



Citispyce WP3 Report on Fieldwork I

City: Krakow

*Authors: Robert Chrabaszcz, Maciej Fraczek, Tomasz Geodecki, Maciej Grodzicki, Piotr Kopycinski,
Stanislaw Mazur, Michal Mozdzen
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1. Introduction of case study areas and their location in the city-wide context

Krakow is the capital city of Malopolskie Voivodship and the second largest city in Poland (after Warszawa), both in terms of its population and area. The city was first mentioned in written sources in 966 (Piekosinski, 1900). In 1320–1734, Krakow was home to coronations of kings of Poland and the secular capital of Poland (Bujak 1999). The territorial development of Krakow after World War 2 occurred mostly through the inclusion of neighbouring areas, particularly in 1951 of Nowa Huta, a workmen's town, originally developed to provide housing for the large steel mill built from scratch (Miezian 2004). Currently, the area of Krakow amounts to ca. 327 km². The city is divided into 18 districts.

According to Eurostat data, in 2012 the city was inhabited by 758,400 people while at the same time Malopolska was inhabited by 3,341,700 people. In Krakow, there are significantly more women than men; the gender ratio is ca. 114 to 100. According to Central Statistical Office Krakow is inhabited by 164,712 persons aged 15–29, which constitutes 21.7% of the city population (GUS 2011). However, the official data concerning residence do not reflect the true situation of the city, which ranks second to Warsaw as the largest academic centre in Poland (184,493 students in 2012) with the highest percentage of students per inhabitant (0.24) amongst all the large Polish cities.

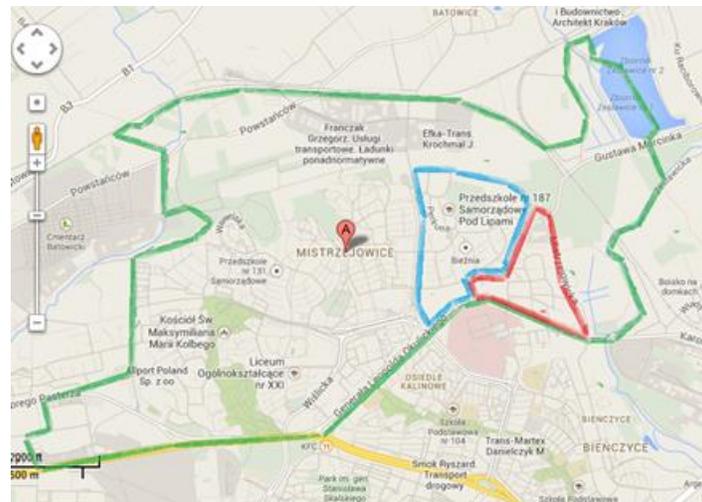
Mistrzejowice Nowe¹

Map 1 - District XV of Krakow.



Source: District XV website

Map 2 - Mistrzejowice Nowe housing (red) and Piastow (blue) neighbourhoods and their location within District XV (Mistrzejowice) borders (green).



Source: Google maps

Mistrzejowice Nowe is a part of District XV of Krakow called Mistrzejowice too (borders marked in green) named after a village that existed in this area since the Middle Ages. Because the area under investigation is quite small (ca. 3000–4000 inhabitants), and some important social services (e.g. education, health services, tramway transport) are supplied by institutions located in the adjoining

¹ After the first interview which suggested that we should look at Mistrzejowice together with another much larger area (Piastow) due to their strong links in terms of location and using the same services by both populations. Unfortunately, the data from the Piastow neighbourhood was not “satisfactory” in terms of the values of socio-economic indicators to combine the areas in the strict sense. Still, our respondents sometimes do not separate the areas while talking about numerous problems as well as services, so at times we include information from Piastow.

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neighbourhood, Piastow (marked in blue on the map), some of the considerations apply to both neighbourhoods: Mistrzejowice and Piastow.

Photo 1 - In Mistrzejowice Krakow ends



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Mistrzejowice has been a part of Krakow city since the 1950s, but considerable urban development started in the 1980s, when the neighbourhood came to accommodate workers of a very large steel mill – the Lenin Steelworks – which at that time employed more than 30,000 people. The district itself is not very large in terms of area, but is densely populated (around 8,000–9,000 people per sq. km) The neighbourhood comprises of three distinct areas:

- The “old” rural area;
- Apartment houses built for steelworkers and partly for medical doctors from the nearby Rydygier Hospital in the 1980s;
- Detached houses area.

According to the municipal sources, 2,798 people live in the neighbourhood. However, this is the official number of people who have registered there. Our interviewees suggest that many more people – even up to 4,000 – may actually be living there.

Photo 2 - Rydygiera Hospital as seen from Mistrzejowice Nowe



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Mistrzejowice Nowe is perceived as a dormitory suburb, with a low number of local businesses, except for a large bakery, Awitek, located on its outskirts. The suburb is inhabited mostly by people working or studying in different parts of the city.

In the 1990s, the steel mill started the restructuring process which led to large reductions in its workforce. It caused significant unemployment and extended dependence on state aid. Since the beginning of the new century, the situation has improved and stabilised.

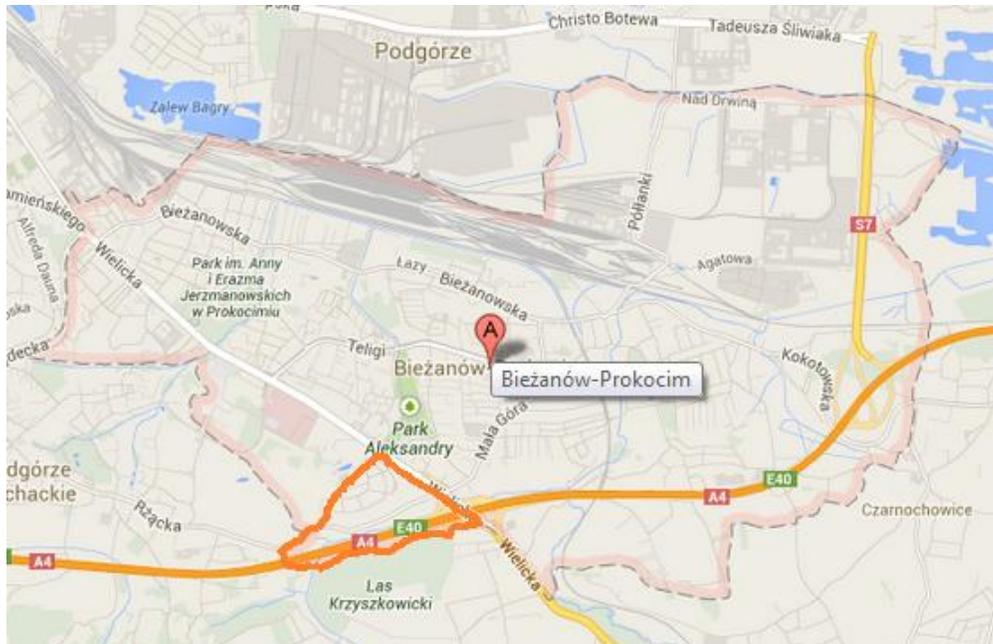
Rzaka

Map 3 - Krakow's District XII (Biezanow-Prokocim) marked in green.



Source: District XII website

Map 4 - Rzaka housing neighbourhood within District XII (marked in orange).



Source: Google maps

The name Rzaka was mentioned for the first time in 1405 when it constituted the property of Jadwiga Pilecka, the godmother of Vladislav Jagiello, King of Poland. Next, for several centuries, it belonged to the monks of the Duchak order. The area became part of Krakow during its German occupation in 1941.

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Rzaka has one of the largest road junctions in Poland. It is the Krakow intersection of the southern bypass of the Wielicka street and the road to Wieliczka and Tarnow (national route no. 4, part of route E40 linking Germany and Ukraine).

Rzaka constitutes a separate neighbourhood of District XII Biezanow-Prokocim, previously Podgorze District. Rzaka consist of two informal parts: Old and New Rzaka. As a Old Rzaka one can describe single-family houses (mostly built decades ago) located on Kosocicka St, Wielicka St, Słona Woda St and Obronna St. In turn, New Rzaka was built mainly in the 1980s and 1990s (residential blocks – Rydygiera St, Schweitzera St, Jana XXIII St) originally as to provide accommodation mostly to well-educated families providing uniformed public services. Nonetheless, the processes of internal migration has transformed the settlement and led to the influx of inhabitants from families threatened with social exclusion.

Nominally, Rzaka is a quite large settlement (4351 residents)², perceived as a dormitory suburb. People work in other areas of the city and spend their leisure time in their flats or visit other districts of the city.

Rzaka constitutes a peripheral residential complex, which tends to be overlooked by city officials and does not enjoy a high status amongst the rest of the city population (as R2 respondent said: *Even for the people from our district, Rzaka is not perceived as an important or unique neighbourhood. It results from its peripheral location. It's a neighbourhood located "in the suburbs" of the district*).

Photo 3 - Rzaka 'Centre' - bus terminus



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

² Our respondents stated, that official data is overestimated due to large scale of labour migration.

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In Rzaka, as well as in a number of other neighbourhoods, we can also observe some drawbacks (no tram lines, peripheral location, underdeveloped business), but people seem to be satisfied with living there. The air is relatively clean (in Krakow there is a huge problem with the air pollution resulting from coal-fired heaters and private transportation), the settlement features a well-developed urban plan (sufficient spacing among the houses, green areas), with quite an easy access by car, public transportation, including a bus line to the city centre and another to Nowa Huta District (where the Emergency Department for Rzaka residents is located). However, because of traffic jams and lack of tram connections, trips to other parts of the city take longer in comparison with the other suburbs in Krakow.

The population of Rzaka tends to be heterogeneous in terms of its social background. Relatively wealthy residents often live next door to poorer families or even those with serious functional disorders.

The two areas have been chosen for our inquiry for two interconnected reasons:

- The social situation as shown by the municipal data is somewhat “worse” than the city-wide one, moreover, the area is inhabited by a number of young people,
- Preliminary interviews conducted with employees of the Municipal Social Centre suggested that these are relatively remote neighbourhoods where one could look for visible discrepancies in terms of social and economic situation and which do not attract enough attention from the municipal authorities.

2. Methodology

Selection of the neighbourhoods

For the purpose of preliminary selection of the neighbourhoods, one of the reports developed for Krakow Municipality was utilised (Jezak, Nejman, Supernat 2011). Two preliminary housing neighbourhoods were selected (Zlotej Jesieni and II Pulku Lotniczego). The first one was considered too small for the analysis.

In order to select the final areas, a meeting with Krakow Social Assistance Centre’s employees was organised. They suggested other areas of inquiry informing us that the II Pulku Lotniczego neighbourhood was not considered as an area with pressing social problems. On the basis of their information, six different neighbourhoods were selected for further analysis:

- Kurdwanow Nowy,
- Marczyńskiego,
- Mistrzejowice Nowe,
- Rzaka,

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- Strusia,
- Zlocien.

In order to obtain more detailed data on the situation of the neighbourhoods, Krakow Municipality was contacted. We received data for 2012. While conducting the analysis, we focused particularly on:

- The percentage of young people (15–24) in the neighbourhood as compared with the city as a whole,
- The percentage of welfare beneficiaries as compared with the city as a whole,
- The percentage of young social beneficiaries among the whole population of beneficiaries as compared with the percentage of the youth in the neighbourhood,
- The percentage of young unemployed as compared with the city as a whole.

On the basis of the analysis, two neighbourhoods were finally selected:

- Mistrzejowice Nowe,
- Rzaka.

Inquiry in the neighbourhoods

The inquiry within the neighbourhoods was based on three methods:

1. Data gathering and analysis of social indicators for 2008–2012. We analysed data from:

- The Municipal Social Assistance Centre – social welfare beneficiaries within neighbourhoods,
- The Krakow Municipality – demographics,
- The Municipal Labour Office – unemployment data,
- Website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl> – demographic and economic data on the district level,
- Website <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/> – data on the quality of teaching in schools operating within areas,
- The Regional Social Assistance Centre – data on Social welfare beneficiaries on the Municipal level,
- Website www.domiporta.pl – data on real-neighbourhood prices.

2. Desk research – exploration of websites of different institutions and analysing information and reports acquired from the Krakow Municipality. Gathering information on different social services within neighbourhoods and outside of them. This step also helped us to select the first interviewees.

