

Pesquisa FAPESP nº 2021/04556-0
ENTREVISTA COM L5
Cidade: Lodz (Lodzkie, Polonia)
Entrevistado: L4, 40+ anos, administrador de empresas
Entrevistador: Rodrigo Sartori Bogo
Local de realização da entrevista: Cafeteria

TRANSCRIÇÃO

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So L5, the first thing for the bureaucracy of the research, we're already talking off record, but I need you just to state your full name and say that you are willing to participate and to accept the recording.

L5

- Okay, my name is L5 and I allow you, Rodrigo, to record my voice and to record our conversation on the subject.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Nice. So, to start the interview I just have to explain to you the main objectives of my research and how it works. So, my PhD is in Geography in the São Paulo State University in Brazil and I'm most interested in how different types of PB results different types of outcomes. So how a PB which its voting, like digital voting, like Lodz, has differences from a PB that's like face to face and how that manifests in the city, right? Because I see PB not just as a space for participation, which is, but also for urban management, for the city to know what to do in the city. So, this is my main frame and I'm studying four cities in comparison. Lodz is one of them, the other is Vallejo in California, and the other two are two Brazilian cities, Araraquara and Maringá. Lodz is the biggest one, so they all like have a size that we could call in for Brazilian standards a mid-sized city. But they have different roles in their urban networks and everything, but they're kind of comparable. So, my idea is to see, okay, four different types of PBs in cities that are comparable, so how could it be? That's the idea. And I have two types of interviews. One is for what I call well-informed agents, who are people from the city office, people who run the process. And another interview for like civil society leaders, it is your case. You participate a lot; you're like being a member of civil society that is part of the process. So, the first thing I'd like to ask you is to give us a personal profile, like what is your profession, if you're born here, why are you participating in PB and everything.

L5

- Okay, I'm doing in the business. I'm a sales agent for a Swiss Latvian Coal Company. We focus on producing and selling food additives for the food industry, and so whatever you eat, drink, it has its own density, color, smell, taste. So there are flavorings, hydrochloric acid stabilizing agents, colors, many, many different things. This is my main job. Should I talk about my previous? No, the current one.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Talk about what you want to talk about.

L5

- Okay, so my experience is quite large and totally diverse because previously I was event manager of American football team. I had IT project, startup, and I also worked at a big Finnish company that's created and welded big steel construction for military and other big heavy industries. So, let's say, thanks to my diverse professional experience, I have plenty of ideas and know how to catch some ideas and to make them real. And also, I noticed that doing business and everybody is busy nowadays, but we need to be patriotic, but in the totally local micro scale. Because everybody, it's my opinion, majority of people are patriotic during Independence Day, during general national voting, but on a day-to-day basis they are not. They don't care about the small environment they live in, they don't notice what should be done or what should be upgraded, changed, how to help other small communities like old people, they have some difficulties to, for example, to go through the pavement which is broken or people on wheelchair have troubles to cross the street because the edge of the pavement is too high. Or there is a lack of banks [benches], banks...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, banks for people to sit, right?

L5

- Yeah, because if you are young you don't need to sit a lot, but if you are old and you need to commute somehow from your home to the nearby shop and come back, but you are 70, 80, you need to rest a lot. The more banks are on the way to the local shop, the better for people. Also, for example, if we are talking about banks, banks are the place for older people, let's say, to talk to each other, to meet each other because they can sit, they can chat. So, this is, for example, banks. But all in all, this is the point that I noticed that people in general don't care about these small problems or if they even see the problem, they don't think about how to solve this. So, I understood that there is a need, that you need to be not only patriotic in all these national days, but you need to be patriotic seven days a week, all year long, but in these small local problems. My grandfather took part in the Second World War, and he was the captain of the division, so also, he did some great, he fought for my country. So I can, let's say, fight in this way, at this peacetime, but to do something better for the community.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Nice. And do you participate by yourself or with a group of people, with NGO or something like that?

