

INVESTMENTS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SPACES FOR PLAY AND SPORTS

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Abstract: The subject of this paper is the analysis of strategic investments of municipalities in the Sarajevo Canton, in areas for play and sports. Municipalities have a major role to play in creating adequately equipped sports facilities, in order to properly manage children's and sports playgrounds, and to contribute to and ensure safety in this area. The analysis will provide insight into the number of safe spaces for play and sports in individual municipalities in Sarajevo Canton and their qualitative condition. We will focus on investment data for the construction of new and maintenance of existing spaces. The aim of this paper is to examine the significance of investments of municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, in safe areas for sports and children's play, because due to the diversity of arrangements in the field of sports, at different levels of administrative organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for a long time there is an unfavorable environment. The responsibility for creating and developing safe play areas for children and young people belongs to public institutions, which have clearly defined goals for the development of safe play areas, and poor maintenance of playgrounds causes more severe injuries to children and young people. The methodological tools used are adapted to the nature of the data and the hypothetical research framework, with content analysis methods and descriptive statistics methods being used as basic.

Keywords: Local community, investment, safe space for play and sports

INTRODUCTION

„Safe play areas are children's playgrounds, parks, landscaped green areas adapted to the needs of both children and youth. These are spaces for play and entertainment. Premises should primarily be safe, spaces that should be adapted for safe play and carefree children, spaces that would include green areas without waste and dangerous objects, which are often located on the same. We know that in parks, as well as playgrounds, inappropriate objects are often found, such as broken bottles of alcoholic beverages, syringes, needles, cigarette butts and other objects that pose a danger to children, who through play in such areas come into direct danger of succumb to many injuries and illnesses.“

Children have guaranteed rights to play and leisure, without compromising their safety. Threats to their safety are numerous and require a systematic approach in order to respond to them adequately and act preventively, and the most important to note is the danger of defective devices, waste and mutual injury. In taking responsibility for the safety of children's playgrounds, it is necessary to distinguish between persons (natural and/or legal) who are responsible for maintaining safety standards on playgrounds, and in accordance with this criterion we recognize three groups: Responsibility of local governments; Responsibility of educational institutions; Responsibility of legal and natural persons who implement pre-school education programs at primary schools and as playrooms in libraries, health, social, cultural and sports institutions and associations. For all children's playgrounds built on public areas of the local government unit, the responsibility for the safety of the playground lies with the persons responsible for the

functioning of the local government unit. It should be noted here that local governments should have organized monitoring of the safety of playgrounds owned by them and remove and repair play equipment to prevent potential injuries to children.“ Places for play and sports as part of educational institutions are the responsibility of the director of that institution, and since a large number of children use these spaces almost every day, the safety aspect should be primary. Local communities should take certain measures in order to achieve the highest possible level of security, and some of the necessary measures are: monitoring the safety of the area, repair or replacement of play and sports equipment, highlighting the rules of conduct, as well as creating toll-free telephone number for reporting possible faults and irregularities in those areas. When we talk about the quality of space for play and sports, then we do not mean only the different types of devices that will complement the activities of children and youth, but we primarily mean the quality of the devices, surfaces, and adequate installation and maintenance. The quality of playgrounds in Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been systematically examined for a long time, and the last time in 2014 was a visual inspection of children's playgrounds and laboratory tests. According to the results of that supervision, out of 115 inspected playgrounds, 103 of them are defective or noncompliant, and the fact that all 66 inspected children's playgrounds in the Sarajevo Canton are incorrect is especially significant. This alarming fact should result in measures and activities, primarily of local communities, both in investments in the reconstruction of old and construction of new playgrounds, and in their maintenance. Investing in new spaces for play and sports and their maintenance is as important as investing in neglected spaces, because "unsafe space for play and sports" will cause

