Research project:
”The memory of vanished population groups in today’s east and central European urban environments. Memory treatment and urban planning in L’viv, Černivci, Chișinău and Wrocław”

Introduction and general presentation.

Bo Larsson, 19.11.2014.
Before 1914: Poland divided between the Russian, German and Austro-Hungarian empires

Interwar years: Poland restored, Romania extended, historic Moldavia (Moldova) united within the borders of Romania
During and after World War II: Jews murdered in all the cities, Poles expelled from L’viv/Lwów, Germans and Poles from Černivci, Germans from Wrocław/Breslau. Many Romanians driven into exile from Chişinău and Černivci/Cernăuţi. How has the memory of them been treated in the urban environment?

Share of the 1939 population, remaining in 1945-50:
- Wrocław: Maximum 5 %.
- L’viv: 10-15 %
- Černivci: 15-20 %
- Chişinău: Maximum 50 %.

After 1945: New borders, new national connections, new political systems
After 1991: Dissolution of the Soviet Unionen. Poland comes to EU.
The vanished population

• Wrocław: 95 %
• L’viv: 85-90 %
• Černivci: 80-85 % (many Ukrainians also deported) later to Siberia etc.
• Chișinău: around 55% (we need better figures)

The Jewish population

• Chișinău: The largest share: Almost 50% of the population.
• L’viv: The largest number, 135 000, and the most brutal Holocaust.
• Černivci: 40 % - the largest and leading urban group.
• Wrocław: 5% (I high figure in Germany) but significant – 11 Nobel lauraetes – 6 of them Jewish.)
• Background: Holocaust, forced migration, new settlement during/after WW II.
• Built environment as memories of the vanished population. (The history of buildings, earlier owners and users. Focus in chosen urban districts. Deepened studies of certain buildings / interviews.)
• Treatment of these memories in urban planning, development policies and and in daily use and in city descriptions, at museums etc.
• Comparisons between the cities: parallels and differences and why?
• Knowledge and consciousness about this heritage by the present population. Narratives about the city neighbourhoods and their former inhabitants.
• Current discussions concerning memory treatment and preservation of built heritage. (Demolition means erasing historical traces!)
Three main aspects

- The built environment as reflection of the vanished population and of earlier urban life. (Archives, inventory on site; interviews.)
- Knowledge; memories and attitudes in the minds of the present population. Concerning the vanished population and built environment. (Interviews, surveys.)
- Treatment of memories / heritage in urban planning, media, tourist guides, at museums etc. (Archives, interviews, literature.)
Interviews and surveys

- I. Interview with old people (aged around 85-90) with personal memories of interwar and war years in the four cities.
- II. Interviews with inhabitants, especially at chosen streets, concerning their knowledge and attitude to vanished population groups and their reflection in the urban environment.
- III. Elite interviews: Interviews with people working with cultural heritage, planning, planning policy and other personalities of culture or persons with influence within this area.
- IV. Survey with students: Survey to find out the knowledge and interest among young students concerning to vanished population groups and their reflection in the urban environment.
- Concluding discussion: Similarities and differences between the cities, concerning memories embedded in the city environment and, knowledge and interest concerning this memory and memory treatment, especially in urban planning.
The urban environment as reflections of the vanished population

What is to be remembered?

The basic aim is to study the urban environment before World War II as precisely as possible:

How did buildings and streets look like?

How was the functional structure – where were different kinds of shops, meeting places, cafés – how was daily urban life?

How was the social and ethnic structure? Where did the different social and ethnic groups live? How is it reflected in the buildings?

Comparisons with the situation today.

THE DIFFERENCE TO MOST OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE IS THAT THE URBAN CULTURE CAME TO A BRUTAL AND UNEXPECTED END IN THE YEARS 1939-45. THE CITY REMAINED BUT IT WAS QUITE NEW SOCIETIES.
Important sources are old maps – but they can be difficult to find.

Old town Chișinău on a Soviet plan around 1945
Cernăuți 1936 – digitalised address book

Lwów address book 1929 – only enterprises

Cernăuți October 1940 – owners at the Soviet nationalisation

The archive material is varied

Czarnowitz, owners in 1910 at a street regulation
Breslau address book 1937 - register of branches, and list of households an enterprises along the streets.

Different kinds of material are compared. Names are written on detailed street maps.
Černivci / Czernowitz / Cernăuți - streets studied.

