclusivity in Poland?

Literature, policy, media analysis and interviews were used to answer this question. Looking more closely at the current spatial planning system in Poland and its forthcoming reform, the answer to this question became clearer. Currently, all non-governmental organisations, their locations and agendas are dependent on funding and approval from the municipality. This can change every year and is intertwined with the agenda of the political party leading the local government. When it comes to creating urban plans and strategies, they are in the hands of municipal leaders and economists. The role of spatial planners and participation is minimised and there is a risk of corruption. Both elements clearly show a strong link between political influence and spatial development, which is alarming. Can there be introduced more autonomy or something that protects minorities outside of the system?

RQ2: How do 'norms' affect the environment in which people live?

In order to draw conclusions on this topic, it was important to carry out fieldwork, spatial observations, interviews and cultural observations. It was important to understand the status quo of society, but also the policies and systems that influence the space in which people live. This led to the observation of a small number of possibilities and layers in public spaces in Wroclaw. The further away from the city centre, the more homogeneous and poor in services the areas are. Observing new developments, it became clear that what space has to offer is the model of a small family with children or animals, as housing and public spaces are geared to the needs of these users. This lack of diversity and opportunity does not support growth (spatially and socially).

RQ3_A: How can queering contribute to more inclusive production of space?
RQ3_B: What is the lived experience of non-heteronormative individuals and how does it relate to safe space in urban settings?

In order to build an understanding and perspective of the LGBTQ+ community's experience, it was important to explain the activities, needs and challenges faced by this minority in Wroclaw with the help of the voice of representatives from "Kultura Równości" (LGBTQ+ Foundation in Wroclaw). It became clear that there is a strong activist structure and support line, but there is a problem with institutionalised support or recognition from the city. Most spaces that are considered queer friendly are also safer in general terms. They bring playfulness, expression and creativity to spaces. Queering provides an opportunity to transform and challenge norms, which can essentially facilitate greater acceptance and inclusivity. Nevertheless, it might not be inclusive for everyone; part of society considered more modest or reserved might not feel as comfortable in queer spaces.

RQ4: How can input from marginalised communities, especially the queer community, be included in urban planning for greater inclusivity and tolerance? How can urban design facilitate this?

Conducting interviews and establishing contact with the local community is crucial for building greater inclusivity and tolerance into urban planning. It becomes clear that participation and an intersectional approach are key elements in the development of such projects (if not all). Strategic action cards, queer action cards, catalogue of spatial qualities and visual representation of their use can be a way to advocate and communicate the needs of marginalised groups, in this case the queer community. Including the voice of marginalised groups can highlight key challenges in the city and encourage development to be more citizen-centred rather than profit-driven.

Conclusion

Role of an urbanist:
An important part of this thesis was rethinking the role of an urbanist. It extends far beyond simply drafting plans and designing spaces. We are entrusted with the task of serving the community, acting as mediators between various stakeholders, and navigating complex political landscapes. Planner actions are not divorced from political agendas and neutrality is a myth. We should strive to give voice to those who may not have the same level of power or influence, and be aware of our own biases and privileges. Moreover, the urbanist focus is not solely on solving problems but also on learning and understanding. While seeking solutions is important, it is equally crucial to recognize the complexities of the built environment and the potential consequences of our actions. The role of an urbanist is multidimensional, requiring empathy, diplomacy, and a commitment to continuous learning and improvement. By embracing these principles, we can strive to create environments that are not only functional and aesthetically pleasing but also inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

Limitations:
The results of this research have led me to conclude that maintaining motivation is of vital importance when dealing with socially or politically charged topics. It is of great importance to maintain engagement with the community and the issue itself. Participation in a variety of activities, including workshops, events, and discussions, has proven to be of significant value. Such interactions not only enhance self-confidence but also facilitate access to new resources, insights into potential actions, and a sustained sense of purpose regarding the significance of the topic. Following a meeting with representatives of the LGBTQ+ Centre in Wrocław, it became evident that it was not possible to meet with the non-heteronormative community due to psychological and emotional reasons. The lack of opportunity to evaluate the findings with the community was a significant limitation.

