

Pesquisa FAPESP nº 2021/04556-0
ENTREVISTA COM L7
Cidade: Lodz (Lodzkie, Polonia)
Entrevistada: L7, 21 anos, vereadora
Entrevistador: Rodrigo Sartori Bogo
Local de realização da entrevista: Cafeteria

TRANSCRIÇÃO

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, L7, for just like... I have part of the bureaucracy of the research, I just need you to, in the beginning, for you to state your full name and say that you agree to be recorded.

L7

- Yes, my name is L7, and I agree to be recorded.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay, great. So, we already talked a little bit off record, but just to start the interview then it's important also that I do introduction about what I'm doing exactly. So, the thing is my PhD is in Geography, in São Paulo State University and I'm more focused in the territorial results of PB. So how they are spatialized in the city and how different types of designs of PB have different results, right? So, I'm comparing four cities that have considerable size differences, but at the same time they would be considered with my theoretical framework mid-sized cities. Lodz is the biggest one of them four and the other three are two cities in Brazil and one city in the United States that have different types of PB, right? Like here the process is very focused on voting and looking for specific small projects, in my opinion, but of course you can have like your opinion too. And the other two cities that I have are more, they have also voting, but they're more focused in like face-to-face participation, not digital voting with different designs. One of the other cities is more a consultative process with no voting. So that's the main differences. And well, to start, I'd like to know a little bit about yourself, like how did you get to the city council? What are your studies and what is your work right now?

L7

- Okay, perfect. So, the fact is that since I was a little kid, I've always been a very active person. I was a scout for 10 years, I was very active in my school, I was kind of a leader there. And that's why one day my teacher told me that something like the youth city council was being created and if I wouldn't mind, I could join there, and I said, yes. And that's how I prepared some campaign in my school, I was 16 then. And I became a young city councilor for young people. I also was very active in the [incrompreensível] field. I was kind of a leader there. They realized that I'm a social activist, that I like to prepare some, you know, I like to prepare some happenings in the city for young people as well. And they realized that I might be a good city councilor, and that's why they proposed to me take part in the election. I didn't agree [laughs]. But actually, after hours of negotiations, I said "OK, I will try", but I was pretty scared because I was 19 and I was young. But that's because... the whole situation right now is because the fact that I've always been a very social active person.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And what is your relation to participatory budgeting?

L7

- Right now, I'm a leader of a commission of a team that is into citizens' budget. And it's one part of our city, the whole city budget, that is designed for the citizens. They have a right to change what they want to have in the neighborhood, they themselves prepare some projects, what they want to have. The projects are checked by us if they are ok with the law, for example. And then the citizens have an opportunity to vote about what should be done, what investments should be done in Lodz. And that's the perfect way of participating because each person has the vote.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And before being a member of the city council, did you have any contact with the citizens' budget at some point?

L7

- No, not at all. I'm still learning, I'm still learning about it. And I spent my whole holiday sitting and learning about how the city council works, about how this citizens' budget works. And it was a very long holiday for me.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And could you explain to me that process? How is the city council related to PB? How are the functions that the city council has?

L7

- Yeah, actually, in the city council, we've got councilors that are in the citizens' budget commission. And they have to check if projects that are proposed by the citizens are correct with the law and if they can be voted on. And for example, if there is a situation like there's a person who created a project so as there is a road and he wants this road to be renovated, and this project might be correct with the law and might be fine and might be voted. But maybe we have to also check if this road isn't planned to be done, for example, in four years by the city from a different budget, right? So, these are the basic things we have to check, if the project is correct with the law and if the project isn't supposed to be done by us from a different part of the budget, for example, four years.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay, and what are the biggest challenges or difficulties that you see in that process?

L7

- I think that the biggest challenge is the fact that citizens' budget should be a possibility to let the citizens share their creativity. For example, it should let them build some new monuments, something

like that. And right now, it has turned out that our city budget is in quite poor condition. And it turned out that people use the citizens' budget not to express their creativity and ideas, but to, for example, as I said, propose some renovations, to propose new, I don't know, trash bins. And it's something like... It's different because, as I said, citizens' budget should be something where people can express. And, for example, build some things that can make our city, I don't know, more beautiful. And it's not like that, because they tend to use it as a space to renovate something, fix something, for example, the pavements, and it wasn't the case. But it's actually like that because of the fact that our city budget is generally in quite poor condition, and they just need to find money somewhere.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- You mean the whole city budget is in poor condition, right? So, could you talk a little bit more about that? Why is the city budget in poor condition and what are the problems that you see in the whole city budget?