Streets studied and described systematically
Streets mentioned in memories, shortly described.

1 Černivci / Czernowitz / Cernăuți - streets studied.

1 Piata Veche / not existing today
2 Piata Sfântul Ilie / not existing today
3 Str. Gen. T. Răceanu / Str. Arhanghelul Mihai
4 Str. Fântâna Blanduzia / not existing today
5 Strada Decebal / not existing today
6 Strada Petru Rareș / partly existing with the same name, partly Strada Al. Dordoiță
7 Strada Iancu Vâcârescu / Strada Pruncul
8 Str. Alexandru Cotrușta / Str. Moara Roșie
9 Strada Sfințul Ilie / same name today
10 Strada Română / partly existing, same name
11 Strada Vineri / Strada Octavian Goga
12 Strada Cahul / partly existing, same name
13 Str. Alexandru Vlăduț / same name today
14 Strada Miron Costin / Strada Rabbi Tirlson
16 Strada Mareșal Abervescu / Strada Ismail
17 Str. Grig. Ureche / partly existing, same name
18 Str. Sfințului Gheorghe / same name today
19 Strada Ecaterina Teodoroiu / not existing today
20 Strada Băcescu / not existing today
21 Str. Gheorghe Lazăr / partly exist., Str. A. Hăideu
22 Str. Gh. Coșbuc / partly existing, same name
23 Str. Alex. cel Bun / Bd. Ștefan cel Mare și Sfânt
24 Strada Regele Carol I / Strada A. Pușkin
25 Str. Carol Schmidt / Str. Mitropolitul Varlaam
26 Strada Regina Maria / Strada Vâcărciță Păcălaș
27 Piata Nouă / same name today
28 Str. Mihai Viteazul / Strada Mihai Eminescu
29 Str. Gen. Brosteanu / Str. Vasile Alexandri
30 Str. Mareșal P. Badoglio / Str. Armenească
31 Strada Mihai Eminescu / Strada Verona Micle
32 Str. Regele Ferdinand I / Str. 31 August 1989
33 Strada Ion G. Brătianu / Strada Bucureștiști
34 Str. Ștefan cel Mare / Strada Câmpulung
35 Strada Haralambie / Strada Alexandru cel Bun
36 Strada Universitatei / Strada Mitropolit G. Bănulescu-Bodoni
37 Strada Mihai Kogălniceanu / same name today
38 Str. Ion Șincai
39 Springbrunnenpl. / Piata Vânta / no name
40 Synagogenasse / Strada Wilson / Henri Barbusse a
41 Springbrunneng. / Str. Ion Creangă / vul. no name
42 Str. Gen. Averescu / vul. Sahajda
43 Bahnhofsstr. / Str. C. Brătianu / vul. Gărița
44 Enzenberg Hauptstr. / Str. Regele Ferdinand / Holovna vul.
45 Judengasse / Str. Eremiașca / vul. Scholl-Adolphina
46 Wechselbr. / Str. Mihai Tellman / vul. Hârția / etc.
47 Bergasse / Strada Deulia / vul. Dupăște / etc.
48 Hermannagasse / Str. Hermannschatz / vul. Zankovce ka
49 Karolinenasse / Str. Aramianca / vul. Zankovce ka
50 Rudolphshof / Mehului / Piata Dacia / plosoaca Lăzarea
51 Ringplatz / Piata Unirii / Centrala ploști
52 Postgasse / Strada Bucureștiști / vul. Chustkovka
53 Tempelgasse / Str. D. Duca / Universitatea/ka vul. Hârția
54 Herrenengasse / Str. Iancu Ponderă / vul. O' roomy / Avranul
55 Rathausstrasse / Strada Regina Maria / Holovna vul. Hârția
56 Liliengasse / Str. Constantin Brâncoveanu / vul. Ivana Franka
57 Goethegasse / Strada Goethe / vul. Ivana Franka
58 Heinengasse / Str. Lenin / vul. Steinberg
59 Schillerpark / Parcul Găriță / vul. Filipovka
60 Roscher Hauptstr. / Strada Radu cel Mare / vul. Vyshchega
61 Teichgasse / Strada Iazului / Charkivska vul.
62 Winzergasse / Str. Costache Negruzzi / vul. Pyrohova
63 Lehmgasse / Strada Sucevei / vul. M. Drahomanova
64 Piteygasse / Strada Pitei / vul. O. Dobroho
65 Dreifaltigkeitsg. / Str. Treimi / vul. B. Chmelnytska
66 Universtätsgasse - Residenzgasse / Universitatea - Str. Mitropolitul Silviu / Universitatea vul.
67 Albertengasse / Str. Dimitrie Onciul / vul. Cereșului
68 Verbindungsgasse / vul. Akad. Babylava
69 Stefaniengasse / Strada Eminescu / vul. Gor / vul. Cereșului
70 Steinengasse / Str. O. Iosif / vul. Cereșului / vul. Holovna
71 Waagasse / Str. Anastasie Cimica / vul. L. Va Tolstoi
73 Rapfgasse / Strada Popovici / vul. Holovna vul.
74 Bilea Str. / Str. Bilea / vul. Cereșului
75 Russian Gasse / Strada Romană / Ruska vul. Hârția
76 Dr. Brott-Goiester / Str. Al. cel Bun / vul. O. Dobrohou
77 Maria-Theresen-Str. / Str. M. Costin / vul. Cereșului
78 Josifagasse / Strada Ioan Zait / vul. Holovna vul. Hârția
80 Schulgasse / Str. Gen. Pruna / vul. Hârția
81 Türkengasse / Str. Turcăscă / Turek vul. Hârția
82 Färbergasse / Str. Urban Iarnic / vul. Hârția
83 Schönbrunnring / Str. Voroshevici / vul. Voroshevici vul. Hârția
84 Schmiedgasse / Str. Zimbru / vul. Hârția
85 Gartengasse / Strada Regele Carol / vul. Voroshevici vul. Hârția
87 Mustazzagasse / Str. Şerban Voda / vul. Rudans'ko vul. Hârția
88 Grätzgasse / Str. Vasile Lucaci / vul. Zaliznjakova