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3. Individual In-Depth Interviews. 16 persons were approached, but two refused to participate. A total of 14 interviews were conducted, 8 with experts and local leaders in Rzaka and 6 in Mistrzejowice (cf. Table 1)

Table 1 - List of interviewees

Mistrzejowice Nowe	Rzaka
M1. District Council member, Youth District Council coordinator, youth activist	R1. Chairman of the District Council XII Biezanow-Prokocim
M2. Former District Council member, local activist, involved in two associations helping local inhabitants	R2. Councillor of the District Council XII Biezanow-Prokocim; Tutor of the Youth District Council XII; Editor-in-chief of local newspaper "Twelve"; representative of the Foundation "Let's Win Ourselves"
M3. District Council Member – sports activist	R3. Member of the Board "Diamed Sp. z o.o" (medical centre)
M4. Local lower-secondary school President	R4. The employee of the Municipal Social Care Centre
M5. District Council member	R5. The former member of the Youth District Council XII, local activist
M6. President of one of the schools in the neighbourhood	R6. The priest of the local parish
	R7. Councillor of the District Council XII Biezanow-Prokocim
	R8. Pedagogue at the district school no 15

Source: own compilation

Apart from the interviews, we also visited both areas several times, gathering photo material and examining the sites.

3. Area analysis

3.1 Area I: Mistrzejowice

3.1.1 Socio-spatial development

Socio-economic status

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Table 2 - Krakow, Mistrzejowice district and Mistrzejowice Nowe socio-economic status

Year	2009			2012		
	Krakow	Mistrzejowice district	Mistrzejowice Nowe	Krakow	Mistrzejowice district	Mistrzejowice Nowe
Unemployed / working age population ratio	3.23%	4.72%	4.37%	4.91%	4.21%*	6.27%
Young unemployed (18-24) / young people (15-24) ratio	2.29%	n.a.	4.07%	3.17%	n.a.	5.87%
Percentage of young people (15-24) among the unemployed	14.02%	18.71%	20.00%	11.54%	13.91%*	20.31%
Percentage of social welfare beneficiaries	3.81%	n.a.	2.19%	3.37%	n.a.	2.50%
Percentage of young people (15-24) among social welfare beneficiaries	n.a.	n.a.	13.11%	n.a.	n.a.	11.76%*

* Information from 2011 due to the lack of or incomplete source data.

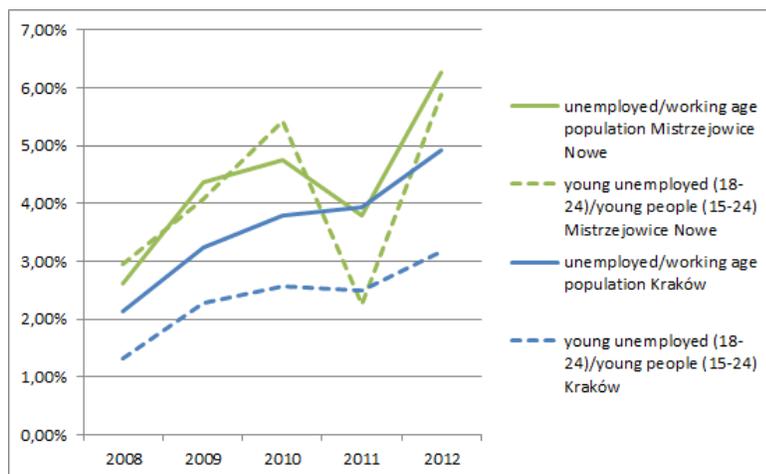
Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City, website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl> and from The Regional Social Assistance Centre

It can be easily observed that the unemployment rate in comparison with working age population is significantly higher in the area under consideration than at the city level. On the other hand, the Mistrzejowice district seemed to be enjoying much lower level of unemployment in 2011 than both the neighbourhood and the city in 2012. This situation can be explained when one takes into account the broader context, i.e. the economic situation in Poland. In 2011, Poland enjoyed a period of relatively high GDP growth, which led to a drop in unemployment levels. On the other hand, in 2012 there was a significant slowdown, which brought on an increase in the unemployed rate.

Due to the economic stagnation of 2008–2012 (except for 2011), the unemployment rate increased. In Figure 1 we can observe that the pattern of unemployment rate in Mistrzejowice Nowe is more procyclical: the amplitude of fluctuations is clearly larger than in Krakow (with even lower unemployment rate in 2011), which may mean that the indicator reflects socio-economic differences between districts of Krakow. More stable jobs (e.g. administration, education) are the domain of the centre of the city, while districts such as Mistrzejowice are inhabited by people representing professions more prone to crisis (e.g. construction, trade). However, overall the Mistrzejowice Nowe neighbourhood appears to

have a consistently lower rate of unemployment³ than the Mistrzejowice District (cf. table 2). It may be an exemplification of relatively high disparities of the wealth of its inhabitants. The employment situation worsened significantly a few years ago, when the steel mill, the largest employer in the area, was privatised.

Figure 1 - Unemployment and youth unemployment in Mistrzejowice Nowe and Krakow

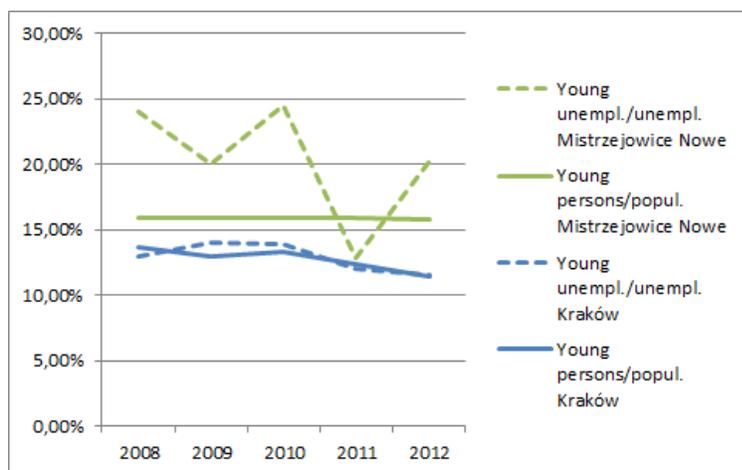


Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City

The rate of unemployment is greater among whole population than among young people (18–24) in Krakow (about 50%) while in Mistrzejowice Nowe we cannot observe a stable pattern of this relation.

The socio-economic situation of young people (18–24) in the neighbourhood is clearly worse than in Krakow since the ratio of young unemployed people to the total number of unemployed people is greater (over 20%) than the percentage of young people in the population of Mistrzejowice (15.8%), while in Krakow we cannot observe a significant difference between these two indicators.

³ As measured for the purpose of this report.

Figure 2 - Young among unemployed in Mistrzejowice Nowe and Krakow

Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City

On the other hand, the proportion of social welfare beneficiaries seems to be lower than at the city level, moreover, the percentage of young social welfare beneficiaries is lower than the demography would suggest (cf. table 2). This situation is somewhat puzzling. It may reflect difficulties faced by Mistrzejowice Nowe residents in accessing social welfare, low levels of extreme poverty, a clear need to maintain economic independence or other, unrelated factors. The percentage of young social welfare beneficiaries seems to be a lot higher in 2012 but the figure may be biased due to the lack of data on age for a significant proportion of social welfare beneficiaries in that particular year. Unfortunately, our interviewees could not comment on that and maintain that the problems of poverty are clearly visible in the area. As one of our respondents (M3) claimed, *There is a group of people, who walk around... and try to survive on a day-by-day basis. There is also a group of people, younger people, who should have some area of activity but they don't. We try to help those people within our means to avoid their further marginalisation.*

They also suggest that due to somewhat eclectic housing structure (three distinct parts within the neighbourhood); there are clear differences in the living standards between the residents. As M1 told us, *There is a visible discrepancy in the financial standing of different inhabitants. Beyond one door a very rich person lives, and next to it a poor fellow (...)* Through the years the area was treated as rather homogenous in terms of economic situation due to the fact that it was mostly inhabited by the steel mill workers. Now the situation has noticeably changed with increasing level of wealth stratification. (...) Moreover, the area is traditionally "poorer" than the other areas in the west part of the district. This is due to the fact that those neighbourhoods were originally inhabited by the so-called upper class who

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were in a better educational and economic situation, while Mistrzejowice Nowe from the very beginning was inhabited by lower class workers.

Age structure

Table 3 - Demographic structure of Krakow, Mistrzejowice District and Mistrzejowice Nowe

Age	2009			2012		
	Krakow	Mistrzejowice district	Mistrzejowice Nowe	Krakow	Mistrzejowice district	Mistrzejowice Nowe
0-14	12.61%	n.a.	14.27%	13.01%	n.a.	15.23%
0-17	15.55%	16.93%	18.19%	15.45%	16.21%	19.19%
15-24	13.72%	n.a.	15.89%	11.44%	n.a.	15.83%
Working age	65.61%	65.77%	74.01%	64.07%	61.23%	73.02%
F/M ratio	1.14	1.09	1.05	1.15	1.10	1.06

Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City and from website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl>

The population of Mistrzejowice Nowe seems to be relatively young. There are a lot more very young and young people than at the district and city levels. In particular, we can notice an evidently greater proportion of young people (15-24) in the Mistrzejowice Nowe neighbourhood (ca. 15.8%) than in Krakow as a whole (14.5% in 2008 and 11.5% in 2012). This may reflect the fact that this is a moderately new area, with many buildings constructed in the 1980s and in early 1990s. Now the children of previous cohort have reached adulthood. This is reflected by the demographic structure as shown in Table 3. M2: *The main part of the neighbourhood was created in 1987-1993. The owners of apartments were aged of 30-40, now 50-65. Their children have reached adulthood, they are now 20-30 years old.* However, they are yet to become independent, which is often due to difficult economic circumstances (or because of the fact that they are still studying).

People who came to live there in the 1980s and 1990s were mainly the employees of the steel mill. The interviews indicate that the level of education of local resident is, on average, much lower than that in Krakow as a whole. Most of them have vocational education.

Another important issue is the existence of public housing in the area. In the 1980s, a lot of worse-off people from whole Krakow moved in there, which might facilitate the development of social problems.

Our interviewees said that there are differences in the age structure between the two parts of the area in question. The detached-houses area is mostly inhabited by older people, often living alone, whose

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children left the district – either to other parts of Krakow or emigrated abroad. Conversely, apartment blocks are accommodated by multigenerational families or by younger couples with children.

Females outnumber males in the older age bracket, while the younger population of Mistrzejowice Nowe retains a more balanced ratio of both sexes (cf. Table 3).

Migration and/or ethnicity

There is a very low percentage of foreign nationals in Mistrzejowice – 0,14% (lower than in Krakow – 0,63%). This may be due to the fact that the neighbourhood is located on the outskirts of Krakow; young professionals from Western Europe do not usually want to live too far from the city centre.

One relevant comment seems to be in order. The Polish system of residence permits for foreigners is very complex and tiresome. Our respondents as well as personal experience tell us that in comparison with other large Polish cities (except Warsaw and perhaps Wroclaw), Krakow is home to a large population of the smallest number of temporary migrants, especially students from abroad. But the difficulties with acquiring residence permits discourages a lot of people from requesting. It is common knowledge that there are many more foreigners in Krakow than official data might suggest, but unfortunately we have no way of finding out their actual numbers. This problem with acquiring relevant data exists throughout the city, not just in Rzaka and Mistrzejowice.

Economic profile

The neighbourhood mainly serves accommodation purposes. There are not many businesses functioning locally. There are two medium-sized grocery shops (ABC – Polomarket and Lewiatan). There is a large bakery, Awiteks, employing around 400 people (some of them are local inhabitants), and baking bread for stores all across the city. There is also a post office and a host of other small local businesses (pharmacy, local services, especially car mechanics, grocery and liquor shops, a library, a dentist etc.). All firms employ mainly local people. Both acquired data and persons interviewed by us suggest that the situation in recent years has perceptibly worsened. More people – especially young ones – are out of work or are employed on the basis of worse quality contracts. The situation, as in the whole city, is not extremely bad, but a sense of some economic degradation is prevalent among the interviewees.

Photo 4 - Large employer – Awiteks

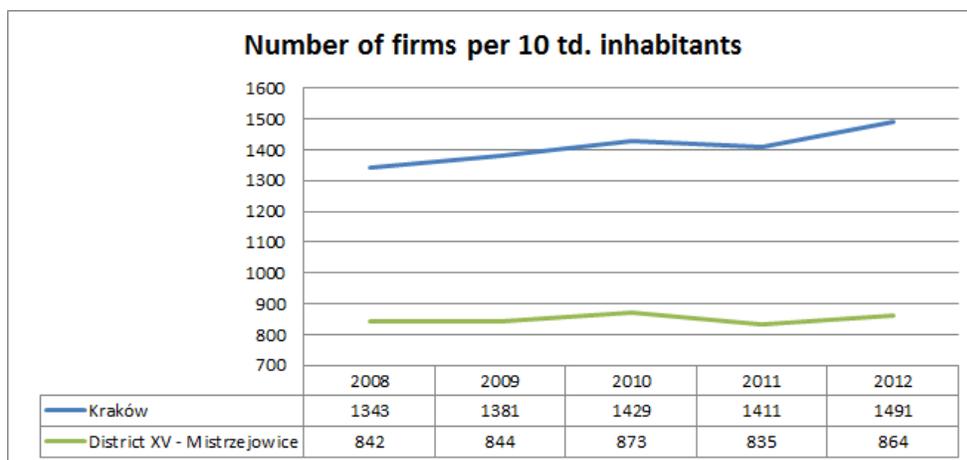


Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

According to some of them, the Mistrzejowice neighbourhood used to have a very consistent social structure composed mainly of steelworkers and their families, but now the discrepancies between neighbourhood inhabitants have emerged. M1: *I recognise an enormous impact of the state of the economy on the quality of life in the area. Nowadays, one can easily see that a lot of people aged 20-22 don't have a job. And even if they do, they work without contracts or on "junk" contracts.*

In the Mistrzejowice district there are notably fewer registered businesses per 10,000 population than the average for Krakow (864 vs 1491 in 2012) (cf. Figure 3).