L7

- Yeah, the main reason is the fact that for years the government in the region was a different party than the government in the city. That's why the money...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- You mean the government of the voivodship?

L7

- Yeah. That's why the money wasn't given to us in that amount that it was needed and that's why we've got financial problems right now. It's getting better, but it has to take some time, right? So, it was actually because of the conflict.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- I could see that. Okay. And for example, do you believe that also the... Not necessarily just because of the problems with the general budget, but also how the process is designed, how the citizens' budget is designed. Do you think that it has an impact on these results, like the kind of project that people are proposing?

L7

- Did I get you right? It's like... Do I think... No, I have to repeat.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No, no problem. There is this specific design that people propose the projects. There is a list of hundreds of projects and then you can vote. Do you think that if this design was different, like for

example, face-to-face approach, with assemblies and people discussing, could be a better solution for like a more creative process?

L7

- I got you. Yeah, it's possible. I haven't even thought about it in this way because I have never heard about a solution like that, like that one you presented. Maybe it's possible, but actually during the process, before creating this list and process of doing that, we have some consultations with the citizens and they have the possibility to meet the project leaders, the citizens. They have a possibility of meeting with us and with each other and we show them the lists of projects that were proposed, and we can discuss them. So, for example, if there are people who don't like some kind of projects, they can share it and they can say that, "Oh, my neighbor, he proposed this project, but I don't think it's a good idea because of the fact that, for example, the playground shouldn't be there because of a road which is too close and it would be dangerous", and we have some social consultations. So, there is a possibility to discuss it, but not many people are likely to go there. I don't know why, they have the possibility, but not many people. For example, 50 people. 50 people from one part of the city because we've got our city as divided into parts, something like that.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, 36 districts, right?

L7

- Yeah. So, for example, one of them, 50 people.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And in your opinion, the amount of people that go to these consultations is small?

L7

- It's too little.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- It's too little. Okay. But what do you think about the voting? Because it's 10% of the population that is voting. - **Yeah.** - Do you think that's enough? But how is the quality of that participation? What do you think about it?

L7

- Of course. It's not enough. We would like to make everything we can so it's to change it. I'm new here, so I think it's going to be my main task to make more people participate in our citizens' budget. But I know the reason why it's like that. For example, a few years ago, the amount of people voting was much, much bigger. It was about 100 [thousand] people, even more, even 120 [thousand], for example. And

the reason is the fact that some years ago, it used to be like that a team leader got a paper and the only thing he had to do was collect some signatures from another people. The person just had to take the paper and catch some people around and tell like, "Oh, I'm a team leader and they want to have the playground here. If you can, can you just give me your signature here and that's it. If you agree to have it here, give me your signature." And right now, it's impossible to do it like that. Each person has to do it by theirselves on the internet, right? The person has to log in and give their phone number, so it just simply takes time and people are lazy. They don't want to do it. It was easier to just find somebody, give them a pen and he just could write his name on the paper and that was their voting. Right now, it's not like that. So, for example, for the older people, it's much more difficult to vote because of the fact that the process has changed.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I would like to ask you about the digital participation. What do you think about this model?

L7

- As you said, for me, it's much more complicated right now to have this digital participation because of the fact that we've got so many elderly people and for them, it's difficult. They aren't so smooth on the internet. So that also might contribute to the fact that we've got less and less people voting. But actually, these people who have problems with voting online, they can, for example, visit us, like here in the City Council, and they can visit some libraries and there they can vote on paper... No, no, no. In the libraries, they can vote using a computer but with some assistance there. And here in the city council, they can vote on paper. But as I said, it's only here, so they have to make a trip. It's not from their houses, they have to go there somehow, and it's also a problem. So I don't know if it was okay to propose this change and to cancel this paper list, or to just go and collect the voices in the surroundings. I don't know yet. I think I will have to just check them, work in this budget in the years, because it's just the beginning for me.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, of course. One thing that I've got from many of the interviews that I've seen, because this is the last interview that I'm doing, right? So, I got some different points of view around different stuff. And one of them relies on the participation of institutions in participatory budgeting. So, there is not just the local citizens that participate, but also schools, fire brigades, policemen, local libraries. And what do you think about that?

