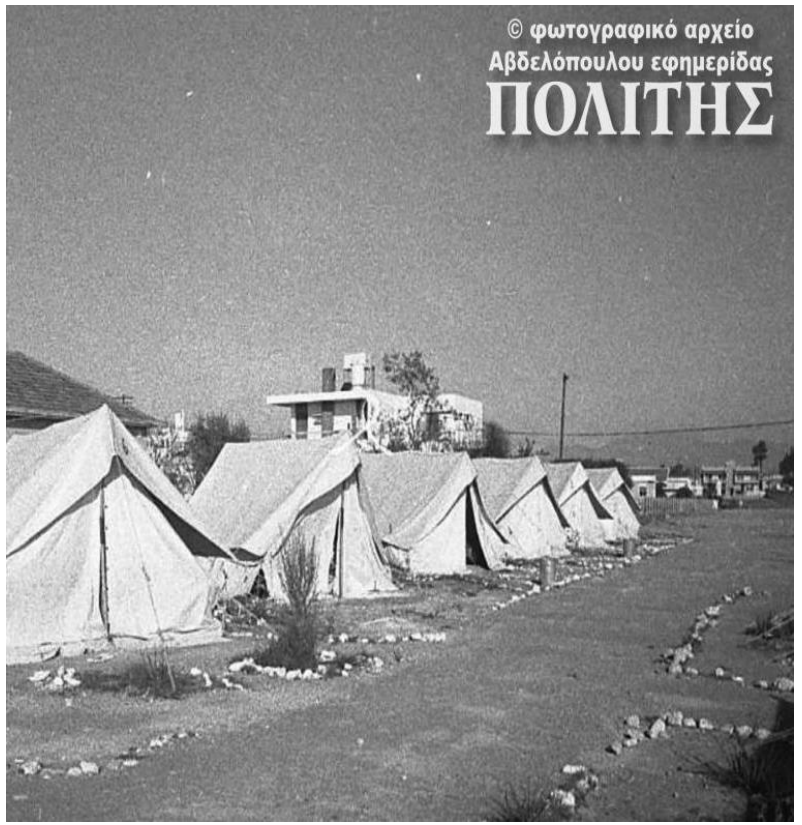
Preserving Territorial Identities

The case of the refugee settlements in Nicosia, Cyprus

Motivation



Refugee Stamp. Created in 1974, Source: hweb @ www.polignosi.com. (n.d.). http://www.polignosi.com/cgibin/hweb?-A=12667&-V=limmata

Who are the Cypriot refugees?

Introduction

Cypriot refugee family during the village evacuation. Source: Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, TV, Epros Partasides, Cameraman/Photographer covering the Human Suffering

1963

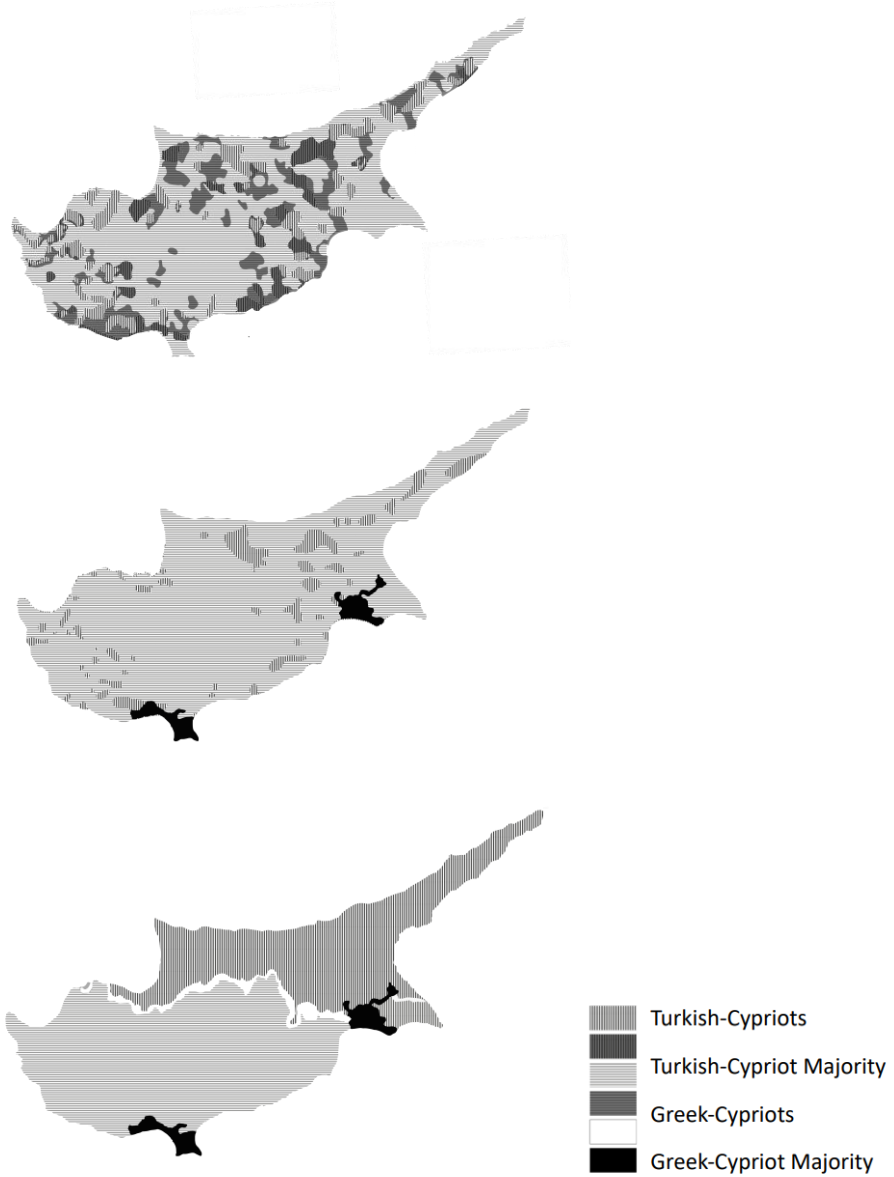
-Ethnicity Co-habitation in national scale

1973

-Internal Displacement
-Turkish Cypriot Clusters

1974

-Refugees 1/3 of Cyprus population
-Ethnicity Separation



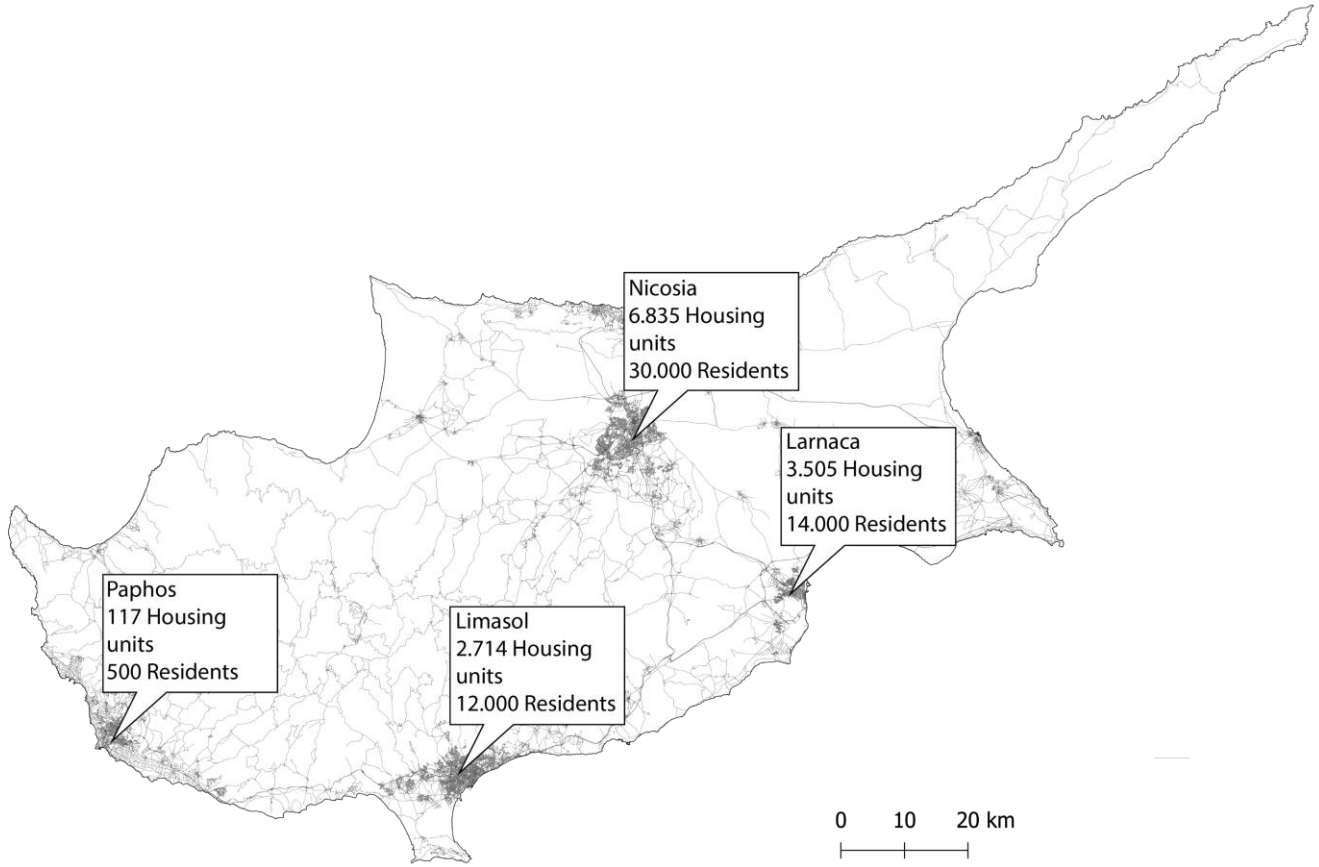
Ethnicity distribution in Cyprus between the island's independence and 1974, the Turkish invasion. Source: Based on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Cyprus, illustrated by the author

142,000 Greek-Cypriot refugees (30% of the ethnicity population of 1974)

45,000 Turkish-Cypriot refugees (40% of the ethnicity population of 1974)

Greek child[illegible] camp planned for 1,600 people, Cyprus, 1974. Source: © Jean Mohr, Musée de l'Elysée

Greek Cypriot Refugee Distribution



Refugee housing unit and Greek Cypriot refugee distribution among cities. Source: Data based on QGIS, illustrated by the author

Problem Statement

-Refugee settlements as a temporary solution

- The absence of a holistic spatial strategy for the refugee settlements

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NEWS SOCIETY INSIDER views GOING OUT CIVILIZATION SPORTS AUTO GOOD LIFE useful

NEWS CYPRUS OF YESTERDAY READER YOU HAVE A SPEECH LETTERS interviews POPULAR ON THE INTER

Refugees will become refugees again

HOME • SOCIETY • SOCIETY • Refugees will become refugees again

February 12, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Βασός Βασιλείου

Hundreds of refugees, sooner or later, will either find themselves on the streets, or the state will undertake to pay their rent, while their number will increase as the apartment buildings in which they live grow older.

Already 43 of the total 358 apartment buildings that exist throughout Cyprus in government settlements were deemed unrepairable, either for static reasons or because the cost of repairing them is considered unprofitable. Members of the Parliamentary Committee for Refugees are now raising the issue of the construction of new apartment buildings, while others believe that it is time to buy new buildings from the market for housing refugees. The problem with the statics of apartment buildings could be solved

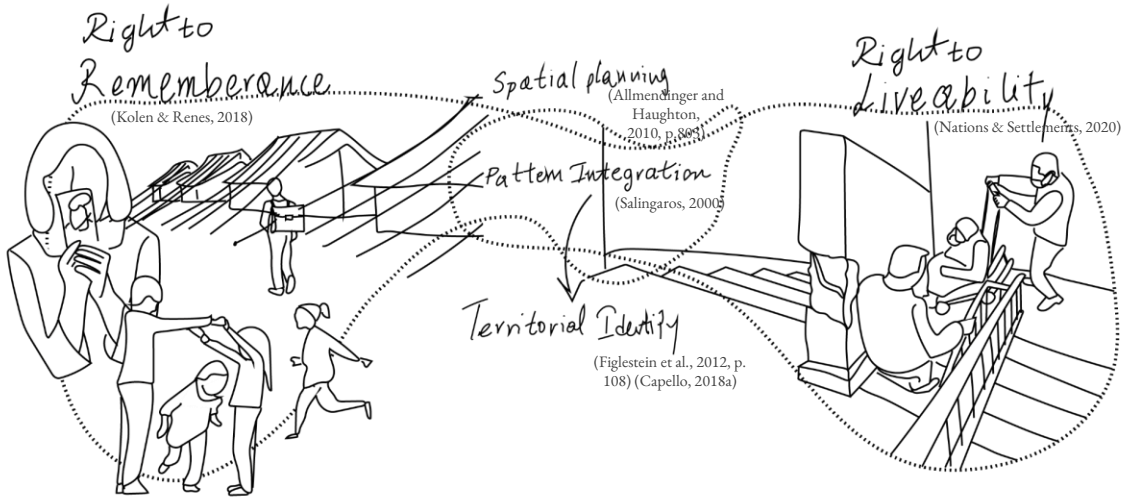
https://philenews.com/koinonia/eidiseis/article/875151