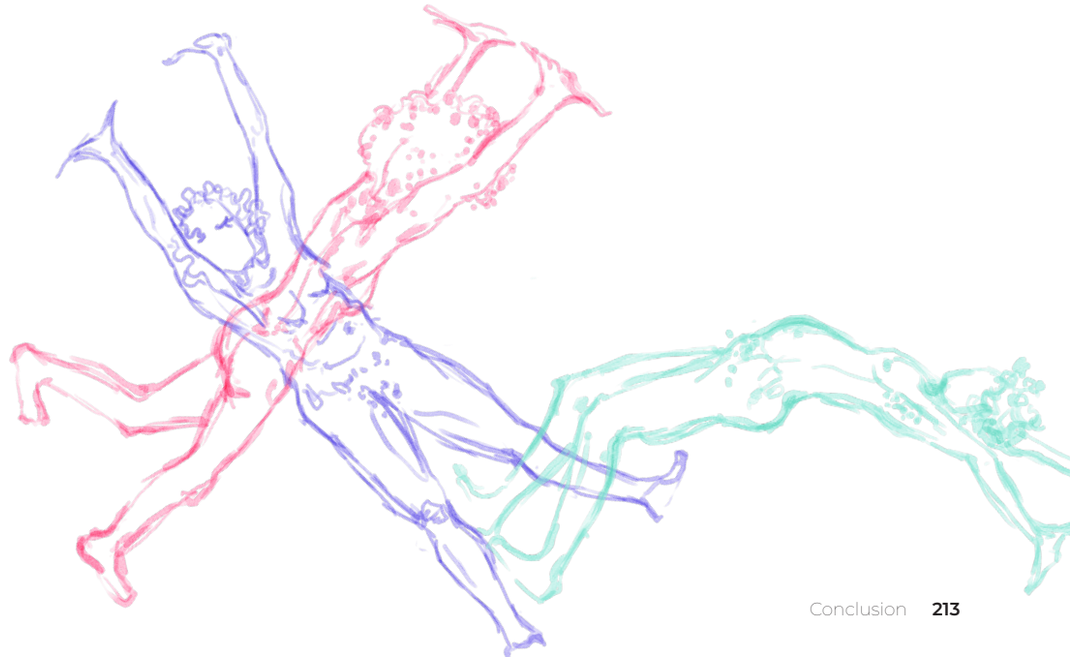
Additionally, navigating complex issues, often termed as “wicked problems,” has highlighted the need for a deep understanding and openness to diverse perspectives. Every outcome might create a new problem, awareness of that is important. Embracing the concept of queering, while liberating and expressive, may not always be universally inclusive. It’s essential to recognize that while queering fosters freedom and playfulness, some individuals may not be ready to embrace it fully. Therefore, promoting tolerance, equity, and safety remains imperative.

Moreover, the cultural, religious, and political landscapes of specific areas significantly influence the research process. Being a Polish researcher provided me with cultural insights that facilitated understanding historical and contextual nuances. This underscores the importance of delving into cultural knowledge in any research project, regardless of the location.

Recommendations for further research:
Firstly, there is a pressing need to evaluate the practical application of the proposed actions and to engage in consultation with citizens to assess their effectiveness and impact on the ground.

Secondly, future research endeavours should delve into the analysis of queering practices across diverse cultural contexts, including variations within different regions of Poland. It is essential to understand how queer culture manifests in rural areas compared to urban settings, considering the subtleties of expression and acceptance within these environments. There is a notable gap in research focusing on rural areas and their capacity to accommodate diverse identities and expressions. Investigating the influence of urbanization on rural communities and exploring avenues for integrating social values into these settings are areas warranting further investigation.

Lastly, while this research primarily engaged with the LGBTQIA+ community, there is a clear need to broaden participation to include voices from more modest or conservative circles. Incorporating diverse perspectives into future projects will enrich understanding and foster greater inclusivity within the research process and outcomes.



v *Figure*
Collage made by the author.
Source s of images: Queerstoria Archives of
Lambda Warsaw, Solpol zostaje, Ignacy Płażewski

Acknowledgements

This project has been an eye-opening experience, and I am grateful to a collection of extraordinary people who have accompanied and supported me along the way. Firstly, I would like to thank my mentors, Caroline Newton and Birgit Hausleitner, for their encouragement, openness, and never-ending support. Their guidance and insight into the intricate relationships between space, society, politics and economy were instrumental in enabling the project to flourish.

