

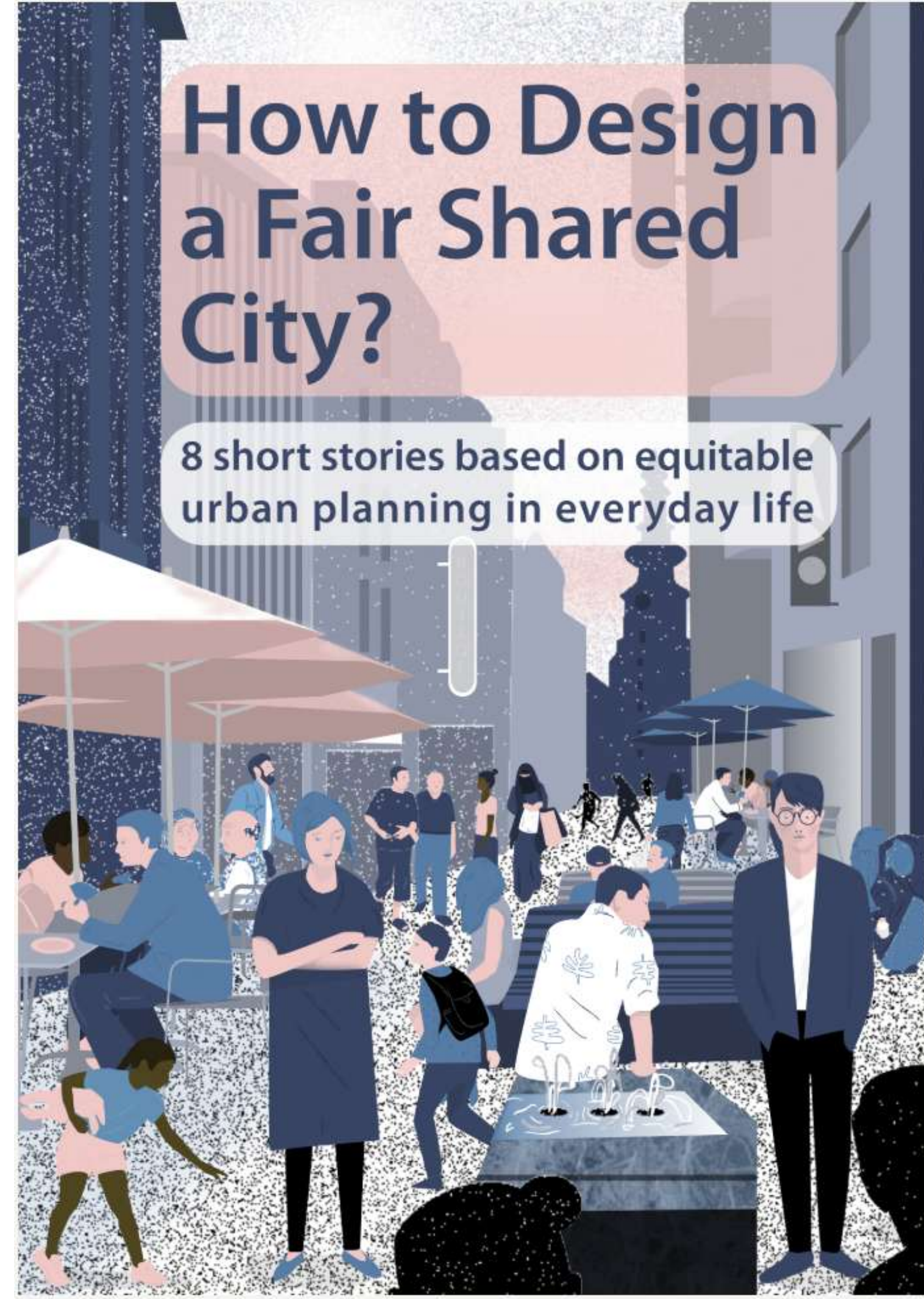
Gender-sensitive urban planning



Milota Sidorová, 11.11.2025



different life
situations + different
users =
different needs



1. Women make up over 50% of the users of public spaces (60–75%, EU-wide).
2. fewer women = worse conditions,
3. more women = better, safer spaces,
4. more children and people with disabilities = better places.