L7

- Yeah, I'm sure it shouldn't be like that, but it also connects with the problem of the low city budget. They just have no places to find money, the citizen's budget is like the only opportunity for them to, for example, do some small renovations at a school. You know, it's just finding some solutions because they have no options, actually, and it's sad. And I know it's something that should be changed. Some

revolution needs to be there, but it takes time. And right now, the biggest problems are with the schools, because not each person can use the school's equipment. And if, for example, schools prepare some projects about renovating the main hall or something like that about buying some computers, they have to prove that they are going to share this equipment with the people. And it needs to be like that. For example, there's a person who needs to use a computer and he knows that the computer bought from this citizens budget is at school and he has to get the opportunity to use it. So, it's to make it a little bit citizen friendly, right?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I saw some... I went to see a lot of the projects, like take pictures of them and see how they are. And one of them was like a court, a pitch in a school, close by in Gorniak, because I was staying in Gorniak. And I remember that there was the entrance of the building and there was also an entrance, like a side entrance for people to access the court. This is because of like... it's obligatory for people to have access to it, right? People that are not necessarily from school.

L7

- Yeah, and that's fine. And that's fine because people can also use it and that's fine because both students and the rest of the citizens have access and that's okay.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. And do you think that the citizens budget promotes integration between the citizens of the city?
- **Integration?** - Integration.

L7

- Integration! Yeah, I think so, because there is one possibility when people can just decide for themselves what is going to be built, for example, next to their house. And as far as I'm concerned, our citizens like it. They like it. They have... Mainly, I know there are some people who aren't into and who tend to hate us because of some problems, but mostly they like it. And we get some... I don't know what to tell you [laughs].

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, no worries. So, there was something that I think is interesting, that you said there are some people that "hate us".

L7

- Yeah, of course. It's always like that.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Why? Could you share some of the conflicts or tensions that you see?

L7

- Yeah, for example, mainly these are conflicts between citizens. For example, there is a group who wants to have a road for a bike somewhere and there's another group who wants to have a pavement there or a road for cars. These are conflicts and people like, "Why are you making these decisions like that? It shouldn't be like that." Because for example, the group of people who ride a bike is smaller and this car group is bigger and they're in conflict and always this car group is winning, so it's like that. But sometimes there are situations that we can't manage to make it in time so as to realize the project because we've got one year for it so as to make the project done. And we can't manage to do this on time because of many, many, many problems and then people tend to hate us. But this is a problem that can't be just overcome. Some problems will always exist and that's it.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And do you see many situations where the project can't be done in one year, for example? - **Can't?** - Can't, yeah.

L7

- Do I see what?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- If the project can't be done in one year, is this common? It happens a lot?

L7

- No, no. Right now, we've got, you know, taking this many years into consideration, we've got about 20 projects. Only 20.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- That were never done?

L7

- Yeah, 20. And we are working on it, and we are proposing some different options to the leaders. We are really trying to make it done. You know, the law is still changing so the project that was fine, for example, six years ago may not be fine to introduce right now. That's why we've got the problems. But we are really trying to keep in touch with these leaders and to make some compromise.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah. When I was at the gala last Monday, I talked to Mateusz Piasecki from the Urban Departments Office and he told me that they had, like, in the history of PB, 2.000 projects, more or less that were done

and like just like 50 of them weren't finished. So, this is an excellent rate. It's a very good rate. Like normally when you have, like, in PB, if the project rate is like 70%, it's already good.

L7

- Yeah, not 50. Really, it's less. I got a list here.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Oh yeah, less than 50?

L7

- Less than 50, this is the list.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Could I take a picture of that later?

L7

- Yeah, of course. Of course. I will try to make it look a bit better.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No, it's all right. So, okay, you have the list of the projects.

L7

- These are the projects that aren't done totally, we also got some projects that are, for example, 80% done. Maybe that's why he told it was 50. But they are 80% and it's okay for the leaders.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay, like they're moving on, right?

L7

- Yeah, that's okay, they understand us. Not all of them, but mostly they do.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you have the list too of the projects that are like being run right now? Like are being made?

L7

- I got a list of the projects that have won. They aren't being done yet, like from this year. I can find the list of projects that are being done right now, like these are the projects from last year. Because they won last year, and they are being done right now.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I saw, for example, I wanted to see some of the projects that won last year. I wanted to see how they were, but the ones that I got to, they were already done. Like there was this park... it's like a small park just between two streets. And I totally forgot the name of the streets, but it's more like in the north part of the city. And I got there, and it was already done.