Research Question

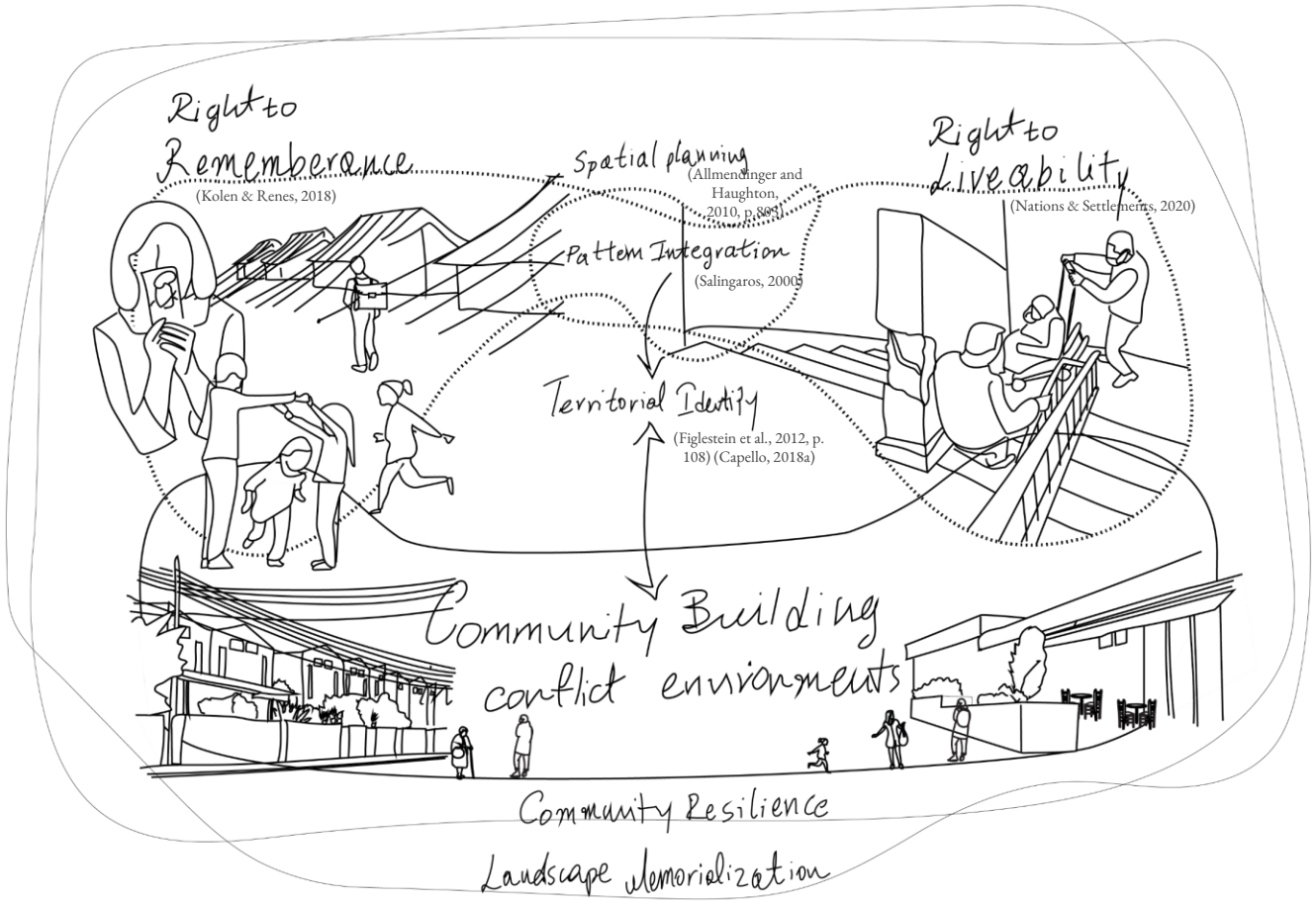
How can community led spatial planning enable the Cypriot refugee settlements to be transformed to liveable environments while preserving memories of their initial inhabitants?

Refugee housing unit and Greek Cypriot refugee distribution among cities. Source: Data based on QGIS, illustrated by the author

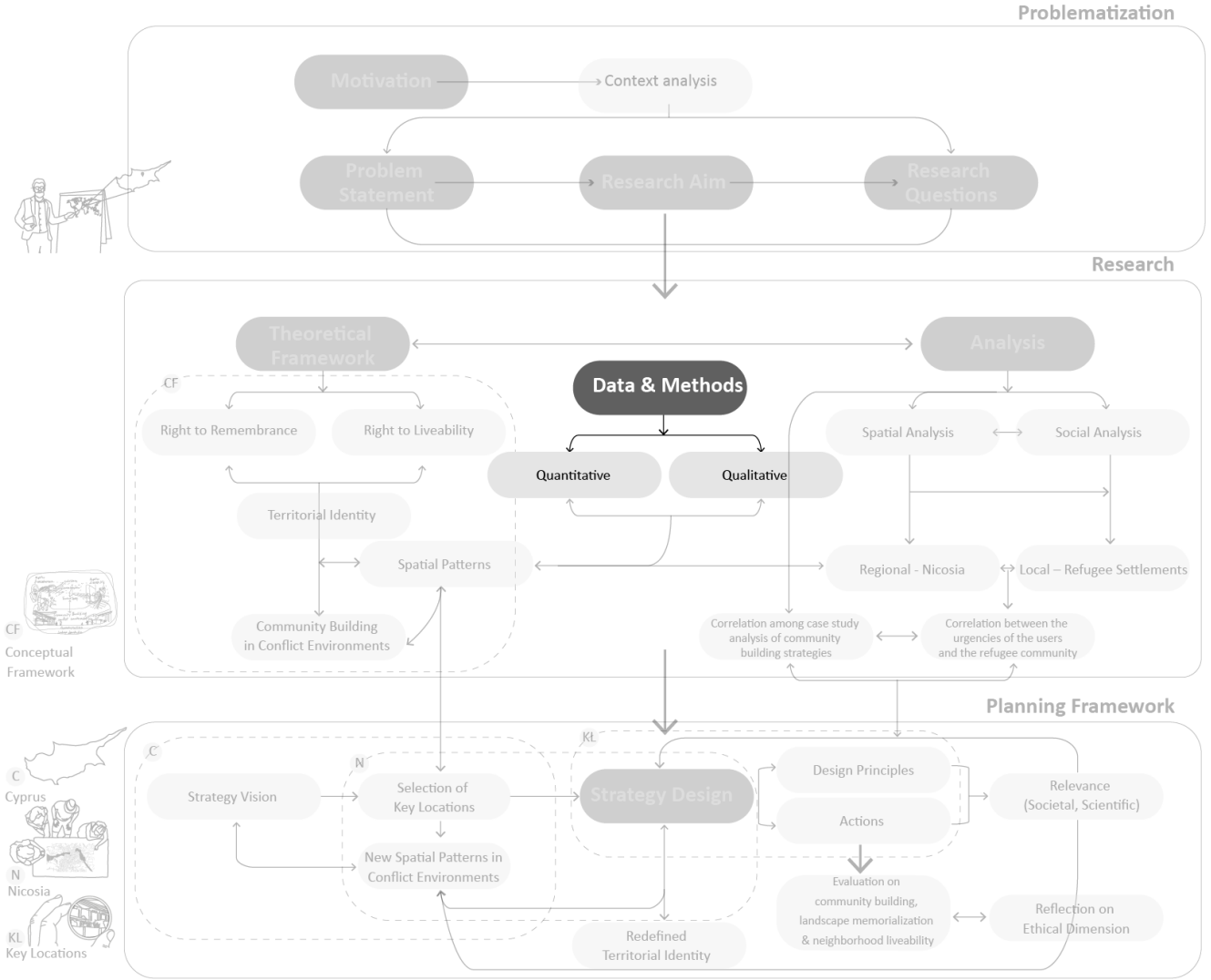
Conceptual Framework



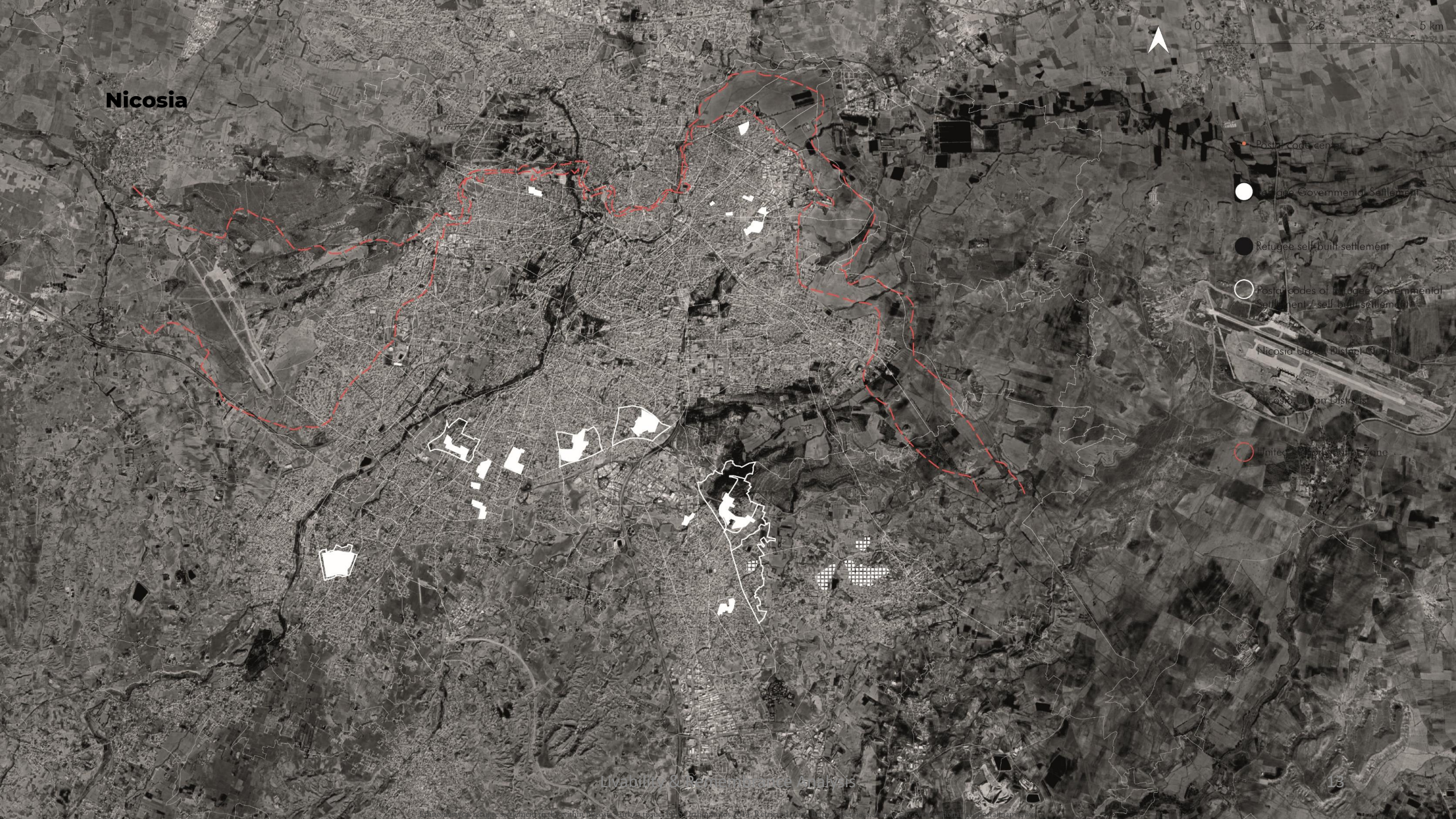
Conceptual Framework



Methodology



Nicosia
What is the **current state** of the refugee settlements in terms of **liveability?**