Facts



Urban Residence, Compass, Matej Hakár ©

youngest children
(under 3 years)

- Accompanied by someone (safety depends on this person — usually mothers, older female relatives, nannies).
- Gender stereotypes are not yet visible.

A photograph of two young children playing on a wooden playground structure. On the left, a young boy with dark curly hair, wearing a striped t-shirt and blue shorts, is climbing a wooden wall with circular cutouts. On the right, a young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a white shirt and blue shorts, is walking across a rope bridge. The background is a lush green field with trees. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Younger children (3-6 years)

- Still accompanied.
- Gender stereotypes start to appear, often reinforced by parents and teachers.
- Most playgrounds are designed for this group.
- Not all neighborhoods have safe-access playgrounds.



In der Spielzeugwerbung:

Mädchenwelten – Jungenwelten

www.mytoys.de



Mädchenwelten: „Ich wäre gern Küchenchefin“
Jungenwelten: Werkbänke & Werkzeuge

The City of Vienna ©



Older children (6-10 years)

- School: used to walk alone, now preference for "mama-taxi" (risk of car-child collisions).
- Some go alone in the afternoon.
- Lack of dedicated spaces (they end up in fast food places).
- "Mama-taxi" also used for after-school clubs.

- Gender differences: boys dominate playgrounds, which are mostly designed for them (e.g., Vienna example).
- Beginning of group dynamics, conflicts, *"first crushes"*:
"He's mean to you because he likes you..."



measures:

- Ban cars in front of schools.
- Encourage independent walking (important for development, orientation, etc.).
- Design playgrounds also for girls.
- Reduce anxiety and conflict in public spaces.

teenagers
(11-20 years)

- Need for solitude, escape from home.
- Friends become more important.
- Wandering around in groups.
- First experiences with alcohol.
- First sexual experiences.

- Girls often targeted with sexual comments/harassment, most don't know how to react or defend themselves.
- Sex culture (and internet) worsens the situation.
- Boys: tendency to drive without a license (motorbikes, cars) — more accidents due to inexperience.

measures:

- Sex education, violence prevention campaigns (especially for parties and weekends).
- Youth spaces accessible even with low budgets.
- Spaces for loud activities — teenagers often explore the dark side of the city.



Skatepark under the SNP bridge, Bratislava, source: MIB



Protocol “We won’t keep quiet” campaign against sexual assault and harassment in private night-time leisure venues

Barcelona City Council

February 2018

Original editing team: Laura Macaya-Andrés
and Anna Saliente Andrés

Campaign, Barcelona

A group of young women are gathered at night, possibly at a festival or event. One woman in the center is holding a can and looking at a smartphone. Other women are visible in the foreground and background, some holding cans. The scene is dimly lit with warm, ambient light.

