

on a state level. Namely, the end of the World War II terminated the existence of the German statehood by means of putting the German territory under the authority of the victorious powers and the Allied Control Council of Germany. It was a real punishment for the international crimes, including crimes of genocide, applied by means of force.

Shall we be satisfied with such state of affairs? It seems that the international community achieved success in the area of enforcing the individual responsibility for the crime of genocide. However, the possibility of enforcing the state responsibility is still extremely difficult.

Such cases as a slaughter of the Armenians in Turkey with over a million of victims (1915 – 1917), hunger in Ukraine (Holodomor) with a 14 million estimated number of victims (1932-1933), a case of a slaughter of over 10 thousand Polish officers in Katyń (1940), although admitted by Russia, still haven't brought any punishment of the perpetrators.

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TOMN IN CRISIS

THE SPIRIT OF TOWN

Bytom is one of the oldest towns in Poland . It received city rights in the 13th century, so it is over 750 years old. Its architecture is beautiful, and the culture is really rich. Bytom is situated in Silesia, the largest mining region in Poland. Its coal mining cultural heritage is diverse, and its traditions have lasted for over a few generations. In 1945 the city was transferred to Poland after the Potsdam Conference. At that time its German population was largely deported and replaced with inhabitants of eastern provinces annexed by the Soviets. They were mostly inhabitants of Lvov, a city with a well-integrated community, famous for its special atmosphere of kindness, cheerfulness, an open attitude to others, and also great traditions and achievements in culture and science. Thus Bytom witnessed the encounter of two communities – Silesians, who felt a very strong connection to this land, who are also a community of kind people and ready to help those in need (towns with mining industry know the meaning of hard work and crisis situations related to mining, they are ready to support one another), and the inhabitants of Lvov, who, even though did not have any mining traditions, possessed a similar mentality and ability to live in a local community; they also appreciated its value. In this way, despite the difficult historical circumstances, the both groups

integrated quickly. The situation of similar problems was helpful – they all found themselves in new circumstances, under new administration, they were pulled out from their previous local communities, and now they were building a new community from scratch. They all valued the sense of community highly. Also, people from various regions of Poland, searching for work in the mining industry, moved to Bytom.

CRISES OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY

The wasteful exploitation during the communist time, and the crisis of coal mining industry in the 90s, brought the bankruptcy of coal mines and many coal related factories and companies, leaving Bytom with high unemployment rate, environmental devastation, social and community problems. Miners leaving the failing coal mines received relatively high severance payments that were supposed to help them to re-train and to start their own business. The money, however, was quickly spent on cars and luxurious equipment, after some time they became poor and unemployed.

INDUSTRIAL DISASTER

In July 2011, after a mine collapse under Karb district, an entire street had to be evacuated within hours, beginning the difficult process of displacement and resettlement of about 600?? inhabitants. Neither the authorities, nor the people living in Bytom, were prepared for such an extensive technological disaster. The city structure was not ready to resettle such a great number of people, so many of them had to move to temporarily rented flats, hostel rooms or relatives, all of that leading to multi-dimensional problems. The help from government was needed, but Bytom didn't receive it.

OUR RESEARCH

So we can say that we are dealing here with a city in a serious crisis. We have decided to take a closer look at the attitudes and the state of mind of the inhabitants at that time. As a group of psychologists of Katowice, we organised meetings with the inhabitants (the city did not hold such meetings, which made the people really angry). During the meetings we were able to conduct interviews based on which a questionnaire was developed, allowing us get to know the opinions and emotions, but also their vision for the future as well as fears related to the situation in the city.

RESULTS

Here are some of the received responses:

The first and the second table illustrate opinions shared by representatives of all the inhabitants (271 respondents), so not only those directly affected by the disaster.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS

THE MOST COMMON RESPONSES	%
1. The main social problems of the city	
– unemployment (45),	96,7
– poverty (44),	92,6
– alcoholism (46)	83,0
2. Degradation of the city	
– negligence (9)	87,8
– buildings falling into ruin (10)	95,9
– decreasing significance of the city (40)	84,5
– devastation – reason for feeling insecure (11)	78,5
– less comfort for the inhabitants (42)	79,7
– Bytom seen from the outside in a negative light (39)	78,6
3. Helplessness of City authorities (52)	80,8
4. No sense of achievement (41)	74,5
5. Sense of insecurity for individuals and their families (43)	60,9
6. Sense of injustice	
– "this should be a problem for the whole country of Poland" (37)	60,9

As demonstrated, the opinions are focusing on the decline of the city, the destruction causing insecurity, basic social issues, and the authorities being helpless.

The opinions are characteristic for the crisis caused by the economic situation and the condition of the city's infrastructure (economic, in the construction area, the decay of the city's structure)

SOCIAL RESOURCES

The described crisis situation did not destroy the social structure of the city.

This area gives us some optimism. A considerable part of the local community share the following opinions:

OPINIONS SHOWING SOCIAL RESOURCES THAT MIGHT RENEW THE CITY	%
1. Identification – feeling of connection, willingness to live there (1; 2)	53,1 – 54,2
2. Sense of pride related to the history and tradition (7)	58,7
3. Sense of community (55)	43,9
4. Identifying positive changes here and now (23)	40,6
5. Opinion that Bytom is likely to develop (23)	40,6
6. Not many specific fears (57–60)	54,1 – 68,3
7. No feeling of being worse and downplayed (54)	63,5
8. It's good to live among the inhabitants of Bytom (6)	46,9

AMBIVALENT ATTITUDES

The ambivalent attitudes towards living in the city are characteristic for crisis situations.

