

# **Public open space as a contribution to the urban development in Slovenian small cities**

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# Introduction

- Public Open Space
- Small cities
- Urban development
- Quality of life
- User's experience
- Local Spatial Planning

# Public Open Space

is an essential spatial structure,  
which affects quality of life

consist of green areas and  
civic space

contributes to the sustainable  
urban development

is a place for living, place of the society, a  
place of public life, a place of urbanity – it  
is a social and symbolic space

is a key physical element of the  
city

contributes to recreation, active  
life, health, social interaction

**for inhabitants' everyday living and quality of life public open space with its various types (both green areas and civic space) is of great importance.**

# Small cities

- 6,000 settlements in Slovenia: only 156 of them are towns, cities or other urban settlements
- more than half of Slovenian cities (54 out of 93) had in the year 2013 less than 5,000 inhabitants
- Urban structure: 1 big city (Ljubljana), 11 medium-sized cities, **82 small cities**
- Sustainable polycentric spatial (urban) development: the network of small and medium-sized cities is a key framework



# Problem / Reality

Where can I walk?



Where can I sit?



Where is a shadow?



Where can we meet?

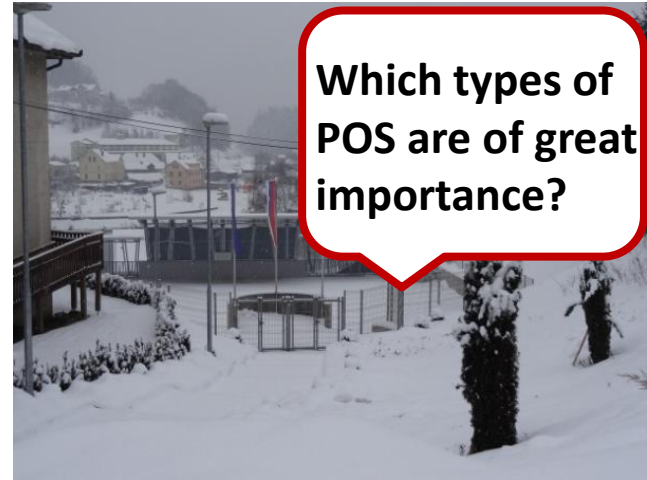


Can we safely walk side by side?



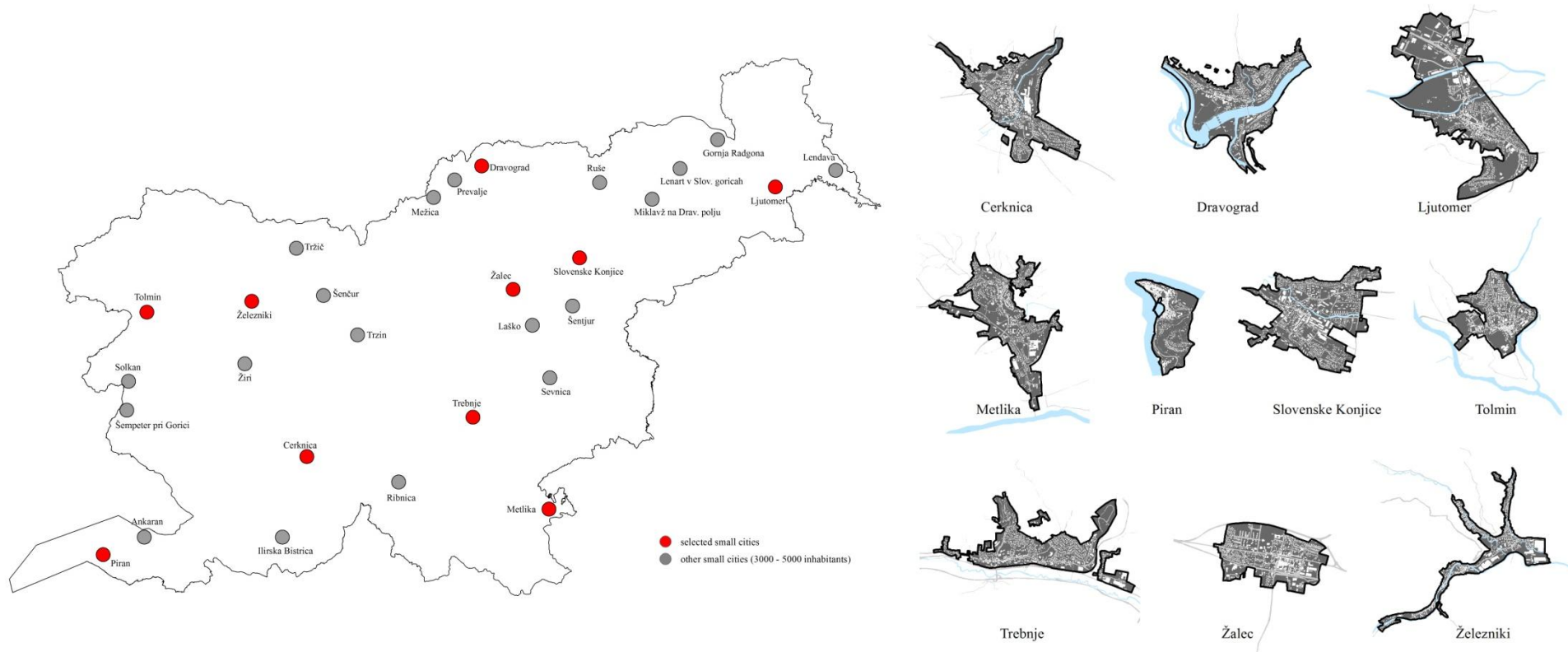
- . Urban development
- . Quality – evaluation process