If you need anything,
if you feel uncomfortable

No és No

NOMÉS

SÍ ÉS SÍ

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La M
Anticiclista



Ajuntament de
Barcelona







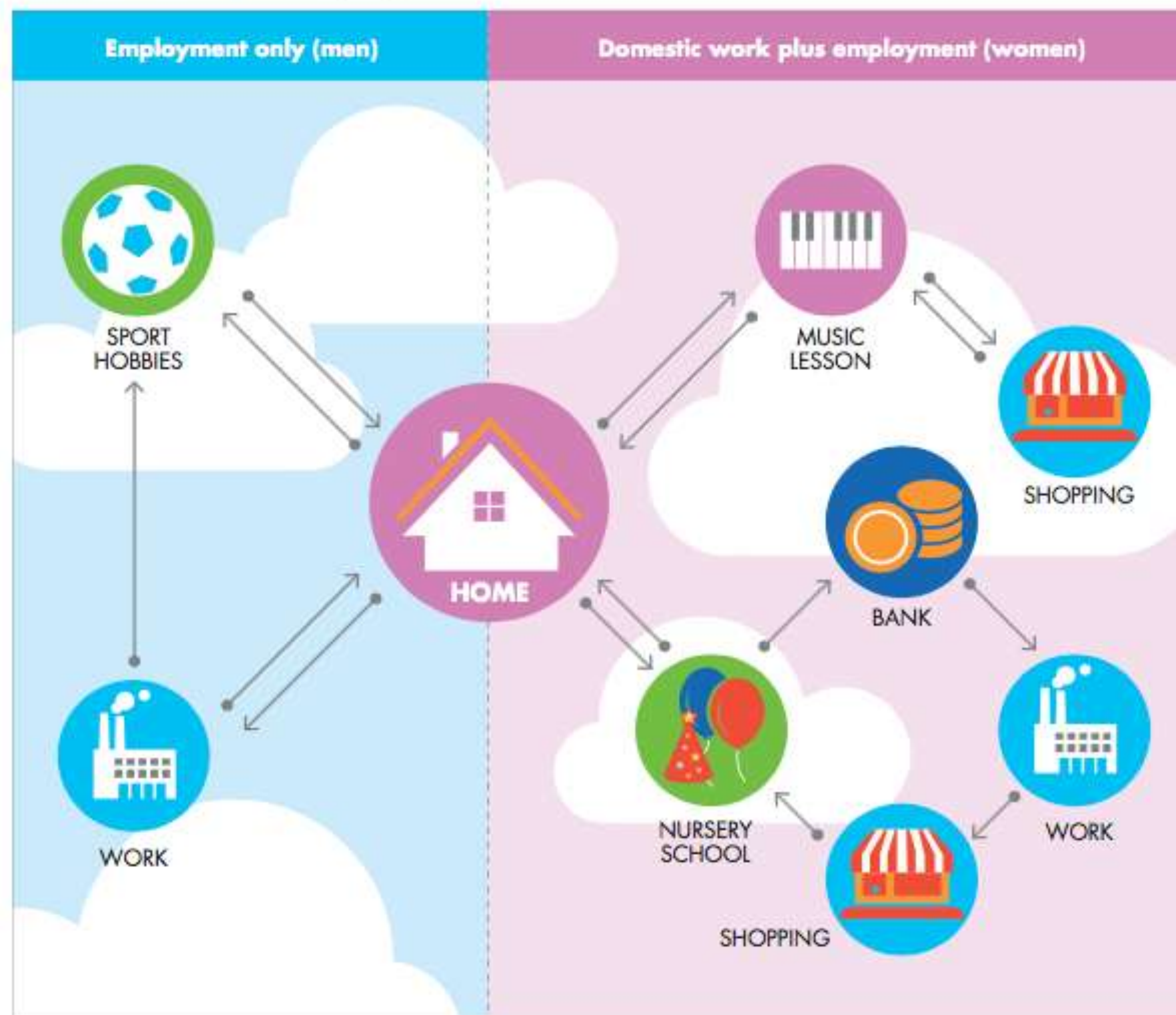
adults
(working age)

- Study and work responsibilities.
- Students have similar patterns as teens.
- Turning point: starting a family.
- Middle-class tendency to move to suburbs (risk of isolation — “*green widows*”).



A normal day (for a woman from Western Europe)

Source: elaboration on Lehner Lierz (2003)



In daily life,
women bear most
responsibilities for
household and
family.





Women walk and
use public
transport more;
men drive more.



measures:

- Focus on efficiency and safety in public transport, sidewalks, public spaces, and stations.
- Connections before working hours (especially from outskirts and suburbs).
- Address domestic violence and divorce safety nets for women.
- Female homelessness (different from male homelessness).

Gender sensitive housing



- Frauen-Werk-Stadt I, II, III
- prototypes designed with special attention to women's needs, exclusively by female architects.



1. mar 2025 o 10:00 | A

Ako ženská štvrť zmenila mestské plánovanie vo Viedni

Boli sme sa pozrieť v komplexe Frauen-Werk-Stadt.