Completing this project would not have been possible without my friends, partner, and best Flemish flatmates. Thank you for your unwavering belief, kindness, and perspectives that have broadened my vision. Meeting you is one of the rare miracles that happened to me in Delft and Wroclaw. I would also like to thank my parents and my sister, who have always supported me throughout my studies and made it possible for me to become the person I wanted to be.

I would like to thank the Van Eesteren-Fluck & Van Lohuizen Foundation for sponsoring the travel expenses and everyone who was kind enough to give me their time for insight: Jacek, Katarzyna, and Michał for finding time for me, sharing their knowledge and experience, and being part of the change in the city that gives me hope; Kultura Równości Foundation, Agu, and Piotr for opening their doors to me and educating me about the complex non-binary world—thank you for being there for so many and fighting for equality; Architektoniczki Studio, even though we didn't manage to meet in the end, thank you for your continuous support and work that has elevated gender-equal design; Alina Szeptycka and her team for the work they put into Wrocław's first Equality Action Plan; and finally, I send lots of love to my fellow graduates, who are an exceptional group of people that made the whole process so enjoyable.

The support and inspiration I've received throughout this project have been truly overwhelming. This journey has not only been an academic pursuit but also a personal adventure that has filled me with hope and motivation.

Reflection
Appendix
References

Reflection

Reflection on Thesis' Research Methodologies:
Delving into theories of intersectionality, queer theory and power has greatly influenced my understanding of socio-spatial dynamics and broadened my horizons. Throughout most of my education, I was taught to focus on comparisons, patterns and schemes, which seemed very binary, yet logical and helpful to approach. However, approaching this project from the perspective of complexity, non-binaries and critical evaluation of norms has been challenging at times, but has led to significant professional and personal development. As an urbanist, it is important for me to recognise complexity, multi-faceted problems and the dichotomy of truths. I find the intersectional approach a crucial tool for understanding the development of our environment.

Another important lesson I have learnt is how to approach socio-political problems and their relationship to space. I recognise the diversity of approaches and interests in urbanism, and my focus on the dynamics that influence spatial development has become most fascinating. Observing and analysing queering practices in Wrocław presented opportunities and visions for space that could only be ignited by this power of action and transformation embedded in community. Analysing the media, history and current policies was necessary to dismantle the power dynamics and influence of the past. It is also important to learn from others. There are countries and cities, such as Vienna or London, that already do research on gendered space. Learning from this has brought more perspective and insight into what gendered space is and how it can be influenced.

It was essential to carry out participation, interviews with local citizens or experts, in order to understand the context of the project and to identify any hidden challenges. It would be impossible for me to approach spatial planning projects without considering local society, as they have knowledge about space and its value that cannot be found elsewhere. It was also a creative challenge to translate often intangible perspectives on space into a medium that could communicate them in this project. The use of soft maps became a great answer to this struggle, not only to communicate with the audience, but to build own understanding of the relationship between the urban fabric and the lived experience of space.

Finally, developing strategic action cards, queering action cards, and presenting their use in exemplary location was a great medium to communicate and evaluate potential influence of these interventions. Relating them and imagining them in space was crucial to notice the relationships, synergies and challenges that each specific context unveils. A retrospective analysis of the design and cards was a key method in the process of creating a catalogue of spatial qualities that facilitate the aforementioned actions. This was a crucial element of the project, as it utilise the catalogue as a tool for reimagining urban environments.

In conclusion, undertaking a challenge of developing an exploratory project that challenges my own understanding and perspectives, even though at times difficult, proved to be of significant value in broadening my horizons and becoming an urbanist that is aware of the multilayered complexity of problems and the relations between socio-political dynamics and space.

Research in relation to design:
In my project, the outcomes are inseparable from the research process. The theoretical frameworks of power, queer theory, and intersectionality, as well as the production of space, were found to be influential in the ways of looking at space and conducting fieldwork or interviews. Furthermore, the existing policy guidelines were also of significant importance for the later outcomes. Contact with citizens, participation in discussions regarding the Wrocław Equality Action Plan, and fieldwork contributed significantly to the development of a deeper understanding of the needs and challenges that shape future design and recommendations. That also gave an idea of outcome that can be used as a tool in future participatory meeting – strategic action cards and catalogue of spatial qualities. The process was not linear; rather, it involved constant verification and observation of synergies between research findings and potential outcomes.