L7

- Perfect. That's nice. Sometimes we are on time.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I wanted to see how it was working on, you know, but it was already done.

L7

- Nice, nice. Nice to hear it.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, yeah, that was interesting. And they had also the plate showing that it was from participatory budgeting. And okay, that was an interesting moment. And you talked about the law and how the law changes and everything, and how do you select the connection of the local citizen budget with the national law? Do you see any relationship to that? Because I know that the PB in Łódź started here before the national law. But then the national law came and how is that relationship?

L7

- I think I don't know yet, you know. Because I haven't met any problems about, you know, connected to this connection of our citizens and the government. Like, you know, I don't think I can tell you anything about it.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No, no worries at all.

L7

- I don't know now. For now, yeah.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- No worries. And you said about the problem of the local budget. I thought about the other thing that is, what are the main sources of funds for the city? You said the voivodship during many years didn't give us the money that we needed. But there are also other chances of local taxes or other funds that the municipality can have?

L7

- Like the problems that cause that the fact that our whole city budget is in a poor quality, right? Also, the problem connects to the fact that in our city people tend to move away, for example, to the suburbs. That's why they pay, for example, taxes there, and they visit our city right away. That's for sure. But they tend to pay taxes somewhere else. And that's the problem with the taxes because the city is getting bigger and bigger and bigger, and people tend to move away. And we do not get enough money, you know, to be spent here. So that's also a problem.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, there is this process of like people moving to the suburbs and they are in other communes, right? Like in other municipalities.

L7

- Yeah, they get bigger houses, you know, there. For example, you know, they are in Lodz often, they, I don't know, spend some time here. They use our roads and things like that. But they pay the taxes somewhere else. And that's the biggest problem for us because we have no money to spend there.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- And the city is very dependent on the money that comes from abroad, right? So, the transfer of funds from like the voivodship or the national government to the city.

L7

- Yeah, yeah. This money, you know, it means very lot for us. And due to this conflict that was here for the last eight years, we really feel the differences. Because, for example, because of the fact that the government and the whole region, you know, was different, as you said, the money tends to be given to these suburbs, cottages. That's why people like to move there, not into the city, Lodz the main city, not here. So that's why people like to move out and they still like to spend time here.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yes, especially because there is this pendulum effect, right? Like people spend the night in the suburbs and come here to work.

L7

- Yeah, they've got better roads there because the fact that money was given there, so the roads are in better condition. Bigger houses, you know, maybe sometimes better equipped schools. Also because of the fact that money was given there. But here they get parties, shopping malls, so as they can just come here and then come back to their houses.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- OK. And other thing that I think is interesting is this division in 36 districts in Lodz. And what I got from the other interviews, there were some conflicts with the local council. Like the small councils of these districts. And did you have any experience with that?

L7

- Not yet, really not yet. No, in the city council right now, I'm only working with the citizen's budget. And I'm like, I'm still learning. I still need to get many pieces of information from other city councilors that have been working there for years, and I really don't know many things.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, no worries. And one thing that you talked in the beginning of the interview was about the amount of money in the citizens budget. So, this year we're talking about 30 million złoty. And in its peak of PB it was like 50 million złoty. And I learned for some other interviews, including something that L6 told me, about the inflation in the last years that happened here in Poland. So, what do you think about that amount of money? This 35 million. Do you think that's a good amount? Little? What do you think?

L7

- I think that it's quite hard situation because the amount of money might be bigger of course, because of the fact that the cost of the projects is bigger and bigger. It's just a fact. But if we put more money into the citizens budget, it wouldn't stop the problem of having these projects of new bins, road renovation. So, it wouldn't stop this problem of the fact that citizens' budget isn't about creativity. And it would still be about the simple tasks that should be done by the city budgets right now. So, I don't think it would really change something, I think that maybe it should be done like that, the amount of money should be smaller that is put into the citizens' budget, but this money that would be collected, you know, maybe it should be given to the city budgets to make these renovations and these things people need. And maybe then the citizens' budget could be a possibility for the people to, as it was supposed to do, to make our city brilliant and creative and new and to just get some new beautiful investments. Like you've got the... I've just lost the word. The unicorn monument, you know? Have you seen it?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- The statue? No? You can show me.

L7

- Yeah, I can show you. We've got something like that [shows in smartphone] in the city center.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, I saw it. I saw it.