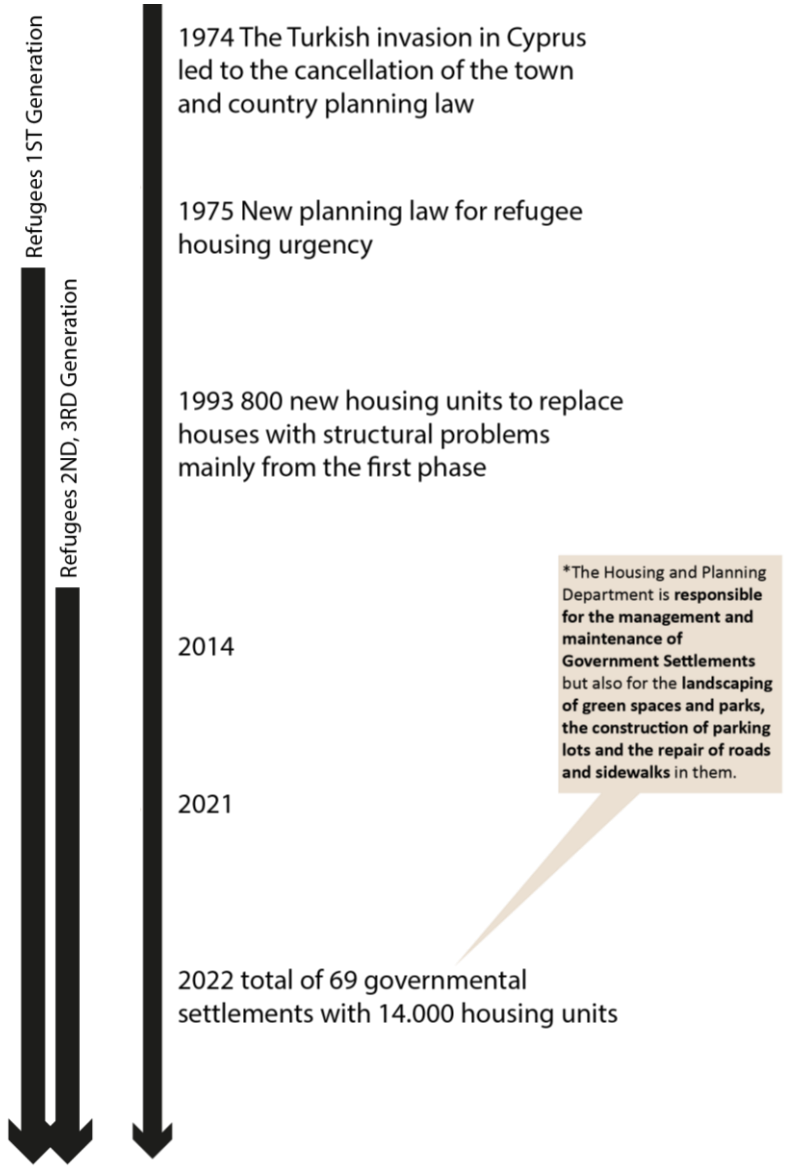

Nicosia
0
2.5
5 km
Postal Code centre
Refugee Governmental Settlement
Refugee self-built settlement
Postal codes of Refugee Governmental Settlement / self-built settlement
Nicosia Urban District Centre
Nicosia Urban Districts
United Nations Buffer Zone

Strovolos II Refugee Settlement

Ethnomartyras refugee settlement to the within Nicosia's urban tissue, DLS Orthophotos 2014, Retrieved from: https://eservices.dls.moi.gov.cy/#/national/geoportalmapviewer

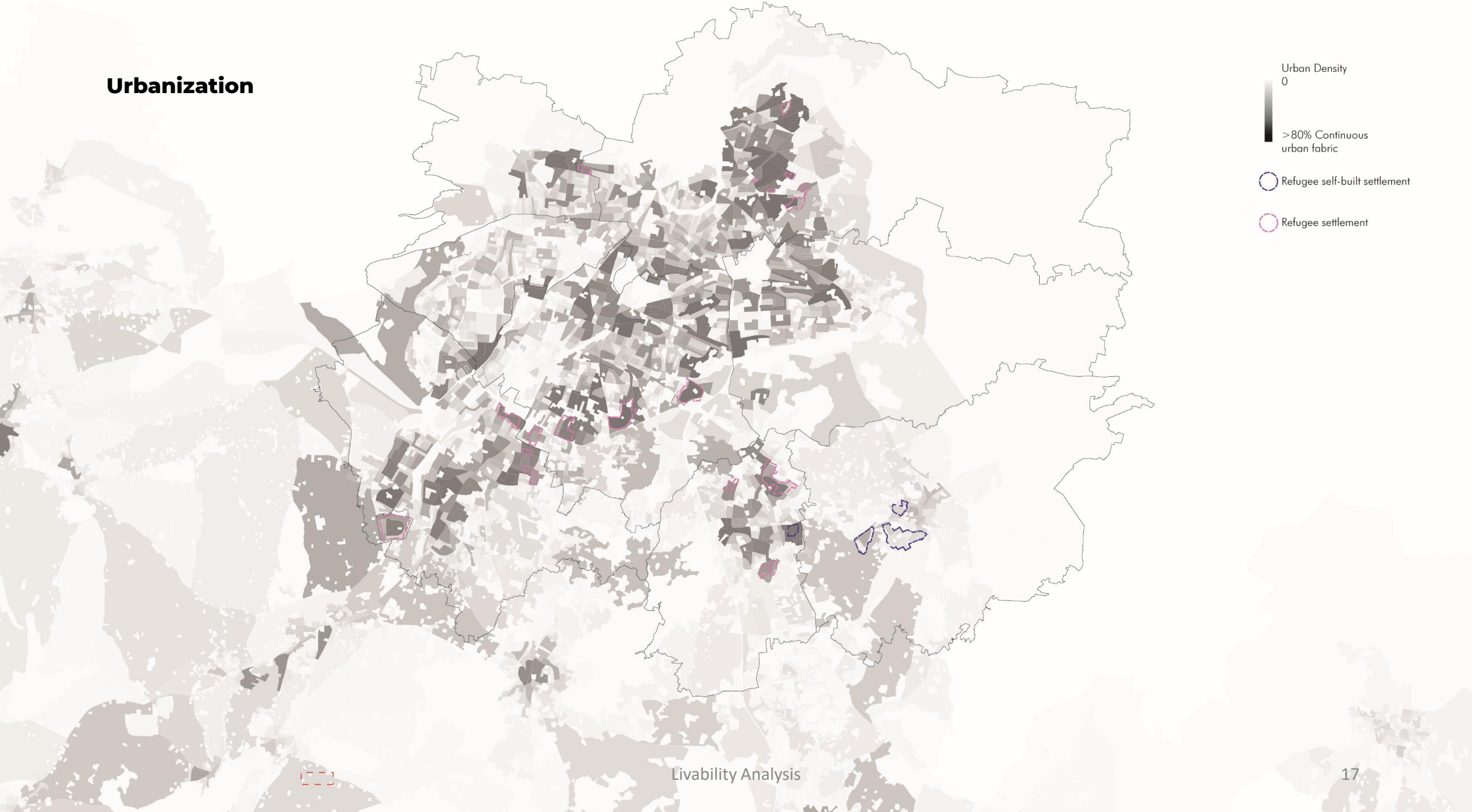
What are the social characteristics and the spatial patterns of the refugee settlements and how do they differ from other urban neighbourhoods' socio-spatial patterns in the region?

Governmental Refugee Housing Plan

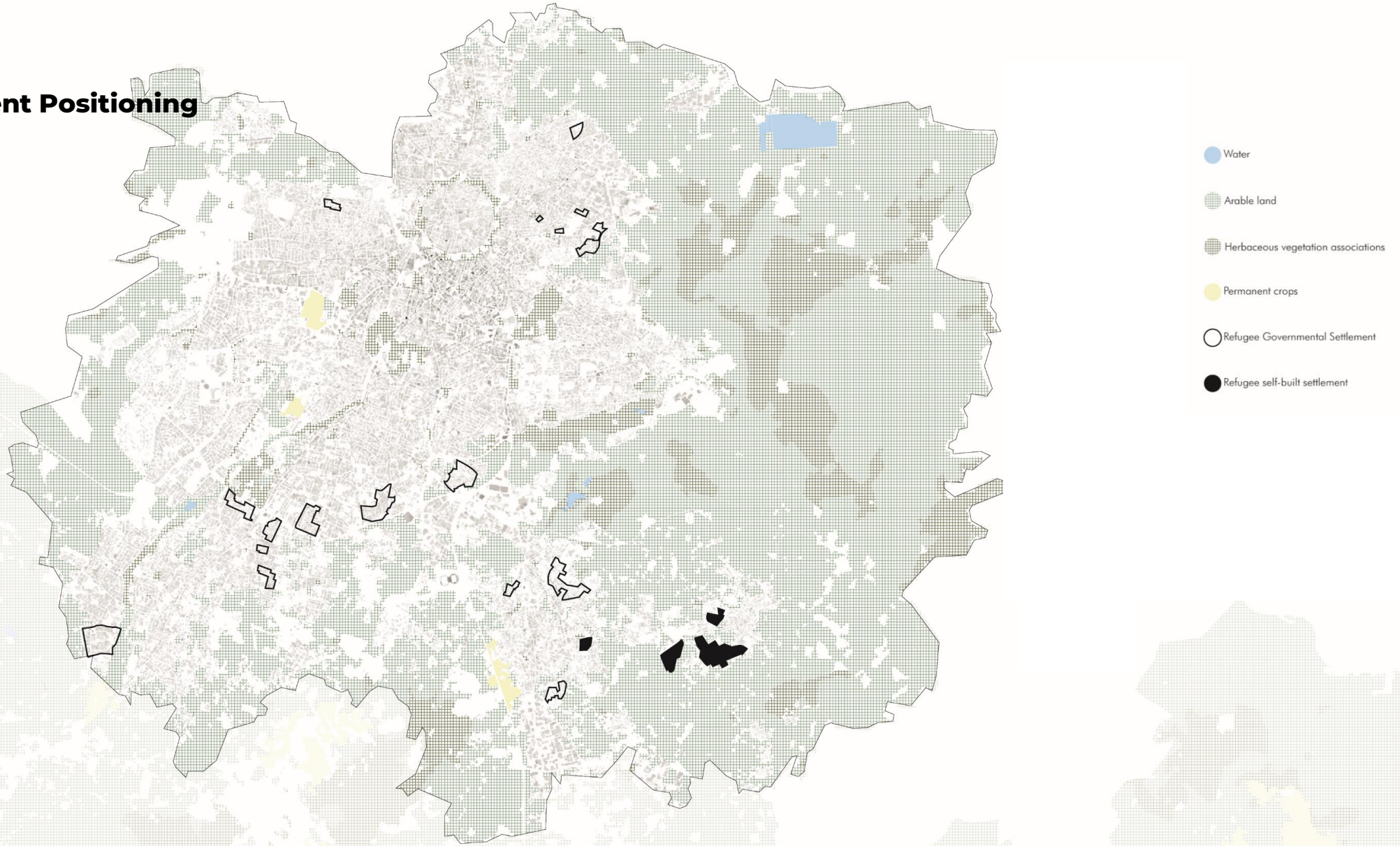


Greek-Cypriot refugee identity evolution in relation to Cyprus housing plans. Source: Data for the housing plans were retrieved from Cyprus's Housing and Planning department.