Value of the transferability of the project results:
In assessing the transferability of this project results, it's evident that the theories and methodology employed hold significant potential value for addressing equality and gender issues in various spatial contexts. The development of policy guidelines and strategic action cards was deeply informed by the specific context and needs of Wrocław. However, the principles underlying these initiatives are applicable beyond this case study, offering an inspiring model for similar projects elsewhere. It's essential to exercise caution when applying this tool to new contexts, considering the unique needs and challenges of each area. Factors such as cultural differences, social dynamics, existing policies and politics should be carefully considered to ensure the effectiveness of the project results.

Reflection

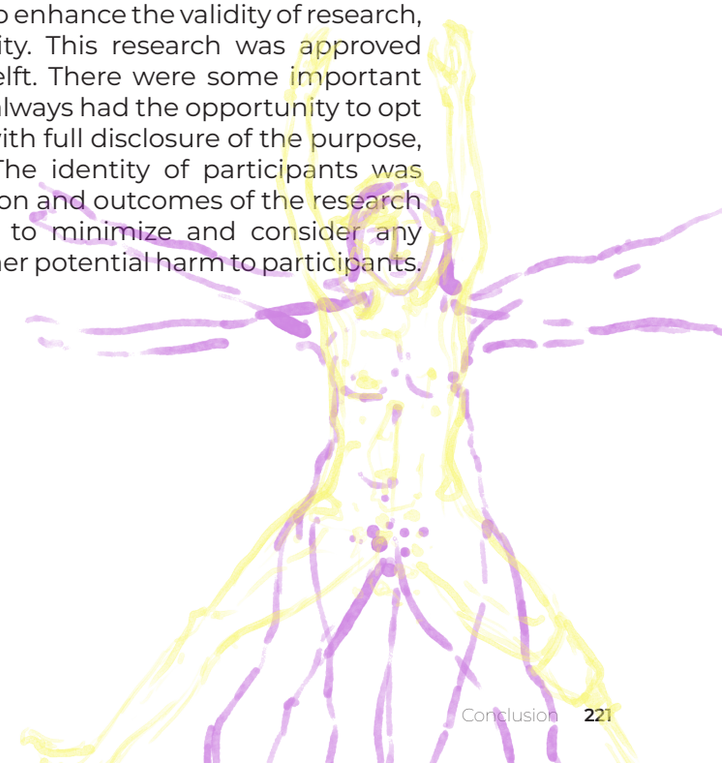
Relation between thesis topic and master track of urbanism and Studio "Planning Complex Cities":
The thesis aligned with the master's program's focus on urbanism, emphasizing critical inquiries within the context of local conditions and cultures. Specifically centered on Poland, the research explored the imperative of cultivating queer inclusivity and diversity in urban environments. This involved investigating the spatial manifestation of social phenomena, with a dedicated focus on typology and the influence of planning decisions, norms, and strategies. The study critically examines how formal and informal power relations impact the spatial dynamics of cities, particularly affecting gender-marginalized groups. It also delves into the political dimension of practice, reflecting on the role of the urban planner in shaping inclusive and diverse urban landscapes. This research aligns with the program's goal of advancing knowledge on sustainable and equitable urban development.

The 'Planning Complex City' studio was the most appropriate setting for the development of my thesis. My research focused on the relationship between spatial planning and queer inclusivity, which at times presented challenges. The project would not have developed in such a creative and free way without the support of mentors Caroline Newton and Birgit Hausleitner. The studio's emphasis on participation and civic engagement was directly supportive of the research aims. It was of great importance to the research process that the studio was open to complex and socio-political topics.

Scientific Relevance:
Analysing the situation and role of the queer community in the environment is not a new discourse within urbanism and architecture studies, yet there are still some missing gaps. My project relied on the existing literature on this topic and deepened the understanding of the living conditions of the queer community. It enriched knowledge about gender inequalities and heteronormative norms in planning in the Polish context. Using methods such as intersectionality or participation, the project helped to develop arguments about the spatial implications of societal norms.
In my case study it was important to consider democratic and participatory principles of spatial planning. Researching case studies from Poland can enrich data and information on gender issues in spatial planning in this country. It highlighted the need for planning as a critically engaged practice and a tool for minority advocacy.

