

Abstract

A just society, as understood in this thesis, has to deal with several challenges. The society needs to address injustices which arise from unequal participation on economic system, from cultural (discursive) practices and from imperfections of democratic participation. Moreover, it has to deal with spatial dimensions of social processes and with variety of geographical contexts. This thesis draws on critical social science traditions. Beside scientific contribution, the aim of the thesis is to point out some hidden or omitted social problems and injustices.

In Czechia, transformation processes after 1989 led among other results to increasing income differentiation and discrimination of some population groups. In the housing sector, these processes resulted in creation of segregated socially excluded localities. Devolution of housing policies to local/municipal level created an opportunity for solving these problems with respect to local circumstances.

These activities could be supported by the program of new rental housing construction for population with limited income which was provided by the State Fund of Housing Development. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, this thesis answers the question on (i) where was new public housing constructed, (ii) what were the motives of municipalities for the construction and (iii) what were its effects from social and spatial justice perspectives.

New supported rental housing construction increased the supply of public housing in small municipalities and in peripheral regions. Low construction level was reached in large centers and their surroundings. New public housing construction was motivated by intentions to support local development, to increase or sustain local population level or to regenerate brownfields in the municipality. New housing construction was only partly motivated by social justice goals to provide housing for those who cannot otherwise afford it. Allocation mechanisms of new housing are structurally discriminating households which come from other municipalities, long-term unemployed or indebted persons.

On the one hand side, new quality housing was provided to many inhabitants of small municipalities. On the other hand side needs of inhabitants of larger cities or of socially excluded localities were omitted. Contemporary institutional setting of housing policy is based on responsibility and activity of municipalities. Policy mechanism cannot deal with situation of municipal inactivity in just housing provision or in cases of active creation of injustices by municipal housing policies.