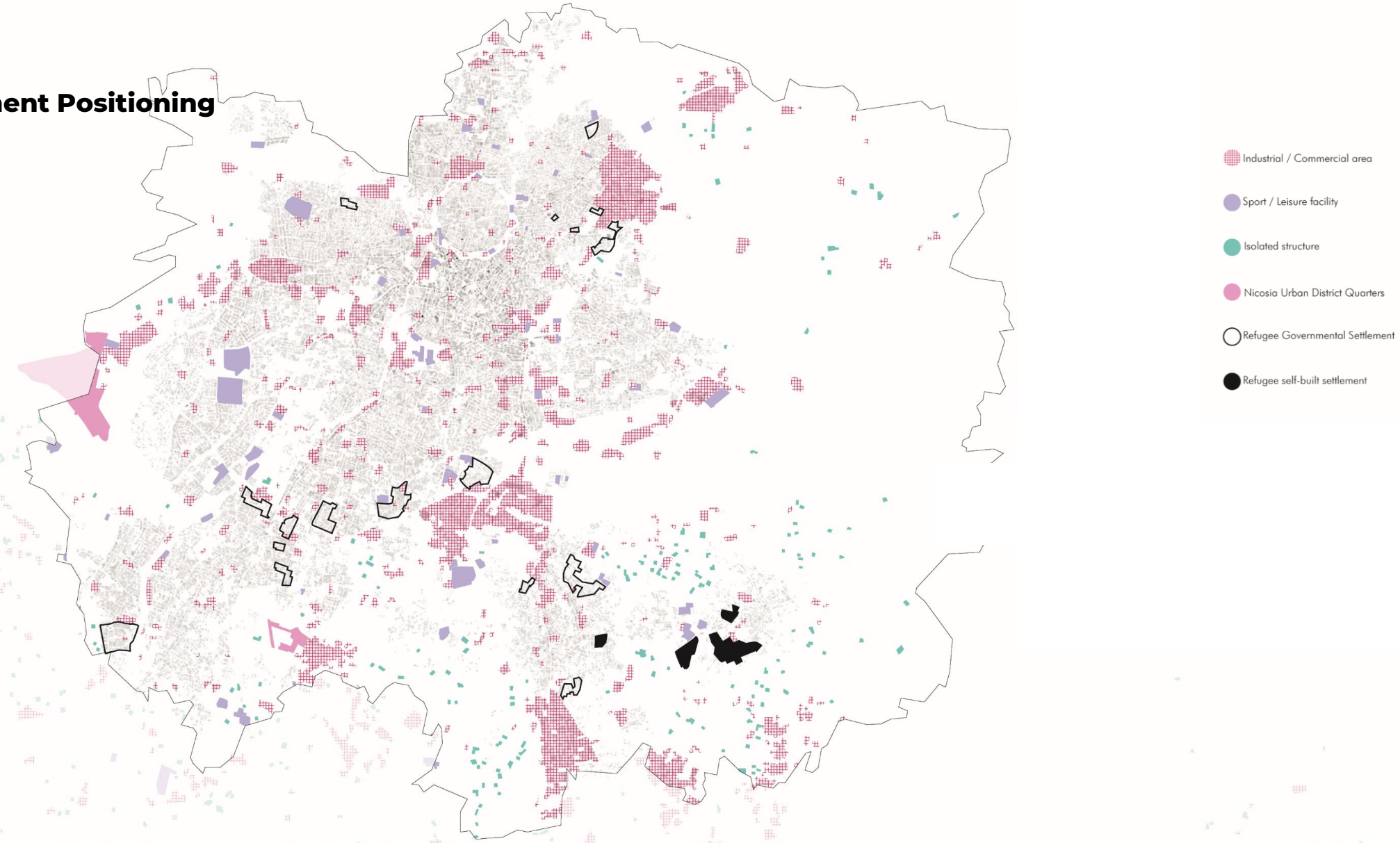
Urbanization



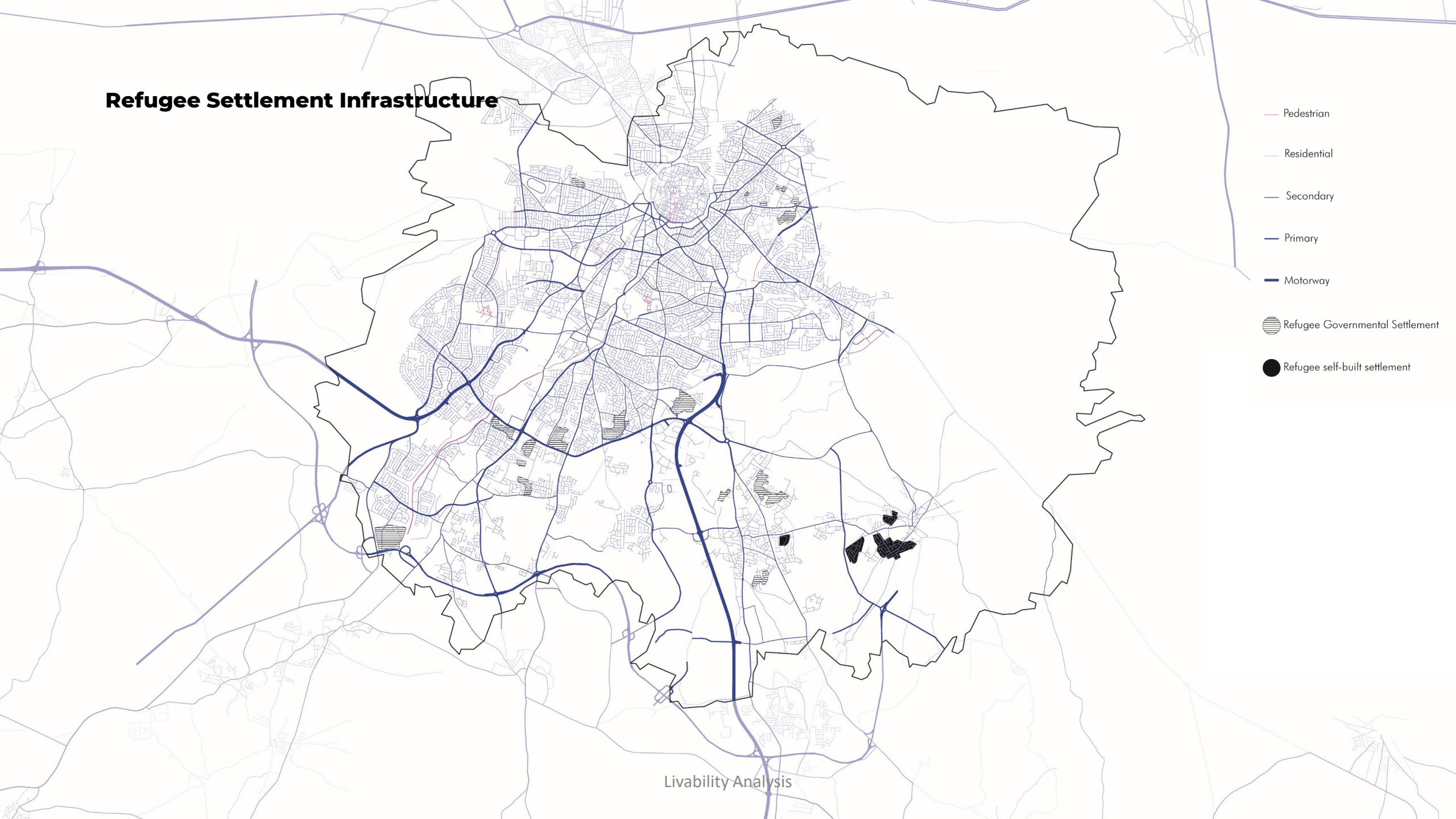
Refugee Settlement Positioning



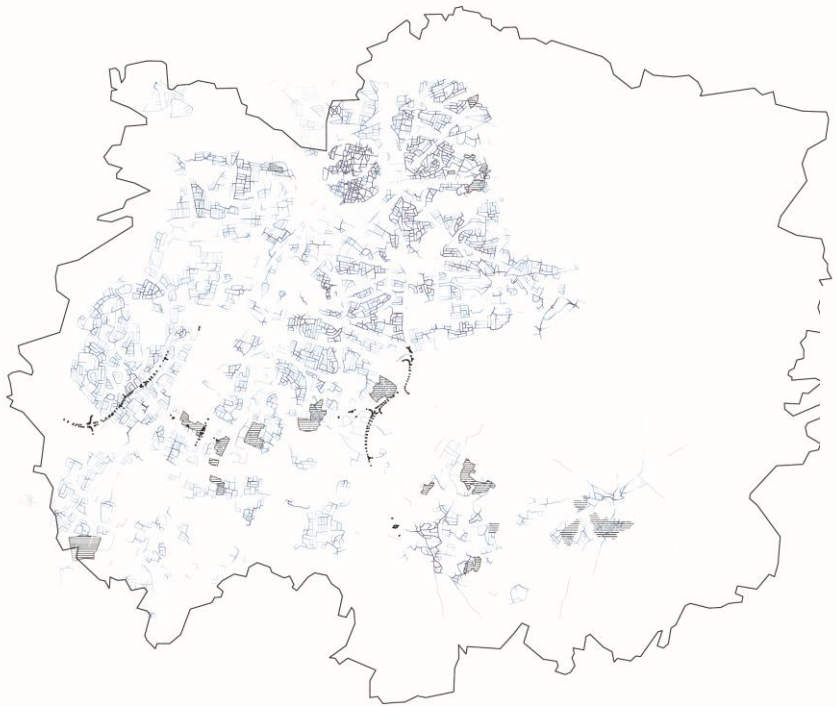
Refugee Settlement Positioning



Refugee Settlement Infrastructure

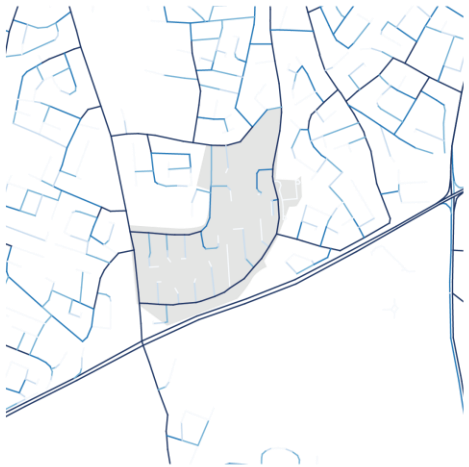


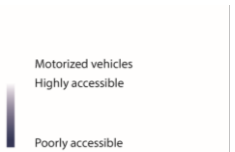
Refugee Settlement Network Analysis
Nicosia



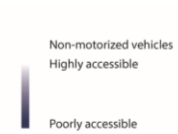
Conceptual Framework Diagram

Refugee Settlement Network Analysis
Strovolos II Refugee Settlement





Accessibility by Motorized Vehicles
- Enclosed by highly accessible roads

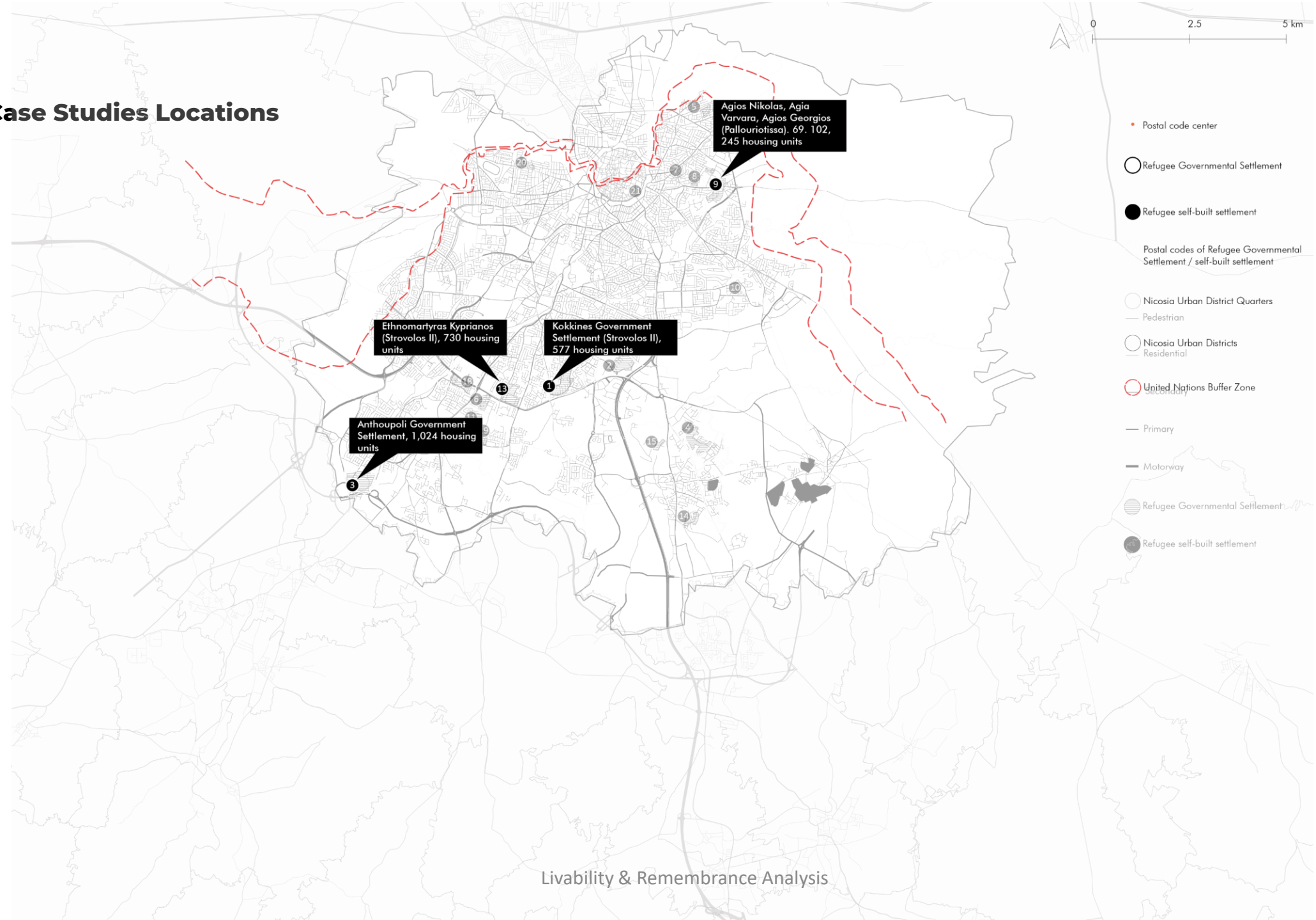


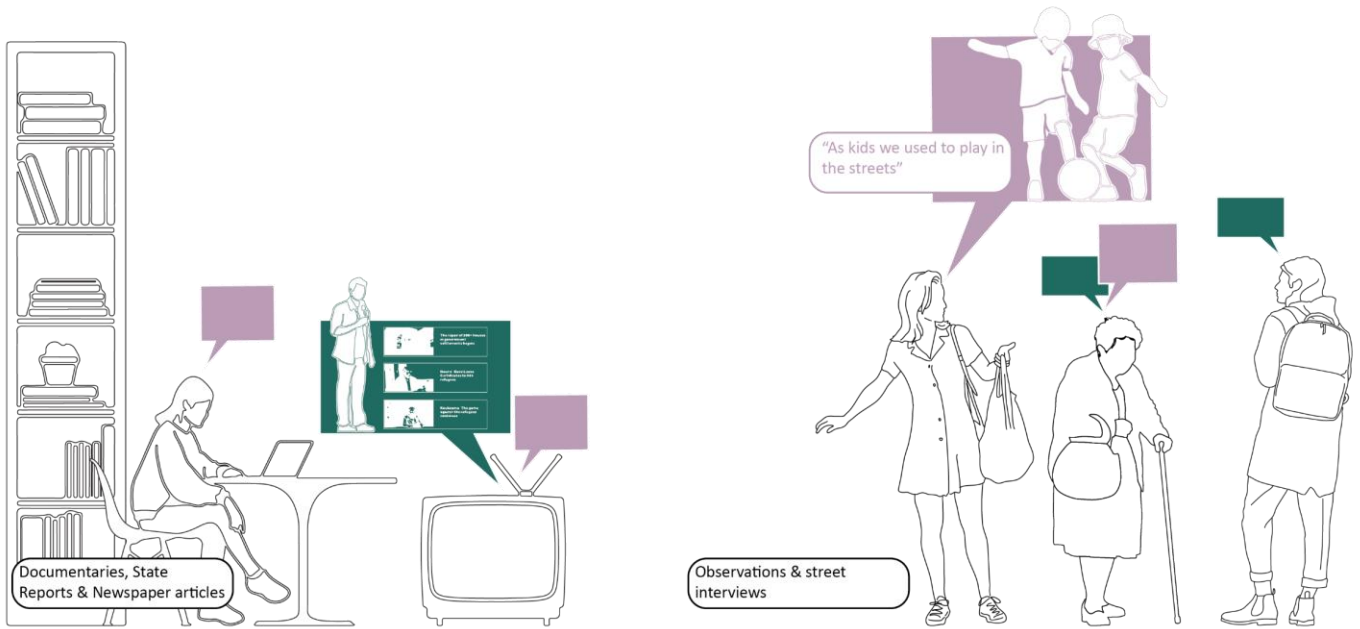
Accessibility by Pedestrians
-low walkability, disconnected from adjacent neighborhoods

