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### **Preventing Urban Dementia - Empowering Older People To Identify, Protect And Develop *Their* Meaningful Places**

In contrast to neutral spaces, older people or their communities need to identify, protect and develop *their* meaningful places. In processes of gentrification of urban areas and neighbourhoods older people discover that they attach social/aesthetic/emotional value to some places. As part of their personal or collective cultural heritage, these places are linked to their personal or social identity. Ignorant, sometimes even brutal, gentrification is causing urban dementia (the loss of memories, emotions and identity of older people), which is impoverishing not only them and their peers, but also members of other generations.

In order to identify, protect and develop their meaningful places, older people need the knowledge acquired through research-based learning in various forms of non-formal education, where they thematise their explicit or implicit knowledge in such a way that it can be communicated in a wide range of transformative public performances (publications in specialised magazines, street roundtables, radio broadcasts, Action Bound programmes they develop, etc.). In doing so, they hope that architects, decision-makers, urban planners, gerontologists and other experts will listen to them and use their insights while transforming the urban environment. The author will present **City 65+ Between Retreat and Urbanity**, a case study based on the descriptive ethnographic method she has been applying in several projects.

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### **Preprečevanje urbane demence- opolnomočenje starejših za prepoznavanje, zaščito in razvoj *njihovih* pomenljivih krajev**

V nasprotju s prostori ki so nevtralni, morajo starejši ali njihove skupnosti v ti. procesih gentrifikacije urbanih območij in dugod *svoje* pomenljive

kraje, ki jim pripisujejo družbeno/estetsko/čustveno vrednost, prepoznati, zaščititi in razvijati. Kot del njihove osebne ali kolektivne kulturne dediščine so ti kraji povezani z njihovo osebno ali družbeno identiteto. Nevedna, mestoma celo brutalna gentrifikacija povzroča *urbano demenco* (izguba spominov, čustev in identitete starejših ljudi). Ta ne siromaši zgolj njih in njihovih vrstnikov, temveč tudi pripadnike drugih rodov.

Za prepoznavanje, varovanje in razvijanje *svojih* pomembnih krajev starejši potrebujejo znanje, pridobljeno z raziskovalnim učenjem v različnih oblikah neformalnega izobraževanja. Tam tematizirajo svoje eksplicitno ali implicitno znanje tako, da ga lahko posredujejo v najrazličnejših za občitnstvo transformativnih javnih nastopih (objave v specializiranih revijah, ulične okrogle mize, radijske oddaje, programi Action Bound itd.) Pri tem upajo, da jim bodo arhitekti, odločevalci, urbanisti, gerontologi in drugi strokovnjaki prisluhnili in bodo njihova spoznanja uporabili pri preoblikovanju urbanega okolja. Avtorica bo predstavila študijski primer *Mesto 65+ Med umikom in urbanostjo*, utemeljen na deskriptivno etnografski metodi, ki jo je uporabila v več projektih na področju prepoznavanja, zaščite in razvoja pomenljivih krajev starejših.