Figure 3 - Number of firms per 10td. inhabitants. Krakow and Mistrzejowice District



Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl>

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In this respect, the pattern of change was the same: an improvement in 2008–2010, a slowdown in 2011 and an upturn in 2012. Last year, however, the change was much stronger in the city as a whole than in Mistrzejowice. This can be interpreted as an indicator of decreasing economic significance of the district under consideration.

Photo 5 - Small employer – local Chinese restaurant



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Our respondents suggest that the business situation within the Mistrzejowice Nowe neighbourhood has worsened in the recent years: M3: *I have noticed that a few smaller firms in the neighbourhood (bakeries, cake shops) have closed down (...) There is a visible fluctuation of small firms. There is a Mini-centre which was closed and the building remains vacant, a pharmacy, a “half-polo” market to let.*

Housing and Tenure Structure

As has been said, Mistrzejowice is a relatively new neighbourhood, with mainly working-class inhabitants, but with somewhat changing tenure structure in recent years: M2: *Mistrzejowice Nowe is a typical post-socialist neighbourhood. The inhabitants partly belong to Oswiecenia Housing Association, partly they are ex-workers of the former Lenin Steelworks. It was established as typical working class neighbourhood. Some residents who live in detached houses represent increased economic status.*

We can distinguish three types of buildings within the neighbourhood:

- Detached and semi-detached houses,
- Apartment buildings managed by private cooperatives,

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- Council buildings.

The worst situation, in terms of the condition of buildings and their surrounding infrastructure (pavements, parking lots and parking spaces, playgrounds), can be noticed around the buildings maintained by the city despite the relatively high rent charged to the residents. This can have two explanations – municipal management of the buildings is not responsive to the needs of residents or the residents themselves are not committed enough to maintaining a high quality of public space. The second explanation may be connected to the lower social status of residents who were mainly relocated from other parts of the city where they had problems with meeting higher financial requirements. However, a lot of has been done to tackle those problems in recent years. A number of initiatives were undertaken by the new District Council.

Photo 6 - Large local apartment building



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

People living in council buildings are mainly renting flats (the typical form of tenure in Poland is private ownership) despite the fact that they can be purchased for ca. 10% of their market value. The reason for that situation is that many residents are behind with their rent, some of them have contracted significant debts with the municipality.

Photo 7 - Semi-detached houses



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

The other buildings have a varied tenure structure with private ownership of houses and mixed ownership of buildings managed by co-operatives and the Social Housing Association.

Photo 8 - Social Housing Association buildings



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

New construction is not very prominent due to the densely-built relatively new housing infrastructure.

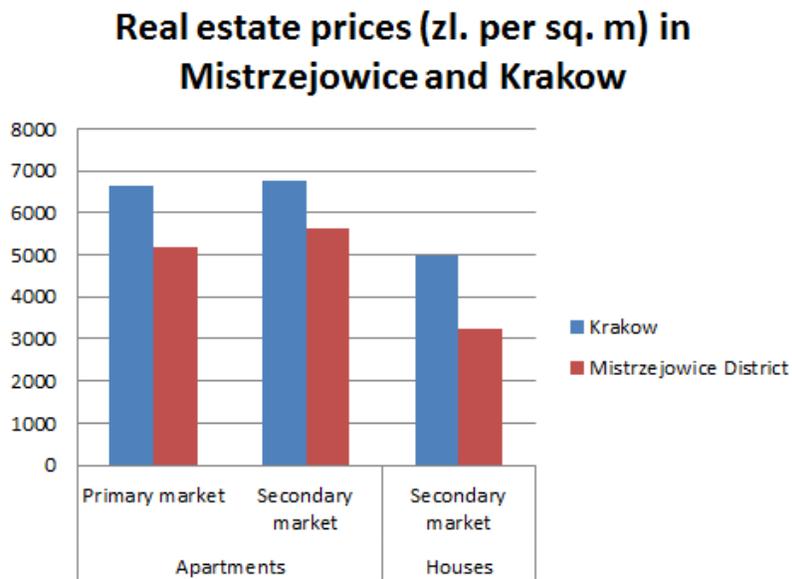
Photo 9 - Are there economic divisions in the neighbourhood?



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Real estate in the neighbourhood is inexpensive, which reflects its rather bad reputation and particularly its distance from the city centre. At the same time, it seems to be one of the reasons for the existence of a relatively young population (cf. Figure 4)

Figure 4 - Real estate prices in Krakow and Mistrzejowice District*



Source: own compilation based on the website: <http://www.domiporta.pl/>

* Primary market involves estates sold by property developers directly after construction, i.e. for the first time. Secondary market describes the estate sold by previous owners.

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According to some studies, nowadays young families (Young Urban Parents – YUPs) are keenly looking towards Nowa Huta⁴ neighbourhoods (also towards Mistrzejowice district and Mistrzejowice Nowe) that offer relatively good housing infrastructure at affordable prices. This willingness to settle there leads to a particular kind of gentrification (Gadecki 2013).

Public space

There is a trial park and a skatepark near the neighbourhood (in the part of Zlotego Wieku neighbourhood closest to Mistrzejowice), in the Piastow neighbourhood there is a complex of sports facilities near two schools (primary school no. 89 and Salesians Don Bosco school) which can be used by the local residents. In the Piastow neighbourhood, there is also a small woodland popular with the younger residents as well as pets' owners. There are a few playgrounds near some of the buildings. Some of these public space seem to be somewhat less safe and more prone to misdemeanours. According to the information acquired from the Municipal Guard, the places where local young people usually meet are the skatepark and the forest mentioned above. Our respondents confirm that these are considered the least safe places. M1: *The skatepark is a trouble spot in Mistrzejowice. As soon as it gets dark, skaters are being pushed away by alcohol-drinking and soft drug-using local youth who moved there from the nearby football pitch when the skatepark was built. We shouldn't say that we can observe significant pathologies or criminal activity there, but some physical abuse and vandalism takes place.* M4: *I was told by parents of some of my pupils that the skatepark is a place that even the police steers clear of.* M3: *This year a murder was committed in the woodland in the north of Mistrzejowice in the old artillery fort located there. The victim was a young man from Mistrzejowice.*

Existence of two different places with similar functionalities (trialpark, and skatepark) stems from the fact that the establishment of trialpark was generally considered a failure, and more the authorities took more systematic approach in assessing the viability of the skatepark. That still has not protected it from being exposed to different kinds of problems (see part 3.1.2, p. 31).

⁴ Here Nowa Huta means a bigger area than the district. There are four such areas in Krakow. Within Nowa Huta there are five districts (confusingly enough, one of them is also called Nowa Huta). Mistrzejowice is one of them.

Photo 10 - Skate park



Source: techramps.com

Photo 11 trial park



Source: <http://trialpark.ownlog.com>

Public space in Mistrzejowice are constantly vandalised by “graffiti”, especially turf signs of fans of two Krakow football teams (Cracovia and Wisla). There seems to be quite a high tension between the so-called “hit-squads” of both teams, which occasionally leads to fights. M4: *Tram tracks were always a natural border with Wisla on the left and Cracovia and on the right. 6-7 years ago it was a serious problem, even military actions, in large quantities – adults, teenagers as well. It is less evident at the moment, but the problem still exists. Still, there are such situations, especially after the football games,*

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the derby. The problem is that youngsters are pawns in a larger game played by adult football fans. There is a need to identify, silence is dangerous. In schools such dangerous situations do not occur, but somewhere between the lines the students in the first grade are asked "which club do you support?"

Photo 12 - Local art. From the top: "We create pathologies. Constable penis. Jude Gang" (it is a local cultural code for Cracovia club fans and not an example of antisemitism)



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Local community leaders push for establishing a local community centre, which could serve mainly the needs of the local youth. M3: *When I was in Germany I saw how local neighbourhoods function there, that there are table tennis spots (I borrowed that idea), that there is a neighbourhood club which is used by the youth and older people. We are undertaking activities to organise such a club.* There seems to be a push towards establishment of such a community centre within the district council, but the main obstacles are: lack of financial resources and difficulty with obtaining suitable place.

Public space, despite some more violent history, are considered relatively safe nowadays. M1: *The demographic baby-bust has contributed towards the weakening of pathological activities in the public space. Besides that, the neighbourhood has been better patrolled by the Municipal Guard.*

3.1.2 Social infrastructure

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Due to a relatively small size of the neighbourhood, only few social services are located within the area. Two civic associations operating in Mistrzejowice Nowe are involved in dealing with problems of local inhabitants. These are:

- The Association of Mistrzejowice Inhabitants established in 2002 as a result of a protest against a developer who wanted to build a block of flats on a green area of Mistrzejowice Nowe neighbourhood. Nowadays the aim of the association is to represent the neighbourhood residents in protecting their interests;
- The Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed by fate established in 2006, which is involved in helping the poor in finding a job and supplying them with food once a week (it distributes 400–600 parcels per year).

Photo 13 - The Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed by Fate “hq”



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

Especially the second association is very active and generally highly regarded within the neighbourhood (all of our respondents acknowledged the existence of the association and spoke well about it). It spans a host of different activities from helping the unemployed, the needy and organising sport activities (football matches) for young people in order “to protect them from moral decay.” However, its activities have some drawbacks. According to our respondent, the clubs, though doing a lot of good for local poor and excluded children, do not try to integrate them with other children.

It is difficult to connect the establishment of the association with some wider social trends. It seems that the main driver behind it was the activity of one person who was able to secure the support of local

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community and its leaders and now functions with very little support from the political sphere. M2: *We started the association without the help from the municipality. We made the office usable with our own work. (...) Earlier it was basically a rat-hole. It was established as an initiative of local community.*

Other social, cultural, educational and religious organisations are located outside the neighbourhood, but Mistrzejowice residents enjoy relatively easy access to most of them. Below, we describe the most important services.

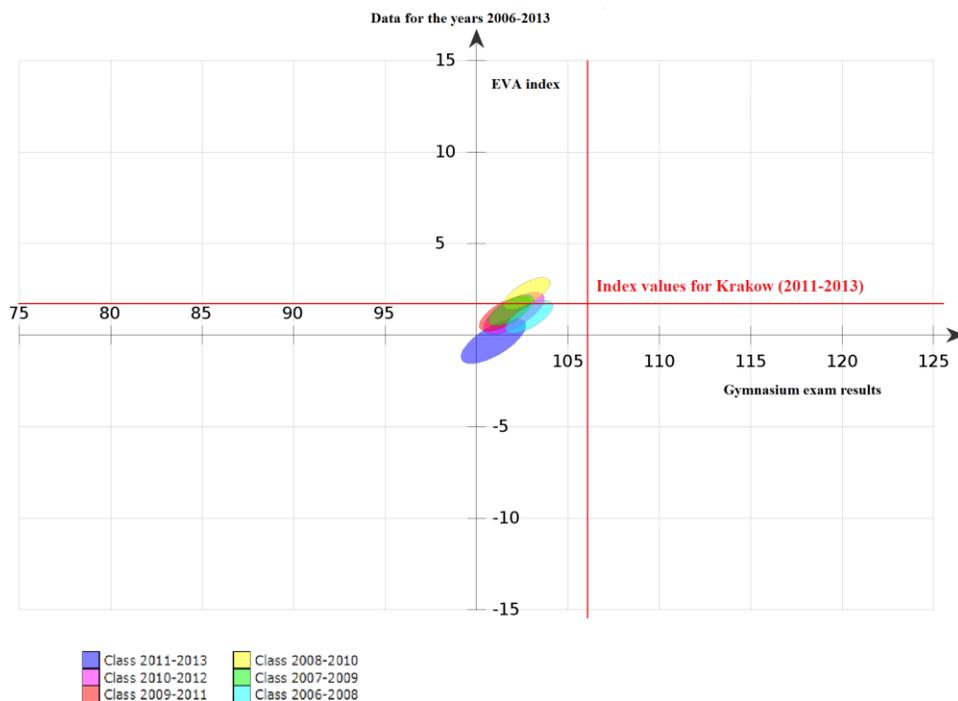
1. In the area of youth policy, a **Youth District Council** functions which supports political education and other social activities of young people aged up to 18. It was founded in late 2000 as a joint initiative of a few district council members. It succeeds in raising the political awareness and commitment (some students are interested in starting in election for the District Council).

