

# HOW CAN A PEOPLE-CENTRED AND SYSTEMS-BASED APPROACH TO HOUSING PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION AND WELLBEING?

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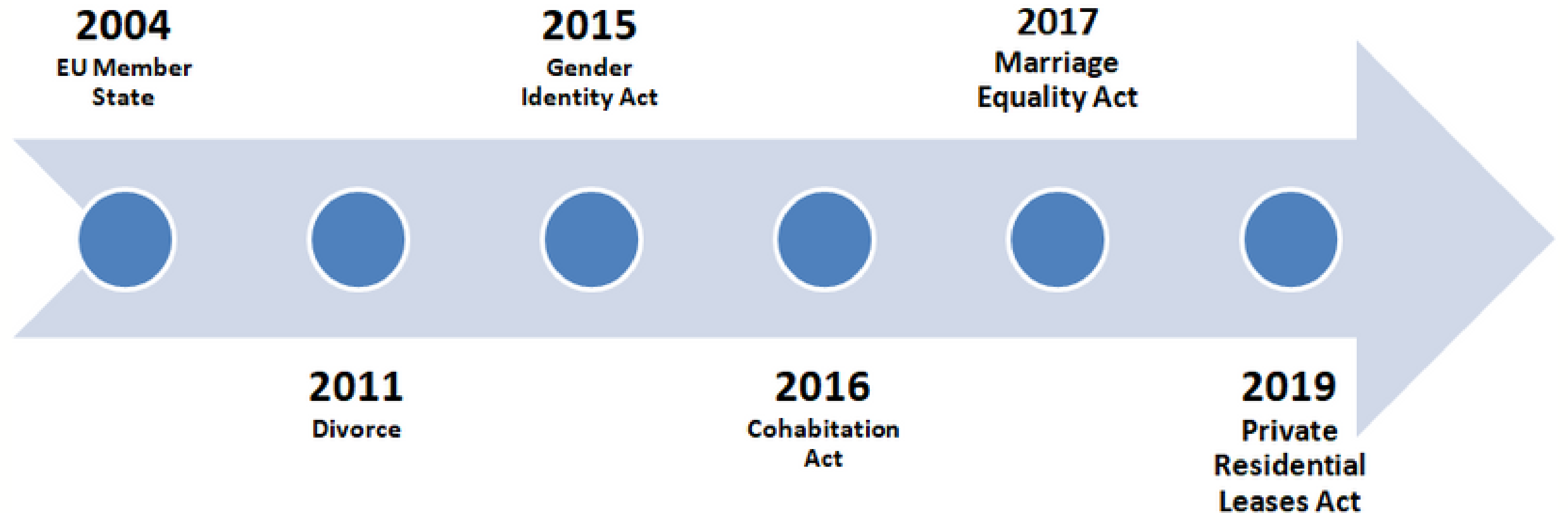
POLICY, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGY EXPERT, MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL ACCOMMODATION, MALTA



# Putting *social relations* at the centre of the built environment for people to flourish



# Household at the core of legislative changes



# Alternative Domesticities

- Malta as other post-industrial countries is experiencing a **reconfiguration of the family and the domestic setting**:
- Increasing low fertility
- Increasing life expectancy rates (Formosa, 2018)
  - Maltese population aged 65-plus reached 18.7% of the total population (NSO, 2019)
- Contemporary domestic norm comprises of
  - female-led single households, inter-generational households, shared professional households, solo living, living apart and blended families & LGBTQ families



# Culture, House Form & Lifestyle

What happens when individuals are forced to inhabit houses that are designed around another culture's concept of family life?

Do they alter their lives to match those of their new architectural surroundings?

Or do they rigidly adhere to their traditional routines and practices in order to retain their cultural identity?

How does this impact their quality of life?

# How can a system speak for the social?



**SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITIES**

Housing for Tomorrow

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS



- Changing households as a unit of analysis
- Collaboration as method
- Design Competition

# Open House Visits for Design Competition



with the third sector  
for specialised housing  
projects

# Community meetings between Local Council, NGOs & neighbours





# Proposed house plans explained on site



# Architects explaining plans to neighbours on site



# NGO & Community Psychologist explaining the project



# Resilience as a tool for social cohesion and wellbeing?

The social dimension in urban planning and housing policies is often side-lined and the emphasis has been more on the importance of the built environment and its economic outcome (maximisation of space). Less attention has been granted to social relations and the key role they hold in determining the **wellbeing** of urban communities.