

Saját újévi üdvözlőlap

(East) European worries and wishes

Dear Friend,

On the picture below you can see a prefabricated building in a Romanian city.



Looking more into the details some peculiarities can be discovered. The guy in the upper left corner made a decision *to insulate the walls of his flat*. For the moment he is the only one in this part of the house. The colour became pink and the design of the facade panel has gone – but at least he sits in a bit warmer flat...

Some of the other owners, however, are also active. On the right hand side, just behind the corner you can see white pipes standing out of the wall. The families in these flats decided *to quit district heating*. Not having chimney in the house, they bought gas ovens and punched out their walls for the installation of their individual, horizontal chimneys...

For those, who miss for technical reasons the picture from the e-mail I have sent a different picture as attachment. This picture also shows on the upper floors in the back the punched front walls and the white pipes standing out. Moreover, the flat building in the front is the heating center, where the district heating arrives from the far away heating plant. The deterioration of this building clearly shows *the lack of any investments into district heating* in the last decades...

These pictures illustrate my WORRIES. In eastern European cities, after full privatization of flats, families are very active and want to improve their lives. Some of them invest in insulation, others to introduce individual heating. However, *these individual efforts prove to be counter-productive*. The pipes deliver CO₂ directly to the air (towards the flat above) and air quality on the housing estate deteriorates dramatically. Besides, the privately installed gas ovens increase the risk of gas explosion in large buildings.

And now I arrived to my WISHES. What I would wish to all of us is to become more successful in strengthening the public sector in these cities. *A new public leadership and active public policy has to develop to orientate the individual efforts into a direction where the outcomes are positive and sustainable, not only for the individuals, but for everyone.*

At the end of my long story allow me to wish you *also in your personal life Happy and Successful New Year!*

Iván

Tosics Iván
ügyvezető igazgató; managing director
Városkutatás Kft (Metropolitan Research Institute)
H-1093 Budapest, Lónyay utca 34.
tel. (+36-1) 217-9041; fax: (+36-1) 216-3001
tosics@mri.hu
www.mri.hu