

The revitalization of the Księży Młyn area has consisted in a comprehensive renewal of a historic area of 6.5 hectares. It includes modernisation of existing buildings in accordance with a conservation officer's guidelines, introduction of new utilitarian functions and above all - helping people. There are 25 multi-dwelling buildings in the area, all built in the 1870s and '80s by the great industrialist Karol Scheibler for factory workers and their families. Right in their vicinity a textile factory was located, where the inhabitants worked. Within the housing estate a factory store and a school for the workers and their children were built. In the 1990s the factory went bankrupt. Until the end of 1940s over 2,000 people lived at Księży Młyn. Once the standard of dwellings is increased and taking into account that nowadays families are less numerous, the area shall be inhabited by only 700 people. Księży Młyn may serve as an example that housing estates once aimed for factory workers should not be changed both when it comes to their function and replacing the population inhabiting a given area. The project exemplifies how the potential of an inhabiting community and the culture of life it has created may be used, of how they may influence patterns of behaviour of persons, families which are led out from their social problems inconsistent with social rules effective in a given territory

Planned and conducted revitalization activities includes:

- **spacial** activities - building renovation and modernisation including space management;
- **economic** activities - transforming some of dwellings into commercial premises;
- **social** activities - establishing Social Integration Club, Residents Club, social economy entities, introducing artist workshops into the area, programming social, artistic and cultural projects.

Project “**On the Trail of Textile Architecture. Revitalization of Księży Młyn**” is consistent with “The Łódź Development Strategy 2020+” and it pursues its goals, in particular in the following fields: supporting creative industries development in the Księży Młyn area; supporting the Strzeminski Academy of Art in Łódź in establishing the Design Institute in a former school building at 13/15 Księży Młyn Street within the framework of creating academic Łódź, developing culture and creative capital that contributes to the City's attractiveness; rebuilding one of the most historically valuable area, arranging and renewing it in the urban-planning, economic and social sense and this way making it attractive for inhabitants and investors; social and economic activation of the inhabitants that contributes to social inclusion and liquidation of poverty areas within the revitalised area; increasing the safety of inhabitants and the cleanness of the City, facilitating ecological transport thanks to including the Księży Młyn area into the city bike lanes network; optimisation of energy expenditure as a result of thermomodernization of buildings; including the Księży Młyn area into the city bike lanes network.

While living conditions at Księży Młyn are improved and new facilities increasing the area's attractiveness are established, the specific character that makes this urban layout so unique is preserved. The purpose of the site as a housing estate remains unchanged. New functions currently introduced will occupy only 15% of usable area of housing estate buildings. The Księży Młyn area is included in the list of monuments and has the status the Monument of History. The monuments are not treated like some sort of a closed heritage park. The area is open for residents so that the good practice would be saving European heritage for the needs of housing. The area is an easy accessible, open for general use, vivid and evolving spot on the tourist map of the City of Łódź. The project evolves constantly, adjusting to the residents' requirements and opinions. The project assumes that the tenants of communal flats and dwelling owners in condominium buildings who are willing to continue to live here will remain here. Moreover a part of unoccupied ground floor premises have been renovated and destined for artist workshops. Of twelve operating workshops (28 are planned ultimately) half

develop dynamically. The artists have managed to win new customers and they will probably move to bigger premises within the housing estate soon. Workshops are let out on preferential terms, for the amount equivalent to the rent for a dwelling with a similar floor area. A school closed a few years ago has been donated by the City to the Strzeminski Academy of Art and is supposed to serve to establish the European Design Center.

The project is a perfect example of sustainable urban action due to the fact that the urban fabric of the site has been preserved and historical elements have not been destroyed the area and the project exemplifies the crucial role of the involvement of citizens in the process.