the opposite effect than desired, by causing more or less serious injuries to children, or to make that space a place where people prone to alcohol or narcotics will stay. The responsibility for creating and developing safe play areas for children and young people belongs to public institutions, which have clearly defined goals for the development of safe play areas and sports. The subject of this paper, as already mentioned, is the analysis of strategic investments of municipalities in the Sarajevo Canton in safe spaces for sports and play. Municipalities have the largest role in creating adequately equipped areas for sports and play, in the proper management of children's and sports playgrounds, and to ensure safety in these areas. The analysis will provide insight into the number of safe spaces for sports and play in individual municipalities in Sarajevo Canton and their qualitative condition, and special focus will be placed on data on investments in the previous three years in this area. We will also analyze data on the population and the age structure of the population. The aim of this paper is to examine the significance of investments of municipalities in Sarajevo Canton, in safe areas for sports and play, because due to the diversity of arrangements in the field of sports, at different levels of administrative organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for a long time there is an unfavorable environment.

METHODS AND RESEARCH

The hypothetical framework of this research relies on the thesis that greater investment of local communities in safe spaces for play and sports, significantly contributes to safety in this area. In addition to the safety of children and youth, greater investment by local communities in safe areas will positively affect the age structure of the population, and it will have a positive effect on both birth rates and the area will be

"attractive" for couples who change their place of residence. The methodological tools used for the purposes of this research are adapted to the nature of the data, the goal and the hypothetical framework of the research, using the methods of content analysis and the methods of descriptive statistics as the basic ones. Content analysis methods and description methods will be used in the theoretical part, while in the research part we will use the method of statistical analysis and the comparative method. In addition to the above, we will use the method of compilation, which is taking over other people's research results, or analysis of works by other authors who have dealt with this or similar issues. The biggest problem that arose during the data analysis is that each of the municipalities documents these investments in different ways, furthermore, the classifications in the budgets are not the same, and in many cases the data are grouped with other types of investments. Given the above problem, apart from this source of data, we conducted interviews with almost all persons in charge of sports and children's playgrounds in the municipalities of Sarajevo Canton, but some local authorities are clearly not transparent enough when it comes to spending public funds.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are nine municipalities in the area of Sarajevo Canton, but only five of them we managed to collect adequate data, as can be seen in Table 1. However, it is significant that we get valid data from all four city municipalities.

First of all, we will compare the situation regarding the "load" of playgrounds by municipalities, in order to determine in which areas in Sarajevo Canton playgrounds are most accessible for children and youth. (Table 2).

Table No. 1: Availability of data in municipalities in Sarajevo Canton

MUNICIPALITY	Data on the number of playgrounds	Population data	Maintenance investment data	Data on investments in reconstruction and construction
Stari Grad	Available	Available	Available	Available
Novi Grad	Available	Available	Available	Available
Centar	Available	Available	Available	Available
Novo Sarajevo	Available	Available	Available	Available
Ilidža	Unavailable	Available	Unavailable	Unavailable
Hadžići	Unavailable	Available	Unavailable	Unavailable
Vogošća	Available	Available	Available	Available
Ilijaš	Unavailable	Available	Unavailable	Unavailable
Trnovo	Unavailable	Available	Unavailable	Unavailable

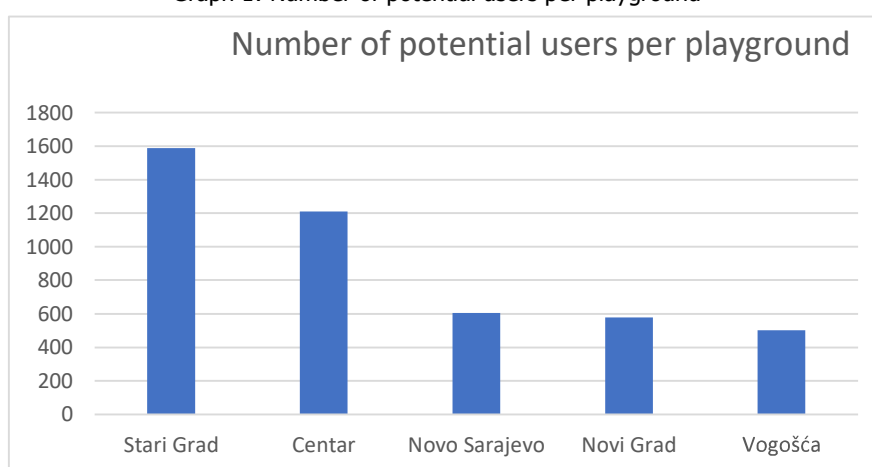
As we can see in Table No. 2, the Municipality of Vogošća has the most comfortable playgrounds, while according to these indicators the worst situation is in the Municipality of Stari grad. For a better perception

of the differences between these municipalities, we will graphically present this Table in Graph 1.

