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Sustainable development of dense urban areas in correlation with planning requirements of educational facilities and belonging open spaces – an issue of social welfare

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Introduction

The raise of private investments and stagnation of public investments due to civil wars in the Balkans in the 1990s and the continuing financial crisis resulted with growing pressure on development of public educational facility network and derogation of areas intended for public education. One of the consequences of this development is two-shift working model in schools and great deficiency of unsealed open spaces, which implies an impact on sustainable and ecological urban development and social welfare.

Methods

The following comparative analytics will be used:

- Analysis of legal basis for urban planning concerning required areas for educational facilities from 1970s until 2021 and comparison with planning codes of member states of EU,
- Comparison of public educational spaces relative to demographic data from 1970s until 2021 on the territory of the city of Belgrade,
- Comparison of enrolled pupils to spatial areas including two-shift working schools.

Results

The surface sealing of dense urban areas has an environmental impact due to continuing decrease of urban planning requirements of educational and pre-school facilities which are traditionally associated with wide open spaces, park areas and unsealed surfaces. Continuous reduction of building and urban planning codes even in developed countries causes vast reduction of urban health, ecological and social welfare.

Discussion

Public investments in education facilities should be respected by urban planning codes as a priority in sustainable urbanization, otherwise, the consequence of irresponsible urbanization and extensive surface sealing is an irreversible damage to dense urban areas.

Keywords: *social welfare, public education, sustainable urban planning, unsealed surfaces, dense urban areas*

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