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JIŽNÍ MĚSTO - AS A PLACE TO LIVE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF TWO GENERATIONS OF ITS FIRST INHABITANTS

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ABSTRACT

In comparison with the countries of Western and Northern Europe, in Central and Eastern Europe the degradation process of large post-WWII housing estates has progressed more slowly. Owing to the specific national socio-economic circumstances, these estates have mostly retained their mixed populations and there is no stigma yet attached to living on an estate. However, negative development is expected to occur as living standards rise, the standards for living conditions become more demanding, and the effects of increasing social inequality begin to be felt. The current state and future of such estates depend on their location, the social structure of their populations, and the speed of revitalisation, as the key factors for successful development appear to be a socially mixed population and a good image.

The paper introduces results of qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews with respondents in their thirties (who as children at the age of 2-3 moved with their parents into Prague housing estate Jižní Město I. in 1977-1978 and spent their childhood and adolescence there) and with their parents. The data set is a certain sample of Jižní Město population, which allows to observe and analyse phenomena and processes which are typical of housing estates and life in housing estates during the last thirty years in the context of society changes and maturing of the estates. The aim of this study was to find out how the life is going in the largest and the most famous Czech housing estate (with bad image) in different phases of the life cycle.