Table No. 2: Number of potential users per playground

MUNICIPALITY	Number of potential users per playground
Stari Grad	1589
Centar	1210
Novo Sarajevo	605
Novi Grad	577
Vogošća	502

Graph 1: Number of potential users per playground



This situation in some municipalities should alert the competent services to work systematically on this problem, which in the long run can cause a number of negative effects on the health and satisfaction of the population, as well as on the demographic picture. The age structure of the population is slowly becoming a

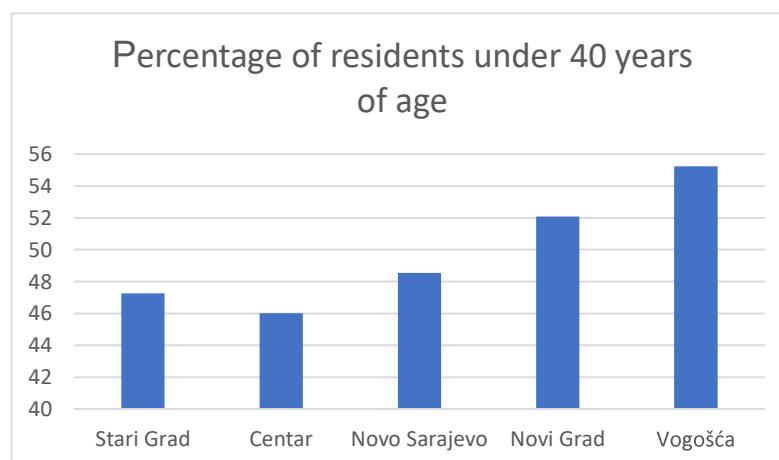
problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a high rate of emigration of young people and falling birth rates faced only by the fact that we are becoming a state of "old", and many demographic predictions show that we could disappear as a society. (Table 2.)

Table No. 3: Percentage of residents under 40 years of age

MUNICIPALITY	Percentage of residents under 40 years of age
Stari Grad	47,26
Centar	46,03
Novo Sarajevo	48,55
Novi Grad	52,08
Vogošća	55,23

We will also graphically present this table for the purpose of visual comparison of the age of the population by municipalities, ie the population younger than 40 years expressed in estimates. (Graph 2)

Graph No. 2: Percentage of residents under 40 years of age



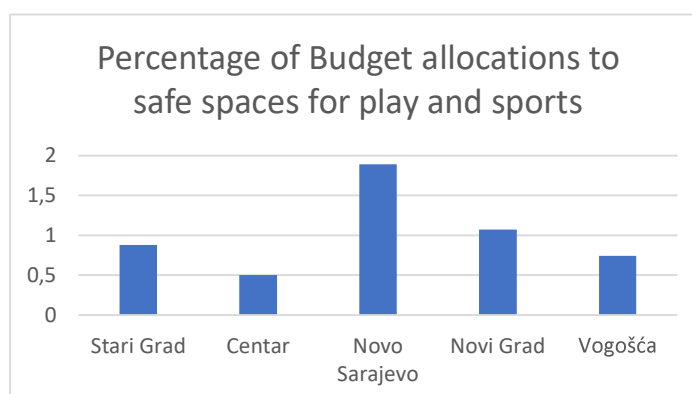
Safe spaces for play and sports are certainly not a determining factor in this phenomena, but we can certainly encourage positive changes by creating an adequate environment for children and young people. By allocating more public revenues for the construction of new and maintenance of old playgrounds, municipalities can directly or indirectly influence the

trends related to health, birth rates, micro-migration, crime, etc. In Table No. 3, we can see how much the individual municipalities have allocated on average in the last three years to safe areas for play and sports. The Municipality of Novo Sarajevo and the Municipality of Novi Grad allocate the most funds for this purpose, with more than 1% of collected public funds each.