Conceptual Framework Diagram

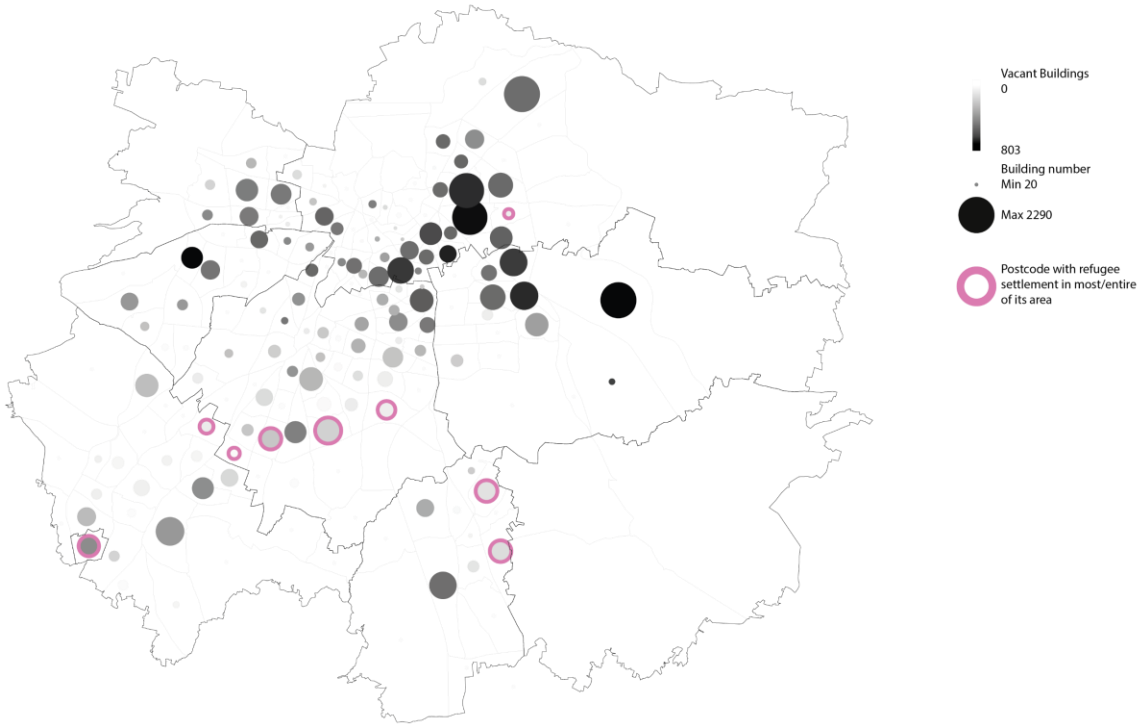
What did the **Cypriot refugee identity evolve through time** and how was its **relationship with the refugee settlements**?

Case Studies Locations




Documentaries, State
Reports & Newspaper articles
"As kids we used to play in
the streets"
Observations & street
interviews

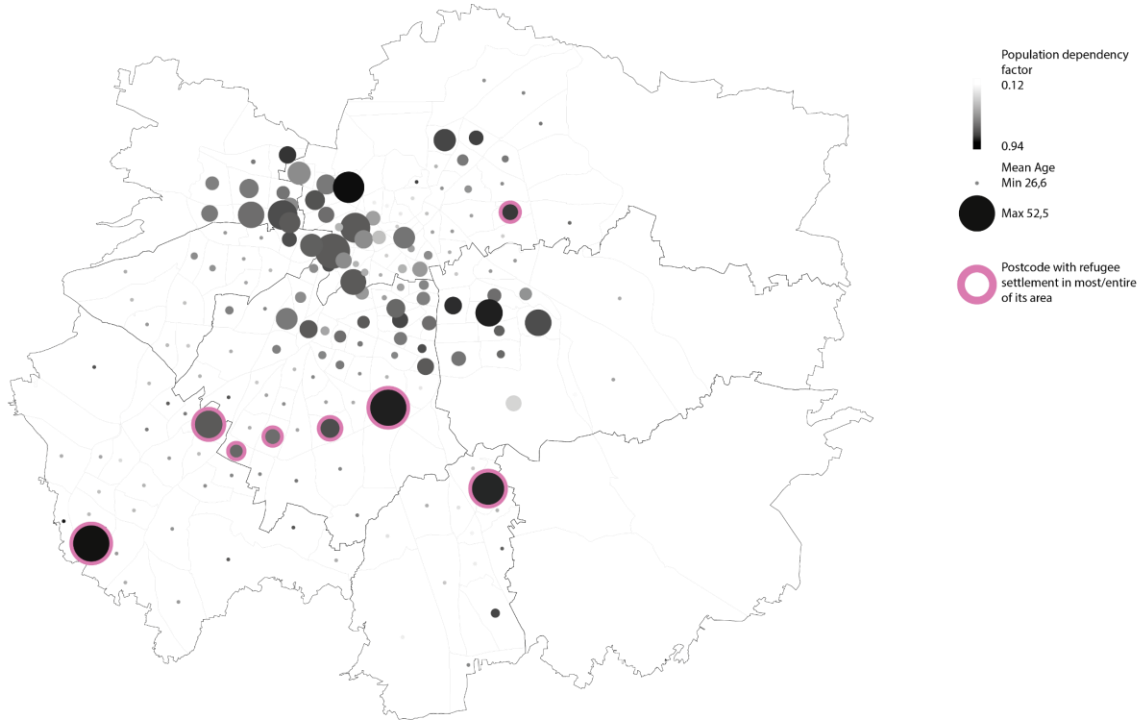
Vacant Building Distribution



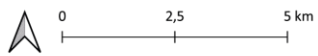
Vacant building distribution in Nicosia., Non-European resident distribution in Nicosia., Dependent population in Nicosia. Data retrieved from: https://www.data.gov.cy/search/type/dataset

Public Space

Dependant Population



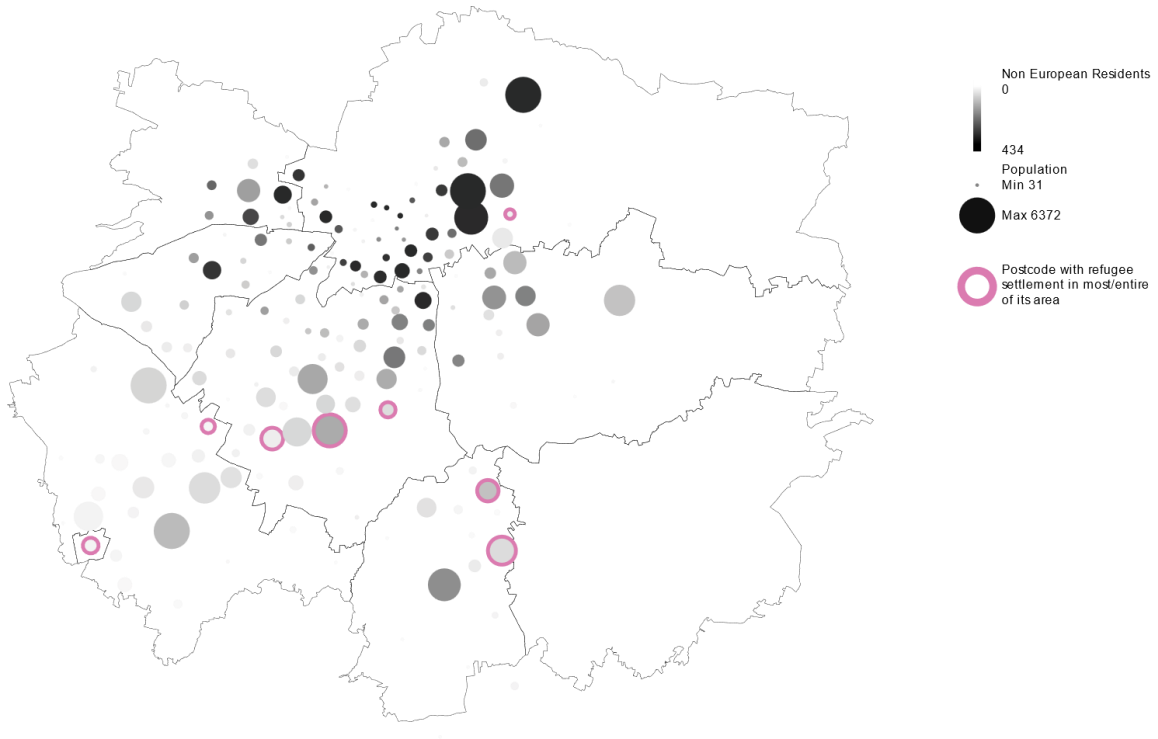
*The dependent population is calculated based on individuals under 14 and above 65 years old.

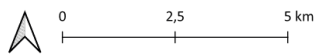


Vacant building distribution in Nicosia., Non-European resident distribution in Nicosia., Dependent population in Nicosia. Data retrieved from: https://www.data.gov.cy/search/type/dataset

Neighbourhood Borders

Changing Social Consistency

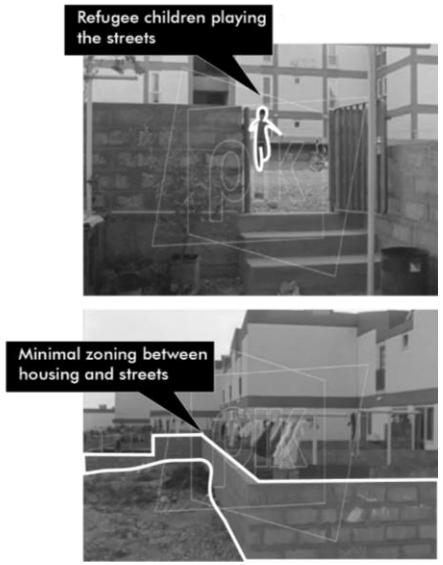


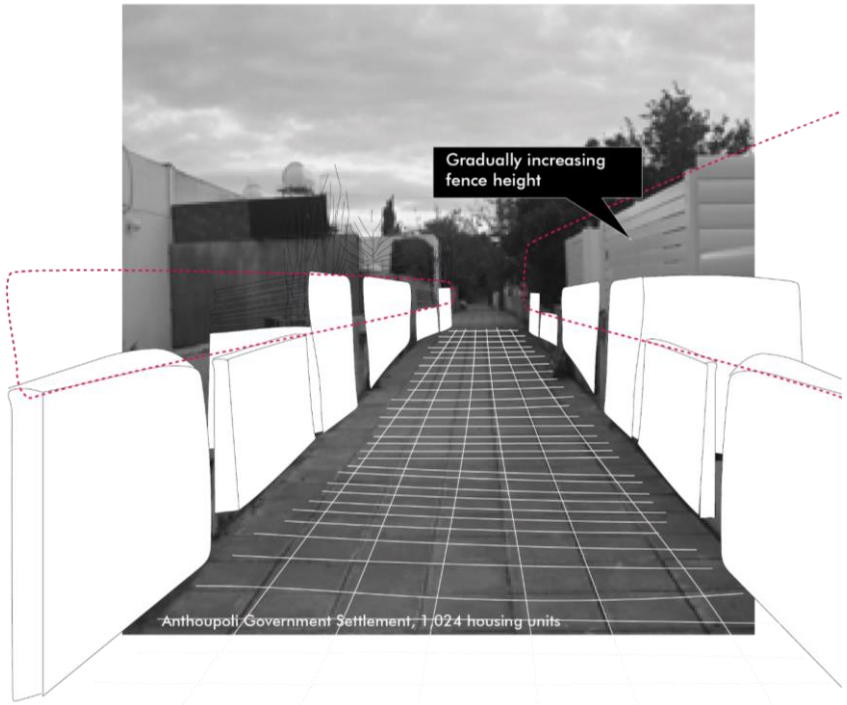


Vacant building distribution in Nicosia., Non-European resident distribution in Nicosia., Dependent population in Nicosia. Data retrieved from: https://www.data.gov.cy/search/type/dataset

