

Research Walks

Objectives and how to use it

The key to understanding and applying the tool “Research walks” is the maxim: look at the space from your perspective - the user / user of the space, identifying problematic places and situations as well as places and ideas for the development of this space.

- A research walk is an interactive, field method of asking residents about their opinions on a given issue - it is used primarily to study space. It is worth using it if you want to assess the space through the eyes of its users or to collect ideas for new solutions in the way of spatial development (e.g. towards climate change, environmental protection, sustainable development, etc.)

Description

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The research walk allows users to be invited to a critical "space audit" and allows various spatial solutions to be assessed in a real situation of their use. Recommendations from such consultations may, for example, serve institutions in designing new or improving existing solutions for the development of a specific space.

A research walk is a technique that allows participants to be easily involved and interact with them in a friendly atmosphere. However, it requires good preparation and competence of the tutor (from knowledge of the studied space to the ability to ask questions and note down answers while moving).

Participants: a group of people, e.g. residents of a given area (preferably from 1 to 10 people), depending on the subject of the process, walks can be carried out with specific groups, e.g. young people, elderly people, people with disabilities, parents with young children, etc.

Duration: app. 30 min - 1.5 h - without the time to prepare and process the results

Personal resources: moderator - the person or people who lead the walk (they can be local animators or volunteers).



Resources / Material required

Preparation for the implementation of the research walk requires the following steps:

- designate the space to be explored - it should not be too extensive - the walk should not last longer than approx. 1.5 hours (it is worth taking into account the pace at which potential participants of the walk are moving, as well as predict at least one route along the route) a place where you can use the toilet or, if necessary, you can take refuge in the event of a bad weather and finish the walk "dry" using a map);
- define in detail the issues and problems to be diagnosed during the walk and designate a list of matters or elements of space that the participants of the walk will ask about;
- plan who will lead the walks - these should be people who know the space well;
- prepare a detailed scenario of the walk: write down the points on the route one by one, assign questions to each point that will be asked to the participants, take into account the instructions for the leader;
- organize a "trial walk" and test the route and scenario with the people who will lead it.
- implementation of the walk. The researcher accompanies the respondent or a group of respondents during a walk in space, conducts an interview, notes observations / remarks on a special form
- development and publication of the results

