



Providing emancipation through maps

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LOCATION BASED SERVICES 2014

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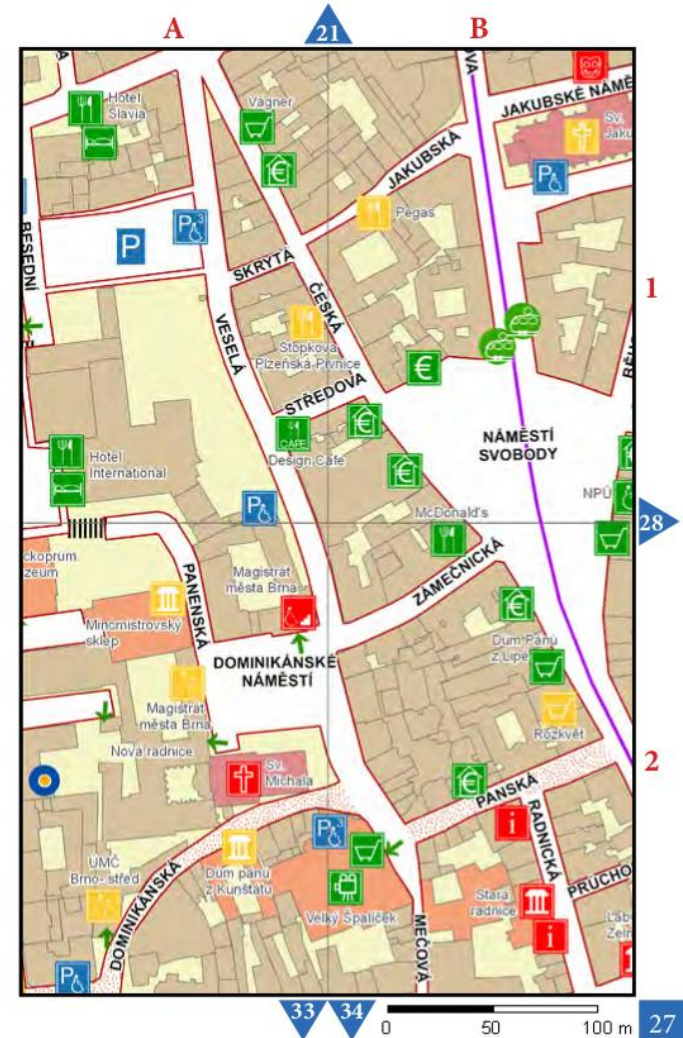


GEOGRAFICKÝ ÚSTAV
PŘÍRODOVĚDECKÁ FAKULTA MU

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Analysis, evaluation, and visualization of global environmental changes in the landscape sphere

Story begins: accessibility map

- Local Non-Governmental Organisation asked us to create an accessibility map
- So we did it.
- The end of the story?
- No.
- Why?



Social geography

- Claims
 - Social production of space
 - Map as a representation of space
 - Disability is a broadly discussed but hardly defined concept
- Reactions about the first maps
 - Mixed – disabled vs. experts
- Further outcomes (criticism)
 - Disabled as a social group – not homogenous, defined from outside
 - Space of the city – full of barriers, but!
 - Methodological issues – mapping, theoretical background



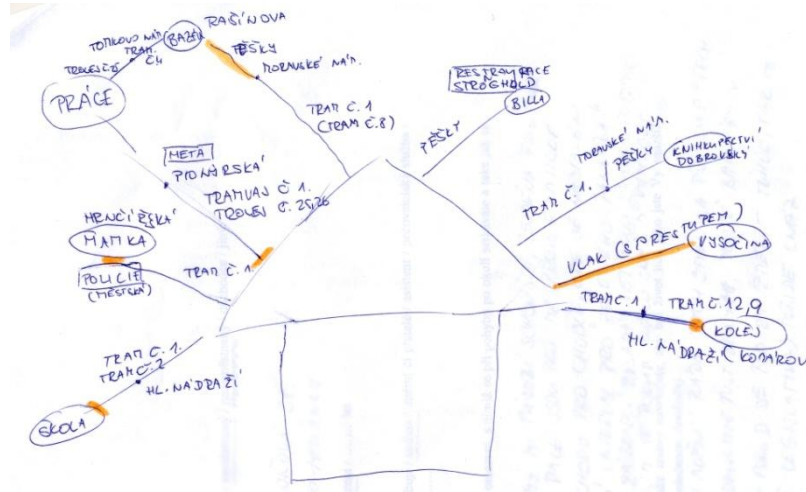
Changes in approach

- To create something more useful, we:
 - Looked outside the (Czech) borders
 - Feminist approaches - philosophical basis, social practices of majority: oppression
(ethical, normative dimension)
 - Role of a spatial expert – „revolution“ in research
 - Sub-politics – democratical cities: from bottom-up (non-official structures)
 - Right to city – right to shape and use
- = geographies of disability
- Applied in the city (again)
 - Mapping, intensive interactions (individuals, NGOs, municipality, etc.), interviews

Move forward

- Experiences of disabled
 - Social and cultural level – fear, ignorance, not-knowing
 - Material level – f.e. entrances
= social/spatial inferiority
- Orientation differences
 - Checkpoints/track based
 - Life experience
- Reading maps
 - Difficult
 - Oppressive

Representations of space?