2. In the area of employment besides the above-mentioned association, the **Municipal Labour Office** branch was established in cooperation with the District Council in order to help local people acquire information about available jobs. Unfortunately, the unemployed cannot register there. Neither does it arrange contacts – the unemployed have to contact potential employers by themselves or through the so-called Social Integration Clubs. One of them is ran by the Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed People.

3. There is a lower secondary school (**Gymnasium no. 37**) in the nearby Zlotego Wieku neighbourhood. Due to the so-called educational “zoning,” pupils from certain educational districts are assigned to a nearby school. Gymnasium 37 is a district school for pupils aged 13–16 from the Mistrzejowice Nowe area. To assess the quality of teaching there, we can use the school leaving exams results combined with the so-called Educational Value Added Index (EVA), calculated by the Ministry of Education which shows if and by how much the school improves the results of pupils (cf. Figures 5 and 6). The first one shows the scores in the humanities part of the exams and the other one – in maths and science.

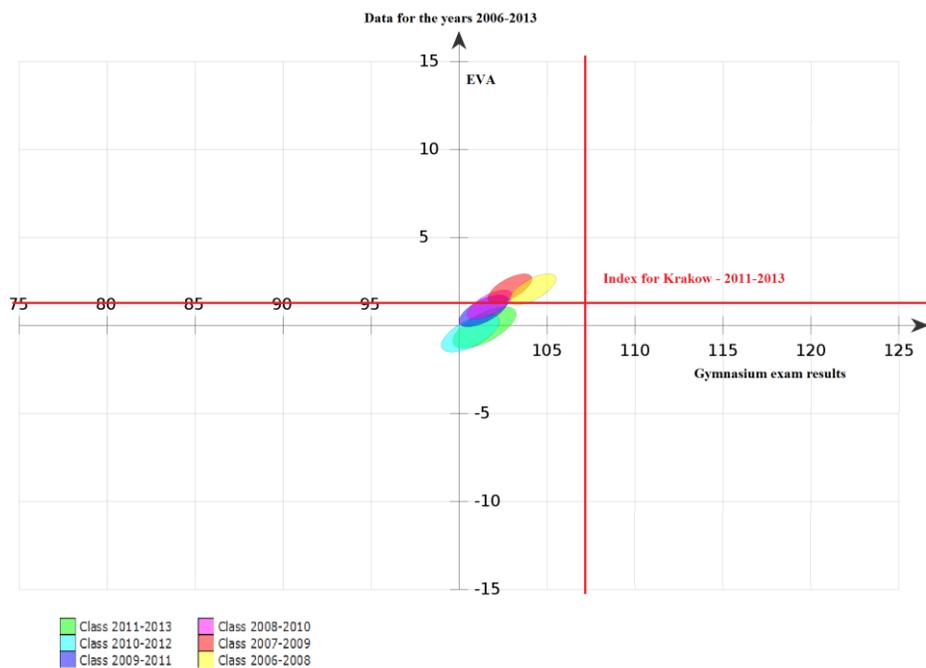
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Figure 5 - Education quality index in Mistrzejowice Gymnasium no 37 - Humanities



Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

Figure 6 - Education quality index in Mistrzejowice Gymnasium no 37 – Maths and sciences



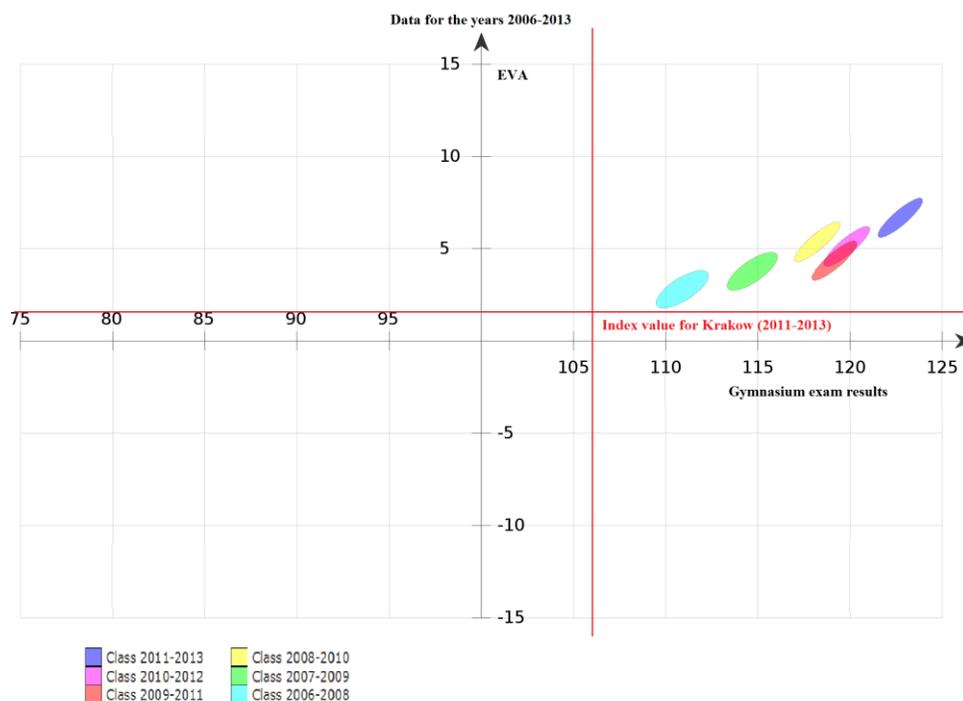
Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

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It can be clearly seen that the quality of teaching is a little bit below average for Krakow (we have to bear in mind that Krakow is significantly better in this respect than the average for Poland). This can be to some extent explained by the fact that the school has two “integration classes” which are attended by handicapped pupils. What is worrying, though, is that the EVA index values have deteriorated over time, which suggests that through the years the quality of teaching has declined.

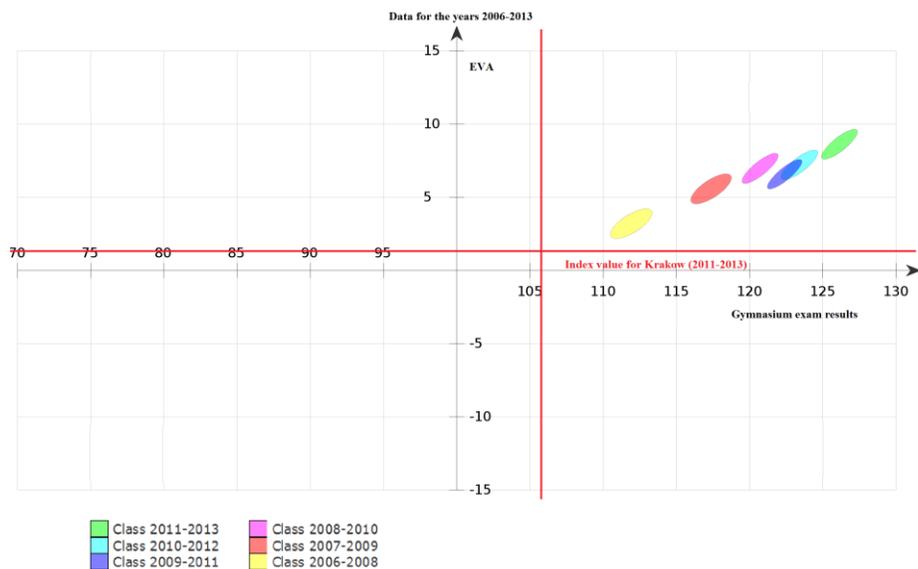
Just outside the neighbourhood (in the Piastow neighbourhood) there is a lower and upper **secondary school run by Salesians of Don Bosco Institute**. It was taken over by the institute in 2002. Originally, it was a district school as well, but now it admits students on a merit basis. It is considered as one of the best schools in Krakow, which can be easily shown in Figures 7 and 8. They demonstrate that despite the quality being better than the average for Krakow, it is also improving rapidly. This is best explained when we take into consideration that it is not only very good at teaching but also is usually chosen by better students.

Figure 7 Education quality index in Salesians don Bosco Gymnasium – Humanities



Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

Figure 8 - Education quality index in Salesians don Bosco Gymnasium – Maths and Sciences



Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

As our interviewees consistently told us, one of the ideas for founding this school was to strengthen the educational achievements of local pupils. Giving up the district specificity opened the school broadly to pupils from outside the area. Nowadays it is not perceived as a “local” school, despite officially boasting of many possibilities for local youth, who often use its high quality and safe sports facilities. M3: *I see a particular kind of social exclusion of so-called “normal boys” who do not associate themselves with either Cracovia or Wisla, but just want to play football. They are afraid to use the facilities of local primary school and go to Salesians because it is safer there.*

Photo 14 - Salesians don Bosco school frontyard



Source: taken during study trip on 3rd of December

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There is also a **district primary school no 89** in the Piastow neighbourhood as well as a **vocational higher secondary printing school** in the Tysiaclecia neighbourhood. The second one, as all higher secondary establishments, is not a district school. According to our sources, it extends its services to some of the Mistrzejowice young people and offers them an opportunity to enter higher education (universities). In Mistrzejowice, there are 5 municipal kindergartens and 2 nurseries.

4. The housing situation, in terms of the services, is rather complex. **Three private housing co-operatives** serve the area. They include all the inhabitants (mainly private owners) of the houses that they manage. There are also some buildings managed by the municipal accommodation service called the **Communal Buildings Board**. It offers affordable housing to those evicted and those in financial distress (this is a service available to all Krakow inhabitants). Moreover, our respondents pointed towards some problems with high rents and difficulties with meeting payments by tenants. According to them, council houses offer worse infrastructure as compared with those run by housing associations, but nowadays the situation is improving. The third type of organizations operating within the housing area includes the so-called **Social Housing Associations**. They manage several buildings within the neighbourhood. These are non-profit organizations that are legally charged with the duty of extending affordable housing to the less well-off. The detached and semi-detached houses are privately owned.

5. There is a **public outpatient clinic** in the Piastow neighbourhood and an **Advisory Clinic for gynaecology and midwifery** in Piastow neighbourhood which was established in 1999.

6. In the area of social services, apart from the Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed People, the **Municipal Social Assistance Centre branch** operated in the headquarter of the District Council until 2012. Now, due to the high costs, it has suspended its activities. The closure of the branch has some untoward consequences since it was the sole municipal service devoted partly to helping the younger population. The assistance extended by the district council is aimed mainly at older people. Deprived of the MSAC data, it lacks information on the situation of the young people in the area.

7. In the area of sports activities, a few regular services are delivered. A branch of an **Association for Nurturing of Physical Culture**, which was established in 2002, is located in the Oswiecenia neighbourhood nearby. Its main activity is running a local football club and a small football league. According to our respondents, the sports activities, especially those organised by this particular association, are a good vehicle of social inclusion giving those less well-off the ability to spend time productively and an opportunity to identify talented persons. M3: *Over the years we have been able to develop contact with the so-called "difficult youth". For example, recently we organised an action called*

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the “football autumn” which was aimed at the more wayward football fans. (...) And I have to say, that despite the fact that they had to be disciplined now and then, they seem to have found their place within sport, here in the neighbourhood. And here I see a positive symptom of our activity.

In the Zlotego Wieku neighbourhood there is a public **trial park** (for bikers) and a **skatepark**. This first facility does not fulfil its function well despite the fact that its establishment was an idea of local youth. Representatives of the district council suggest that despite being an initiative of local youth the park is underutilized due to lack of enough interest in using it (which in turn suggest that there weren't much potential demand analysis conducted). A glance at the part of internet forum for bikers devoted to the park explains that the lack of interest is caused by it being poorly prepared (there is too much sand which makes it very risky to ride there). This in turn suggest that the responsiveness of public authorities responsible for the park is less than perfect. The second one is associated with more aggressive young people vandalizing the area and treating it as a place for drinking alcohol, tobacco smoking, assault and battery (cf. the part on public places). This is due to the fact, that the “problematic” youth have spent their time near the sports field located in its vicinity before its establishment, and the park was chosen probably because its higher “comfortability”.

8. As for the organisations in the area of culture and leisure, there is a **Kuznia Club**, part of the Municipal Cultural Centre located in some distance from the area and operating on a semi-commercial basis (fees have to be paid for the participation in some of its activities). Noticing the problems of the lack of a truly public and local cultural centre, some local leaders are considering opening one in Mistrzejowice Nowe (cf. the part on public places).