Societal Relevance:
This final research project contributes to ongoing debates about gender inequality, particularly in relation to the conflicting uses of space and the norms of the 'public'. It also engages with the concept of queering urbanism and spatial justice. The research offers a novel perspective on the nature of public space and the impact of non-physical environments, such as the role of the media and the internet. The objective was to design an environment that is more inclusive, diverse and safe for all bodies. Queerness challenges the norms and shaming pressures that are often associated with it. This research project sought to challenge the status quo by questioning the efficacy of conventional practices, the pursuit of a 'normal' lifestyle, and the underlying structures that perpetuate profit-driven consumerism. The term 'queer' also possesses political connotations. The project addresses issues of social equality and solidarity. The objective of this project was to rethink the system and ensure fairness for all.

Ethical consideration:
Given the complicated socio-political situation in Poland, it was important to approach the research with humility and openness. The aim was to build unity and understanding, which could not be achieved without participation. I proceeded with respect for the needs and aspirations of all parties to the conflict, but with caution towards others or even my own biases. When engaging with the LGBTQIA+ centre representatives or other experts, and discussing sensitive issues, I always ensured that I acted with a high level of respect, empathy, and professionalism. It was important to protect the rights of research participants, to enhance the validity of research, and to maintain academic integrity. This research was approved by the Ethics Committee of TU Delft. There were some important ethical rules to follow. Participants always had the opportunity to opt in or out of the study at any time, with full disclosure of the purpose, benefits, and risks of the study. The identity of participants was exposed only after written permission and outcomes of the research were consulted. It was important to minimize and consider any physical, social, psychological, or other potential harm to participants.



Appendix 1

Data management plan and Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval to conduct interviews.

Date 19-Mar-2024
Contact person Grace van Arkel, Policy Advisor Academic Integrity
E-mail E.G.vanArkel@tudelft.nl

Human Research Ethics Committee TU Delft
(http://hrec.tudelft.nl)

Visiting address
Jaffalaan 5 (building 31)
2628 BX Delft

Postal address
P.O. Box 5015 2600 GA Delft
The Netherlands

Ethics Approval Application: Disturbing Normativity. Queering Spatial Planning Towards Inclusive Communities in Poland.
Applicant: Rybak, Magorzata

Dear Magorzata Rybak,

It is a pleasure to inform you that your application mentioned above has been approved.

Thanks very much for your submission to the HREC which has been approved.

In addition to any specific conditions or notes, the HREC provides the following standard advice to all applicants:
• In light of recent tax changes, we advise that you confirm any proposed remuneration of research subjects with your faculty contract manager before going ahead.
• Please make sure when you carry out your research that you confirm contemporary covid protocols with your faculty HSE advisor, and that ongoing covid risks and precautions are flagged in the informed consent - with particular attention to this where there are physically vulnerable (eg: elderly or with underlying conditions) participants involved.
• Our default advice is not to publish transcripts or transcript summaries, but to retain these privately for specific purposes/checking; and if they are to be made public then only if fully anonymised and the transcript/summary itself approved by participants for specific purpose.
• Where there are collaborating (including funding) partners, appropriate formal agreements including clarity on responsibilities, including data ownership, responsibilities and access, should be in place and that relevant aspects of such agreements (such as access to raw or other data) are clear in the Informed Consent.

Good luck with your research!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ir. U. Pesch
Chair HREC
Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management

