

Gentrification Map

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

During the past two decades the importance of cities has grown in a considerable way, being the center of the human activity. In a few years more than half of global population will live in cities for the first time in history, concentrating the principal economic activities, and for those reasons is important to rethink the way we understand the cities and approach new problems generated by these dynamics in an innovative way.

One of the problems that are having the main European and American cities is gentrification, a phenomenon that was first used by Ruth Glass in 1964 but specially in the past 15 years has become a popular concept. We can define gentrification as: “The process by which a place, especially part of a city, changes from being a poor area to a richer one, with the population being replaced by members of a higher social class”.

1.2. Problem

Gentrification is a complex issue and is difficult to face. The better way to act in front of the problem is to try to prevent it of developing. As we have many examples of cities and neighborhoods that have suffered gentrification, there are some characteristics that can help us to diagnose if certain area has certain symptoms, and act in consequence.

Here is where data plays a vital role solving the problem. Analyzing the actual situation of population, rent prices, typology of the venues, between others can help to prevent the situation to develop.

1.3. Interest

The city halls and public administrations are the principal interested in this methodology, to create documents that help the decision making in the urban planification and development of the measures to protect the citizenship.

