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DECENTRALISED HOUSING POLICY IN SOCIALIST YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS IMPRINT IN MULTI-FAMILY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Branislav ANTONIĆ PhD candidate Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia <u>www.arh.bg.ac.rs/en</u> antonic83@gmail.com

Dr. Eva VANIŠTA LAZAREVIĆ PhD Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, Serbia www.evavanistalazarevic.com; <u>www.arh.bg.ac.rs/en /</u> eva.vanistalazarevic@gmail.com

The unique experiment of socialist state in the second Yugoslavia (1945-1991) had a profound impact in housing policy. Differently than in other socialist countries, decentralisation played a significant role. Housing followed this policy - it was heavily decentralised to regional and local tier. Therefore, these tiers developed and used their own housing norms and standards and thereby had different spatial reflections on urban fabric across Yugoslavia. However, Yugoslavia was still based on socialist ideology. Accordingly, multi-family neighbourhoods were often built for proletariat in Yugoslavia as the most advanced housing type. But, the aforementioned policy also caused decentralisation-led patterns in housing at urban level - these neighbourhoods were more numerous, but also smaller in size and scattered throughout urban area. The aim of this paper is to explain this process and spatial outcomes in multi-family housing through relevant theory and multi-case study. The study is carried on 6 medium-size cities in the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina. They share similar historic and spatial development. Thus, they are an adequate "polygon" to research separate approaches in situ, caused by decentralised housing policy. It is expected that the research will embrace how these approaches were reflected in concrete cases and which spatial characteristics can be usable for current trends in Serbian cities.



Typical neighbourhood from late socialism in Sremska Mitrovica, Vojvodina, Serbia (Author: B. Antonić)

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Branislav Antonić / Бранислав Антонић

He is a PhD candidate and a researcher-assistant at national research project regarding housing development in Serbia. His scientific interests are urbanism and spatial planning, with focus on the planning of medium-size and small communities and urban dimension of housing, which he realises through research, pedagogical, and practical work. He has made more than 40 scientific contributions at international, regional and local level. He has been active in scientific cooperation, at many conferences and scientific meetings. As a coordinator or member of working team, he has been involved in more than 35 works relating to urban and spatial planning and urban design. Several of them have been awarded. Finally, he has been engaged as external assistant in 20 subjects of the faculty.

Professor: Dr. Eva Vaništa Lazarević

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BME Department of Urban Planning and Design H-1111 Budapest, Műegyetem rkp. 3. K. II/93 +361463-1319, info@urb.bme.hu