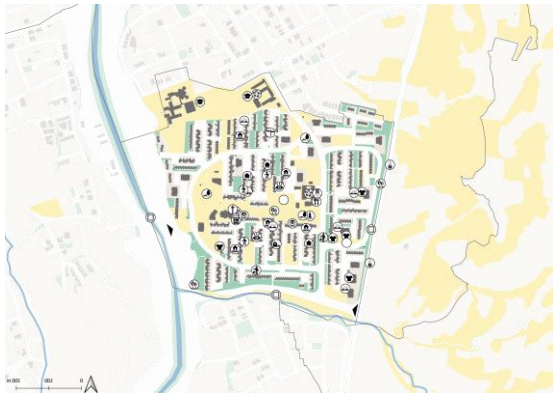
Boundary Flexibility

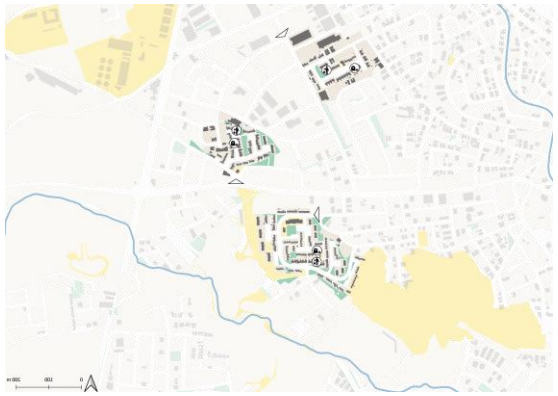
Social Interaction





Refugee Settlement Statistical Analysis





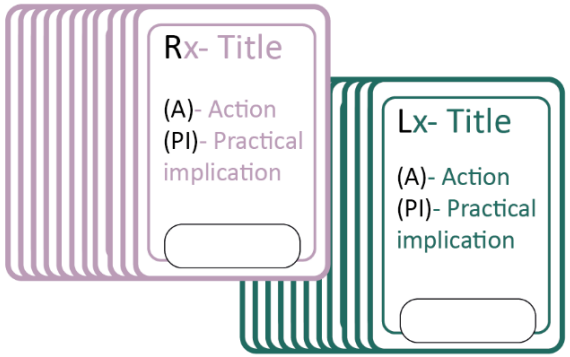
- Everyday human interaction in public spaces
- The blooming gardens
- Street Names
- Traditional practices
- Weekly market
- Collective meal gatherings
- Visual connection among neighbors & passers-
- connection before entering the settlement
- Blur boundary public private
- Monument
- Low rise family area

- Border Permeability
- Excessive parking in public space
- Empty land
- School
- Church
- Structural malfunctions/housing stock in decay
- Inactive open spaces
- Community center in decay
- Unattractive pedestrian network
- Cultivation plots adjacent to front gardens
- Green space assorted with apartment building
- Distinct settlement entrance
- Blurred settlement entrance

Pattern language development

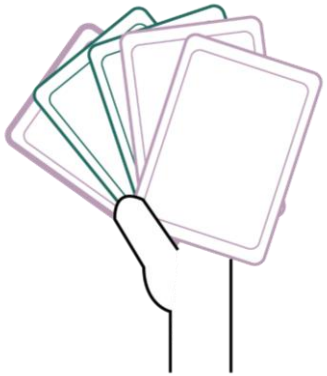
Remembrance

People need to ‘know’ in order not to forget



Livability

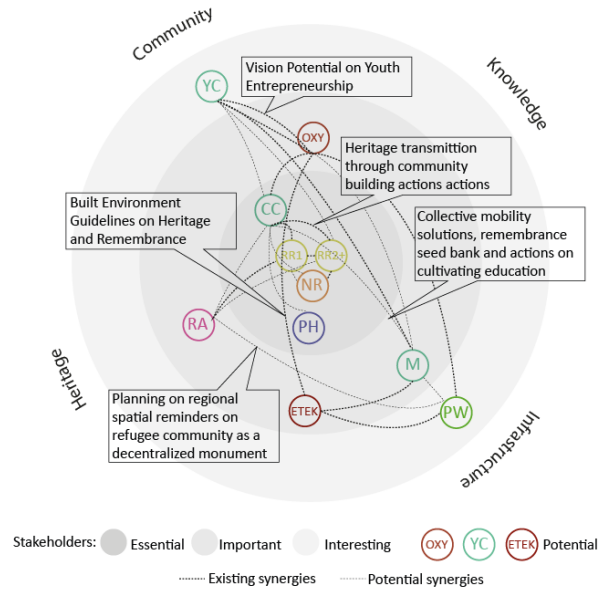
Refugee neighbourhoods need to fulfil contemporary needs while preserving traces of their initial character



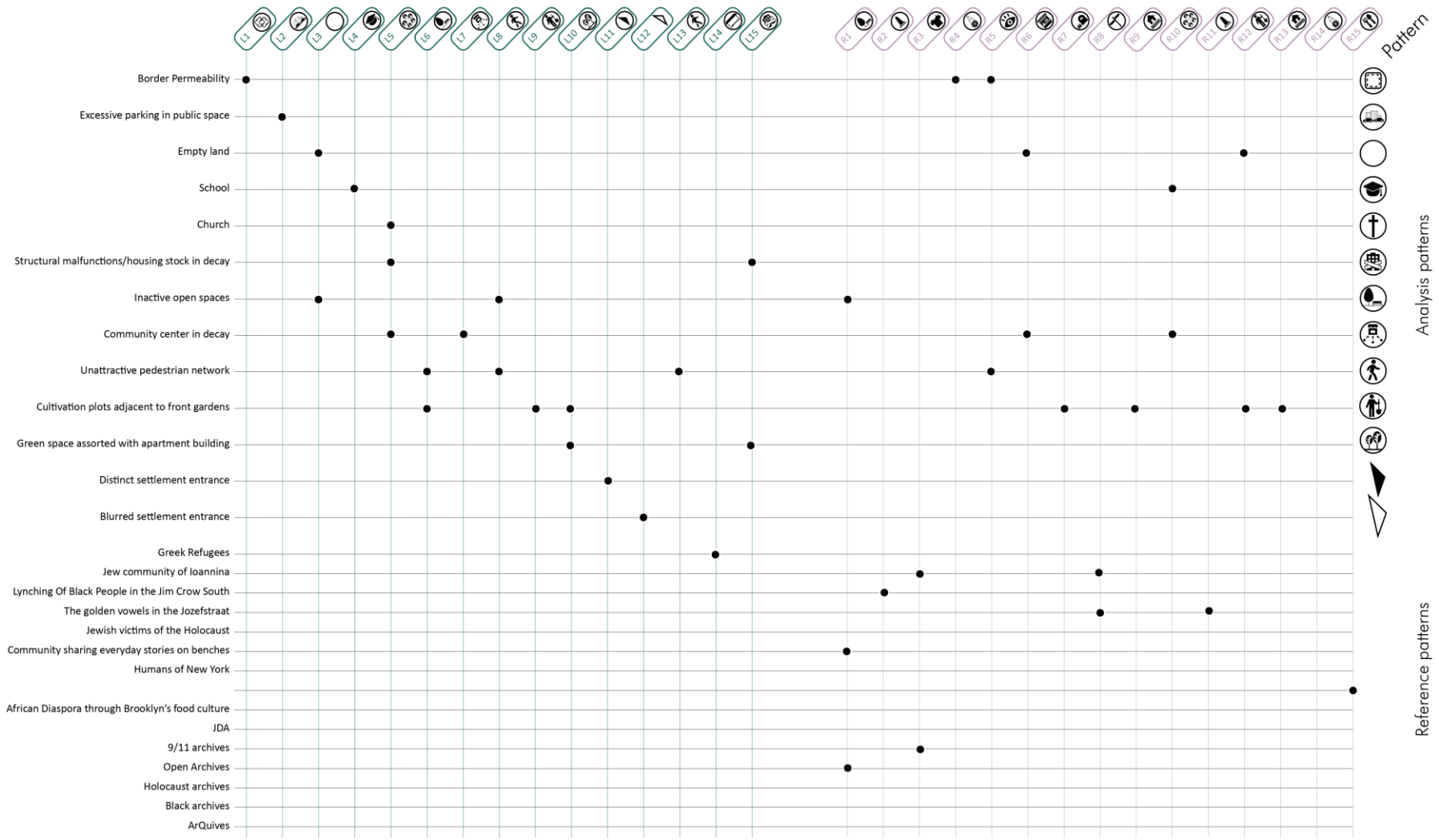
Pattern language development

Key Stakeholders

- M — Municipalities
- CC — Community council
- YC — Youth council
- PH — Planning & Housing Department
- PW — Public Works Department
- RA — Refugee Associations
- RR1 — Refugee Residents – Gen 1
- RR2+ — Refugee Residents – Gen 2+
- NR — New Residents
- ETEK — Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber
- OXY — Oxygono, Governance Arrangement in Nicosia