9. In the area of youth-specific services, there is a distant (in the Oswiecenia neighbourhood) **Youth Cultural Club** extending cultural and educational services mostly free of charge for the local youth, especially in the fields of arts and theatre. There is a small artistic higher secondary school connected to the establishment. There is also a Catholic Church sponsored **Light-Life Movement** which is promoting Christian values among the youth. It is a religious movement so some youth may not want to use it services due to ideological reasons. Both services are directed towards the youngest population (up to 18, 19 years old). There is a visible gap in the services aimed at a little older people. M3: *The services that are offered in the area mainly serve the needs of young children or older people. But there is a gap in the services offered to the middle-aged people. We want to change that by developing a community centre in Mistrzejowice Nowe.*

3.1.3 Key findings concerning social inequalities and social innovation to address these

*Social inequalities*⁵

The basic problem faced by the neighbourhood is its poor economic situation, which led to the unemployment and decreased social activity of inhabitants. The economic profile of Mistrzejowice Nowe seems to be that of a dormitory district. This is reflected by almost 50% lower number of firms per 10,000 residents in Mistrzejowice than in the city as a whole. Growing unemployment forced many adults to emigrate, which, in turn led to new negative phenomena such as broken families, children brought up by single parents, by grandparents or, in the worst case, by institutions (the so-called “euro-orphans”).

There are almost no labour market institutions except for The Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed by fate, which co-operates in this respect with the Municipal Labour Office, the Municipal Centre for Social Welfare and other institutions in the field of inclusion people in labour market.

The local institutions from different fields (e.g. community council, schools, the church, the police) seem to cooperate with each other with some successes. However, there is a problem in communication between local education organizations and municipal institutions, which constitutes a barrier for successful integration of the excluded youth.

Our interviewees noticed the problem of organising the education in accordance with the different rules for different schools. The Salesian gymnasium originally was a district school, but some years ago it was freed from the zoning restrictions on admission and organise selection process on a merit basis. In consequence, the average level of students in other schools is poorer, which may lead to a more pronounced social stratification. Thus, the local educational infrastructure may, in fact, reinforce inequalities. In the entire Nowa Huta district, there are at least 5 prestigious junior high schools, which attract talented youth from whole Krakow, with the rest going to district schools. Gymnasium 37, which runs an integration programme for disabled children, was punished by the Board of Education for its lower exam results.

There is insufficient social infrastructure directed specifically towards young people in the area under consideration. Apart from the Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed People and Association of Mistrzejowice Inhabitants, both run by a local activist, all other institutions are placed in some

⁵ We should mention that the perception of most problems among the interviewees reflects the national or local community problems rather than inequality. The overall poor economic situation is perceived as the main problem. There are no marked conflicts between classes, interest groups or representatives of the labour force and owners of capital. The situation of young people seems to depend to a large extent on the economic conditions, which, according to our sources, have noticeably deteriorated in recent years.

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distance from the area, which might cause some participation problems due to the difficult access. M4: *Most of those cultural services are aimed at children. They don't meet the needs of adolescents.*

Some main services (sports, education) are located in the Piastow area, which is connected functionally to Mistrzejowice. Sports infrastructure is well developed, but its operation is restricted to the spring-summer period. During winter, the supply of such services is very limited, although there are sports halls in the area. The problem is the lack of funds for trainers. Such situation puts more responsibility on the parents to encourage their children, especially the younger ones, to participate in local activities. This, however, may reinforce social divisions, as better-off and better-educated parents tend to encourage their children more often than those from lower social strata. The limited offer of social activities in the area encourages young people to look for ways of spending their free time on their own. Those who go to schools and universities in the city centre tend to spend their free time there as well. Others might be more willing to spend their time loitering about in the area.

The neighbourhood is characterised by the low level of social activity. One of a notable exceptions is the above-mentioned association run by a local activist.

Young people enter into conflicts based on which football club they support. The whole district is a fighting ground between hooligans supporting two football clubs, however, it is much less pronounced than several years ago. However, this kind of identity still plays a key role in the case of a number of teenage boys. In case of girls the problem is less pronounced. They are involved in supporting the clubs, but in generally less violent forms.

Social innovation to address social inequalities

One of most visible social innovations is constituted by two associations established on the initiative of a local activist who runs The Association for Help to Unemployed and Harmed by Fate. Due to his strong leadership skills, the activities of these associations are partly interlinked. The most important fields of activity include the co-operation with the Municipal Centre for Social Welfare (MOPS) and social integration clubs in dealing with people facing social exclusion in the labour market. Apart from formal activity, people managing the association help in finding jobs, flats or other services. The headquarters of the association fulfil the role of a club room and a small library. Both associations distribute ca. 70 food parcels per month. The football is home to football matches for young boys who can later play in a city league.

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One of the more important barriers for the association identified by the interviewed activist seems to be the lack of co-operation on the part of the Municipal Office and the District XV Council in the field of social assistance. Funds from the city are distributed by the Council in the form of Christmas or Easter parcels. According to one of our interviewees, this form of assistance indicates a complete lack of knowledge about real problems of the local society (M2): *The president of the family commission (of the XV District Council) has not appeared in our office to consult anything since the beginning of the term (...) People need to eat everyday not twice a year.* This, according to our interviewee, can reflect applause-seeking, but not an intention to help effectively.

The problem can be especially noted at the level of co-operation with the Municipal Office. M2: *Our quarters was a ruin. We renovated it without assistance from the municipality, we invested funds, created a library and a club room, also without any help from the Municipal Office. The Office then demanded rent, including the period of renovation. For two years we paid off the Municipal Office. In 2010, we received 5000 zloty (ca. 1200 euro) from the city to pay for heating. (...) If someone from the city had said, "Mister, you do so much, so we shall give you 10 thousand zloty per year" we would have trips for children and more food parcels. Our present 70 lunches per month is the effect of my private arrangement with the owner of a restaurant.*

On the part of association there seems to be a problem with its effective promotion and fundraising competences, which would allow it to look for funding outside private donations and municipal subsidies.

Especially in terms of counteracting the "gang-style" nature of football hooligans, systematic activities have been undertaken by the Association for the Nurturing of Physical Culture, which uses football to let football fans spend some of their excess energy.

Other services offered to the Mistrzejowice Nowe residents tend to comprise more traditional activities. Some are aimed at counteracting inequality (Social Housing Associations), while others strengthen them (the Salesians school) or produce other negative consequences (violent activity near the skatepark), but, given the Polish context, we cannot perceive them as true social innovations.

3.2 Area II - Rzaka

3.2.1 Socio spatial development

Socio-economic status

Table 4 - Krakow, Biezanow-Prokocim district and Rzaka socio-economic status

Main socio-economic indicators	2009			2012		
	Krakow	Biezanow-Prokocim district	Rzaka	Krakow	Biezanow-Prokocim district	Rzaka
Unemployed/working age population ratio	3.23%	4.34%	4.93%	4.91%	4.17%*	5.99%
Young unemployed (18-24) / young people (15-24) ratio	2.29%	n.a.	6.16%	3.17%	n.a.	5.27%
Percentage of young people among the unemployed	14.02%	20.72%	25.77%	11.54%	13.60%*	18.37%
Percentage of social welfare beneficiaries	3.81%	n.a.	7.99%	3.37%	n.a.	3.15%
Percentage of young people (15-24) among social welfare beneficiaries	n.a.	n.a.	24.86%	n.a.	n.a.	20.68%*

* Information from 2011 due to the lack of or incomplete source data.

Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City, website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl> and from The Regional Social Assistance Centre

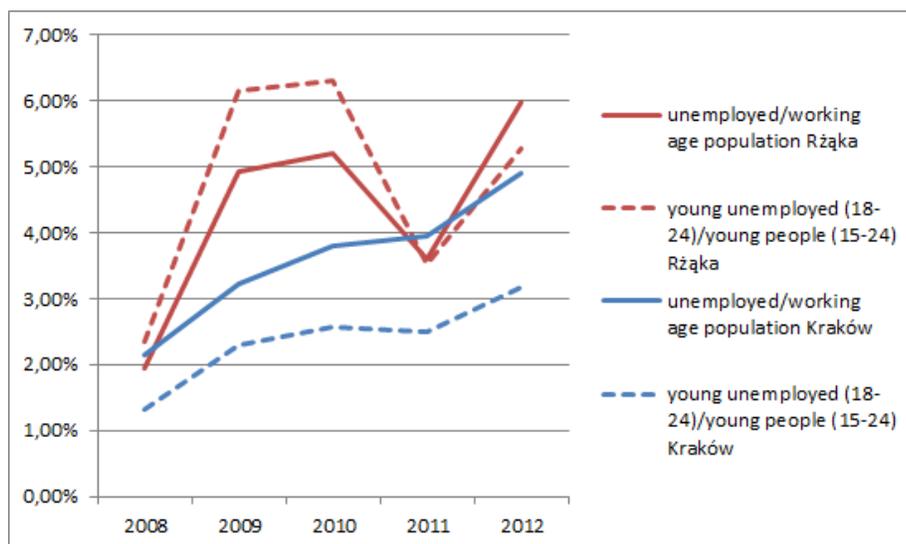
Youth unemployment appears to be a serious problem in the Rzaka area. The corresponding figures are higher than those for the city as a whole and for the Biezanow-Prokocim district. The percentage of young people among the unemployed is also much higher than at the district and city levels. Moreover, young people make up for a larger proportion of the unemployed than of the population in the neighbourhood (cf. Table “age-structure”). The same, even to a larger extent, can be said about the percentage of young people among social welfare beneficiaries despite the fact that, at least in 2012, a smaller proportion of the Rzaka population depended on social assistance compared with the city level.

The rate of unemployment in Rzaka is higher than that in Krakow. This concerns both young people (aged 18–24) and the entire working-age population.

Due to the economic stagnation of 2008–2012 (except for 2011), the unemployment rate has increased. In Figure 5, we can see that the pattern of unemployment rate in Rzaka is more pro-cyclical: the amplitude of fluctuations is clearly larger than in Krakow with even lower unemployment rate in 2011,

which seems to mean that this indicator reflects socio-economic differences between districts of Krakow. More stable jobs (e.g. administration, education) constitute the domain of the city centre, while districts such as Rzaka are inhabited by people representing professions more prone to crisis (e.g. construction, trade).

Figure 9 - Unemployment and youth unemployment in Rzaka and Krakow

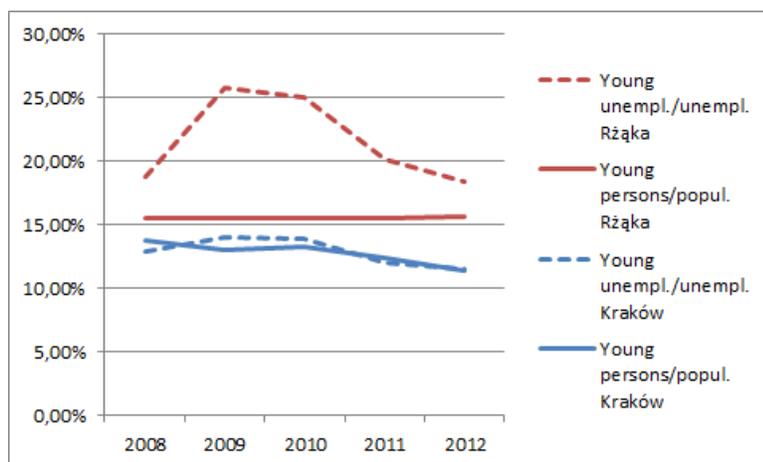


Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City

The rate of unemployment is greater among whole population than among young people (18–24) in Krakow (about 50% higher), while in Rzaka we cannot observe a stable pattern of this relation.

The socio-economic situation of young people (18–24) in the neighbourhood is clearly worse than in Krakow since the ratio of young unemployed to the total number of unemployed people is (over 18%, with the top over 25% in 2009 and 2010) than the percentage of young in the population of Rzaka (15.7%) while in Krakow we cannot observe a significant difference between these two indicators.

Figure 10 - Young among unemployed in Rzaka and Krakow



Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City

Age structure

Table 5 - Demographic structure of Krakow, Biezanow-Prokocim District and Rzaka

Age	2009			2012		
	Krakow	Biezanow-Prokocim district	Rzaka	Krakow	Biezanow-Prokocim district	Rzaka
0-14	12.61%	n.a.	12.89%	13.01%	n.a.	13.84%
0-17	15.55%	16.13%	15.97%	15.45%	16.11%	16.87%
15-24	13.72%	n.a.	15.56%	11.44%	Na..	15.70%
Working age	65.61%	65.17%	75.43%	64.07%	62.38%	75.25%
F/M ratio	1.14	1.18	1.08	1.15	1.18	1.07

Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from the strategy and development department of Krakow City and from website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl>

In terms of demography, the situation of Rzaka is pretty unique. It is inhabited by a significantly larger population of people aged 15–24 than the city as a whole. Moreover, the percentage of young people has slightly grown in the period under consideration, while in Krakow it has decreased (from 14.5% in 2008 to 11.5% in 2012). At the same time, the percentage of the youngest cohort in the population does not differ from the city level. This may indicate that the neighbourhood is inhabited to a large extent by families who moved there about 20 years ago. This may also reflect the fact that some students of a number of Krakow universities have decided to rent a flat in Rzaka. At the same time, it should be added

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that their substantial proportion does not come from Krakow but from all over Poland. Usually, they are not registered in any students' offices and therefore remain outside official statistics.

