

## Active public Space

The central theme of the Datathon is **Active public space**. We will have a chance to analyze Prague city data in order to improve city or governmental policies as well as concrete spaces. How can data help to actively shape cities? How can we activate public space by data usage? How can citizens collect data and actively shape their city? We will focus on exploring – and potentially implementing – new solutions. We suggest three main themes, but participants are also free to develop their own questions based on their personal or team interests.

### 1. Urban Movements

Mapping movements across the city helps to analyze the city's main traffic arteries as well as alternative routes of commuting in order to adapt and create a more efficient traffic system. They can as well reveal the potential dynamics and needs of spaces in the city. Moreover, an active public transport, supported by all kinds of alternative transportation tools, is a condition for a compact and healthy city.

#### Suggested questions:

- **Effect of limited parking zones:** *Have limited parking zones achieved their goals?*
- **Alternatives for Prague:** *How can we further reduce car transportation in Prague? Can we predict the impact on local, microdistrict-level pollution? Which transportation tools are the most effective for the city in 21<sup>st</sup> century?*
- **Transportation neglect zones:** *Have some microdistricts been privileged while others neglected in their access to transportation? What are some of their characteristics?*

### 2. Diverse City

Multiculturalism, different lifestyles and economic backgrounds are essential for contemporary metropolis. We should be able to balance varied situations in the urban space and let to explore the diverse city. Platforms related to food, culture and politics, for example, can gather potentially an economically more diverse group of people, that converge around the same values. These events, communicated on social networks, can as well impact on the choice of places and neighborhoods where people go, which can be outside their normal routines and their social environment.

#### Suggested questions:

- **No city for old men:** *How does the urban layout of the city match needs of elderly population?*
- **Diversity and prosperity:** *Does diversity produce prosperity? Are Prague districts that are ethnically, religiously, socioeconomically and culturally diverse a better place to live?*

- **Small business development:** *How can diverse small business owners identify micro districts suitable for their business? For example, if someone wants to open a new restaurant or a bike shop, would you recommend some micro-districts over others?*
- **Refugee integration:** *Is Prague ready for accepting refugees? What should be Prague's strategy for refugee accommodation? Are some micro districts more suitable to accommodate them than others? Currently refugees are located outside of Prague in small towns and villages thus not being integrated into multicultural environment that Prague offers.*

### 3. Bottom-up Impact

Virtual tools can allow a more participative urbanism, through citizen mapping for example. The role of social media in urbanism is a theme that has emerged in the past 15 years as data collecting and reading can be available today for a larger amount of people. The virtual tool eases the process of being informed as well as creating the information. Many platforms are created by users in order to communicate or give the tools needed to express an idea. This data-driven participatory and interactive mapping can empower people to appropriate the space which they inhabit as users today can be more informed due to the available data online as well as, they have the opportunity today to own or use the so-called planning tools.

#### Suggested questions:

- **Activating public space:** *How can virtual distributed tools allow for a more participative urbanism? What are some innovative (and potentially distributed, or inexpensive) ways to collect information?*
- **Unhinging evidence-based policy making:** *How can more statistically significant, unbiased data be generated for better policy making? What kind of data is currently needed but not collected to solve the city's problems?*

#### Questions combining all of the above topics:

- **Livable Prague:** *Which districts of Prague are the most livable and how can we improve the other ones? (Define the characteristics of livable environment of today inspired by international rankings).*
- **Abandoned districts:** *Why are some micro-districts abandoned or dilapidated? Can the experience of other districts help define a renewal strategy?*
- **Residential Prague:** *What impacts the residential real estate prices? Which public space interventions are valued by citizens based on the property prices around them?*

#### About the data:

All the data we will be using is divided into 916 microdistricts (základní sídelní jednotka) of Prague (for example Bohnice-Sever). Microdistricts can be combined to neighborhoods (část

obce, for example Bohnice) and these add up to municipalities (městská část, for example Prague 8). For your work you will choose whether you want to focus on individual microdistricts or it would be better to look at neighborhoods or municipalities. It will also depend on the problem you will be working on.