

Urbanization processes taking place in Russia do not enjoy much popularity in global urban studies. The main focus in research on processes occurring in cities and developing their space, is placed on the cities of the West, and the notions of “post-soviet” and “post-socialistic” are still the central category used for analysing last 25 years in the region of East-Central Europe. This category limits the perspective to the problem of internal politics of Russia, making it difficult to notice transnational factors and regional specificity, influencing the shape of urban space. Whereas post-industrial urbanization in Russia constitutes a modestly recognised, but at the same time an interesting and dynamic process, entangled in relations of international character, adapting global trends and not limiting itself to a simplified category of post-Sovietism. That is why, in the project **social practises of creating urban space in the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan – Kazan**, are to be examined. Kazan, announced to be the Third Capital of Russia (after Moscow and Petersburg), has invested intensively into revitalisation of urban space. The city has successfully been applying for the organization of world mega-sports events (Summer Universiade 2013, World Cup 2018), by means of which it has been building the strategy of creating new political identity. Kazan also began active international cooperation, e.g. with China. Kazan elites concentrate their energy on creating the image of a vibrant and politically significant city, at the same time emphasising autonomy of Kazan and the Republic of Tatarstan, based on Tatar cultural heritage. The research refers to the way political, intellectual and financial elites perceive the city and what strategies of development and entrepreneurialism they adopt. The research aims at presenting the way official discourse and everyday experiences and activities of male and female inhabitants permeate in urban space. Scientific observation will focus on urban initiatives and investments realised in Kazan, which allows for answering the question about participation of individual social actors in city-forming processes of Kazan. Application of ethnographic research methods, historical analysis and research tools coming from geoinformation, will make it possible to notice complex relations between management, economics, society and politics, that are exceptionally well visible in the field of urban studies.