

# Assessing the relationship between community inclusion and space through Valletta 2018 cultural infrastructural projects



Dr Antoine Zammit

# Presentation Overview

## *Preliminaries*

- Key research question and objectives, research Indicators
- Research Methodology and spinoff studies
- Introducing the four case study sites

## *The Literature*

- Synopsis of key pointers developed from literature
- Extracting the main literature themes for the purposes of this research

## *Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings*

- Baseline study 1: On the ground analysis – scoring individual qualities and impression scores
- Baseline study 2: Work carried out with NSO, Census data obtained at the neighbourhood level
- Baseline study 3: Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using a deductive approach)
- Baseline study 4: Masters Dissertation 2 (social analysis using an inductive approach)

## *Concluding thoughts and future direction of research*

# Preliminaries | Key research questions and objectives, research Indicators

**Research title: Assessing the relationship between community inclusion and space through Valletta 2018 cultural infrastructural projects**

- **Main research question :**

*What role can cultural infrastructure play in the achievement of culture-led regeneration?*

The question is answered through the assessment of **three key considerations**:

- Those **aspects of 'place'** that may reflect the cultural values held by the community – analysed separately from a deductive spatial approach to social conditions and an inductive social approach to space.
- The potential **impact of cultural infrastructure** within the place from a **socio-spatial** point of view – requiring the study of the interface/overlap between the social and spatial perspectives through 'on the ground' investigation of the urban fabric (its composition) and close monitoring of any change therein.
- The manner with which **culture-led regeneration** may affect the **use** of the surrounding urban spaces of place (spin-offs) and the **sense of ownership** of place.

# Preliminaries | Key research questions and objectives, research Indicators

## Focus: The Built Environment

The research objectives formulated from the above questions centre primarily on the physical urban space/built environment, in terms of establishing important spatial parameters and qualities that, in turn, have direct and indirect social implications.

Cultural infrastructure – **understood primarily in terms of architectural and urban design interventions**

*(Architectural interventions in isolation may catalyse further the urban environment but will not form a community by default)*

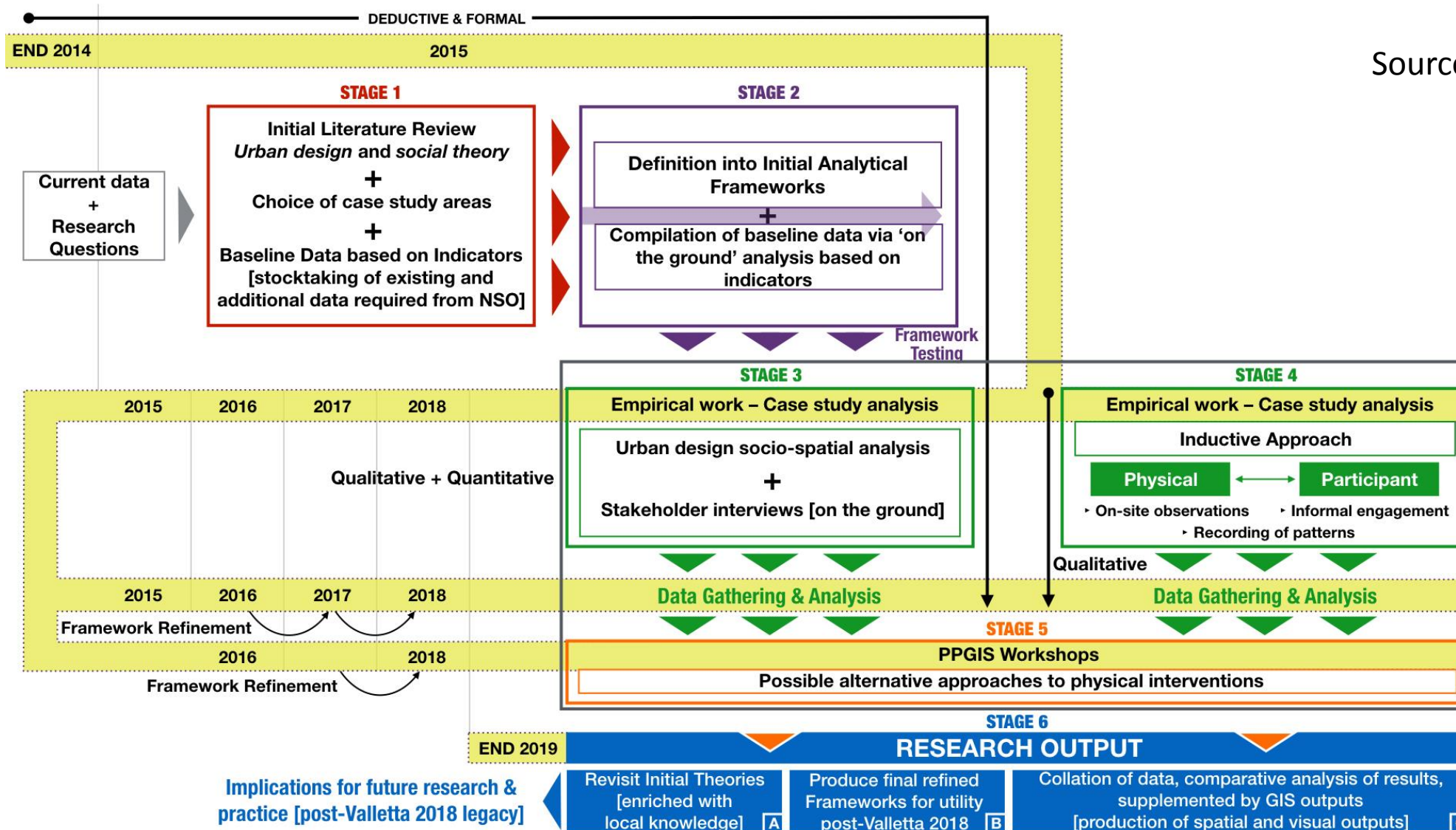
# Preliminaries | Key research questions and objectives, research Indicators

## Research Indicators

- Focus on the specific **typology of cultural infrastructure investment** in four case study areas – requiring first an assessment of current urban space and building stock (as an important influence on the urban space)
- Study of the **impact of urban space and interventions therein on locals** – in terms of **specific indicators** e.g. accessibility, permeability, legibility, opportunities for interaction and encounter, proximity to other interventions and other mixed uses (application of walking distance model), spill-over effects (their nature and area of influence).
- Analysis of the **use of spaces by locals and the type of usage** – both the immediate spaces and those in proximity to them through detailed ‘on the ground’ observations (extraction of patterns).
- (In the medium-term) Assessment on **multiplier effects** in terms of macro-scale regeneration, gentrification and rate of transfer of property in the proximity of the projects/areas in question.
- (In the long-term) **Perception of users** in terms of **intangible ownership of the space/place** with predictions for long-term, sustained use in line with Valletta 2018 legacy – assessed through development of participatory processes involving local community, Public Participation Geographic Information System (PPGIS).