L5

- Both. - **Both?** - Yes, yes. For example, I created a small community that is called Mini Park Wierzbowa. So, I live in the place, there are plenty of blocks of flats. So, this is quite normal in Poland. But inside this block of flats, let's say a yard, there's, I would say, I call it Mini Park. There are high trees, a lot of green, but nobody took care about this. So, I invented the idea "hey, we can create this yard into a really mini park with all these nice environments, flowers, banks, playgrounds for children, also to street work and gym for parents. So, we can design this area a bit different". It was totally my idea. I created, I pushed

the project within, let's say, five years since 2014. In 2019, my project was elected, but we didn't, let's say, the city made only phase one, one part of repair work that are needed. So, I'm fighting still for another phases to finalize this idea. But thanks to this project, I collected some community, I have a Facebook page called, if you can find me, this is [facebook.com/miniparkwierzbowia](https://www.facebook.com/miniparkwierzbowia). There is a community, let's say, about 300 members. Of these 300, many of them are really active during the voting, in participating budget, they helped me to promote the project. Unfortunately, we still don't collect so many votes as we need because this is the problem we talked about. We collect every time about 400 votes because it's totally local project, from inhabitants of this area only. Because nobody takes care about this mini park, yards, small local districts.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Which district is this? The name of the district?

L5

- District Shudmischivskut [?].

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- In which area of the city is this?

L5

- It's center. Because Lodz, let's say, we are in downtown, downtown is center and center is divided in two areas. One is along Spetkovska street, but it's called Kateldrana. And my district is Shudmischivskut, so in English it's downtown east.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Ok, nice. So, you are participating since 2014, right?

L5

- Yes, for this project. Year by year I came up with many ideas, different ideas. So, this is not only my one project, I have plenty of them and I'm pushing them by myself. I spread ideas to other districts and for example I invented the project called Street Workout Exercises for Old People and Adults. Because you know what street workout is? Calisthenics, that you can train your muscles but using only your body weight only. So, this is quite popular among young people but I noticed that... also I did and I do street workout and I had one accident and I noticed that it helped me to straighten my backbone. I mean previously before that accident I trained street workout for muscles but after that accident I noticed that I could use street workout for stretching myself. And so, I came up with the idea that it might help also old people not only to stretch but also during COVID time to use this facility of I mean all this equipment of street workout for the rehabilitations. Because when hospitals during COVID time were closed and, you know, the people didn't have opportunity to have good rehabilitation, they can go outside and use

the same equipment they have in hospitals, almost the same, but they can use them according to their purpose. So, I invented that idea so to help people, especially old ones, to stretch, to fix their problems with backbones, to teach them how to use this equipment in a rehabilitation way. So, if they have broken legs they can practice how to start walking again thanks to this equipment. So, I came up with this idea four years ago and year by year the project is getting more and more popular in every district.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- But it got elected at some point? - **Excuse me?** - It got elected at some point?

L5

- Yeah, this year it was elected in Tophilov [check].

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- It's being elected in different districts?

L5

- Yeah, from a practical point of view I need to register about 20 projects, same projects, but every project in every district because it's not for all city, it's totally local projects, so local projects for local community, so they are separated.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I got you. And do you or your group like the social movement you created, participate in other political spaces beyond PB or not?

L5

- In official political spaces?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, like in participation spaces or other like political part of the city?

L5

- Me not but I know that some people, they are members of other political parties, usually this party is connected with platform of Bywatelska and also Lewica so left wing and center. The problem is with people who cooperate with the right wing, because according to them participatory budget it's one of the signatures of current political party, they don't agree and they think that all money is stolen, it's fake. It's very hard to talk with them and to encourage them to participate. It's very difficult.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, you see a little bit of this conflict with people?

L5

- Yeah, there is a conflict and thanks to this conflict it's hard to... - **Engage more people?** - To convince them, to convince them to participate. For me, from my point of view, if you don't agree with participatory budgeting... You are from the right wing, you feel, you tell a lot that you are patriotic, but you do nothing totally for your local community. You [right wing person] say that you love Poland, and all others are enemies but come on, these are only words so "hey, do something, do something better", but it doesn't work.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah of course. And did you have any conflicts or tensions with the city office for example? With the process, with PB in general?