Appendix 2

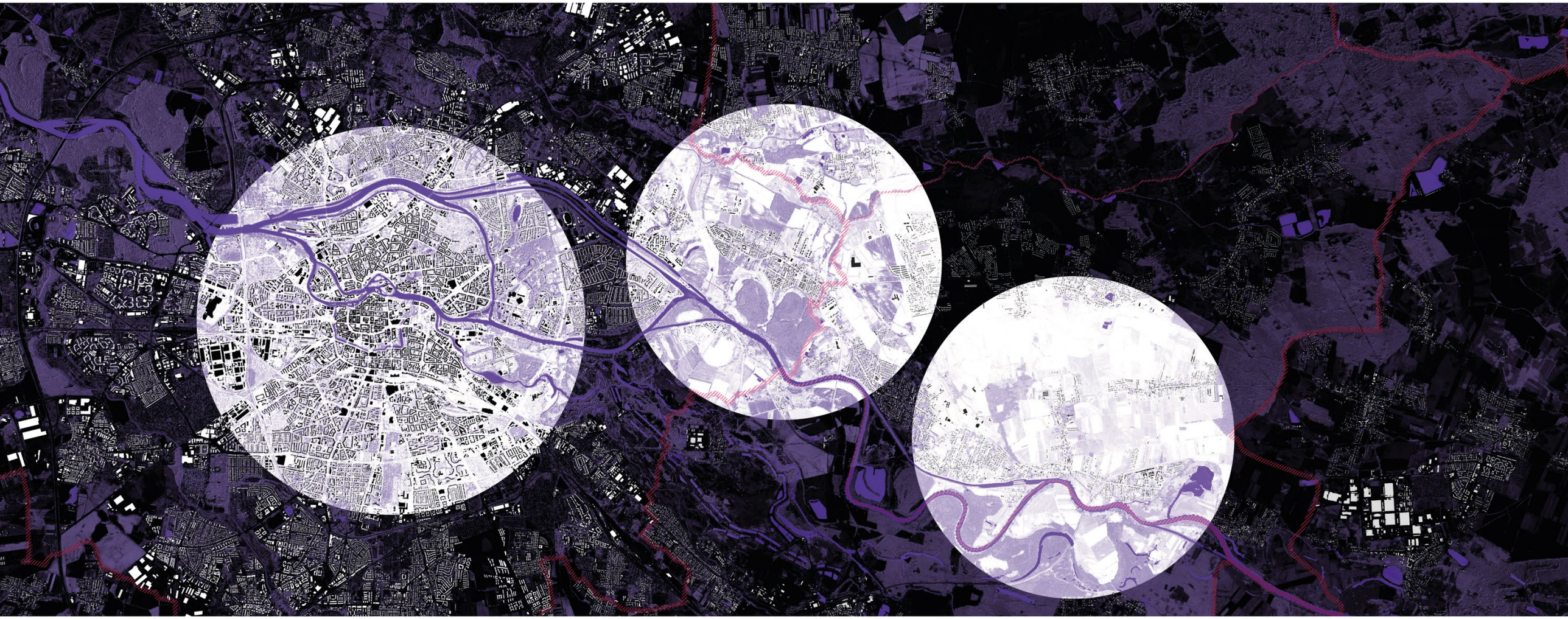
This section is a starting point for fieldwork and its findings.
In December 2023, I went to three different areas around Wroclaw to map ‘queer’ spaces, normative spaces and informality, but also to understand the places and simply observe life in them. In the following section the findings are presented in more detail.

This section is still under development.

Urban: Wroclaw

Peripheral: Swojczyce

Rural: Czernica



Appendix 2
Peripheral: Swojec-Wojnów

Peripheral areas offer more institutionalized services than rural zones, but surprisingly, there are fewer places for semi-public or informal encounters. There is a certain dilemma with the characteristics of peripheral areas. Geographically, they are meeting points between rural and urban areas, but in reality, they are more of an extension of the city than a point/location itself. It seems like Polish peripheries contain uncontrolled urban sprawl and post-rural areas with little access or mobility. Could peripheral areas be transformed into a meeting point of the best qualities of rural and urban environments, creating a unique identity of their own? My interest lies in the capacity of peripheries to contain diversity.

Legend for Map:

- Buildings
- Administrative borders
- Water Bodies

NORM

1 **Church**
+/- Dialectic depending on the head of the church
+ open
+/- place of certain community

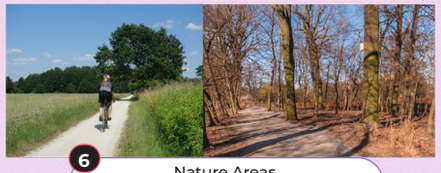
2 **School playground**
+ open & free
+/- place of certain community
- masculine oriented

3 **Uncontrolled development**
- chaos & lack of supporting services
+ opportunities

4 **Street vending & Marketplace**
+ informality & grey economy

5 **Old Strip Club transformed to Kindergarten**
- lack of acceptance
- bad reputation
- lack of protection for sex workers

Where is a Middle Ground?