# User's experiences



# Methods

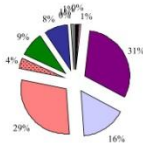
- Selection of small Slovenian cities: 10 selected
- Physical analysis of different types of POS
- Survey questionnaire (year 2012): 4772 sent, with response rate 26.7 %



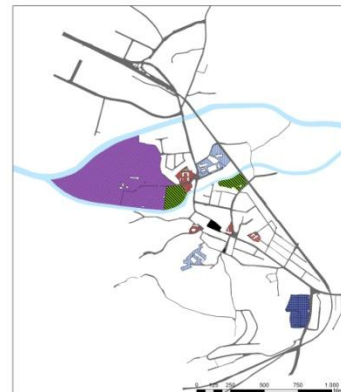
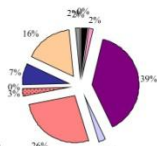
# Results



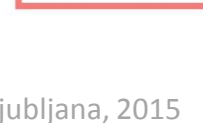
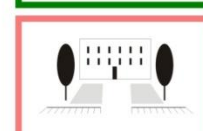
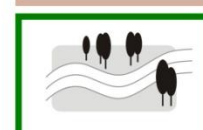
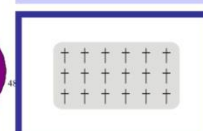
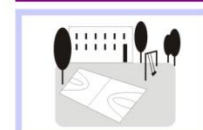
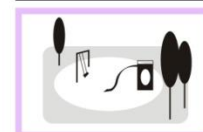
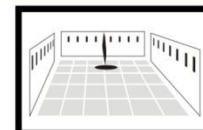
Cerknica 31 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



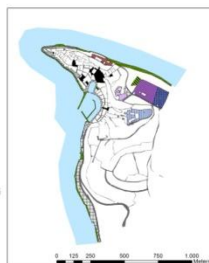
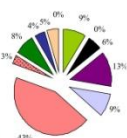
Dravograd 46 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



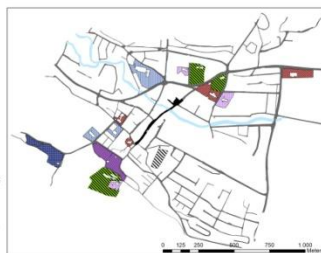
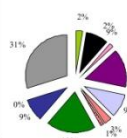
Ljutomer 123 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



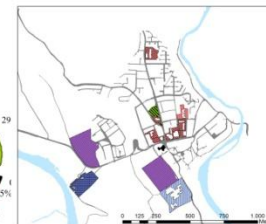
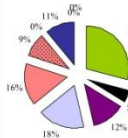
Metlika 45 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