L5

- Yeah, I had. For example, the project of the mini park we talked about previously, phase one won in 2019. So, the project should be finalized, should be built in another year. So, won in 2019, should be done by 2020. But it wasn't, it wasn't! I was pushing the project since the beginning of 2020 and in the office the people didn't have time to organize the tender, all other things were much more important. So, I made so many claims and finally the tender, I mean, the whole procedure for the tender was ready in September or in the middle of October. So, I denounced the tender in the... probably it was October, end of October. So, the deadline of the tender was predicted to be mid-November, and the project should be done until the end of December. So, nobody participated. So, they told me that "sorry, we lost", but I didn't agree with this and I was pushing so hard another year.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, the project wasn't done at all?

L5

- No, no, no.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- It's not that they started and didn't finish on time.

L5

- Yea, yea! According to them, they said "we are sorry, probably the money for the project is gone because the project was in 2019 and should be done in 2020, and if it wasn't done in 2020 the money for this project is gone". They told me like this and I said "come on, it's your fault! Because I was pushing the project, it wasn't the first time, I'm here in November and every month, every two weeks I'm asking you where we are, where the tender will be announced, what do you need, because also behind me there

are people, there is a small community asking me come on we voted for this project, [asking] when the work will start". So, I got mad, and I was pushing so hard another year, 2021 and finally they announced the tender. Also, I had to, because they announced the tender and told me "You know, nobody is asking", so I sent the tender, the information about the tender to plenty of companies I found in Poland and talked with each company, "Hey we are this project in Łódź. Could you please have a look at this tender? It could be great if you could take part in it." So, I called about 30 companies in the field of industry, is steel construction, because it was a playground, street workout and designed all this park environment from the bottom again. It was a good shot but because one company from Gdańsk took part in it and... - **It worked out?** - Yea. But this is the point that I noticed that if our office announced the tender and the project is a bit sophisticated, different, not it's not road repairs but something different, you need to search by yourself the companies that they could take part. Because there is also... I did in many other projects, I started to you know send the information about the tender not only to Poland but also to companies that they are focused on producing some stuff or this. I mean if they are in the field of the industry the project is too, so I send them the information about this. It helped a lot so it can get into because this is also the problem because... sorry, it's a long phrase.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No worries.

L5

- As I said you can win the project, the Lodz office can announce the tender but it's nothing if no companies will take part in the tender. The office says, "We did the best, but nobody is interested". What to do? They don't have that proactive attitude. In business we need to have every day a proactive attitude, I'm calling every client and pushing them I need to get this, I need to know this. In the [city] office, they don't have such practice. They do what they need to do, nothing more, one step further. This is the problem.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you think this is probably because of the fact that there are too many projects in the same year? If they had less projects or bigger ones would it be better to manage? What do you think about that? Like this idea of having a lot of small projects?

L5

- Yeah, it might be, because we have one department that is responsible for this public investment, they create tenders, but they create tenders for all. It doesn't matter how big the project is, they need to create a tender. Creating a tender means that you need to create all these papers, all this procedure.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- The bureaucracy, right?

L5

- Yes, the bureaucracy. It takes time. The department has a number of people but they are not enough to run all these tenders smoothly for all these projects. My project costs about 400,000 zlotys but also there are projects about millions or hundreds of millions, they are much more bureaucratic, they need much more energy, they need much more documents to collect. This number of people cannot do smoothly, and they cannot focus on each project enough. This is the problem. I believe that our city hall should be divided into departments for big tenders and small tenders.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yea, because I was talking to the people in the city office about that, there are projects for millions and projects for 3000 zlotys, like a street bump or a bench. It creates a huge difference in the types of work you have to do.