L7

- Okay. And these are the type of things that should be proposed in the citizens' budget. Not road renovating, no pavements creating, no things like that. But it is the situation that these projects are being presented right now, and it shouldn't be like that. So, given more money into the citizens budget, we would have more projects like that. We don't want to have them. I think that maybe if it was a bit less money here in our citizens budget, maybe we'd get more money to transfer it and to use it to make these renovations.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- So, do you believe that... let me put it in the right words... Do you believe that these local needs are appearing in PB, but they should be done by the municipality? Like they shouldn't be in PB at all because this is the basic job of the city to simply invest in street renovation or any type of services and facilities, right?

L7

- Yeah, I think so. Maybe it's fine to make these simple renovations using our citizen's budget. Maybe that's fine. But I think that there are people who are considering it as a problem. Maybe it shouldn't be considered as a problem. Maybe if our city is... because we got some problems with these renovations, we need to do them, really. Maybe if we need to do them, maybe we shouldn't consider having these types of projects in our citizen's budget. Because it's fine, if there is something that our city really needs right now, maybe stop considering it as a problem, maybe right now it should be time for these renovations, for some fixing, and maybe then it will be time for some new swimming pools, new monuments and other things.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Do you think there is some social group or some region of the city that benefits more from PB or do you think that's more very equal around the city? Who benefits?

L7

- I think it's quite equal because of the fact that actually these are the citizens who decide about it, so their voices matter. And if they choose to equip even a school or some building, it's their choice. For example, I can tell you, with this paper voting, when it was only needed to write the name on the paper, that was the voting, there was a name of project in the paper and people just had to write their names, so as to vote. The problem was the fact that, for example, at schools, teachers tend to give people the least and students just had to, you know, they had to write their names and that was the way many public places simply won in voting. It's impossible right now. That's why I think it's more equal.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. And do you know if the citizens budget has any connection to other processes, other programs in the city?

L7

- Which type of programs?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Like the other participatory programs that the office runs or urban planning, this kind of stuff. Or do you think that is more like an isolated process?

L7

- I think it's a kind of isolated process. These are my observations right now, but we have to take it into consideration while planning new investments in the city. We have to take it into consideration, but right now it's quite isolated.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. And do you think that PB has any influence on the urban inequalities? Like the difference in income or it makes some difference in that realm? What do you think?

L7

- You mean urban equality between the people within there and somewhere else?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, different social groups or different parts of the city. What do you think?

L7

- Yeah, I think it may have some influence. As you know, we've got in our city, we've got some places that are, for example, there are much more investments that are, I don't know, well equipped. And some places that are quite poor because of many, many, many reasons. And the citizens' budget is kind of a, gives us kind of a possibility to help these regions that need it. As I said before, I don't think, I'm not sure if these new investments, so as to, you know, help these regions should be done from citizens' budget. But it's a way, it's still a way. These are the money that should be used, simply. So if there is a possibility to do it like that, it can be done, but we have to make a decision if we've got a citizens' budget that is introduced to create this new stuff as I showed you the unicorns and this beautiful stuff in our city or if we want to use it as an additional money so as to help our city in these hard times that we are right now.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay, that's interesting. That's interesting. And concerning that, you said that there's a lot of, there are differences in income, like the city is unequal, right? You have poorer neighborhoods and neighborhoods that are wealthier. And for example, if PB changed its design to give more money to these poorer neighborhoods, do you think that would be an interesting decision or not?

L7

- But it's important...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Because if I'm not wrong, basically the money is not equal for all the regions because of the population number. The districts that have more population, they receive more money. But if the money was more like, for example, they have like an index of, like, the poorer neighborhoods receive more money. Do you think that would be a good or a bad decision?

L7

- Well, it's something new. But still, if we claim that citizens budget is a place to show our creativity, the poorness shouldn't be considered. But if we claim that this is like a bag of money so as to renovate, so as to fix, maybe it would work.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- It depends on how you approach the process.