# Preliminaries | Research methodology

Source: Author



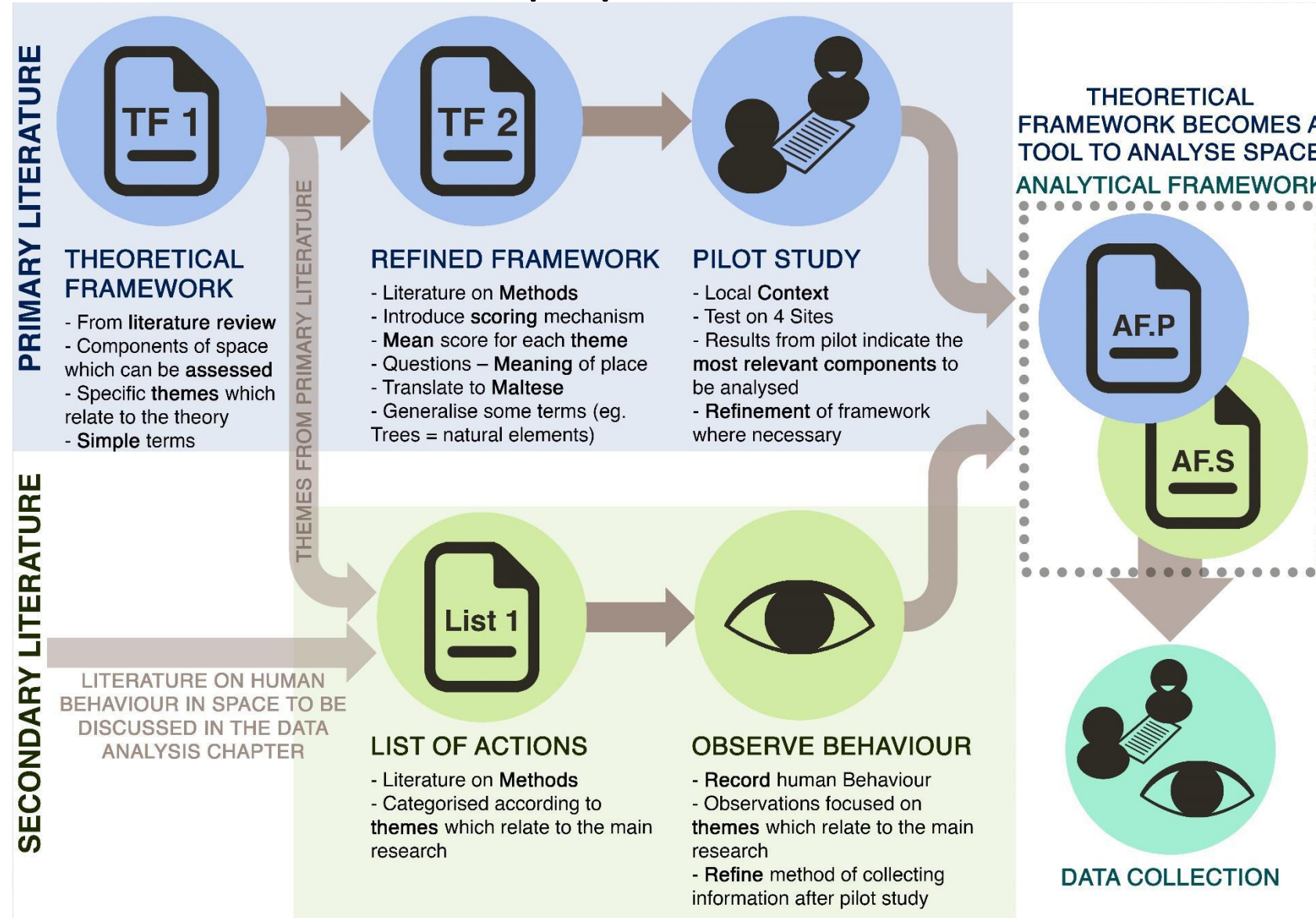
# Preliminaries | Research methodology

## **Basic Rationale for work carried out throughout 2015/early 2016:**

1. An initial identification of the primary socio-spatial (a) (non-physical) phenomena and (b) (physical) elements that influence the areas under study – through both inductive and deductive research methodologies working in parallel
2. Development of analytical frameworks
3. Application of frameworks within physical space (both the urban space *per se* and its interfaces)
4. Categorisation of patterns