L5

- Yea, exactly, exactly. As I said, it should be split somehow. The department takes care of all these small projects where the tender should be announced, they're small, let's say, 100 small projects are the same work as one big project. The same number of documents are needed, the same number of people are needed to collect all this information, 100 projects for one million zlotys is the same as one project one hundred million zlotys.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And considering that there are a lot of projects, one thing that is very interesting for me is that you proposed projects for all the districts and not just your own... Do you believe that there are other areas in Lodz that need more investment than yours? Then where do you live?

L5

- Yes, there are. The bigger the district is, the more money they have. The number of people who live in this district might be bigger than ours. I don't know if you know Lodz well, we are here downtown, where there are a lot of old buildings, but we have districts with a super high block of flats. There are 15, 18, 20 floors. If you have a big district, where you have a lot of flats, the density of population is much bigger, they have more money for the project. The more projects they have, the more money they have, the more they can win. Everything is connected.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Considering this discussion around investments and everything, I want your opinion about the institutions participating in PB, what were we talking about before, outside of the record.

L5

- Yes, so, police department, public schools, fire stations, security, I don't know...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- The public security?

L5

- Public security. They take part in the participatory budget, and that is not good. They can collect money from different sources, from the government, from national governments that support their work. We, regular citizens, just have the possibility to collect money for our own small, totally local project, only once a year. We need to compete with them to get anything. Previously, it was totally impossible for them to take part in the local projects because our budget is split into city projects and local projects. Until 2020, they took part in the local projects too. Nowadays, in local projects, only 5 stations can participate. Schools and libraries can participate in city projects only, they are excluded from local projects. Nowadays, the situation looks like that in city projects, if you see the list of the projects, there are no citizen projects, but only public service projects. Libraries, fire stations, public security projects. It is not good.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you believe that should be focused just on citizen participation?

L5

- In my view, this is all about. It should be about. You have ideas that can help your local community or the city community, all inhabitants of our city. An idea like, for example, fixing a big park or building a monument or a beach along the lake. This is a citizen idea that should be voted for, not just "new computers for schools" [laughs]. According to budget regulations, if the project wins in participatory budget, all citizens have the opportunity to use it. But schools are usually closed after classes. They are not open until 8 or 10 pm.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, do you think there is a contradiction in that?

L5

- Yes, it is a contradiction. I was fighting for the rights of citizens. In two secondary schools, they won money to create a new football field.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yea, there is one very close by here, a multi-sport field.

L5

- Yea, this multi-sport is one thing, but every school has its own yard. In this yard, they have their own football field to play soccer, basketball. In my area, two such schools, one primary and one secondary, won money for this football field renovation, and it appeared that the schools were open for a close after classes were closed. I started fighting with the two principals, it is not fair, the schools should be open, especially during vacation time, to have the opportunity to use them within a day. During the weekends, during the summertime, they were closed. People were voting for the project; they could not be used by them. I also made some scandals in the office, and I got support from the town hall, and I pushed the subject further and the sum up is that, finally, the football fields are open for all. The school area is open until 8 or 9 pm. If you work until 4 pm, that is usual in Poland, you can go as an adult or as a kid to spend time in the football field.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Ok, that's nice, that's interesting. You talked about the districts that are more peripheral, more far away, they have big flats and construction, they are more dense. This is a housing process, right? I don't know if this is from the socialist period or more recent. These big flats...

L5

- I don't know, it is from the 50s, 60s, 70s. From the communist time. It is like this. Ok, you asked me about the subject of this district, but there is another problem I notice. There is an area, district, called Stoki HikawaPodgórze [check]. This is a really great area where you can find big blocks of flats and houses only. It is a mid-class area, but if you have such a big area, you have many projects that can help some local communities. It appears that only projects that are in the area of blocks of flats are much more popular because of the number of people who can vote, they're able to use this facility. You vote for some projects that you can use, let's say. If a block of flats has 1,000 or 2,000 people, the project will be much more popular than an area with 300 houses, so more or less 300 or 500 people can vote in general. The number of people will be always less, if you see in this point of view.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you think there are a few districts in the city that are unequal?