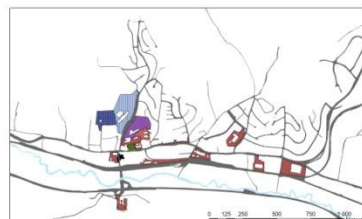
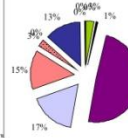
Piran 30 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



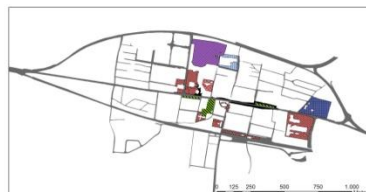
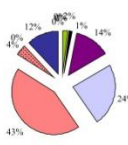
Slovenske Konjice 35 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



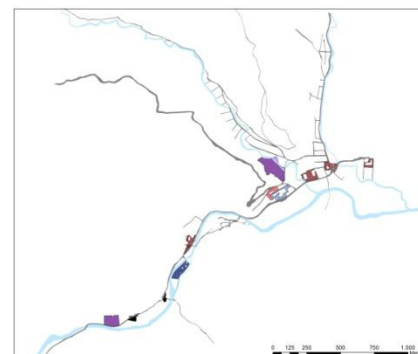
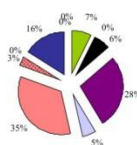
Tolmin 43 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



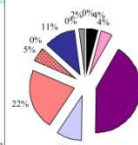
Trebnje 37 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



Žalec 29 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.



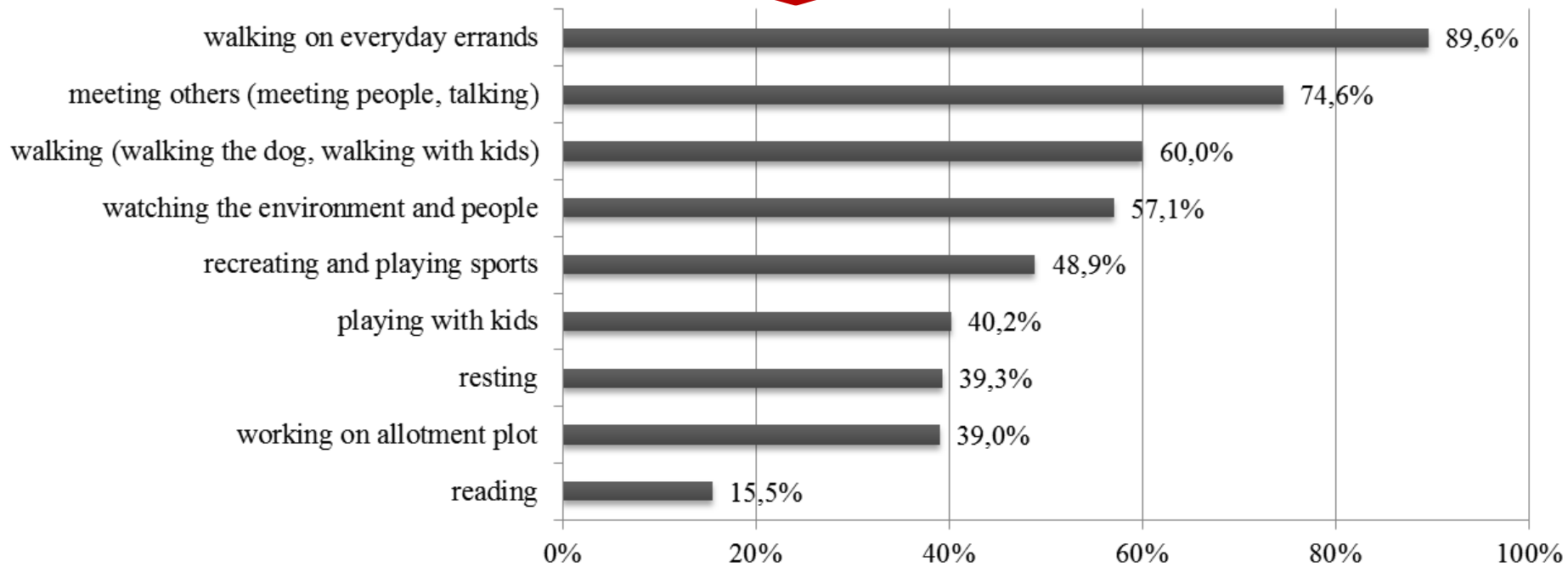
Železniki 19 m<sup>2</sup>/inhab.