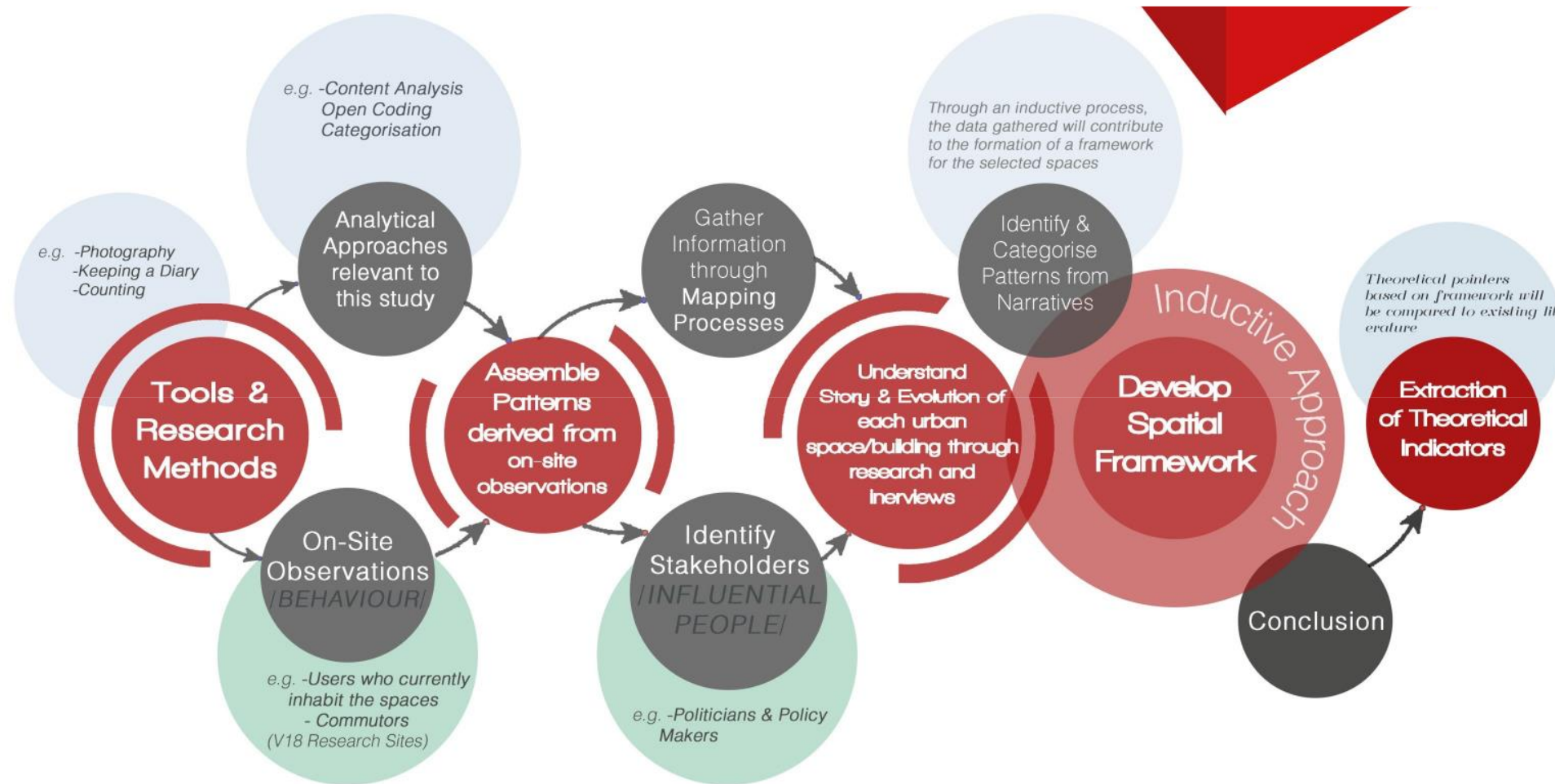
# Preliminaries | Spinoff studies



Source:  
Azzopardi, C. (forthcoming)  
**The effects of spatial quality on environmental behaviour in Valletta: Assessing urban design values within Valletta 2018 sites**  
Unpublished March (Architecture and Urban Design) dissertation



# Preliminaries | Spinoff studies



Source:  
Attard, D. (forthcoming)  
**Observing socio-cultural dynamics to inform a better understanding of Valletta's built environment**  
Unpublished March (Architecture and Urban Design) dissertation

# Preliminaries | The four case study sites

- **Site 1:** *Biċċerija* (the upcoming Valletta Design Cluster) and its surrounding neighbourhood
- **Site 2:** The entire extent of *Strait Street*
- **Site 3:** *Pjazza de Vallette/MUŻA* and its immediate environs
- **Site 4:** The area surrounding the *Covered Market* (along both Merchants Street and St. Paul's Street)

Photo credits: [www.krismicallef.com](http://www.krismicallef.com)



# The Literature | Key pointers

- *Place-making, sense of place, identity and meaning*

People's understanding of their surroundings is related to known places, which obtain meaning in a spatial environment (Seamon and Sowers 2008); it is a result of how people perceive and behave in space. Places therefore contain “physical, spiritual and social dimensions” (Aravot 2002, 207).

A concept that is amply discussed in key literature sources:

- ✓ Cullen (1971): the sense of being ‘here’
- ✓ Alexander (1979): the role of ‘timeless’ buildings
- ✓ Krier (1979): traditional town design as a contributor to place-making (reaction to modernism)
- ✓ Jacobs (1961): ‘vitality’ (the activities of people within the space)
- ✓ Relph (1976): place-making in relation to meaning and identity (social science point of view)
- ✓ Gehl (1987): focus on the public realm – the spaces between buildings
- ✓ Tibbalds (1992): the creation of character areas with identities (contextual approach in design)



# The Literature | Key pointers

- *Place-making, sense of place, identity and meaning*

***Place physical and functional qualities influence the degree of dependency on and attachment to place as a platform for activities and social interaction. This means that to secure identity is to ensure continuity in the physical, social together with meanings and attachment held by the people.***

***(Shah 2009, 158)***

- ✓ 'Place identity': defined through three characteristics – the physical setting, activities, and associated meaning (Relph 1976).
- ✓ Urban interventions, and the urban spaces therein, are perceived as welcoming or alienating, attractive or unpleasant, pleasant or detestable (Relph 1976).
- ✓ Public open spaces form a significant component of the city's identity and are therefore central to this discussion (Montgomery 1998).
- ✓ Related concept: 'insideness' – safety, enclosure, comfort. People feel they are 'inside' a place because they are part of it; in the sense that they may relate to the identity which the place gives them (Seamon and Sowers 2008).