Pattern language development



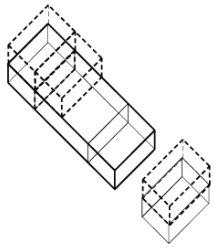
Reference Patterns

Patterns Based on Specific Events

Patterns Based on reminding and preserving Community Practices

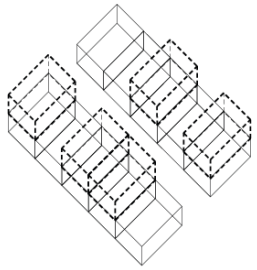
Patterns on the refugee settlements

Building stock



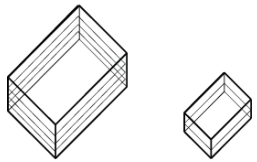
Public buildings

L7 R6 R12



Neighbourhood housing stock transformation

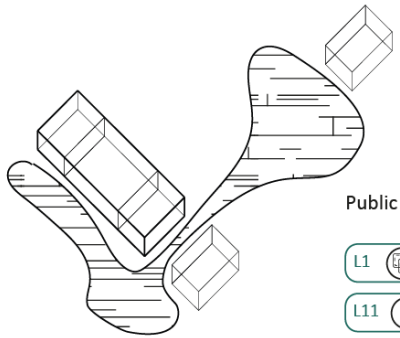
L12 L15 R5 R13



Housing stock details

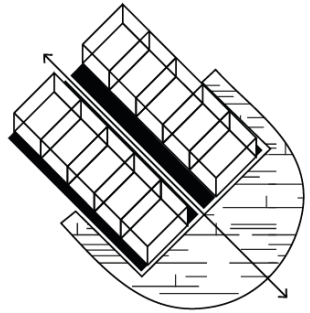
R3 R7 R9 R11

Public space



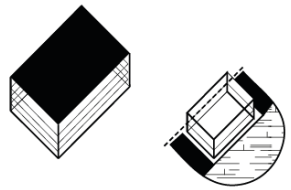
Public Spaces and Connections

L1 L4 L5 L11 L13 R2 R14



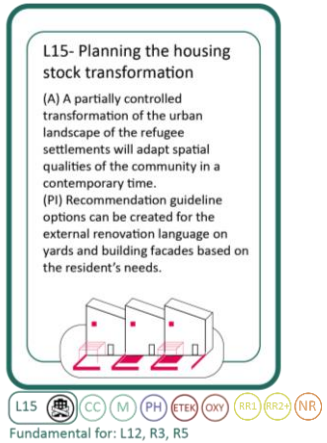
Neighbourhood structure

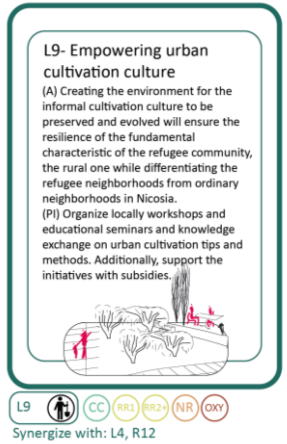
L2 L3 L8 L14 R1 R8 R10

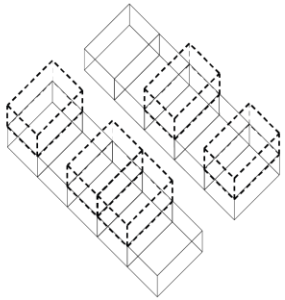


Collective spaces

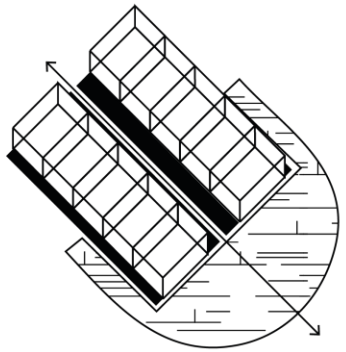
L6 L9 L10 R15



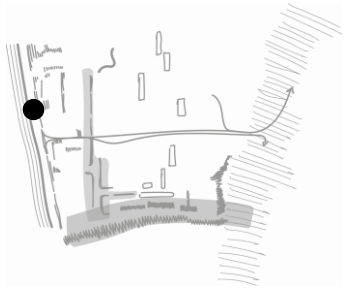


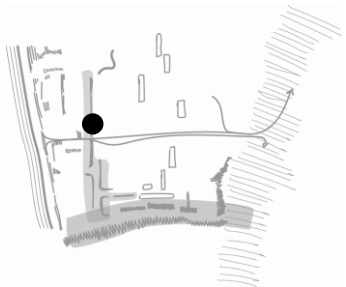


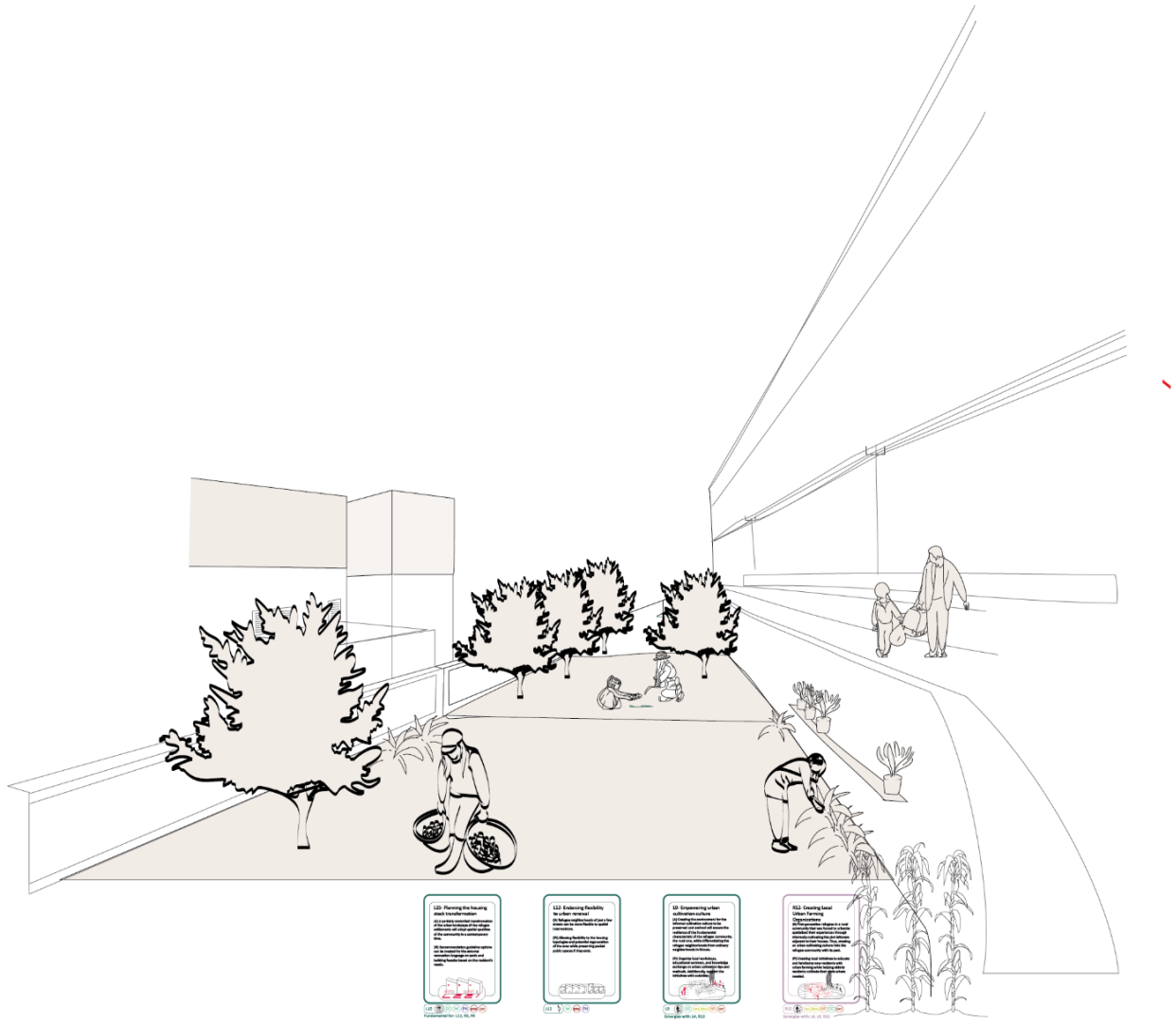
Neighbourhood housing stock transformation



Neighbourhood structure

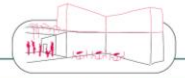






L7- Diversifying community center

(A) Updating the neighborhood community center to fulfill the needs of all the residents, and refugee generations endorses the needs of a wider part of the local community.
(PI) Renovate and update the community buildings while diversifying their functions. Where needed while expanding and creating spaces for local businesses and startups.



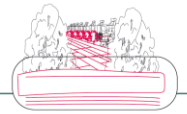
L7 CC YC OXY ETEK PH

Synergize with: L1, L3, L5, L11, R6

L4- Exchanging community knowledge

(A) Elderly first-generation refugees embody handicraft knowledge that can be transferred to the younger generations.

(PI) knowledge exchange spaces can be created in the community centers of the refugee settlements for knowledge exchange among the generations of the community.



L4 RR1 RR2+ NR CC PH RA

Synergize with: L9, R12

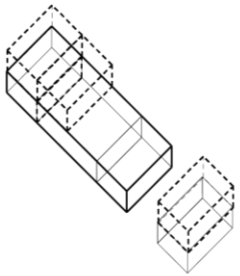
R1- Creating An Open Storytelling Archive

(H) People have stories to tell. Thus, documenting, preserving, and interpreting first refugee generations' oral histories at any time on a daily basis contributes to the community memory archive.

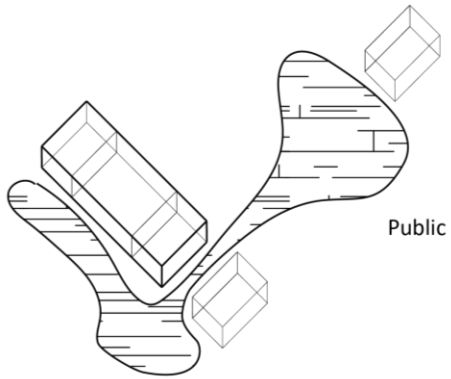
(PI) create specific sitting areas located in the refugee settlement where residents have the option to record or listen to stories/conversations on matters of the community or share stories from their past.

R1 RR1 RR2+ NR CC PH RA

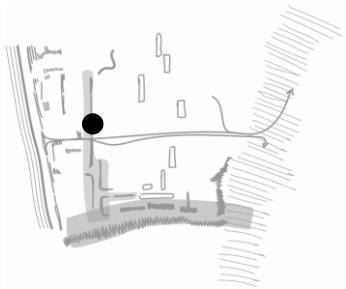
Complementary to: L6, L10, L14



Public buildings



Public Spaces and Connections



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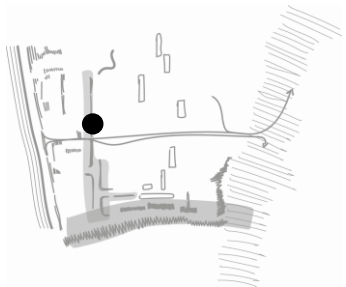
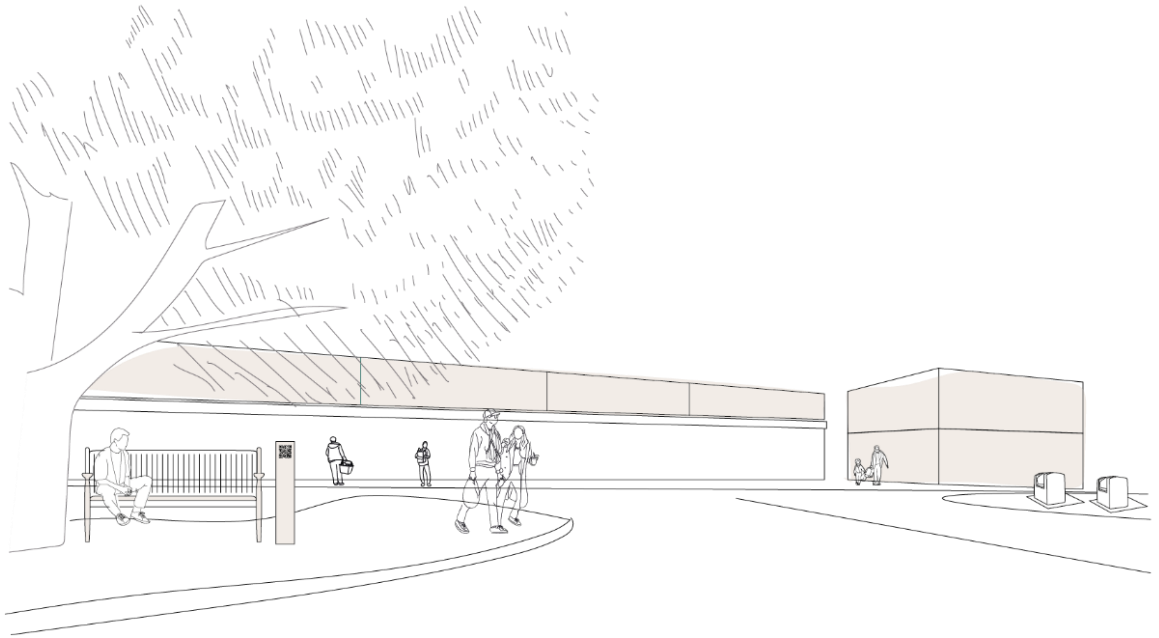
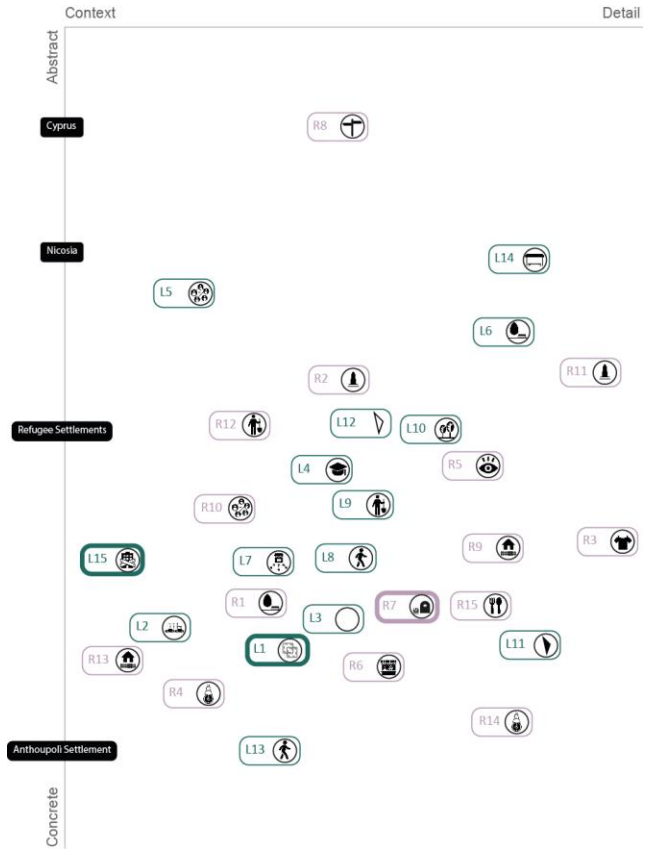