Table No. 3: Percentage of Budget allocations to safe spaces for play and sports

MUNICIPALITY	Percentage of Budget allocations to safe spaces for play and sports
Stari Grad	0,88
Centar	0,50
Novo Sarajevo	1,89
Novi Grad	1,07
Vogošća	0,74

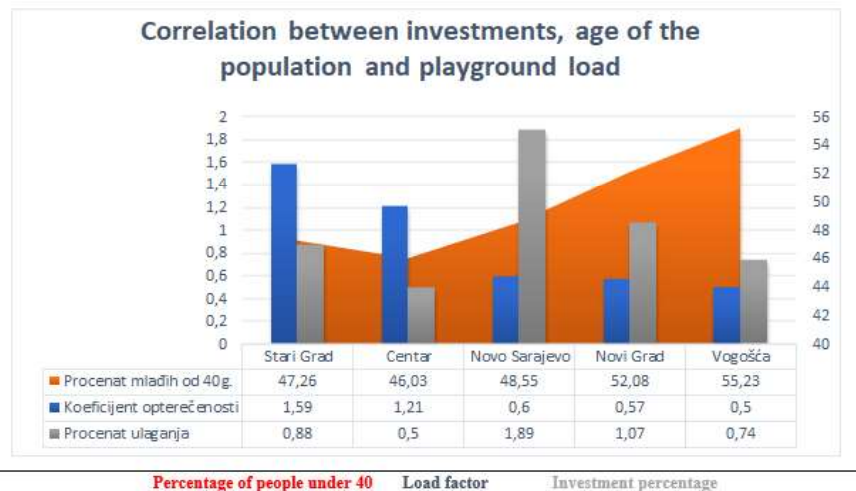
Graph No. 3: Percentage of budget allocations to safe spaces for play and sports



Graph No. 4 shows the correlation of the percentage of persons under the age of 40, the percentage of lying in safe areas for play and sports, and the load on the playgrounds. In order to have an easier and clearer

relationship between the above, we will divide the number of potential users per playground by 1000, and we will observe the obtained indicator as a load factor of the playground.

Graph 4: Correlation between investments, age of the population and playground load



From this graphic presentation, the connection between the load factor of the playground and the percentage of persons younger than 40 years is

evident, the higher the load on the playgrounds, the smaller the number of younger people.

CONCLUSION

This paper established the importance of sports and play for children and youth, ie safe spaces for these activities. We saw how much this was recognized by the local communities in the part in which we analyzed the investments of the municipalities in safe spaces for play and sports. The hypothetical framework of this paper relied on the thesis that greater investment contributes to safety on playgrounds, and that investing in this area contributes to positive demographic trends. We can conclude that the hypothesis was confirmed, because in our opinion there was an evident improvement compared to the situation in 2014, when the Bosnia and Herzegovina Market Surveillance Agency determined that all inspected playgrounds in Sarajevo were defective. Municipal investments in safe spaces for play and sports have resulted in the construction of new and reconstruction of old playgrounds, so it would be necessary for Bosnia and Herzegovina Market Surveillance Agency to conduct a new control of children's and sports playgrounds in order to establish the real quality situation.

The research also led to the conclusion that there is an inversely proportional relationship between the number of people under the age of 40 and the load on

the playgrounds, ie the higher the load per playground, the smaller the number of people under the age of 40. Although it was to be expected that there was a higher work load in municipalities where more young people live, this research showed that on the contrary, spaces with less loaded playgrounds are more attractive for younger people, mostly due to accessibility. Investments in safe spaces for play and sports, in addition to the safety of children and young people, have other positive effects, such as increased population activity, health, sports success, reduction of deviant behavior, demographic picture, etc.

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