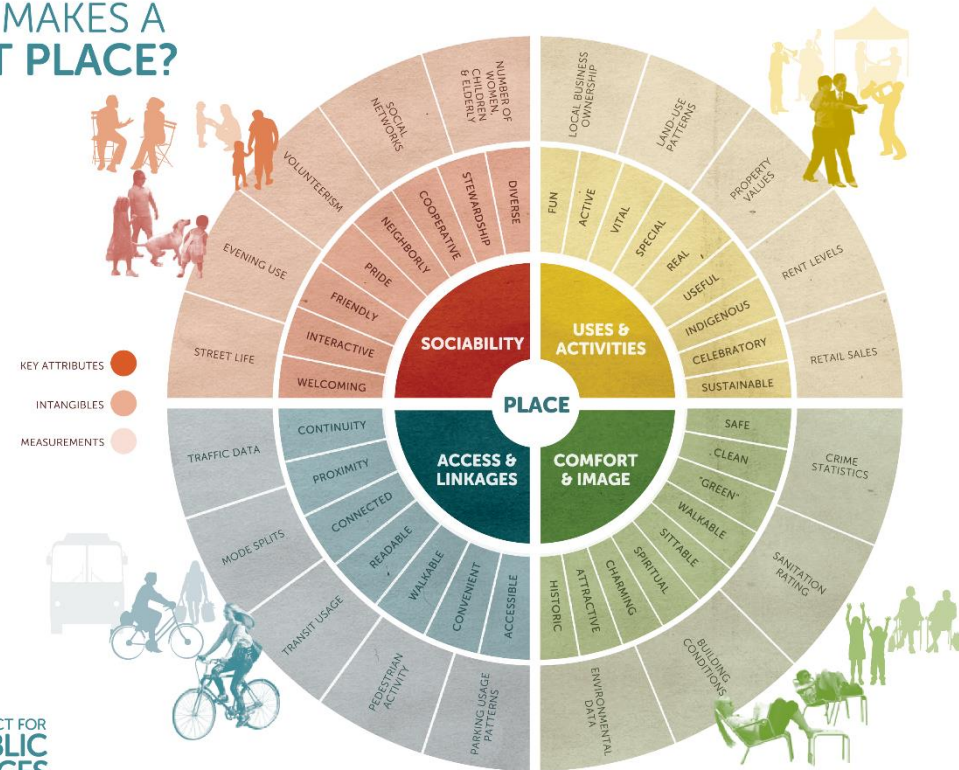
# The Literature | Key pointers

- *Place-making, sense of place, identity and meaning*
- ✓ ‘Meaning’: harder term to describe and analyse (intangible), related to memory and collective memories
- ✓ “Place-based meanings” (Hull, Lam and Vigo 1993, 110) as a social process, a result of the interaction of people within urban spaces
- ✓ Attaching meaning to a place – the result of individuals’ psychological and social processes that in turn influence place perception, implying that in order to study place identity holistically one must move beyond physical components and address the meaning and links between people and places (Shah 2009).
- ✓ Implications to research: both physical and psychological components must be integrated together in order to assess a place (socio-spatial milieu)

# The Literature | Key pointers

- *Defining a good urban place*  
*... successful urban places must combine quality in three essential elements: physical space, the sensory experience and activity*  
*(Montgomery 1998, 96)*

## WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



Project for Public Spaces, 2015





# The Literature | Extraction of main themes

- **Theme 1: Cultural infrastructure as an urban intervention**, examining the degree of 'robustness' of the intervention – whether it is adaptable and resilient to change, whether it may be exploited as a means to knit/tie in different parts of the urban fabric (and its diverse communities) together.
- **Theme 2: Cultural infrastructure as an urban catalyst**, investigating whether the intervention may instigate further-reaching positive change and spark off wider urban design and socio-cultural processes (multiplier effects).
- **Theme 3: Cultural infrastructure as a vehicle for urban regeneration/renewal**, understanding the role of the intervention for broader urban regeneration (whether it is reflected in the cultural infrastructure) and its effect on the local community. In turn, this important theme explores two relevant sub-themes:
  - ✓ *Sub-Theme 1: Accessibility to cultural infrastructure*, necessitating an understanding of socio-spatial morphologies (spatially through an 'on the ground' urban design and architectural analysis and socially through important demographic and household data at the neighbourhood level).
  - ✓ *Sub-Theme 2: Overarching considerations in relation to 'quality', 'amenity' and 'value'*, necessitating a discussion in relation to place-making and (in the later stages of the research) the risk of gentrification.

# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

## Baseline study 1: On the ground analysis – scoring individual qualities and impression scores (347 properties analysed in total within 4 sites)

<b>V18 Evaluation and Monitoring research:</b> <i>Assessing the relationship between community inclusion and space, through the impact of Valletta 2018 cultural infrastructure on various community groups</i>
<b>PROFORMA 1 – NEIGHBOURHOOD, URBAN BLOCK, SITE AND STREET ASSESSMENT</b>
Site name: Strait Street
Street name: Triq id-Dejqa (Strait Street)
<b>Brief description of neighbourhood/area around urban block (character, distinct elements):</b>
The road that crosses the entire city of Valletta is long and inclined, with a variable width. The entire extent may be sub-divided into three distinct bands. These areas are characterized by different prevalent land uses. The state of repair of the individual buildings appears to be intrinsically related to the uses being housed therein, as well as the surrounding activities in the area.
The narrow configuration of the street results in a sharp height/width ratio, resulting in a reduced daylight access into the buildings aligning the street, as well as an elevated degree of overshadowing with thermal implications on the microclimate of the street (a cooler, more temperate, environment in summer but a colder one in winter). A small portion of the street is wide enough to allow the parking of vehicles, although it has been transformed into a shared space, while the rest of the route allows access in one direction (albeit a pedestrian space). This is a positive consideration with regard to the improved liveability of the neighbourhood, as it allows a limited circulation of vehicles and the possibility of increased pedestrian footfall. At the same time, however, its close proximity (and parallel nature) to the main axis (Republic Street) appears to diminish its attractiveness for tourists, as the presence of the latter category of visitors is generally only from those curious individuals who wish to discover the neighbourhood in its entirety, or are looking for a more temperate street environment as they cross the City in a longitudinal manner.
<b>Brief description of street (character, distinct elements):</b>
The first part (Part A) commences at the top, perpendicular to Ordnance Street, until the intersection with St. John's Street. This area may be considered as one characterised by an above-average living standard. Here the buildings are in good condition or still are undergoing restructuring to rehabilitate not only the internal structure but also the façades. One may observe a mix of buildings that tend to include both residential uses (particularly in the first area) together with the addition of office spaces (on the increase), as well as some commercial activities and catering establishments. The building typology consists of a singular urban block that defines the entire perimeter block segments or that is sub-divided into few properties such that single blocks may be created with generous façade widths. The average building height is of 4 stories with their stylistic development characterised by a mixture of neo-baroque, neo-classical and eclectic (dating from c.1800). <i>(TO BE CONFIRMED FROM HISTORICAL MAPS).</i>
The second part (Part B) extends from St. John's Street, passing behind the Law Courts up to the intersection with Archbishop Street. This area is characterised by an elevated amount of office developments, possibly due to the presence of the Law Courts themselves. Here the buildings are older and many are undergoing extensive renovations and vertical additions. The masonry buildings contain the typical timber balconies coupled with the addition of new open balconies with railings in wrought iron. Here, too, the predominant use is related to office activities whereas at street level numerous catering activities animate the street during the day and beyond.
The third area (Part C) starts from Archbishop Street until the access point onto St. Nicholas Street. The area is predominantly residential in character, particularly towards the end of the street, and a significant rehabilitation strategy is still lacking. Most of the buildings are two-storey, structured around internal courtyards/gardens or having a rectangular configuration, which is long and narrow thus allowing for a limited amount of apertures on the façade