Females outnumber males in the older age bracket, while the younger population of Rzaka retains a more balanced ratio of both sexes (cf. Table 5).

Migration and/or ethnicity

Officially, the migration of Rzaka residents is quite low. According to official statistics, it oscillates around +/- 1% within the space of the last 10 years (according to R1). The respondents claim that job migration has, to a substantial extent, contributed to a decrease in the actual number of residents (including young people). A number of people (aged 30–35) work abroad (mainly in Great Britain and Germany), and have left their children with other family members or neighbours ('euro-orphans').

According to official data, there is a very low percentage of foreign nationals in Rzaka – 0,09% (much lower than in Krakow as a whole – 0,63%).

It is rather difficult to accurately estimate the percentage of ethnic minorities in Rzaka, though the interviewees mentioned that there are some small groups of the Roma minority. R2: *I have some contacts with the Roma people in that area. When the settlements of such kind started some thirty years ago, at the district level, there were several Roma camps. Lots of their members have decided to settle in the district of Biezanow-Prokocim, including Rzaka.* R7: *There are no problems with the integration of Roma people in Rzaka.*

Economic profile

In principle, we can call Rzaka a typical Krakow's peripheral housing neighbourhood – a 'dormitory suburb'. People spend their leisure time there, but work in the other Krakow districts. The institutions located there (a school, two kindergartens and the Municipal Heat Supply Company) offer some jobs available to the local population.

In Rzaka there is virtually no industry or services that could meet the local demand for jobs. There is a small factory producing protective clothing, another one producing ties and the third one producing measuring equipment. Near the eastern border of Rzaka there is a large construction materials warehouse is located.

Photo 15 - Small bussiness in Rzaka: protective clothing factory



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

Local residents can do their shopping in several shops. In Rzaka there are medium-sized as well as family-owned groceries and small alcohol shops (7 in total), one household equipment shop, one stationer's, two hardware shops and one open-air shop with small tractors. There is one hairdressing salon, one beauty centre and two small insurance agencies. Some space where shops or other facilities had been previously located is now vacant.

Photo 16 - Small bussiness in Rzaka: grocery



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

In the area there are three restaurants – ‘Jadłodajnia u Babci’ (inexpensive home cooking), ‘Venezia’ (restaurant/pizzeria/cafe) and ‘Teresita’ – forming a complex with the local hotel of 70 beds. Local people usually do not visit the latter two restaurants, they are usually rented for special occasions (communions, weddings, other celebrations). Like most residents of Krakow, local inhabitants prefer to visit the restaurants, pubs and cafes located in the city centre (the Old Town or Kazimierz). According to R7, *In fact there are only shops, a school and blocks of flats in Rzaka.*

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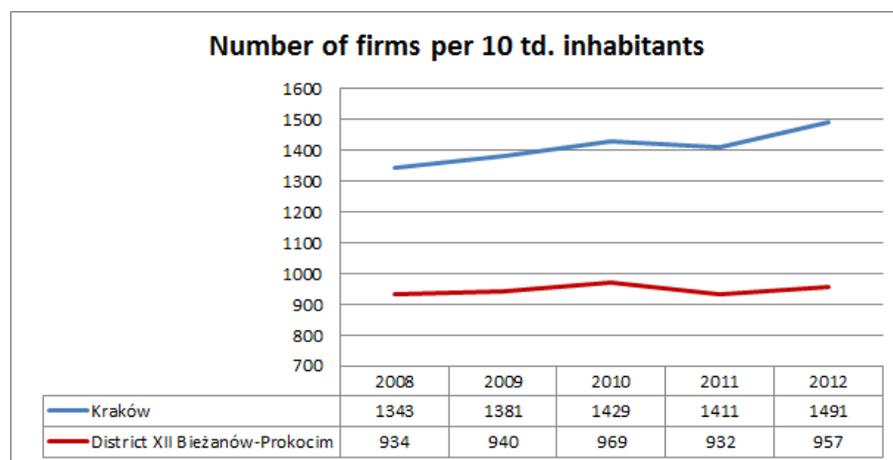
Photo 17 - 'Venezia' restaurant/pizzeria/cafe (left), 'Teresita' hotel/restaurant (right)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

Thus, it is evident that the area shows a pretty low economic capacity considering the opportunities to stimulate the job growth. The data available for the whole district support that claim. Biezanow-Prokocim have one of the lowest indicators of the number of firms per 10,000 inhabitants. In the area of Biezanow-Prokocim, there are much fewer registered businesses entities per 10,000 population than the average for Krakow (957 vs 1491 in 2012) (cf. Figure 11).

Figure 11 - Number of firms per 10 td. inhabitants in Krakow and Biezanow-Prokocim District



Source: own compilation based on the data acquired from website <http://msip2.um.krakow.pl>

The pattern of changes in this respect was the same as in Mistrzejowice Nowe: an improvement in 2008–2010, a slowdown in 2009 and an upturn in 2012. Last year, however, the change was much stronger in the city as a whole than in Biezanow-Prokocim. This can be interpreted as an indicator of decreasing economic significance of the district under consideration.

One should, however, remember that the growing number of businesses does not always mean that the situation improves. Employers often force their staff into self-employment instead of giving them full- or

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part-time contracts. In the times of crisis, this can be a way of cutting labour costs. The number of businesses says nothing about how they perform on the market in terms of revenue or employment. But companies located in Rzaka tend to be small, so they do not offer many job opportunities or contribute to the local economic dynamics.

Nevertheless, it is not the number but the differences between districts and the city that show variation in the skills and attitude to business activity in particular districts of Krakow as well as their different economic functions.

Housing and Tenure Structure

There are three types of buildings in Rzaka:

- Single-family houses mostly built in the past and being built at present,

Photo 18 - 'Old' Rzaka (Kosocicka Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

- Blocks of flats built in the 1980s and 1990s,

Photo 19 - Rzaka befor transformation (Schweitzera Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

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- Several new apartment buildings (including the Social Housing Associations).

Photo 20 - Social housing Association buildings (Rydygiera Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

The settlement of Rzaka is more than 20 years old. Twenty years ago, residents started to build single houses and the Social Housing Association started its own development. One can observe a slight fluctuation among the residents of the area – some have left (seeking jobs abroad) leaving the apartment uninhabited for the period of their absence, but in general, in Rzaka most apartments are inhabited. Flats are not sold in large numbers, the real estate market does not exhibit a high dynamics, and thus there are no representative data for local real estate prices.

Generally it can be said that Rzaka has not seen many changes in the area of housing infrastructure since its formation. This infrastructure is consistently modernised (e.g. insulation of blocks by residential communities). The small funds available from the District Council cover mainly small repairs to the pavements.

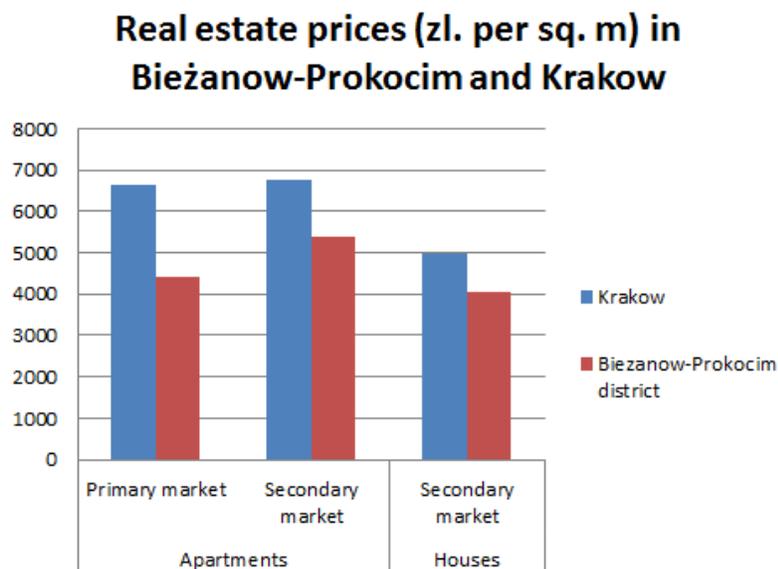
Just as in some other districts of Krakow, the Rzaka neighbourhood has seen the emergence of the so-called “gated communities”. They are to be found in areas adjoining the church and are distinctly different from other houses in the area.

Photo 21 – ‘Gated community’ (Jana XXIII Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

Figure 12 - Real estate prices in Krakow and Biezanow-Prokocim district*



Source: own compilation based on the website: <http://www.domiporta.pl/>

* Primary market involves estates sold by property developers directly after construction, i.e. for the first time. Secondary market describes the estate sold by previous owners.

Real estate prices in the district are much lower than in Krakow as a whole. This is probably due to the distance of the area from the city centre and the means of mass transportation leave much to be desired. This is especially true for Rzaka whose inhabitants face difficulties reaching the city-centre. On the other hand, according to our sources, the neighbourhood is quite popular amongst university students who are keen to move there during their university years. Low prices of real estate in Rzaka may be explained by the relatively high number of council flats. R2: *There are a number of cheaper apartments built by the Social Housing Association. It helps younger people working their way up who cannot afford to purchase any other apartment. In comparison with Krakow as a whole, there is indeed a lot of social housing in Rzaka.*

Public space

In Rzaka there are few opportunities to meet and spend time outside school, work or home, in particular for young people. Generally, Rzaka does not have enough public places which young people could use after school.

A public park, located in the western part of Rzaka, is just one place where people can spend their time outside. In the park centre there is a small pond with fish and waterfowl. The Association of Friends of

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the Pond in Rzaka cares for the maintenance of the facility (<https://oczkorzaka.fora.pl/>), it is an informal group acting affiliated to the local parish.

Photo 22 – Pond in the public park



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

Next to the pond there is a playground with seesaws, slides and small climbing walls. There is a lot of greenery, well-maintained lawns, trees and shrubs.

Photo 23 – Playground in the public park



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

The park looks well-maintained. Along the main park alley there are numerous benches. There is also a basketball court (with an asphalt surface), rather small but decently preserved. Next to it there is an asphalt volleyball court equipped with poles, but no net. There are some benches surrounding the place, none of them is damaged (which is quite rare when compared with other city districts).

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Photo 24 – Public park: basketball court (left), alley (right)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

Next to the park and the church there is a weedy unused playing field. The park and the church usually host local events in the area, e.g. the Picnic in Rzaka and the Children's Day in Rzaka.

In the south-western part of the neighbourhood there is a big undeveloped area (a sort of wasteland), used by local inhabitants to walk their dogs. After the local study trip, it can be said that it is not a safe place (no lighting or footpaths, people drinking alcohol).

Photo 25 – No man's land



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

In the centre of the neighbourhood, among the blocks of flats there are a few small playgrounds for the youngest.

The neighbourhood, when compared with the average Krakow standards, is not much covered with graffiti, but close the school more vulgar inscriptions can be seen directed against the football fans of the Wisla team (Rzaka "ranks among" Cracovia football team fans) and against the police. According to the opinion of R3, serious fights occur in the area, which result from wars between football fans (though

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they are not as frequent as those in other neighbourhoods in the district (e.g. Nowy Biezanow, Nowy Prokocim and Na Kozlowku). The local health centre has confirmed that it provides medical assistance to people injured with sharp objects. It is woeful distinctive feature of the city – on the contrary to other cities in Poland, the football fans practically wage wars using cold steel (knives, machetes, brass knuckles).

Photo 26 - 'We'll never go to the dogs' - Cracovia fans rules



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

The neighbourhood is evidently underinvested in infrastructure with a shortage of sidewalks. Certain private properties also look uncared for.

3.2.2 Social infrastructure

Several facilities for public use are located in the area and its surroundings. They serve mostly educational purposes and consist of two private kindergartens, a primary school and a secondary school, both latter ones sharing one building. It is possible that a municipal kindergarten will be founded in the near future.