Further directions of research

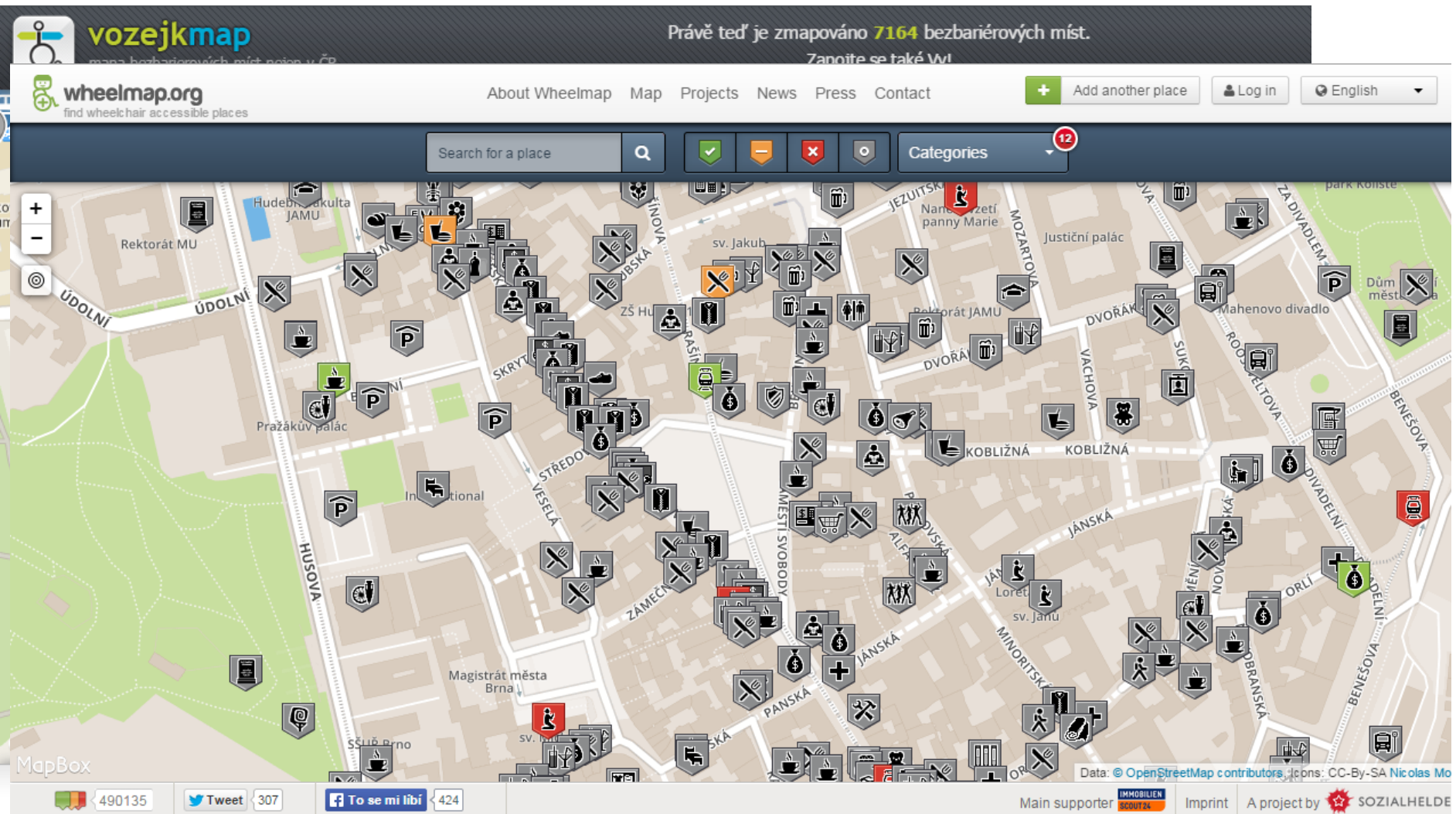
- Still looking for the best solutions possible
 - Place for LBS!
- Practically
 - Further cooperation
 - Extensive dialogue, focus on the needs and ideas of disabled
- Technically
 - Innovations: Mobile navigation application



Work in progress

- Device:
 - LBS
 - Interdisciplinary team – university, private, public
 - Institutional background: Brno City Municipality, Public transportation company, involved NGOs
 - Smartphones
 - Adjustable (application proposal)
 - Adaptive spatial representation (map, image, narration, sound)
 - Social user interface and database
 - Individual-based way-finding
 - Brno city
- Benefits:
 - Primary – spatial emancipation of disabled (school, work, leisure): the importance of being seen
 - Secondary – observe the progress of accessibility, provide feedback for authorities (and an argument for the NGO), spread of innovation?

Same topic, but...



Thank you for your kind attention

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