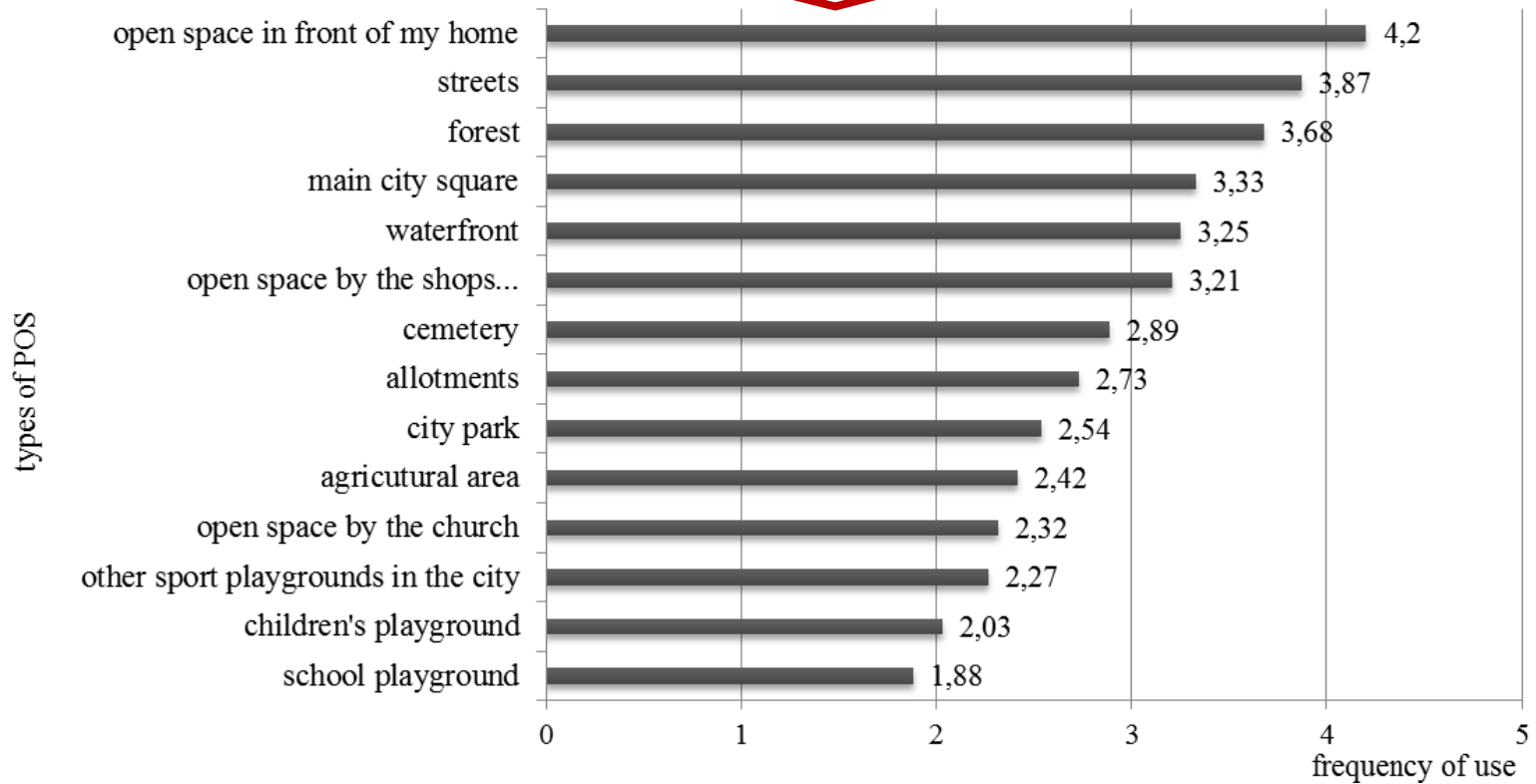
# Results

What you usually do in public open space?