L7

- Yeah, because right now I'm quite, I'm new with this. And I think that we are trying to approach this in a way that citizens budget equals creativity and new movements and make our city, you know, beautiful like in Brugges and something like that. And I don't think it's right. It's perfect, beautiful for the cities who are rich, who've got perfect roads and you know, stuff. It would be beautiful to have the citizens budget and where people can share their ideas. But I think it would be also perfect for us, but maybe not now. We should just start from these basic things. And if we, if we changed a little bit the way we are talking about the citizens budget, maybe there would be, it would be a good idea to split the money, taking into consideration the poorness of the neighborhoods.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay, that's interesting. The last question I have about the citizen budget is... let's give you some background. In Brazil, PB started there. It's like where it began and everything. And of course it's a Latin American country, it's more unequal than here so, the main, like for the people who created PB, one of the main objectives was social justice. So, the idea that PB should be a tool for territorial justice. Justice for the peripheric areas, for the poor people. Do you think that PB should work like that here, focusing on social justice?

L7

- Social justice you mean?

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Like, the idea that, for example, poor people are... they suffer more with many problems.

L7

- I think if we wanted to get it like that, our citizens budget should be totally changed because right now it's not...

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Not addressing that?

L7

- Yeah, like, it's totally different case because it's addressed so as to let people express themselves. It's not like, it's not addressed as to help people who are in need. So that would demand a total transformation, I think. Maybe it's a way, maybe it's a good idea, I think, but it's a big task and big challenge.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Of course. Well, considering that you are also local and like you live here your whole life and you have your own experience in the city, I have like basic, like two more questions about Lodz as a city, right? And you, for example, you talked about this suburbs and these new areas that people are moving. And what's the power of the real estate market here in Lodz? You see a lot of new housing, new construction and how is that moving?

L7

- Right now, I see the tendency to build a lot of blocks of flats here in the center. They seem to be quite touristic ones for people who visit our city and want to sightsee a little bit. That's the tendency. But I think it's similar to other big cities nearby, it's like some kind of a trend here in Poland to build such a lot of flats. But we are trying to make some new investments so as to make people more willing to visit and to just come here, so, some new events like festivals, we are trying to organize something like that.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Okay. And the last question is, there's this whole debate about, that I've already read, and I talked to people in the interviews and everything, like if Lodz could be considered a big city or a mid-sized city. Because I know the population is the fourth biggest in the country, but at the same time, for example, you have Warsaw very close, that has more influence than Lodz, and compared to other cities like Poznan or Krakow, they have their regional influence much more stronger because they don't have a city like Warsaw close. But at the same time, Lodz is very important in the country, especially as you said, there's a lot of people to come here to have access to service, to shop, to work. So, what do you think in your opinion, should it be considered a big city or a mid-sized city?

L7

- Definitely mid-sized city for me. I think that many of our problems are the fact that we want to be considered as Warsaw. We are comparing, we are being compared to Warsaw and all the big cities. But the fact is that we are, maybe someday, but right now we are not like them. Our budget is different, our amount of people living there is different, our political history is different. So, if we want to have the city where people tend to live and like to live and want to spend time in, we should stop thinking that we are Warsaw and stop comparing to the Warsaw and just start making everything we can so as to leave people here, so as to make them not want to move out. And we should take care about the transport here, the public transport, the quality of roads, the quality of education, and maybe try to start considering ourselves as you said, medium city that's really friendly to live, but not as big, as modern, as the Warsaw, because it's not the time for it.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Ok, nice. L7, I'm finished, I'm already fulfilled with our conversation. If you, there is any comment that you want to make, something that you think that's missing, that you would like to talk, you feel free to say everything you want.

L7

- Oh my god, I don't like moments like that [laughs]. So, I think I can say that, for me, our city has a huge potential to be a friendly medium-sized city with good quality investments, but we need to start thinking about it really, you know, like, we need to stop comparing it to the Warsaw and other big cities. We just need to take care of our citizens and of our city. That's what I want to say.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Ok, nice. So, thank you so much, thank you for your time here, thank you for talking to me. I thank also in the name of my institution, São Paulo State University, where I'm doing my PhD and probably going to finish next year, if everything goes well. I would like to reinforce that all this information here has scientific character, so everything will be anonymous. I know there is nothing that you said here that's like complicated or something, but my methodology is to just talk like "there is this person from Lodz that told me that", so I never, we never state your full name.

L7

- Ok, that's good, thank you.

Entrevistador (Rodrigo)

- Yeah, yeah, that's part of the methodology, that's fine. And of course, I'm available later, in future, if you want to have any questions, if you need any information from me, I'll be totally open for that. And of course, when I finish, I will, as a sign of good faith, I will send my dissertation to everybody that gave

me some thoughts, some interviews. Of course, the first version will be in Portuguese, but later the idea is to publish also in English the results, so.

L7

- Ok, perfect. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Fim da transcrição