L5

- Exactly, exactly, exactly. The district in downtown... ok, they split the downtown into two areas as you said, but in fact they should also split it into three or four smaller areas. I think every area should be divided in this way because it will be much more fair and equal to create a budget according to the needs of the citizens that live in a smaller area.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, do you think that a different geographical division will be better for the process?

L5

- Yes, exactly, exactly.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. One thing that I wanted to ask you is... When I went to the city office and talked to the people there, I asked about the idea of someone having 10 votes. You can have five votes for city-wide projects and five votes for local projects, right? - **Yes.** - And this is very uncommon in PB. I've been studying PB for six years and I think it's the only case I remember that does that, Lodz. The argument was that this is good for small projects, because people can vote for the small projects. What's your opinion on that?

L5

- Yeah. Nowadays it's even a bit different because you can vote for five city projects and you can divide the local ones into five projects, but from two districts. You can live in the downtown but you can vote for projects from the east and the west districts too. It's good, it fixes the problem I told you before, but it doesn't fix the problem totally. I believe that if they split the districts into much smaller areas, it will be much better, totally much better.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Ok. And what do you think about the digital model?

L5

- Much better. Much better because the digital process excluded the unfair process of collecting papers with signatures of people. It was probably mainly noticed in schools and libraries and hospitals; hospitals also take part in this. They were collecting plenty of papers with signatures. If you went to the hospital and the registration office told you "Ok, you have visited the doctor this and this, you know, we have some project, please sign up." People who didn't know what PB is, they voted for just one project, they lost the possibility of voting for other projects.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Hmm, of course.

L5

- Do you understand? There was a paper with only one project. As I said, they voted for five city projects and five district projects before. Now it is five and five also but was voting for one district and now is two districts. But they voted only for one hospital project as a city project, as the local doesn't matter.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Because the institutions, they have much more power and...

L5

- Exactly, exactly. And they didn't and they don't explain to people how PB works. They only fight for one project, they don't care, they don't promote... You know, we are fighting for our project, but we also have other projects in our local community. There is a list, they can help our local community to fix some problems. [It could] Since we are a school, we promote our projects, but please vote for all of them. It's still not good, but it would be much better, because schools and all these public services could teach people what PB is. They have many local projects they can vote for, and they could help these local communities to collect money for these other projects too.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And do you think that the digital model helped?

L5

- Yes, it cut off all of this procedure. Unfortunately, we still have the paper with signature form, but it's shortened to two weeks only. The election voting lasted almost one month, but the digital voting lasted four weeks, but the paper with signature only lasted two weeks.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- You said that you are with a group of people, with a local movement, they have some demands on infrastructure and parks. - **Yes, plenty.** - Plenty demands... Do you meet every month or just by Facebook?

L5

- No, it depends. You see, in general, all local movements in Lodz work very differently. Some communities are very close to each other and try to solve problems, they meet once a month or once every two months to talk about some problems. Some communities talk only about voting process. In every community there is a group of people who work totally differently. Some communities, as the schools, they promote only one project and don't say anything about others.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, do you think that PB serves as a core for the social movements to discuss and bring ideas?

L5

- It should be. But what should be done? City Hall should announce general meetings on what PB is. I mean, they should promote that idea, not only voting, but "if you have such an idea, let's meet once or a half year to talk about this. We explain to you how it works and what can be done." Because on the website, everything is like what I said, but in reality, City Hall of Lodz doesn't promote this... - **Participation?** - Participation. Previously, at the beginning, they promoted it because it was connected with promoting the current president. It has, let's say, the political power to encourage people to say

"Hello, it's nice to have a participating budget. You can vote for your local project, etc.". But nowadays, year by year, we see other volunteers like me, there is PB, but it's not promoted well. Before, during the process of project registration, it was not promoted during voting so much. It's very strange, it's very strange.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you believe that if they had a face-to-face approach, together with digital voting, it could be better for people to discuss and deliberate? With these open meetings, do you believe that they would make the process better?