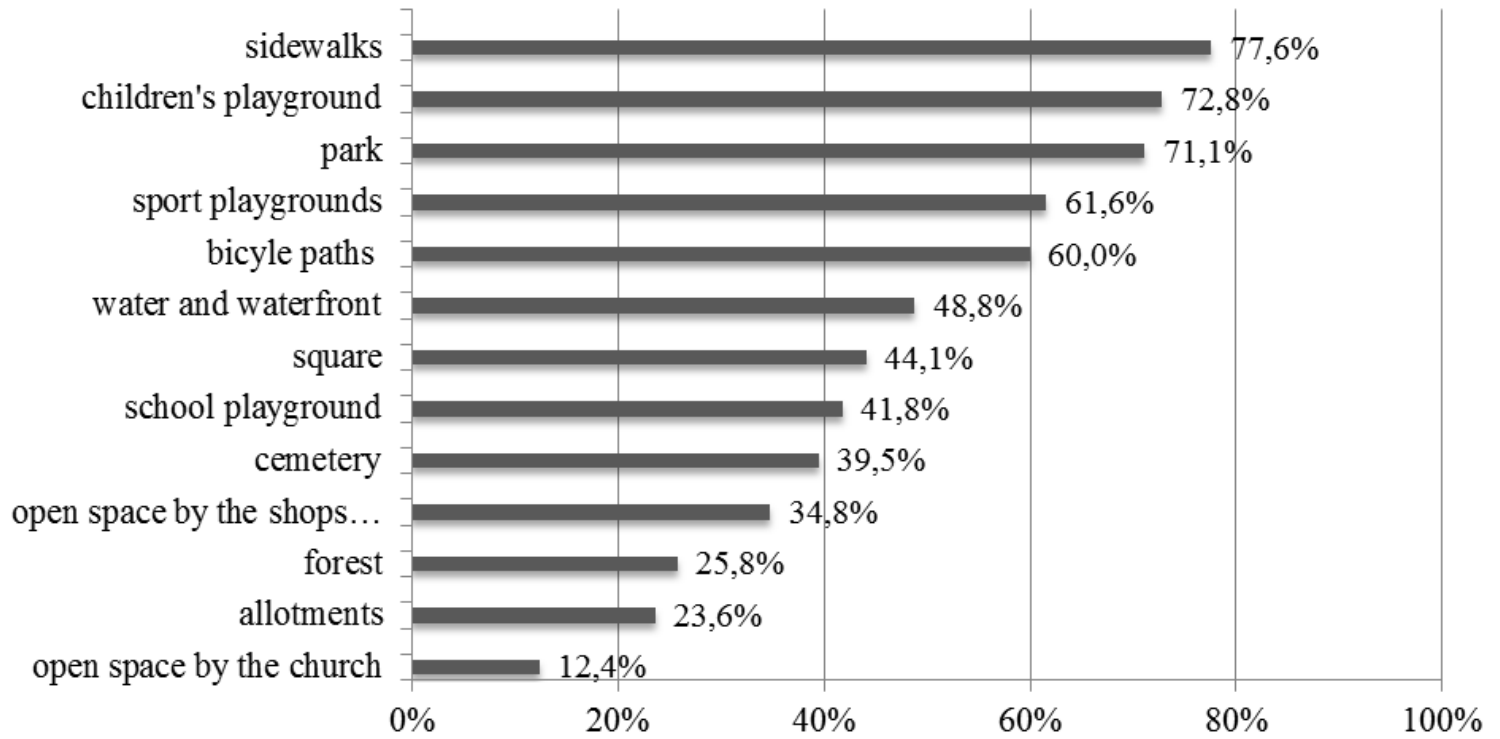
# Results

How often do you use different types of POS?



