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Abstract for oral presentation

Accessibility to kindergartens – Does it follow population changes?

The dynamic and uncontrolled development of residential buildings generates demand for public services, e.g. kindergartens in new locations. Current trends and good practices define satisfactory access to kindergartens within a 15-minute walk (approx. 1 km). The aim of the study is to designate access zones to kindergartens and calculate the percentage of preschool-age children living in defined zones and to determine the degree to which the market is filled by public and private kindergartens in 2024 and 2018.

For the purposes of the study, all kindergartens from the Register of Schools and Educational Institutions mapped. A 15-minute pedestrian access zone was designated for each facility based on Open Street Map data. Based on statistical data from the official registry (PESEL database), the percentage of children living within a 15-minute walk from the kindergarten was calculated. Additionally, a comparison with the situation in 2018 was made.

Based on the research, areas without convenient access to kindergartens (white spots) and the dynamics of the situation in communes were identified.

The study does not take into account parents' preferences as the factor determining their choice of kindergarten. The spatial component of the study may be an indication for local authorities when planning new investments.