L5

- I believe both. There are still some large groups of people who are not so well connected to the internet like you and me, like young people are. But City Hall has a department responsible for the PB, they could organize two different types of meetings, like online meetings and also face-to-face meetings in local libraries, libraries are a perfect place. They collect these local committees, they are also institutions that belong to the city, so there is money, which is spent on them, which can also be used to promote the idea of PB. It's not a huge money. We are talking about printing and showing the poster, asking people directly "Hey, you came here to rent a book, please talk with your neighbors, talk with your relatives about the meeting that will happen soon about PB. Come with your kids, because nowadays your kid is not a kid anymore, he is a youth, and he will be able to create some project, or in one year he will be able to start voting". Also, I am connected with the idea that has crossed my heart, you need to be patriotic in a small area, but you need to somehow teach people, small people, not give them everything and to see only, "Ah, let's go abroad, there is better, let's go to the United States, because it's much better, way better." Come on, we are living in Poland, the country with a big historical background, dramatic, tragic background. Because Brazil is Brazil, but Poland is under the government of Russia or Germany, and we are a totally independent country since the 1990s.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- It's very recent.

L5

- It's very recent, and we shouldn't forget about it, and we should promote such a really patriotic attitude, not to go in the Independence Day and shout "Yeah, I'm patriotic, I'm holding the flag, I'm more patriotic than you." No, patriotic means everyday life.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- That's nice, that's nice. And the only thing that I need to ask for the last, L5, is do you think that being here has a positive impact against inequalities? Like urban inequalities, like social inequalities?

L5

- If is it a solution?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Not a solution, but if it has a positive impact.

L5

- Might have, might have, might have, because in an area where is totally spoiled, and something good is done, then community can... yeah, it has some better impact on community, but also that depends on district and city, because if the area is totally, how to say, is totally spoiled, so there are more, let's say, bad people than good ones, they don't appreciate the small things that happened. They don't, and they usually damage such things, just for fun, they don't appreciate. I have experience in... because I'm somehow connected with other city, Zdunjska Wola, small city, my girlfriend comes from there, and also I have there the public, in a small community, also the street work of park, but the point is that I noticed that Zdunjska Wola also has some group of people, spoiled people, they are poor, but the attitude of them to some changes in the area are way better than here. So, they appreciate that something new is done. If there was a playground, the playground is, nowadays good playground, they take care about this playground, they don't give... I don't want to swear, but they don't come to playground just to spray tags and to destroy the playground, because it's new, "hey, it's damaged", they don't have that attitude, unfortunately, in Lodz some people have, so it's not good. So, coming back to your question, yes, it might, some areas PB solves such problems, some not, because to change something, you need to have much more money, because small pieces don't change a thing, if you change the whole district somehow...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you think that PB should have more investment?

L5

- Yes, much more, and also much more money, much more money. Or either PB should have much more money or city hall should be more active and should have more money for local investments in their annual policy, budget policy. Because nowadays it's like, okay, every year they announce the budget for another year, so they have some of money to be used per annum, but usually it's big works and it's nothing local. So, it's not good, so we are coming to the different side of PB, the things are done, they are not well maintained after, so it doesn't matter that something new was built, if the city hall doesn't have money to maintain well, so that means that money was spoiled.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you think that the city hall should decentralize better the investment?

L5

- Exactly, exactly. They should decentralize, they focus on local investment, because it's not good that hospital or playground for handicapped children need to fight for the regular pavements in PB, it should be done from city hall budget, not from PB, you know what I mean.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Of course. And the last question is, do you think that PB has any influence in territorial justice? Like social justice for the territories?

L5

- I don't get the idea.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No problem, like, territorial justice is this idea of bringing equity to the access to services, the access to quality of life, the city being more equal about that kind of...

L5

- I don't know, I cannot say anything about this, because I don't know this, such a thing.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay.