(generally one or two openings). The buildings are characterised by simple decorations, except for the older buildings that display neo-classical or baroque ornaments.					
<b>Part A</b>	Very poor/dilapidated	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>STATE OF URBAN SPACE</b>			X		
<b>Part B</b>	Very poor/dilapidated	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>STATE OF URBAN SPACE</b>				X	
<b>Part C</b>	Very poor/dilapidated	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<b>STATE OF URBAN SPACE</b>		X			
<b>Indicative characteristics/particular features in terms of community and users:</b>					
During the daytime, the main street users are individuals working within the adjacent offices or those working in the shops located at street level. This holds for about two-thirds of the street extent, with the lower portion of the street mainly frequented by residents. In the evening, currently only the most central portion of the street (down the road from Piazza San Gorg) comes alive thanks to the small bars, pubs and catering outlets that have recently set up in the area. Different to the traditional bars one finds scattered throughout other parts of the island, these particular bars attract customers of different age groups and often the very same owners of the premises are organising and sponsoring outdoor events that animate the urban space and that could be seen as an opportunity to trigger a cycle of change aimed at upgrading the neighbourhood, which complements other urban spaces located within walking distance of this area.					

**V18 Evaluation and Monitoring research:**  
*Assessing the relationship between community inclusion and space, through the impact of Valletta 2018 cultural infrastructure on various community groups*

**PROFORMA 2 – BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

*Code assigned to building for the research: (reference map) Site 2: Block C/ 1*

**Name of Building (if present):** No name, house number: there are 5 main entrances (19, 22, 25,28,29) together with numbers 20,21,23,24,26,27 that refer to entrances to semi-basement level.

**Building type:** Urban block designed in the Neo-classical style (to be *CONFIRMED*). Large masonry blocks, unrendered and jointed, characterise the corners of this block at either end. The individual portions of the building are subtly defined on the façade by means of masonry pilasters, which project minimally outwards from the façade. The stone balconies as well as the windows located at the upper floors are characterised by the presence of balustrades. The openings located at *piano nobile* are framed by an ornamental entablature consisting of masonry cornices. The strict division of the building into three horizontal bands is defined by a string course that has an elaborate moulding.

**Number of floors:** Semi-basement, 4 upper floors (elevated ground, first, second, third), roof/washroom (13 units may be found on each intercom at each entrance throughout the entire stretch of building)

**Predominant use:** Offices, residential

**Use of ground floor:** Offices and one shop

**State of repair:**

State of repair:	Very poor/dilapidated	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
FAÇADE				X	
APERTURES			X		
OTHER FIXTURES/BUILDING ELEMENTS			X		
MATERIALS				X	

**Sign of any works currently being carried out? (Y/N)** Yes, there are internal alterations being carried out within the last unit located at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Other comments, general observations:**

The building is in a good state of repair. There is a slight presence of patina / black crust on the stone; nonetheless, in its most part the stone that composes the façade is still compact and uniform. One may observe that individual owners/tenants have carried out some maintenance works to their part of the façade – both masonry repair/re-facing works and works related to the apertures, often resulting in their replacement using different materials. This fragmentation compromises the overall aesthetic of the façade, while simultaneously accentuating those parts of the façade that have not undergone interventions/repairs as yet. This phenomenon is also found (possibly to a heightened degree) within the semi-basement band – some parts of the façade are left unrendered while others are painted and some of the older apertures (often metal-framed and single-glazed) have been replaced by ones in newer materials, providing a diverse palette along the entire stretch, which does not necessarily always have positive implications in visual terms.