Chișinău - Kishinev, Streets studied.

Streets studied, property owners in 1930. Streets studied, property owners in 1940.
Streets mentioned in the text but not studied systematically.

- Streets studied and described systematically from the address book 1929.
- Streets mentioned in memories, shortly described.

1. ulica Żółkiewska / vulija B. Chmel'nyc'kojho
2. ulica Św. Marcina / Żovkivs'ka vulija
3. ul. Żmudskiej / Zmarstyns'ka vulija
4. ulica Kresów / Chmielnica vulija
5. ul. Oleksiowska / prosp. V'aječslova Cornescola
6. ulica Pod Dubem / vulija Pid Dubom
7. ul. Słoneczna / vulija Pantelejmona Kulśa
8. ulica Wolności / Chorvats'ka vulija
9. ulica Janowska / vulija Severnica
10. ulica Bema / vulija Jaroslava Múdroho
11. ul. Świętokrzyska / vul. Dmytra Bortnjaka koho
12. ul. Częstochowska / vul. Merenda Junaka
15. pl. Świętoajovskiego / vul. Kropyvnyts'kojho
17. ul. Leona Sapiehy / vul. Stepana Bandery
18. ul. Komenda Ujazskiego / vul. Istjanovycja
19. pl. Świętojana / pl. Svjatojana Jura
20. ul. 29, Listopada / vul. Evhene Konovalećja
Old photos of people and city environment have much to tell.
Interviews with old people who remember
Anita Derman Mark

Hedwig Brenner, born Langhaus

Elias and Hildegard Gulinsky

Josif Bursuk

Zvi Harry Likwornik

Margit Bartfeld Feller

Interviewees from Cernăuți

Sidi (Sidonie) Gross, Born Müller

Peter Lehner
Interviewed people from Lwów

Sara Salomea Strudler (Alisa Caspi)

Scheindl-Charlotte Kohn (Nava Ruda)

Dawid Glick

Lili Chuwis Thau

Amalia Posament (Aviva Ziv)
Comparing conclusions will concern:

- Ethnic and political conditions before World War II.
- World War II, Holocaust and expulsions during and after World War II.
- War destruction, later reconstruction and communist urban planning.
- Use of urban environments before and after WWII.
- Postwar urban planning, preservation and memory treatment.
- Post-communist urban planning and memory treatment.
- Knowledge among today’s citizens about the history and cultural heritage of their urban environment.
- Future perspectives.