Súvisiace: [Mestská štvrť pre ženy](#) | Rozhovor

 **Katarína Jakubjaková**
redaktorka

+ ODOBERAŤ AUTORA



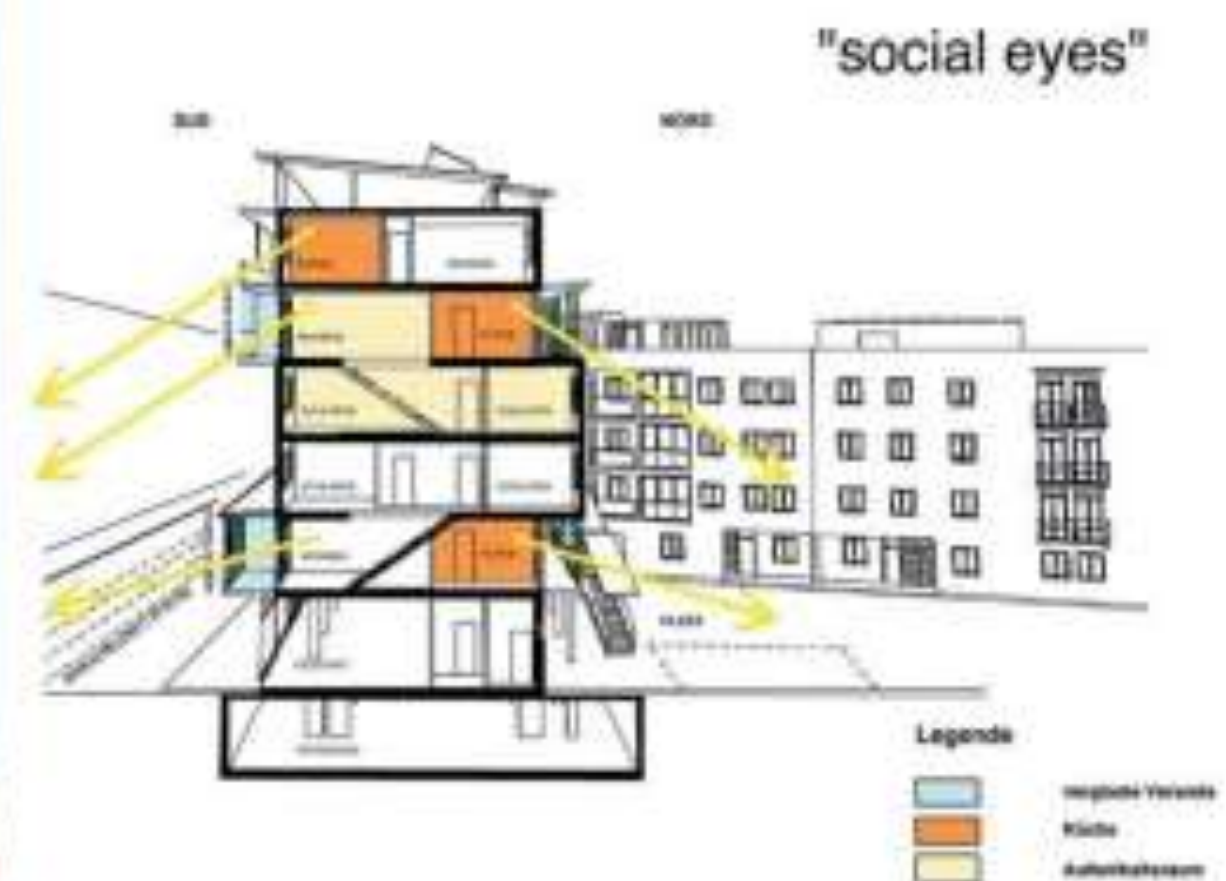
Architekty mysleli na to, aby sa z kuchyne dalo dozerať na deti hrajúce sa vonku. (Zdroj: SME - Jozef Jakubčo)

Písmo: A⁻ | A⁺

 ZDIELAŤ

 DISKUSIA (23)







A Flat for All Life Phases







adults

(emptynesters, app 50-65 year's)



- Life begins again after children leave home.
- Men usually have more resources than women.
- Desire to fulfill dreams while still healthy.
- Most other parameters remain.
- Tendency to return to cities, move into smaller flats.



Younger seniors (65-75 years)

- Key factors: income and health (women live longer but have lower income).
- Women more active in communities; men more prone to isolation.
- Caring for grandchildren.

measures:

- Emphasis on safety.
- Seniors are not night owls — active mainly in the morning (shopping, doctor visits).
- Public transport and walkability are important for both genders.
- Taxis are rarely used (expensive).
- Provide affordable social and healthcare facilities.