Reference Photos



Reference Photos

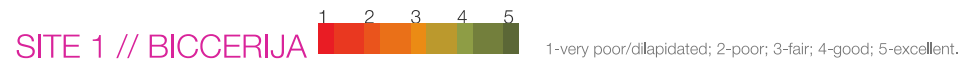


# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

## Baseline study 1: On the ground analysis – scoring individual qualities and impression scores

Site Number	Site Name	Building code	house name / street(s) / house number(s)	Façade	Apertures	Other elements	Materials	Average
Site 1	Biccerija	A1	St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral	5	5	5	5	5
		A2	Misrah Indipendenza / No. 60	4	4	4	4	4
		A3	Misrah Indipendenza / No. 2,3,4	4	4	4	4	4
		A4	Misrah Indipendenza / No. 5; Arcisqof Street / No. 65,66	3	4	4	4	3.75
		A5	Marsamxett Street / No. 68	3	2	2	3	2.5
		A6	Marsamxett Street / No. 38,39,40	3	3	3	3	3
		A7	Marsamxett Street / No. 41,41B,42,43,44,45	3	3	3	3	3
		A8	Marsamxett Street / No. 46	3	3	3	3	3
		A9	Marsamxett Street / No. 47,48,49,50	3	3	3	3	3
		A10	Marsamxett Street / No. 51,52,53	3	3	3	3	3
		A11	Marsamxett Street / No. 54	5	5	5	5	5
		B1	West Street / No. 125,126,127; Old Teatre Street / No.-	3	3	3	3	3
		B2	Weste Street / No. 119,120,121,122	3	3	3	3	3
		B3	West Street / No.-	3	4	3	3	3.25
		B4	West street / No. 12,13	3	3	3	3	3
		B5	Arcisqof Street / No.-	3	4	3	4	3.5
		B6	Arcisqof Street / No. 56,56A,57	4	4	4	4	4
		B7	Arcisqof Street / No. 55; Old Mint Street / No. 63,64	4	4	4	4	4
		B8	Old Mint Street / No. 60,62	4	4	4	4	4
		B9	Old Mint Street / No. 58,59	4	4	4	4	4
		B10	Old Mint Street / No. 56C,56D,56E	4	4	4	4	4

## Baseline study 1: On the ground analysis – scoring individual qualities and impression scores



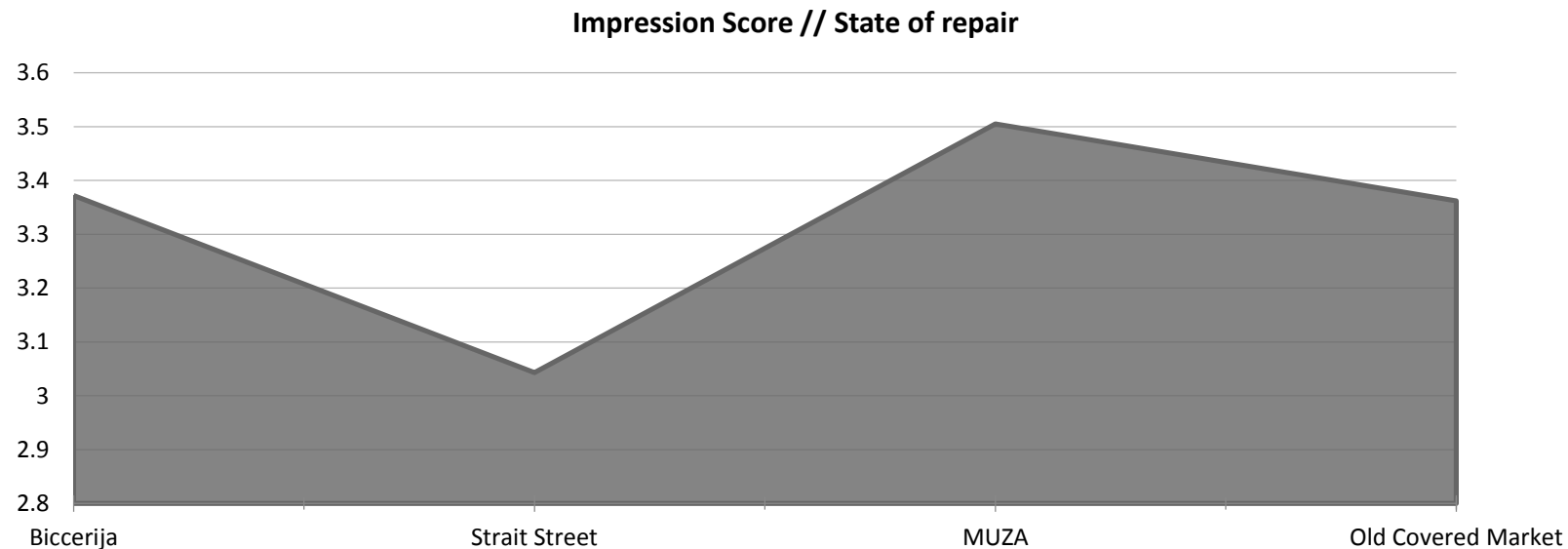
## Baseline study 1: On the ground analysis – scoring individual qualities and impression scores



# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Initial impression scores:

1. Neighbourhood around *MUŻA* (score of 3.505, or 'fair – good')
2. Biċċerija (3.372, or just over 'fair')
3. Covered Market (3.362, or just over 'fair')
4. Strait Street (3.043, 'fair')





# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Census data obtained at the specific neighbourhood level (Dwellings Data, Persons Data)



# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Census data obtained at the specific neighbourhood level (Dwellings Data, Persons Data)

## Dwellings' Section - Muza Street

**Table 1. Occupied dwellings in Strait Street (Valletta) by type**

Type of dwelling	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Terraced house/Townhouse	3	4.3
Semi-detached house	0	0.0
Fully-detached house	0	0.0
Maisonette/Ground floor tenement	3	4.3
Flat/Apartment/Penthouse	63	91.3
Semi-/Fully-detached farmhouse	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0

**Table 2. Occupied dwellings in Strait Street (Valletta) by number of dwellings in the building**

Number of dwellings in the building	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1	6	8.7
2	1	1.4
3-9	61	88.4
10 or more	1	1.4

**Table 3. Occupied dwellings in Strait Street (Valletta) by period of construction**

Period of construction	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1918 or earlier	12	17.4
1919-1945	6	8.7
1946-1970	33	47.8
1971-2000	18	26.1
2001-2011	0	0.0

**Table 4. Occupied dwellings in Strait Street (Valletta) by state of repair**

State of repair	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Good state	45	65.2
Needs minor repairs	20	29.0
Needs moderate repairs	4	5.8
Needs serious repairs	0	0.0
Dilapidated	0	0.0

## Persons' Section - Muza Site

**Table 1. Persons living in Muza Site (Valletta) by sex**

Sex	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Male	69	43.4
Female	90	56.6

**Table 2. Persons living in Muza Site (Valletta) by age group**

Age group	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>
0-4	13	8.2
5-9	4	2.5
10-14	4	2.5
15-19	7	4.4
20-24	11	6.9
25-29	11	6.9
30-34	3	1.9
35-39	7	4.4
40-44	9	5.7
45-49	12	7.5
50-54	7	4.4
55-59	13	8.2
60-64	8	5.0
65-69	13	8.2
70-74	16	10.1
75-79	10	6.3
80-84	8	5.0
85+	3	1.9