AMBIVALENT ATTITUDES

Opinions on living in Bytom	↪ + despite the problems, I still want to live here	53.1*
	but ↪ - I don't want my children and grandchildren to live here	46.9
Opinions on the quality of life	↪ + High social value – living among the inhabitants of Bytom is easy	46.9
	but ↪ - Living in Bytom is difficult	58.3
	↪ - Bytom is not a good place to live	47.2
Vision for the future	↪ + Despite problems, there are numerous development opportunities	40.6
	but ↪ - Bytom has little chances for rebuilding its position from the ruins (as compared to the past)	45.4
	↪ - It is risky to plan one's life around Bytom	59.8
Mining industry	↪ + continues to be Bytom's strength	41.0
	↪ + ensures fair employment conditions	45.0
	but ↪ - destroys and degrades [28]	56.1
	↪ - prioritizes profits at the expense of humans (positions itself above authorities)	48.0
General threats (do not translate into particular threats)	↪ - I feel threatened by the progressing decline of the city [11]	78.6
	but ↪ + Specific concerns expressed by 16 – 24%, this does not translate into specific threats	16.2 - 23.6

The ambivalent attitude is a consequence of the fact that some opinions reflect the economic sphere and the city's physical infrastructure, whereas the others relate to the social sphere. The two spheres have no common denominator.

AFFECTED BY COAL MINING DISASTER

Comparing the groups – those affected directly and indirectly by the disaster, and the remaining inhabitants of the city – allows for the following conclusions:

- surprisingly, there are no differences on the level of emotional reactions when faced with the situation, the feeling of alienation or the feeling of being worse, as well as when the vision for the future is concerned
- the affected people expressed stronger views on what happened (fewer doubts)
 - more people in this group:
 - xpressed strong connection to Bytom

- strong feeling of discomfort about the progressing decline of city
- the feeling of injustice, it is them that have to deal with all the problems
- indicated ruthlessness of the mining industry in relation to the needs of individuals

The inhabitants of Karb district, who experienced the disaster, feel that they are deeply rooted in the traditions of the city. The sense of insecurity directed their emotions, and their search for help in the city itself.

Proportionally fewer people from the group who have connections with the mining industry, when compared with the other inhabitants, blamed the mining industry for the disaster, more of them can see its positive economic role, which is quite self-explanatory.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE DISASTER

The research was conducted in the year 2011, just after the disaster occurred. We informed the municipalities on its outcomes. We organised, together with the Human Rights Defender, meetings with the Municipal Council and a committee of volunteers organised by us, made up of those who were willing to help the city. The inhabitants were informed about these initiatives. The local office of Human Rights Defender helped with the preparation of legal proceedings against the Municipal Council and Kompania Węglowa (coal-related corporation). In this way, the authorities, behaving quite passively at that time, were pressured, and the people could feel that somebody from the outside was interested in their fate.

Several months later, as a result of a referendum, the mayor of the city was replaced. Overthrowing the authorities gave the people the sense of achievement (they were able to get rid of the source of evil identified by them, a kind of a scape goat), since that time on, despite the existing socio-economic issues, the city has been able to develop as an enterprising local community open to individuals.

In the year 2013, Bytom became the winner of ‘The most likeable town in Poland’ competition. Also in that year the inhabitants took the matters into their own hands, organising a volunteer action of cleaning thoroughly the railway station. As a result, the Polish State Railways accelerated the reconstruction of the building, and the local architects developed reconstruction plans for the most devastated district, free of charge.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, it is worth saying that according to the outcomes of our study, even such a strong crisis as the one in Bytom, may on different levels develop in different ways, and does not have to include all of the areas. The sense of identification with the city, the feeling of community, may become a factor facilitating survival and implementing changes. This happens when the

local community was strong already before the crisis situation. That is why building and supporting local communities is so important, they are the extraordinary strength. At the moment of crisis, however, they should be able to experience support from the outside. We feel that our meetings with the inhabitants, the conducted study, which involved also contacting various members of the community, as well as the organised pressure on the authorities, all that demonstrated this support and was also an opportunity for exchanging views and triggering the inhabitants' activities after the shock of the construction disaster.

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ДУХОВНО-ПРАВСТВЕННЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ МОЛОДЫХ СПЕЦИАЛИСТОВ

Процесс социальной эволюции на нашей планете достиг критической фазы.

Сегодня человечество находится в принципиально новой ситуации, когда невнимание к проблемам последствий внедрения новой техники и технологии может привести к необратимым негативным результатам для всей цивилизации и земной биосферы. Эпоха развития технического прагматизма, опирающейся только на экономические факторы, исчерпала себя.

Изначальная цель инженерной деятельности – служить удовлетворению потребностей человека. Однако современная техника и технологии зачастую употребляется во вред человеку и человечеству в целом. Это относится не только к технике, используемой для уничтожения людей, но также и к повседневной эксплуатации инженерно–технических устройств. Если при проектировании инженеры не предусмотрели того, что, наряду с экономическими и техническими требованиями эксплуатации, должны быть соблюдены и требования безопасного, бесшумного, удобного, экологичного их применения, то из средства служения людям техника может стать враждебной человеку и подвергнуть опасности само его существование на Земле. Эта особенность современной ситуации выдвигает на первый план проблему моральности и социальной ответственности инженера перед обществом и отдельными людьми.

К сожалению, и в XXI веке значимые для людей инновации появляются вне всякого контроля и экспертизы со стороны общества на потенциальные негативные последствия для человека. Это создаёт общую угрозу цивилизации, причина которой отстранённость техники и техно-