# Results

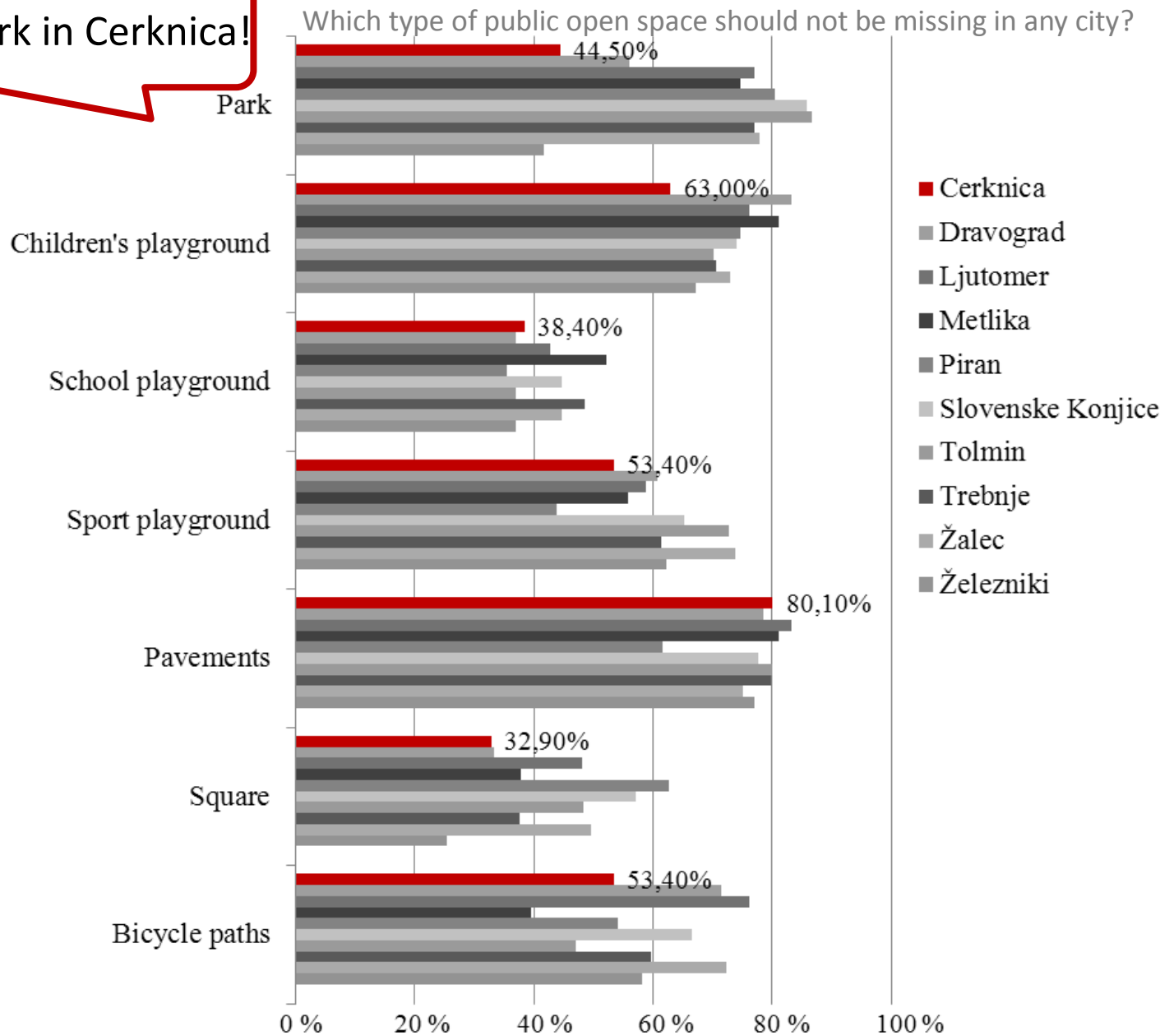
Which spaces should not be missing in any city?



# Discussion

Spatial arrangements influence on the values about the space

e.g. There is no city park in Cerknica!



# Discussion and conclusion

Meaning of local planning in improving physical environment.

Arrangements for everyday situations and everyday life, rise the quality of life.

Diverse public open space in all cities for variety of uses.

By spatial arrangement we do not only build the space, but more importantly enable uses and influence the quality of life in cities.

The diversity of spatial arrangements opens up the possibility of multiple use of POS. The more diverse are the arrangements, functions and activities of the open public space, the greater are the opportunities for a variety of uses and activities in the city.



**Public open space as a contribution to the urban  
development in Slovenian small cities**

Thank you!

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