**Table 3. Persons living in Muza Site (Valletta) by country of birth**

Nationality	Count	Per cent
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Malta	156	98.1
Abroad	3	1.9

# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using a deductive approach), Mr. Christopher Azzopardi

2.4. Image	1. How easy is it to orient yourself within the space?	Difficult	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5	Easy
	2. Are there any landmarks/ public art/ civic buildings which help orientation?			
3.1. Vitality & Use	3. How much are people enjoying themselves within the space?	Not enjoying themselves	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5	Enjoying themselves
	1. Does the presence of people improve the liveliness of the place?	Does not influence liveliness	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5	Improves liveliness of the space
	2. Are there places where to sit?	No places where to sit	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5	Diverse choice
	3. If yes, what are the different seating options?			
	4. Are there opportunities where to stay and observe other people and their activities?	No Opportunities	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5	A lot of Opportunities

Site: Piazza La Vallette

Date	Time	Temperature	Sunshine:
			Wind:
			Dryness:

Icon M	Icon F	Description	Frequency	Notes
		Objects impeding visual permeability		
		Objects impeding physical permeability		
		Cars moving within site		
		Walking – Hurried Pace		
		Walking – Linger		
		Using wheelchair		
		Going inside/outside buildings		
		Looking inside buildings		
		Standing along building		
		Sitting on public seating		
		Sitting around café / restaurant tables		
		Interacting with public objects		
		Taking photos of spaces, objects		
		Stopping and talking		
		Playing		
		Night Use – Light façade interaction		Others : Pilot
		Night Use – Dark Patches		

# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using an inductive approach), Mr. Daniel Attard

[illegible]

PATTERNS/STRAITS/STREET		Total
1	Traffic Noise/Pollution	1
1	Construction Noise	1
2	Predominant Vehicular Traffic	
4	Light Breeze/Draft	
8	Chance Encounter	
8	Casual Conversations	2
8	Loud Conversations/Arguments	1
3	Diverse Mix of People (Ages/Nationality)	
3	Elderly People's Presence	
7	People Look But Do Not Enter	
6	Photo Taking	
6	Public Convenience/Fee Complaints	
6	Complaints Due To Lack of Space/Street Setup	
4	Fast Pace	
6	Shops Closed/Setting Up	
8	Arguments Between Shop Owners	
1	Background Music from St. George's Square	
3	Rude/Offensive Behaviour (Spitting)	
9	Engagement with Sense of Smell	
9	Animal Excrement/Smells	
5	Water on Street	
6	People Tripping	
7	Idle Shop Owners/Waiters	
2	Pedestrian/Vehicular Conflict	2
7	Restaurants Fairly Empty	
2	Parked Vehicles Restrict Access	2
3	Presence of Policemen	
5	Shop Owner Washing Street	
3	Presence of Lawyers	
1	Quiet Overall Atmosphere	1
5	Dirty Street	1
3	Presence of Street Sweeper	
6	Construction Works Going On	1
1	Pigeon Cooing	
1	Music Background Noise	1
4	Low Thermal Comfort	
6	Balcony Activity/Hung Laundry	1
8	Balcony Encounters/Conversations	
6	People Take Over Street/Walk Everywhere	
5	Garbage Accumulation	
7	Dining Establishments/Bars Fairly Busy	
1	TV Unit Noise	
3	Presence of Children	

PATTERNS STRAIT STREET	
1	57
2	55
3	19
4	13
5	30
6	54
7	22
8	22
9	5

## Cat 1\_Aural

## Cat 2\_Vehicular and pedestrian interface

### Cat 3\_User Categories

## Cat 4 Thermal Comfort

### Cat 5\_Relating to Cleanliness

### Cat 6\_Actual Use of Space

## Cat 7\_Perceptual Influences and Use of Space

## Cat 8 Human Interaction

## Cat 9\_Olfactory

# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using an inductive approach), Mr. Daniel Attard

Preliminary results indicate that the strongest patterns (following frequency testing) in the various sites include:

*Bicċerija* – Category 1 (Aural), Category 6 (Actual Use of Space), Category 8 (Human Interaction) and Category 2 (Vehicular and pedestrian interface)

*Strait Street* – Category 1 (Aural), Category 2 (Vehicular and pedestrian interface) and Category 6 (Actual Use of Space)

*MUŻA/Pjazza de Valette* – Category 8 (Human Interaction), Category 6 (Actual Use of Space) and Category 3 (User Categories)

*Covered Market* – Category 1 (Aural), Category 6 (Actual Use of Space), Category 8 (Human Interaction) and Category 3 (User Categories)

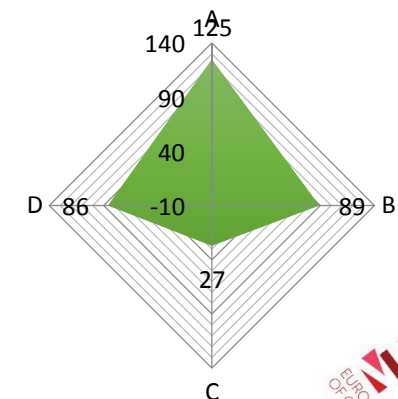
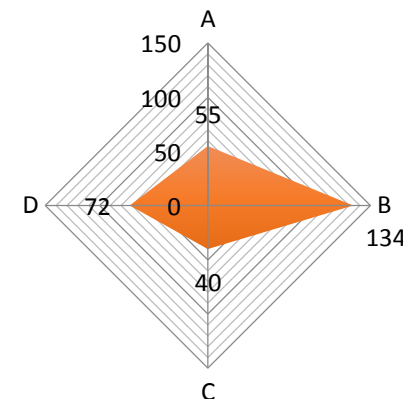
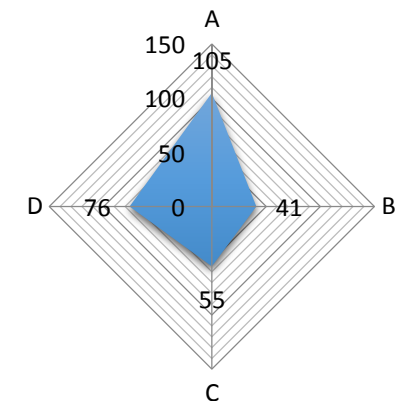
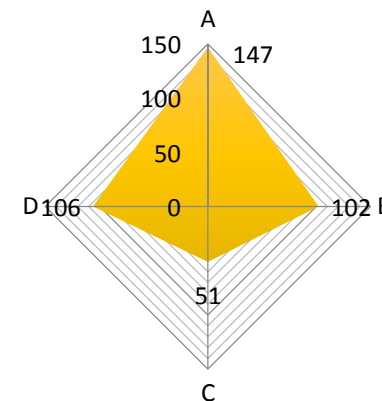
# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using an inductive approach), Mr. Daniel Attard