6 **Nature Areas**
+ informality
+/- place of opportunities

7 **Rewir Twórczy" Culture centre**
+ supporting creativity & diversity
+ opportunity of expression
+ municipal collaboration
+ active

QUEERING

Appendix 2
Rural: Czernica

Rural areas clearly have limited services and connectivity, leading to greater separation and a focus on community living. Rural identity is strongly linked to nature, religion and collective. There are definitely less spaces designated for the queer experience, but there is opportunity for places to be “queered” as there are so many free or undetermined places.
The tightness of the community can strongly influence what happens in it. And that depends on the values and levels of acceptance in that environment. What I found interesting is the importance of women solidarity. They created a Rural Housewives Club where they meet, support each other and plan activities for the village.

Legend for Map:

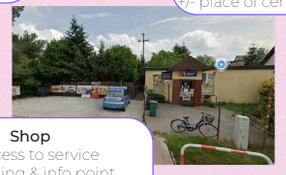
- Buildings
- Administrative borders
- Water Bodies

NORM

1 Unguarded Playground
+ open & free
+/- place of certain community
- masculine oriented

2 Church
+/- Dialectic depending on the head of the church
+ open
+/- place of certain community

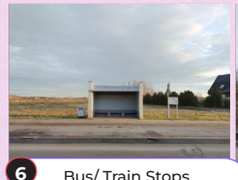
3 Uncontrolled development vs. crops
- chaos & lack of supporting services
+ opportunities



4 Shop
+ access to service
+ meeting & info point
- little choice of products

5 Library
+ access to knowledge
+ meeting & info point
+ event point
- social bias

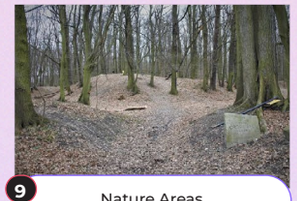
Where is a Middle Ground?



6 Bus/ Train Stops
+ access to the city
+ meeting & info point
- poor mobility

7 Rural community centre
+ opportunity of expression
+ community building
+ provides support
- poor condition
- unstable activity

8 Rural housewives’ club
+ supporting women
+ opportunity of expression
+ municipal collaboration
+ community building
+ active
- often conservative
- older participants



9 Nature Areas
+ informality
+/- place of opportunities
+/- meeting point

QUEERING

Appendix 3
Consent form

TEMPLATE 1: Participant Information

You are being invited to participate in a research study titled "**Disturbing Normativity. Queering Spatial Planning Towards Inclusive Communities in Poland**". This study is being done by Małgorzata Rybak under the guidance of Caroline Newton from the TU Delft as a Master Thesis Project.

About the research

The purpose of this research study is to investigate the intricate relationship between evolving socio-political dynamics, spatial planning and gender intolerance in Poland, with a specific focus on the experiences of the queer community and will take you approximately *30 - 45* minutes to complete. The data will be used for Master Thesis development which will contain anonymised or aggregated data, and/or all other non-personal data will be uploaded to 4TU.ResearchData (online Repository of Technical University of Delft) with public access under the license CC BY.

Topic and aim of the interview

We will be asking you to describe experience of safety and environment in the city of Wrocław state of gender inclusion in this area, level of civic engagement and role of participation. Some questions might relate to gender, educational level, family status & values, the type of an area of current residence and origin (urban, periferal or rural), ethnicity, political beliefs. The goal is to understand needs, challenges and possibilities for grater inclusion in Wrocław though spatial planning and planning policy. The conversation will be audio-recorded and/ or noted by the Main Researcher – Małgorzata Rybak.

Confidentiality and minimizing risks

To the best of our ability your answers in this study will remain confidential. We will minimize any risks by:

- Data will be aggregated and anonymised. Only interview conclusions will be included in the study, unless participants have given direct consent to include identifiable data.
- Any contact documents, email addresses, or sensitive data will be stored on the TU Delft servers. After the end of the research on 19.06.2024, they will be destroyed. This information will not be published or shared with anyone other than the main and responsible researchers. The names or name of the institution will only be used in the research if participants have given their consent by signing a consent form.
- Recordings and interview notes will be destroyed after data aggregation and transcription.
- The final master thesis in the form of a report will be openly available on the online repository of TU Delft under the CC BY license.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. You are free to omit any questions. You can opt out of the research at any time by contacting the Main or Responsible Researcher.