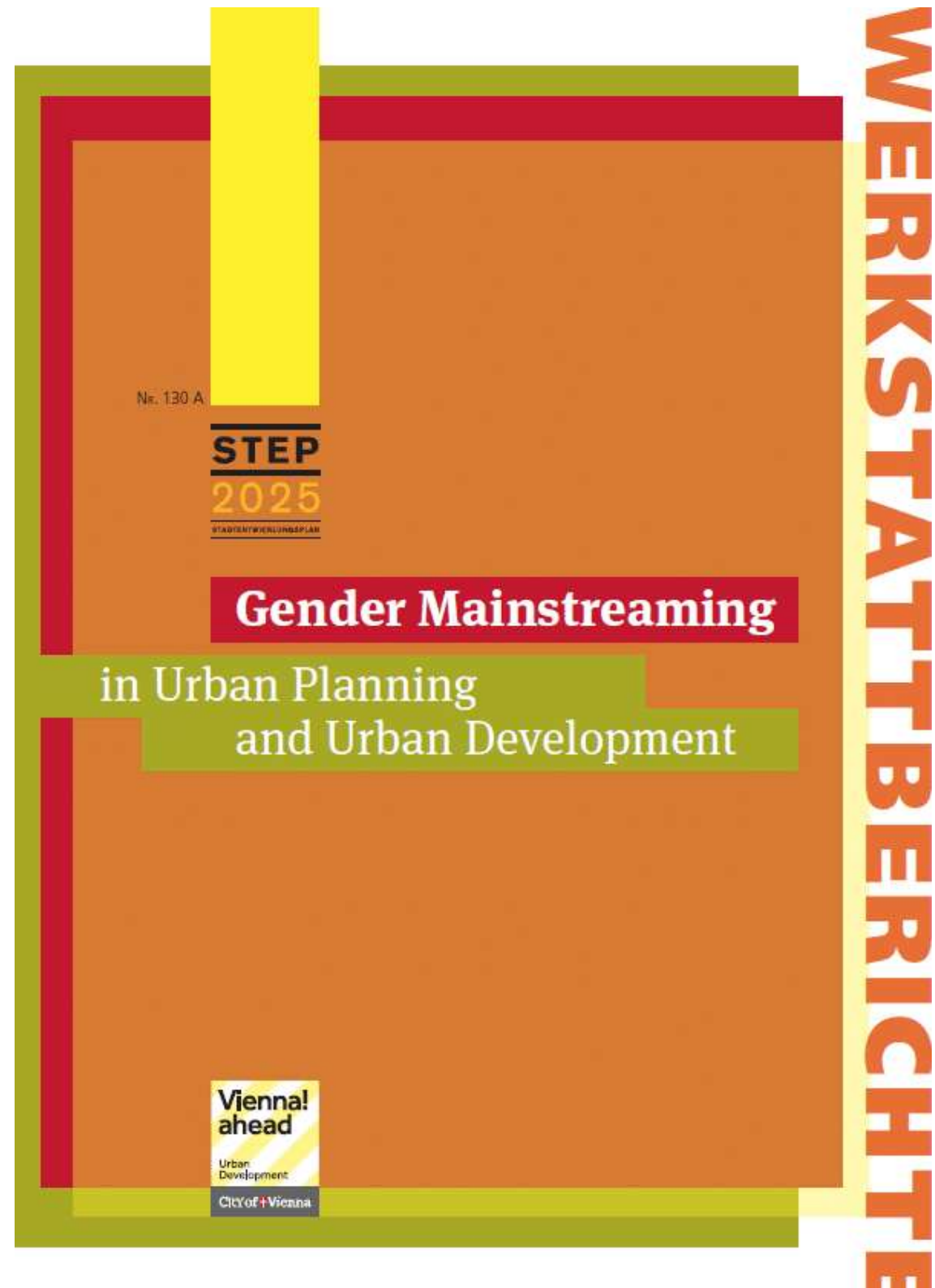


elder seniors (75+ years)

- Health usually worsens by 75.
- Increased dependency on help.
- Decreased mobility and quality of life.

- Gender differences:
- women live app 4.5 years longer than men
- women experience greater risk of poverty than men due to pensions

Further reading



Manual for Gender Mainstreaming in Urban Planning and Development, Vienna



Guidebook for public participation, MIB



How to design a fair shared city, WPS Prague, Heinrich Boll Stiftung

Thank you!

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