Further grouping into 4 categories:

- Sensorial/Environmental Influences (Categories 1, 4, 5 and 9)  
**Cat Grp A**
- People/Users and their interaction (Categories 3 and 8) **Cat Grp B**
- Vehicular and Pedestrian Interface (Category 2) **Cat Grp C**
- Use of Space (actual and perceived) (Categories 6 and 7) **Cat Grp D**

(Clockwise, from top): Spider diagrams developed for *Biččerija*, *Strait Street*, the *Covered Market* and *MUŽA/Pjazza de Valette*





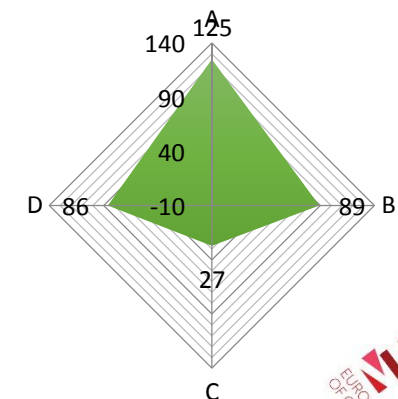
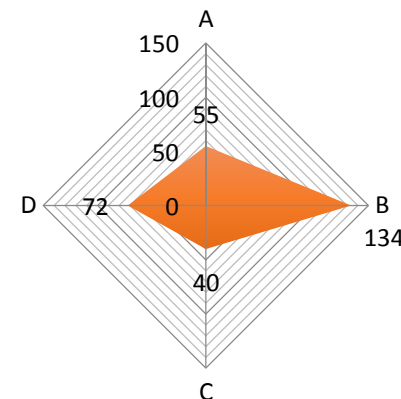
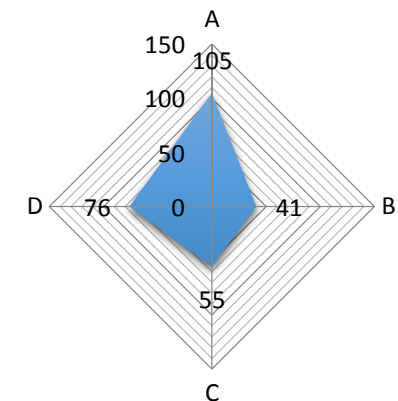
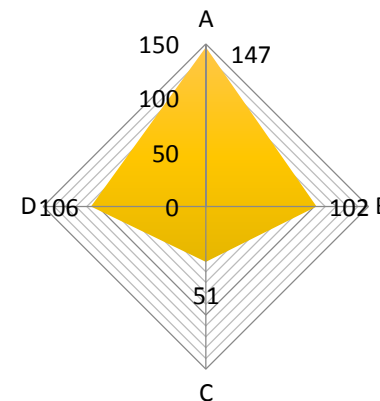
# Studies carried out in 2015 & Interim findings

Masters Dissertation 1 (physical analysis using an inductive approach), Mr. Daniel Attard

Further grouping into 4 categories:

- Sensorial/Environmental Influences (Categories 1, 4, 5 and 9)  
**Cat Grp A**
- People/Users and their interaction (Categories 3 and 8) **Cat Grp B**
- Vehicular and Pedestrian Interface (Category 2) **Cat Grp C**
- Use of Space (actual and perceived) (Categories 6 and 7) **Cat Grp D**

(Clockwise, from top): Spider diagrams developed for *Biċċerija*, *Strait Street*, the *Covered Market* and *MUŻA/Pjazza de Valette*



# Concluding thoughts and future direction of research

- Socio-cultural dynamics obtained from above studies are currently being correlated to the components of the physical spaces *per se* (the configuration of the individual spaces and their urban grain); notably:
  - ✓ Category 1 (Aural) is strongest in sites having tight height:width ratios and/or characterised by numerous close apertures or projecting balconies
  - ✓ Category 2 (Vehicular-Pedestrian interface) is strongest in sites having tight street widths where the chance of potential pedestrian-vehicular conflict is most likely
  - ✓ Categories 3 (User Categories) and 8 (Human Interaction) are directly proportional with high pedestrian flows (particularly within main thoroughfares and transition spaces) where the occurrence of a 'chance encounter' increases exponentially
  - ✓ Category 6 (Actual use of space) is consistently present within the four sites (although a closer look reveals that user experiences and activities vary significantly across the sites due to distinctive qualities of the urban environments and the presence of specific elements contained therein)

# Concluding thoughts and future direction of research

- Throughout 2016:
  - ✓ completion of 'on the ground' work (missing data, data to be verified) and evaluation based on the case study analyses
  - ✓ correlation among the parallel studies and among quantitative and qualitative results
  - ✓ correlation with NSO Neighbourhood Data
- Studies to inform preparation for PPGIS (participatory planning workshop)
- *Annual targets and potential outputs* include: Data gathering, collation and analysis, framework refinement, recording/digitisation of all observations and data categorisation.



antoine.zammit@um.edu.mt

[www.facebook.com/valletta2018](https://www.facebook.com/valletta2018) [www.twitter.com/valletta\\_2018](https://www.twitter.com/valletta_2018) [www.instagram.com/valletta\\_2018](https://www.instagram.com/valletta_2018)