Participants have a right to access the outcomes of conducted research and to request access to and rectify or erase personal data.

Contact Information:
Main Researcher: Małgorzata Rybak (m.m.rybak@student.tudelft.nl)
Responsible Researcher: Caroline Newton (C.E.L.Newton-1@tudelft.nl)

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES	Yes	No
12. I understand that the personal data I provide will be destroyed upon the finalization of the Master Thesis Project.	☐	☐
C: RESEARCH PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION AND APPLICATION		
13. I understand that after the research study the de-identified information I provide will be used for Master Thesis development which will contain anonymised or aggregated data, and/or all other non-personal data will be uploaded to the Education repository of TU Delft (for MSc theses/reports) with public access under the license CC BY.	☐	☐
14. I agree that my responses, views or other input can be quoted anonymously in research outputs.	☐	☐
15. I agree that my real name can be used for quotes in research outputs	☐	☐
D: (LONGTERM) DATA STORAGE, ACCESS AND REUSE		
16. I give permission for the de-identified outcome of the interviews that I provide to be archived in the Education repository of TU Delft (for MSc theses/reports) so it can be used for future research and learning.	☐	☐
17. I understand that access to this repository is open under the license CC BY.	☐	☐

Signatures

Name of participant [printed]	Signature	Date

I, as researcher, have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant and, to the best of my ability, ensured that the participant understands to what they are freely consenting.

Researcher name [printed]	Signature	Date

Study contact details for further information:
Małgorzata Rybak
+48665159379
m.m.rybak@student.tudelft.nl
mmj.rybak@gmail.com

Explicit Consent points

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES	Yes	No
A: GENERAL AGREEMENT – RESEARCH GOALS, PARTICPANT TASKS AND VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION		
1. I have read and understood the study information dated 23.02.2024 or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.	☐	☐
2. I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and I can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason.	☐	☐
3. I understand that taking part in the study involves: an audio-recorded interview and/ or written notes by the Main Researcher – Małgorzata Rybak. Recordings will be transcribed and destroyed after.	☐	☐
4. I understand that I will be compensated for my participation by receiving valuable experience and exposure to new skills and knowledge.	☐	☐
5. I understand that the study will end with the date of Master Thesis Final Presentation 19.06.2024.		
B: POTENTIAL RISKS OF PARTICIPATING (INCLUDING DATA PROTECTION)		
6. I understand that taking part in the study involves the following risks: mental discomfort due to gender related topics, inequality, socio-political situation in the country of origin. I understand that these will be mitigated by possibility to opt out at any time of the interview and research.	☐	☐
7. I understand that taking part in the study also involves collecting specific personally identifiable information [(PII) Full name or name of the institution] and associated personally identifiable research data [(PIRD) Demographic information, Contact Information] with the potential risk of my identity being revealed influencing public/professional reputation.	☐	☐
8. I understand that some of this PIRD is considered as sensitive data within GDPR legislation, specifically: political views. Which will be aggregated and anonymised.	☐	☐
9. I understand that the following steps will be taken to minimise the threat of a data breach, and protect my identity in the event of such a breach: - aggregation of data - secure data storage with limited access at TU Delft servers - transcription of recordings - destruction of the audio files - possibility to opt out or erase data at any time during the research project	☐	☐
10. I understand that personal information collected about me that can identify me, such as my name, contact and location will not be shared beyond the study team, until agreed otherwise.	☐	☐
1. I agree to use my name/ name of the organisation in the Final Report of the Master Thesis Project.	☐	☐

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Project by Małgorzata M. Rybak

Graduation Studio ://
Planning Complex Cities

First Mentor ://
Caroline Newton

Second Mentor ://
Birgit Hausleitner

Title :// Disturbing Normativity.
Subtitle :// Queering Spatial Planning Towards Inclusive Communities in Poland.

Delft, the Netherlands - June 2024