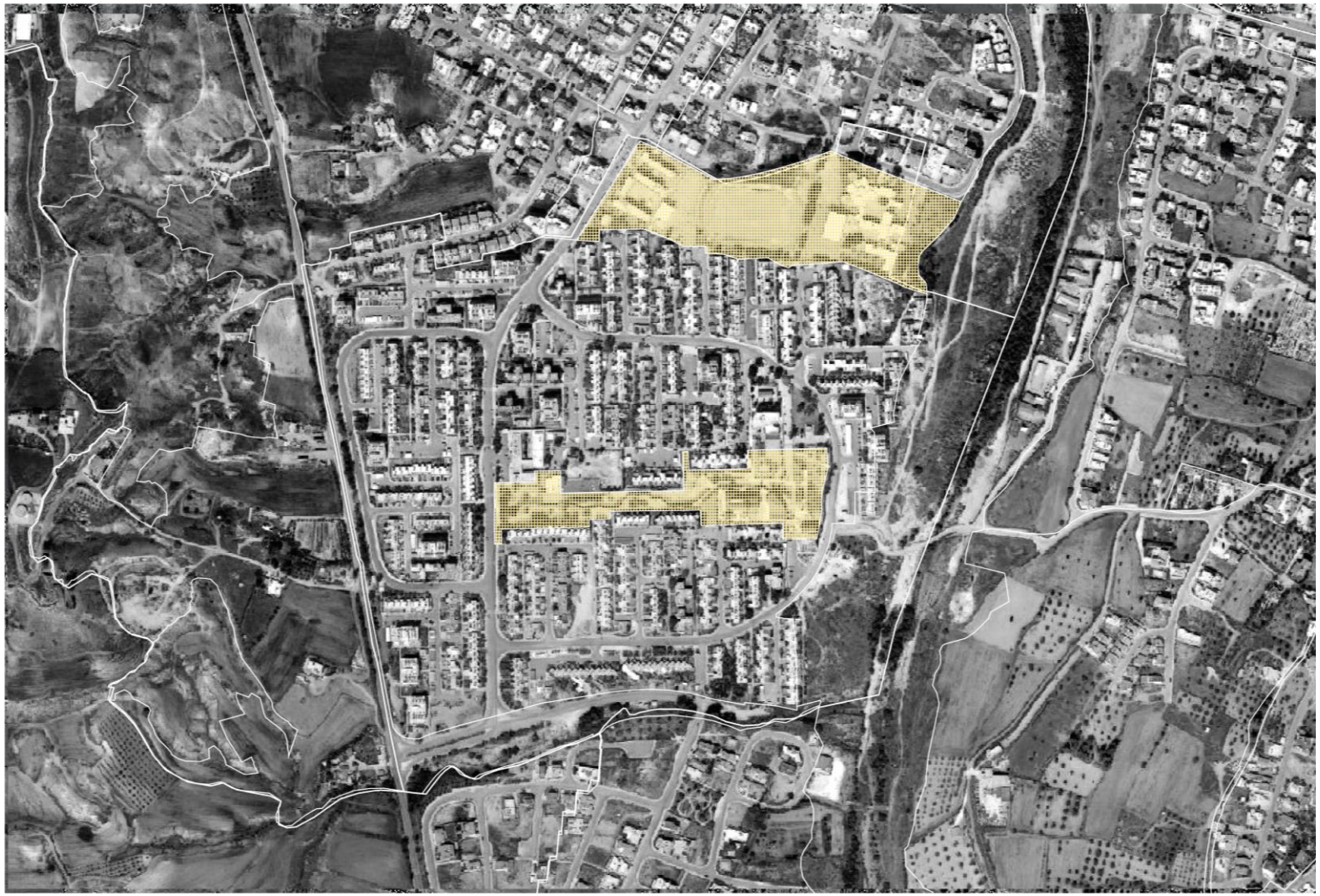
Pattern Field



Strategy Design

How can the planning process build a community in a conflict environment?

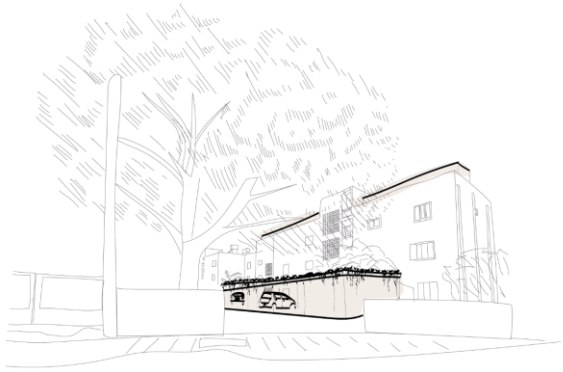
Anthoupoli Settlement



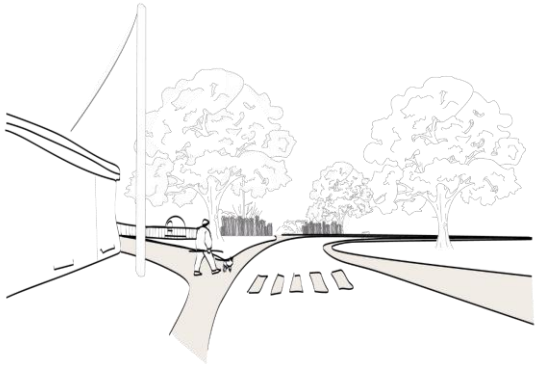
Anthoupoli Settlement Layers

Collective food preparation

Green structure



Collective solutions

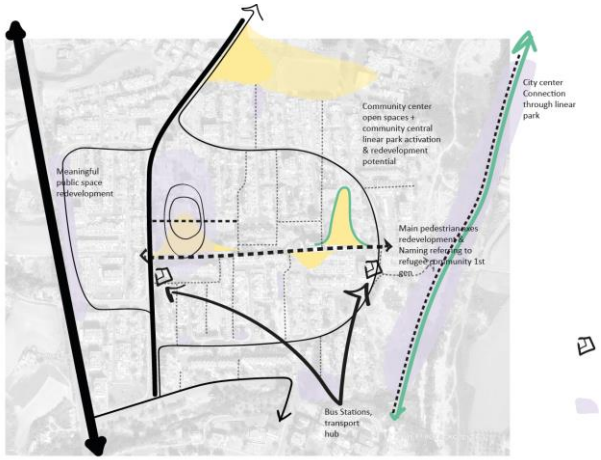


Permeable borders

Anthoupoli Settlement

Housing stock

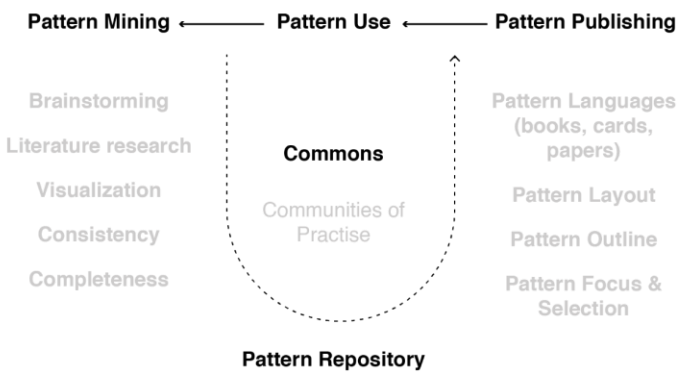
Green structure



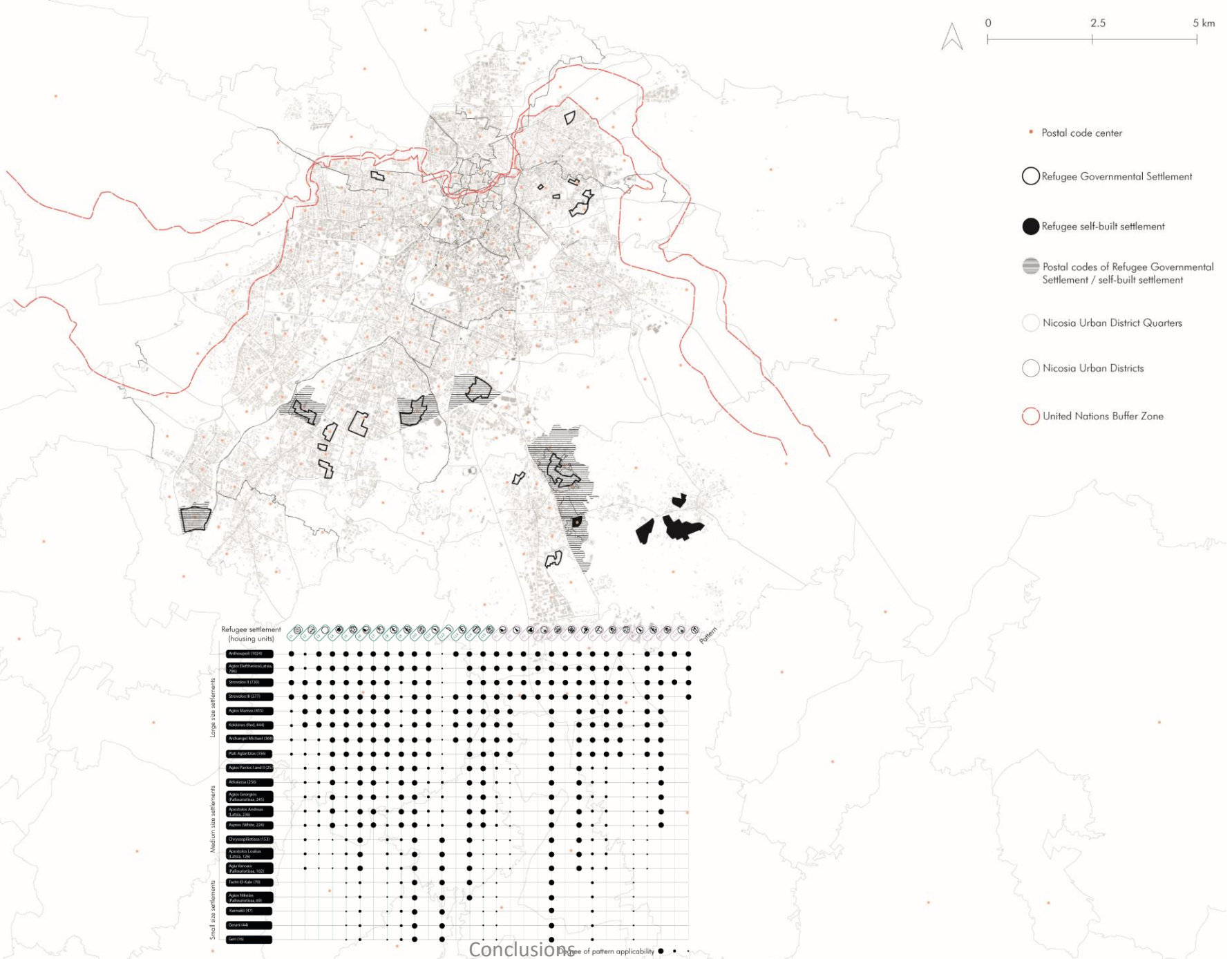
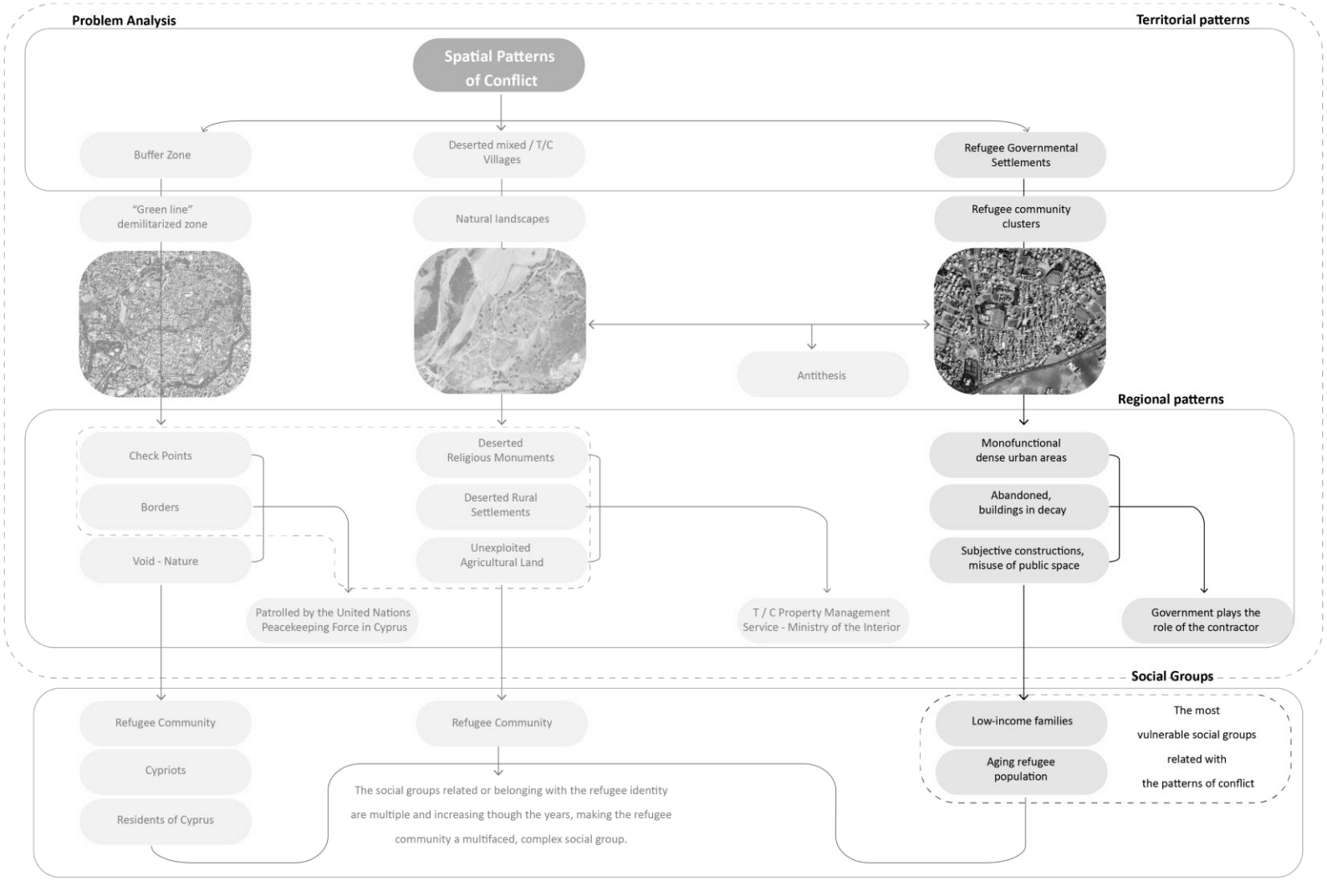
Mobility

How can community led spatial planning enable the Cypriot refugee settlements to be transformed to liveable environments while preserving memories of their initial inhabitants?

Conclusions



Conclusions



Looking Back