L5

- As I said previously, in my view, to equal some differences between people, especially in such a city like Lodz is, you need to do the projects on a much larger scale. Like favela in Brazil, if you renovate one bank in favela, it doesn't mean anything, not much, but if you renovate some area of favela, the local community that lives in favela will start taking care of these renovations. And also, when other people notice from other favelas "Hey, your area looks so nice, so we need to fight for our area too, to make our area as nice as yours." That will create some impact.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. L5, I'm finished. Is there anything that you wanted to talk about, anything that is not on the script, that you wanted to comment or add?

L5

- Yeah, what was I saying? I had one idea. Yeah, so I don't know how PB works in other countries in detail, but if you, thanks to your work, we can improve something, it could be good if you...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, that's the idea. Like my plan is to, of course, I will finish my dissertation in Portuguese because I'm studying in Brazil, right? But after that, my idea is to publish in English many of my findings and I already had a talk with a few scholars here in Poland that are interested in maybe writing something together and give some analysis, so that's the idea in the long term. Yeah, I also like there's a few ideas here that I think are interesting to apply in Brazilian cases and vice versa, so ideas there that could be applied here. So, this is the main point of the research, is like to... After doing scientific analysis, what should be done in policy, right? That's why we do that kind of study, so long term that's the idea. So, I'd like to thank a lot for myself and also for São Paulo State University, that's my university in Brazil, thanks a lot for being here today, for talking to me, for giving me your ideas.

L5

- Thank you, too!

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And of course, all this information has a scientific character and at any moment during my text, I will... it will be anonymous, right? And if you need in the future, if you need like any more questions, any doubts, you can just text me, it's alright now, we're like all connected, so I will...

L5

- Yeah, I really be thankful for any... if you collect all these good practices, so as I said, me and not only me, but all other volunteers, we noticed that the idea of PB in Lodz is like... it's fading. So, it's not good and we need to know how we can bring it back and also to talk with officials to teach them "Hey, we can do something better, like in other cities."

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay.

L5

- And yes, this is the point what I wanted to tell you. The cost of projects, I noticed that the cost of projects in Lodz are way higher than in other cities. It's very strange to me, because if you compare the cost of the projects in Krakow, Warsaw, Gdańsk, Poznan, other big cities, other big cities, it appears that the same project can cost much less than in Lodz. It's very strange. I don't know how it is in other countries, but it's not good from the point of view how much money you have for each district. Because in the procedure, officials, people who work in the office, they compare your budget in the project with reality and they pump up the budget. So, for example, you made research if such project should cost, let's say, 100.000 zlotys. But according to the office, it's not 100.000, but 300.000 zlotys. And your project is announced in voting with the budget agreed by the office. So, 300,000. And in the district where the project is placed, the district has, for example, 300.000 zlotys. So that means that .ne project fulfills the budget for the whole district. But in fact, it should cost 100.000, three times less. But somehow in Lodz,

it's much more expensive to do, and I don't know why. It's totally... very strange to me why other big cities, because we are not talking about small cities, there are a small, small population. So, let's say, smaller possibilities of the damages, smaller, I mean, frequency of usage. All these factors. No, we are talking about big cities. So here a lot of people will use such, I don't know, facilities, equipment. But the point is that costs are so high, so high in comparison to the cities. So, I don't know how it happens in Brazil, in the United States. Is the standard can be regular? Project costs can be so totally different in every city?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, well, I will think about that. That's a good thing to know, to understand and to look at the reports, because I didn't know about that.

L5

- Yeah, and you know, I made several, every year, I mean, before I registered the projects, I made some researches and I sent inquiries to companies to get to know how much such project can cost and also I asked some cities or just checked websites where they announced how the recent project, similar project, costed in Warsaw or Gdańsk or Krakow. And I take this cost from business and from other cities as the basis for my work. And it looks like that somehow... Here it is much more expensive. It's very strange. I don't know if it's about something totally unusual or it's something about bribes. I don't know. But it's very different. It's very different, because the difference is so significant that it must be talked about.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. I'll take a look at that. Makes sense. So, thank you L5. I'm going to finish the recording.

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