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## Stanovanjske razmere v Ljubljani v letih 1945–1965

### IZVLEČEK

*V prispevku avtor prikazuje razvoj stanovanjskih razmer v Ljubljani v prvih dveh desetletjih po drugi svetovni vojni. Prikazan je celovit razvoj stanja stanovanjskega fonda, predvojne razmere, povojna obnova, industrializacija mesta, izgradnja blokovskih naselij, reševanje stanovanjske stiske, vsakdanje življenje v mestnih naseljih, razvoj novih bivalnih konceptov stolpnice, soseske in vrstnih hiš ter izboljševanje bivalnega standarda.*

### KLJUČNE BESEDE

*Ljubljana, stanovanjske razmere, 1945–1965, socializem, bloki, stolpnica, soseska, vsakdanje življenje, industrializacija, urbanizacija*

### ABSTRACT

#### HOUSING CONDITIONS IN LJUBLJANA DURING THE PERIOD OF 1945–1965

*The author of the paper describes the housing conditions in Ljubljana during the first two decades after the Second World War. The presentation follows the full development of the housing fund, the pre-war conditions, the post-war reconstruction, urban industrialisation, the construction of low-rise housing estates, addressing the housing crisis, the daily life in low-rise housing estates, as well as the formation of new residential concepts ascribed to high-rises, neighbourhoods, terraced houses and the rising residential standard.*

### KEY WORDS

*Ljubljana, housing conditions, 1945–1965, socialism, blocks of flats, high-rise, neighbourhood, daily life, industrialisation, urbanisation*

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## S U M M A R Y

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### Housing conditions in Ljubljana during the period of 1945–1965

Slovenian residential areas, including those in Ljubljana, suffered enormous damage during the Second World War. Post-war industrialisation caused mass migrations to cities and a growth in urban population, which resulted in severe housing problems. At the end of the war, Ljubljana was short about 2,200 flats. The post-war housing culture was very modest. According to the data from the 1949 population

census, plumbing was installed in 68% of houses but only 55.4% of flats, the sewerage system in 71.8% of houses but only 57.3% of flats, gas pipelines in 9.8% of houses and 13.4% of flats, while electrical installations were in place in 95.9% of houses and 97.3% of flats. 23% of flats were provided with bathrooms. Ljubljana's housing crisis was alleviated by a number of state administrative measures. Having a sound understanding of the problem, the new authorities set up services to manage the entire housing fund across the municipalities. The reconstruction of the housing fund and the endeavours to make housing available for all were a priority task of the Yugoslav socialist regime's social scheme. The City People's Committee of Ljubljana steered the housing policy as well as formed a special city housing commission and multiple field commissions which were charged with deciding on applications for housing allocation. New residential projects were the continuation of pre-war urban planning; they represented a typical example of geometric city planning by integrating buildings into green settings, exposing them to sunlight and ensuring better hygienic conditions (e.g., Litostroji). The buildings were oblong and two to four storeys high; they had multiple entrances and most often a single-purpose residential status. In 1949, the so-called "rapid building" system was introduced, whose purpose was to typify the construction plan and parts of buildings. In the first decade after the war, the new housing estates were primarily built in the vicinity of factories and featured a uniform exterior appearance. These residential buildings no longer followed the traditional patterns of city blocks and correspond-

ing street layouts, which were characteristic of urban residential areas from the second half of the 19th century onwards. Also, the new collectivist ideology hindered the private initiative of individual housing construction, which it considered non-socialist, bourgeois and contrary to collectivist tendencies. Ravnikar's seminar played a crucial part in housing research during the mid-1950s. Apart from criticism targeting the existing housing construction, the same period also saw the emergence of ideas to embrace the concept of neighbourhood units, as was developed in north European and particularly Scandinavian countries. While the first neighbourhoods were not completed before the 1960s, certain elements had already been introduced in the Savsko naselje housing estate. Owing to the rising personal income and standard of living, the early 1960s also saw a change in daily life. The style of flat-living largely depended on the arrangement of rooms. Newly built flats offered more comfort than the old ones, by featuring bathrooms with running water, toilets, living rooms, bedrooms, kitchens (usually with dining rooms), and additional rooms. Every family's living room had a radio receiver, while TV viewing was still a "collective" activity during the 1960s. Free-standing kitchen cabinets were replaced by built-in elements and wall cabinets—the so-called Swedish kitchen (present in Sweden since 1930), furnished with gas and electric stoves. The refrigerator became a common feature as well. As for bedrooms, a true revolution was brought about by mattresses. The growing number of newly built flats led to the first consequential housing reform, which was completed in the early 1960s.