The following elements of social infrastructure can be found in Rzaka:

- **Youth Council of District XII** (Młodzieżowa Rada Dzielnicy XII). This is a body **involving** active young people in public life (through debates, discussions, meetings with local politicians, own initiatives and projects). It is made up by students from lower and upper secondary schools (areas of Biezanow, Prokocim, and Rzaka). The Youth Council of District XII started in the late 2000s as a joint initiative of several district council members (<http://www.dzielnica12.krakow.pl/mlodziezowa-rada-dzielnicy-xii/>);
- **Private (church) kindergarten** (Przedszkole niepubliczne im. Matki Anny Kaworek) run by the Nuns of the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel – Michaelites. It has 50 places for children and was

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established in 1990 as an informal 'play school'. In 1997 it started a 'real' kindergarten in a new building located in ul. Kosocicka 38a (<http://parafia-nawiedzenia.info/michalitki.php>);

- **A private kindergarten** (Przedszkole niepubliczne „Pepus swiata”) founded in 2013 and located in ul. Schweitzera 7B (<http://przedszkole-pepus-swiata.pl/schweitzera/>);

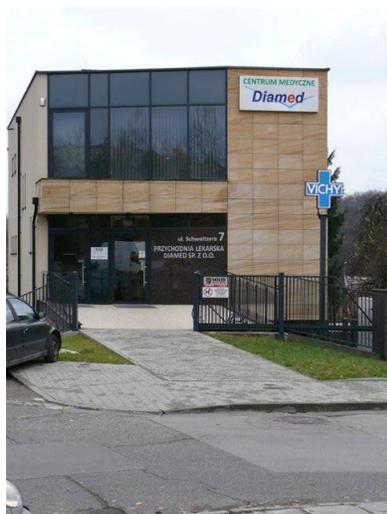
Photo 27 – Private kindergarten (Schweitzera Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

- **A housing association** (Spoldzielnia Mieszkaniowa "Rzaka"), ul. Rydygiera 9 /20;
- **A medical centre** (Centrum Medyczne DIAMED) an outpatient medical centre consisting of a pharmacy, a diagnostics laboratory, a digital visual diagnostics laboratory RTG and USG, dentists services, specialised clinics, general care clinics and maternity care clinics. The target group includes the residents of Rzaka and neighbouring areas. It was established in 2000 (ul Schweitzera 15) and then moved to a new building in 2012 (ul. Schweitzera 7);

Photo 28 – 'DIAMED' medical centre (Schweitzera Str)



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

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- **A pharmacy and two private dental clinics** serving mainly the residents of Rzaka and neighbouring areas, ul. Czerwiakowskiego 4;
- **A school sports field** near the school complex: table tennis facilities, basketball court and football pitch. This is where pupils (only when school works) can pursue sports activities;
- Several years ago **the „Orleta-Rzaka” sports club** acted at the local parish. Its members included older and younger population. The sports club consisted of the following sections: football, basketball, volleyball and table tennis (it organised a school section of table tennis). Training sessions took place three days a week. The club also organised ski tours to the Tatra Mountains. The pitch was expropriated for a newly-constructed bypass road, therefore the club stopped investment and suspended its activities in 2000. Occasionally, young people play football there and the former members of the club mow the grass.
- The aim of the **“Picnics in Rzaka”** initiative was to integrate the residents of the so-called Old and New Rzaka through a joint participation in events, competitions, lotteries and football games (organised in the sand pitch that now is part of the Krakow bypass road). The “Picnics in Rzaka” were organised jointly by the Council of District XII, the police, the school and the sport club of “Orleta Rzaka”;
- The public park in the middle of Rzaka consists of **a small pond, alleys, a basketball court** (an asphalt surface) and **a playground** for small children;
- **The Parish of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary** (Parafia Nawiedzenia Najswietszej Maryi Panny) is a Roman Catholic church providing religious services for most residents. Parish children/youth groups:
 - Altar boys and lectors;
 - Catholic youth movement (‘Oaza – Ruch Swiatlo Zycie’).

Photo 29 – Church



Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

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• **General education school complex no 157** consists of a primary school no 157 and a lower secondary school no 33 (Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących Nr 15: Szkoła Podstawowa Nr 157 wraz z Gimnazjum Nr 33). This is a district school serving the Rzaka neighbourhood. It consists of 6 grades of primary school (pupils aged 6/7–13) and 3 grades of lower secondary school (13–16). The primary school was established in 1995 and the lower secondary school was established in 1999. Since 2004, they together form a general education school complex no 157; <http://www.zso15krakow.home.pl/>, ul. Rydygiera 20. Beyond the school building, the sports field (basketball court and football pitch, both with asphalt surfaces) is located. There are also table tennis facilities, which are not used very often. The football pitch located within the school premises can be used only when the school is in session. Otherwise, for procedural reasons, it can be used when it is watched by security. Sometimes the football pitch is used by locals without permission of the school authorities (“illegal” football games or alcohol parties). Still, the school offers some interesting activities for young people:

- For pupils with learning difficulties remedial therapeutic classes at the secondary school have been established. A small class with 10 students was established to give them an opportunity to complete secondary education before the age of 18. Otherwise, according to Polish law, those people after reaching the age of 18 could continue their education only at schools for adults where they have to pay for the education. Very few people decide to do this and therefore, without secondary education, they have limited opportunities to find jobs;
- Outside lesson time, pupils can participate in extra activities in arts (music, school choir) and sports (football, basketball);
- The school cooperates in the preparation of the Children’s Day in Rzaka.

Photo 30 – Primary and low secondary school

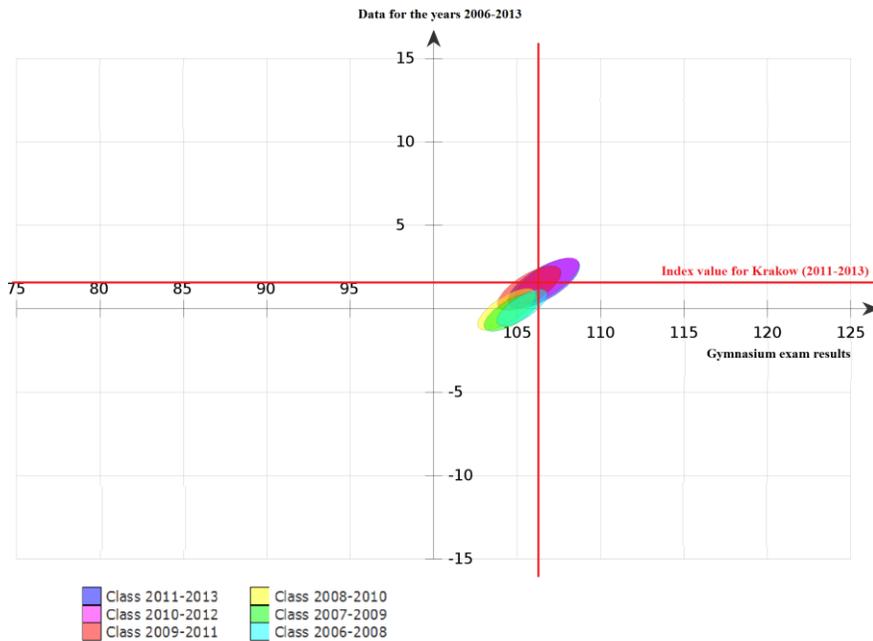


Source: taken during study trip on 26th of November

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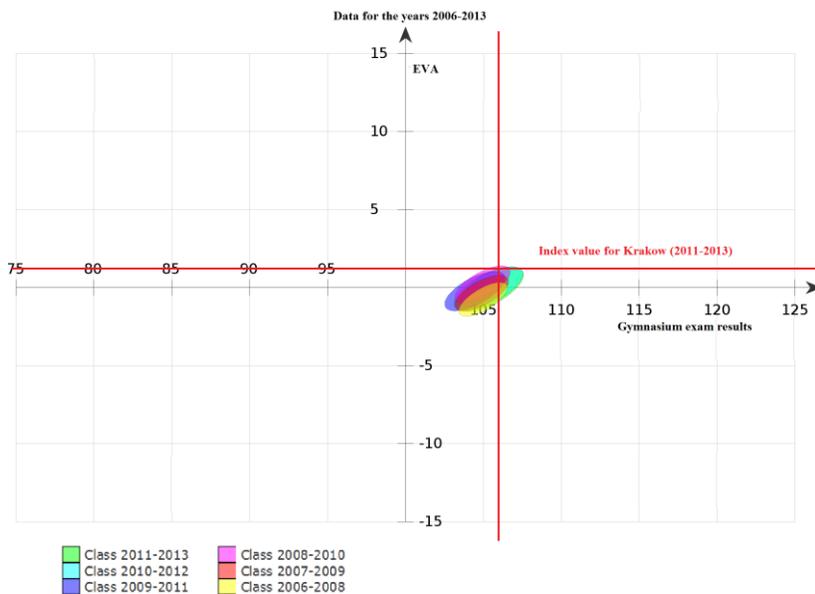
The Educational Value Added index for the local lower secondary school shows that the quality of its teaching is generally on par with the average results achieved by other Krakow's schools. It seems to do a little bit poorer in maths than in humanities, but the difference does not seem to be significant.

Figure 13 - Education quality index in Gymnasium no. 33 - Humanities



Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

Figure 14 - Education quality index in Gymnasium no 33 – Maths and sciences



Source: <http://gimnazjum.ewd.edu.pl/>

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At the district level (District XII – Biezanow-Prokocim) there are other elements of social infrastructure (except those mentioned above) available for Rzaka residents.

Education:

- 10 municipal kindergartens ('przedszkole');
- 7 primary schools ('szkola podstawowa');
- 2 lower secondary schools ('gimnazjum');
- 4 general education school complexes ('zespól szkól ogólnokształcących'):
 - primary school + lower secondary school with integration classes;
 - upper secondary school + supplementary upper secondary school for adults;
 - special kindergarten + special primary school;
 - lower secondary school + upper secondary school.

Culture:

- 4 public libraries;
- 1 branch of a community centre (municipal);
- 1 branch of a youth community centre (municipal);
- 3 community centres (run by housing association);
- 1 day centre of sociotherapy (run by the NGO 'SIEMACHA').

Health:

- 4 non-public medical centres in the district area.

Police:

- 1 police precinct close to the settlement.

Fire department:

- One service provider – Emergency unit.

Municipal police:

- Municipal police covering three Krakow districts X, XI and XII (including Rzaka).

Others:

- 2 municipal nurseries.

3.2.3 Key findings concerning social inequalities and social innovation to address these

Social inequalities

From the economic viewpoint, the important factor leading to increasing social inequalities is the low level of citizens' involvement and the lack of medium-sized or large enterprises both in Rzaka and at the level of the whole district. In the times of economic slowdown, it is mostly young people who have problems with finding and keeping gainful employment – it is a fact throughout the whole city of Krakow (despite this fact, it remains one of the most attractive job market in Poland). Considering this, the most pressing shortage at the level of the whole district is the lack of labour market institutions, both public and non-government ones. The only exception is the so-called Kolping Work (Dzielo Kolpinga), which is affiliated with one of the district parishes (in Nowy Biezanow neighbourhood) and offers the assistance in finding jobs.

Job migration constitutes a very serious social problem in the area that affects mostly young people who after completing secondary or tertiary education cannot find jobs in Krakow. Moreover, job migration of parents has also a negative impact on young people depriving them of support and care. It may result in increased rates of alcoholism, drug addiction and crime.

Our respondents also point to significant inadequacies in local social infrastructure, i.e. the lack of a cultural institution, poorly developed sports infrastructure, the lack of local government-maintained kindergarten or nursery or no clubs for local residents (that would constitute a socialising meeting centre). They are available in the other parts of the district, however they are relatively distant, which often results in shrinking demand on the part of Rzaka residents (young people in particular). Often after school young people hang around the neighbourhood looking for affordable alcohols. Except for the public park, there is virtually nowhere that they could meet.

The capacity of the school located in the area appears to be underexploited. It organises extracurricular activities for its students and pupils, but there are no offers for older adolescents. The school undoubtedly ought to become one of the principal sources of inspiration of social change at the neighbourhood level.

Low citizen involvement reflects the fact that there are no non-government organisations operating in the area. Neither young nor older people are involved with local issues. Nonetheless, this is a characteristic feature of Polish society as a whole – the level of social capital is very low in general.

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The emergence of gated communities may contribute to increasing social inequalities in the area. The existence of such a phenomenon limits the public space and may lead to conflicts between young people living in such enclaves and those from the 'non-gated' ones. The issue is going to be analysed in more detail at the further stages of CITYSPYCE.

Unfortunately, the likelihood of social conflicts due to the aggressive behaviour of football fans is really high (the so-called holy war between Cracovia and Wisla fans). Gangs of youngsters are also closely related to groups of drug traffickers, which may become a serious threat to young people in Rzaka.

One should emphasise the low level and quality of cooperation channels with the city and district administrative structures.

Social innovation to address social inequalities

In Rzaka in recent years, it is difficult to identify, the cases of activities than could be called social innovations. One of the few exceptions is the project implemented several years ago by the Municipal Welfare Centre with the participation of the streetworkers. Since January 2010, streetworkers in a Task Team of the Municipal Social Care Centre within the framework of the project 'Streetwork effective contact' have been working to provide social care in three districts of Krakow, including District XII with Prokocim Nowy, Biezanow and Rzaka neighbourhoods. The project is co-financed from the European Social Fund and is designated to activate people threatened with social exclusion. The objective of the project is to increase the level of social integration of 150 young people from all three neighbourhoods. It is also aimed at increasing educational activation of beneficiaries in relation the school and non-school activities and to counteract activities leading to different forms of addictions as well as to train the beneficiaries in dealing with emotions, stress and aggression. The youth selected from the 300 hundred living in the centres for which "the street constitutes the space for living and they are threatened with exclusion due to their difficulties in functionality in at least several spheres; family, their peers and psychological one."

