Ensuring the health of users with the integrated approach to the renovation of school buildings

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INTRODUCTION. It is important how we design, maintain and renovate school environments, as they are designed for children, who are the most vulnerable population and they spend in school on average around 8 hours per day. Quality school environment influences different dimensions of our health. Through the entire life cycle of the building following parameters have to be considered: noise, lightening, space distribution and orientation, thermal comfort, air quality, furnishing etc. Usually users experience is not important when starting renovation process, and also some of the health parameters are not paying enough attention. Through the comprehensive design process of the school environment there is beside interdisciplinary collaboration between different experts a big need for users’ participation in the renovation process.

AIM. To define the health parameters that should be addressed when renovating school buildings. In this research we will create the strategy how to involve users into the renovation process of school buildings, focused on the design of healthy school environment from public health and architecture prospective. Research is base for the project “Evaluating user experience after building renovation: development of a new methodological approach”, where we will develop a new methodological approach for assesing user experience after the renovation of the building and prepare a new tool for assessing user experience after building renovation.

METHODS. We conducted comprehensive literature review (integrated approach towards design and renovation of school buildings, evaluation process of existing school buildings, etc.), research on health parameters, and development of new strategy model.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSSION. When designing/renovating healthy school environment different elements should be considered: health parameters, users experience, integrated approach, interdisciplinary collaboration etc.

CONCLUSION. To conclude, a comprehensive approach is needed in the planning process of healthy school buildings, which is based on interdisciplinary collaboration between different stakeholders, from planners to users.

**Keywords:** healthy school environment, health parameters, users experience, renovation, primary schools, interdisciplinary collaboration, public health.

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