The Municipal Social Care Centre organises Labour Days with the participation of Voluntary Labour Groups as well as the Social Integration Club of the Centre. The participants in the event can take advantage of free vocational advisory services and are provided with job offers, including seasonal, part-time and full-time ones. The event takes place in the Rzaka school.

Another initiative is known as "The Traveling Club of Culture – Rzaka stop" – within the framework of the project developed jointly by the group of animators and artists "Patefon". The event includes film and

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photography workshops, a travelling cinema as well as music and cuisine workshops. For the youngest, a painting competition was organised. The event was accompanied by sports activities – table ball and table tennis.

An example of initiative – a local integration event is the competition in angling organised within the framework of “Streetwork – discover the local potential” project with the co-operation of the Association of the Friends of the Pond. About 20 young people aged below 20 took part in it. The event was accompanied by other attractions such as a chalk drawing on the sidewalks competition for children, with food and drink for every attender. More than 200 people from the neighbourhood participated in the event.

The Youth Council of District XII may offer a good opportunity for active young people. Admittedly, it operates at the level of the entire district, but both in the past and in the present it has involved the young people in Rzaka.

The foundation “Let’s Win Ourselves”, which supports the operation of the Youth Council of District XII has become an example of non-government organisation actively acting for the youth in the district of Biezanow-Prokocim. Currently, it started the initiative “The District Youth Voluntary Centre” also addressed to young people in Rzaka. Moreover, as the President of the Foundation says, it may inspire further actions of the CITYSPYCE project: *Next year, I would like the Foundation to be responsible for organising vocational advisory workshops for young people living in this part of Krakow. It would show them how to find their feet in the labour market, what are the possible directions of their professional development and how they can channel their aptitudes. I am certain that there is still a shortage of such offers. We need tested methods, tailored to the specific needs of contemporary youth. This is a very important space. I am thinking about the establishment of a Youth Labour Centre. For now, this is just an idea, but we would like very much to develop it.*

The role of two local leaders – district councillor Janusz Zadworny and Rev. Andrzej Pierog – needs to be emphasised. They are involved in the prevailing majority of varied initiatives and events, taking place within the area of Rzaka.

The parish in Rzaka is a meeting place and a space for activities for some young people living in the area. Within the parish community they can be involved in various initiatives, not only in the religious ones. However, it has to be remembered that most young people are quite sceptical towards the activities carried out by the Church in general.

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The existence of the informal Association of the Friends of the Pond Rzaka operating at the local parish constitutes a positive example of citizens' activities in the neighbourhood. The organisation, apart from continued maintenance of the pond and the local park, is deeply involved in most local events.

Some of the reasons behind young people's exclusion are the lack of initiative and resourcefulness of their parents. On the other hand, some parents, especially those who are not Rzaka residents, are actively involved in extra work for the school, such as cleaning and refurbishing its premises. Moreover, there is a chance that such a social initiative may lead to the construction of a new playground and/or football pitch in the near future.

4. Social Inequalities and Social Innovation

Generally, it seems to be the case that the main causes of social problems are economic and demographic in nature. We can easily observe that in recent years the relative shortage of young people (in comparison with previous years, not with other Polish cities) has brought about a relative improvement in their standards of living (more jobs available, more services "per capita"). On the other hand, the situation is closely linked to the state of the Polish economy. Despite it being in a relatively good shape, the GDP growth has slowed in recent years, especially in 2012, which caused a rise in unemployment figures (which was even more pronounced in the studied areas) and contributed to problems caused by young people with too much spare time.

It seems that if there are many young unemployed people within a neighbourhood, the problems attracts more attention on the part of local residents and leaders alike. This stems from the fact that younger population tends to spend a lot of spare time undermining the sense of security of others, drinking alcohol in public and aggressively supporting Krakow football clubs.

We have to bear in mind that Krakow is not a city with very broad economic and social disproportions. The GINI index calculated for the city places it as one of the most equal places in Poland. It is, to some extent, a symptom of the city being relatively homogenous, especially in terms of ethnicity. Generally, in Poland social inequalities are not on a public opinion agenda. The preferred topics are poverty, low educational achievement and homelessness. Problems of social cohesion are given insufficient attention. The issue is probably linked to very low immigration rates and prevailing problems with the lack of a decent infrastructure ("hard" as well as social) for all Poles.

Our two neighbourhoods have different backgrounds and history, but seem to have similar functions and problems. The problem of violence on the part of football fans is one of the more pronounced. Both

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have also very eclectic housing infrastructure which points towards increasing inequalities. Both neighbourhoods are distant from the city centre, but Mistrzejowice seems to be better connected to the centre than Rzaka.

Mistrzejowice used to have a uniform social structure linked to the professional background of most inhabitants. Nowadays, due to the privatisation of the steel mill and the worsening situation in the housing market, the population is getting more diverse, which is fuelled by the influx of young people (YUPs) from other parts of the city attracted by relatively good and inexpensive housing infrastructure.

In terms of inequalities, the most serious problem appears to be posed by the lack of good educational facilities designated specifically for the inhabitants of Mistrzejowice Nowe. The district school offers generally lower quality education than average for the city (that said, it has to be remembered that Krakow's schools are generally very good). The other school located near Mistrzejowice Nowe (Salesians) admits only the best students, which can unfortunately strengthen the inequalities, because children from handicapped backgrounds cannot get in.

Rzaka is a place with serious social and economic problems, but it also has a potential to be a quite an interesting area to live. From authors and experts' point of view, inactivity of young people is the main factor that makes it difficult to introduce social innovation. Young people in Rzaka need a social 'back-up' and social 'kick-off,' but it does not necessarily have to be connected with traditional service providers. They need support from people and institutions, speaking the same language, understanding their problems and helping them to devise their own ideas and activities.

Taking into account the low utilisation of social innovations for dealing with inequalities in Mistrzejowice Nowe and Rzaka and looking for pilot activities within the CITYSPYCE project, it is worth recalling the words of one of our interviewees (R2), who defines 'social innovation' as:

Social innovation for young people needs to be something fun, 'an event,' 'a flash-mob', something that will attract them. For me, a district fete, for instance, does not constitute such an innovation. For me, an innovation would be something that could be done during such fetes, e.g. city games, flash-mobs, something that will enable young people to take advantage of their emotions and creativity.

It should also be remembered, that (...) *for the young people, the place is not the most important thing. What counts is the atmosphere, the offer, the people. I wouldn't start with the place in every case. There are examples in Krakow of such places that were founded strictly for the young, but due to its*

unattractive offer, bad management or mentality of its staff did not meet their expectations. Conversely, even a place that is unattractive in itself, but with a fun, interesting offer, can attract the young (R2).

Having said that, we also have to bear in mind that the situation of the 'older youth' in terms of services available to them at the local level is not enviable. Both neighbourhoods lack a community centre, and notice young people only when they cause problems for other inhabitants. The main establishment which extends some of its periodic programs particularly towards the youth is Municipal Social Assistance Centre, which is an institution legally responsible for the organisation of social welfare in the area. It distributes social benefits and provides services of diverse type for people in need. Its organizational units situated all around Krakow are the Crisis Intervention Centres and Social Integration Clubs. To a certain extent, they work through social projects often financed from the EU funds (e.g. "Streetwork – Discover the potential of your neighbourhood" which is based on the work of specialists who try to identify groups at risk of exclusion and to involve them in social activities, e.g. sports, psychological counselling, social skills training). We have to bear in mind that most of the public social programmes developed for the Rzaka youth are being wound down at the moment, and none of the projects involved Mistrzejowice despite the fact that for several years a branch of the Centre operated in the area. The main way of helping local youth remains to be sports, especially football in Mistrzejowice, which, in the eyes of our respondents, helps with dealing with the symptoms of social problems (aggressive young people) and to some extent with their causes by building team-working and other social competences.

5. Appendix - Description of other services available at the city level

The situation in terms of social services for young people is more favourable when we look at the city level. The **City Council** is the major provider of such services, however, its role in the whole system of social infrastructure is complex. Departments of the City Council act as direct providers of some services, but they also provide financial funds and other forms of support for other (private, NGO and public) actors and initiate cooperation in networks of organisations (e.g. via the Municipal Centre for Social Initiatives). From the point of view of young people, the most important municipal initiative is "**Young Krakow**" – a city programme aimed at the development of young people, but also at the prevention and restriction of undesirable behaviour. The programme consists of three broad areas of activity:

- **Youth Forum for Civic Education** – its aim is to stimulate social and civic activity of young people and enable them to work for the local community. It also attempts to engage excluded youth in local social groups. Two model actions in this field are "Pupil-Citizen" (which disseminates the

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knowledge about local government) and “League of Students Councils” (which encourages the activity of students’ councils in schools);

- **Support System for Children and Young People** – it consists mainly in the building and then running of infrastructure where young people can not only spend their free time but also ask for psychological support. A specific objective of this activity is to identify and tackle the problem of “street children” and begging by, among other activities, streetworking;
- **Partnership for Youth** – it is a set of activities designed for experts and local leaders with a view to exchanging knowledge and building a network of experts and organizations.

Additionally, within the programme, a website <http://mlodziej.info/> was designed that provides exhaustive information about cultural and education events organised by the City Hall. Two worth mentioning events are *Juliada* (a month-long sports event in summer) and *Winter in the City* (cultural activities organised during winter holidays), which offer worse-off children an opportunity to spend their holidays actively.

The **Youth Centre of H. Jordan** is worth mentioning in this respect. It is a municipal organisation with pre-war traditions, which runs over 250 permanent activity groups for children and young people from around Krakow and organises numerous events and festivals during the year. It also aims to develop international cooperation and organises trips abroad for its charges. A lot of those activities are free-of-charge. The Centre runs the **Youth Information** unit and a website which initiates multiple activities in the field of the labour market. It provides for the counselling of adolescents and young adults in the areas of education and career planning, it also develops competences that may be useful in the labour market, promotes volunteer services and informs about the requirements to be met before moving abroad.

Another labour market institution that targets specifically young people are the **Voluntary Labour Corps (OHP)**. It is an organisation supervised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, which undertakes a wide array of action aimed at improving the employment situation of adolescents and young adults. They run a job agency, provide training and counselling, cooperate closely with schools and organise holidays and volunteering activities. At the moment, they conduct a project, funded from the European Social Fund ‘New Perspectives 2,’ aimed at young people threatened with social exclusion (15–25).

The **Voivodeship Labour Office** is the key institution in the area of employment. Besides conducting a number of labour market policies, it plays an important role in the management and administration of the European Funds. However, most of its activities are horizontal in terms of their recipients, with

actually little actions aimed specifically at improving the employment situation of young people. In the past, such dedicated projects were organised, e.g. in 2007-2011 the Malopolska Youth Job and Education Fair took place on an annual basis.

Among the non-governmental providers, the role of **Siemacha Association** needs to be emphasised. It functions in different areas, both social and commercial ones. In Krakow, it runs 5 daily activities centres, in which charges take part in educational, sports and cultural classes. “Siemacha” also founded the **Cracow Institute of Psychotherapy (KIP)**, which offers free-of-charge counselling to both children and adults (individuals and families). Another non-governmental initiative is the **Centre for People Affected by Violence** run by **Caritas**.

An inter-organisational initiative that assists victims of family violence is the **Blue Card**. It relies on the cooperation among 6 institutional actors: the police, social care, the Municipal Council, health care, education and justice. Thus, it should provide a multidimensional approach to the problem of violence and in that way protect the victims as well as possible. However, as our interviewees indicated, the cooperation does not work well in practice. In consequence, results of the programme in many cases are disappointing. In extreme cases, children can be placed in child-care centres on the strength of a decision by the family court – a few of them, run either by public institutions or by NGOs, are situated in the city.

One of the institutions involved in the Blue Card programme is the **Regional Board of Education**. Its main responsibility is to organise the educational network in the city. However, it also participates in labour market policies (e.g. it contributed to „Lesser Poland Partnership of institutions of labour market, education and training”) and social policy (the Blue Card programme) and it encourages the introduction of innovations and experiments in education (i.e. in the field of integration of disabled students). There are also some institutions whose aim is to prevent addictions or to assist those already addicted (e.g. the Cracow Centre for the Therapy of Addictions, the Municipal Centre for the Prevention of Addictions). Finally, a certain role in this respect is played by organizations responsible for law and order in the city. Both the police and municipal police conduct prevention-oriented programmes among the young. Its actions include educational visits in schools, lifesaving courses, promotion of safety in schools and combatting addictions.

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