



L-Università
ta' Malta

Walk the Talk

Mapping the 15-Minute City Towards
Actionable Policy in Malta

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Outline of the Presentation

1. The Maltese Context
1. Taking Paola as a Case Study
 - Demographic Characteristics
 - Movement Characteristics
1. Reflections & Way Forward





As cities aim to overcome car dependency and put people and the human scale at the centre of spatial planning, the Timed City Concept is gaining ground as a potential planning approach

The Maltese Context

Demography

The Maltese population is one of the smallest in the world, yet it is one of the most densely populated countries

Mobility Context

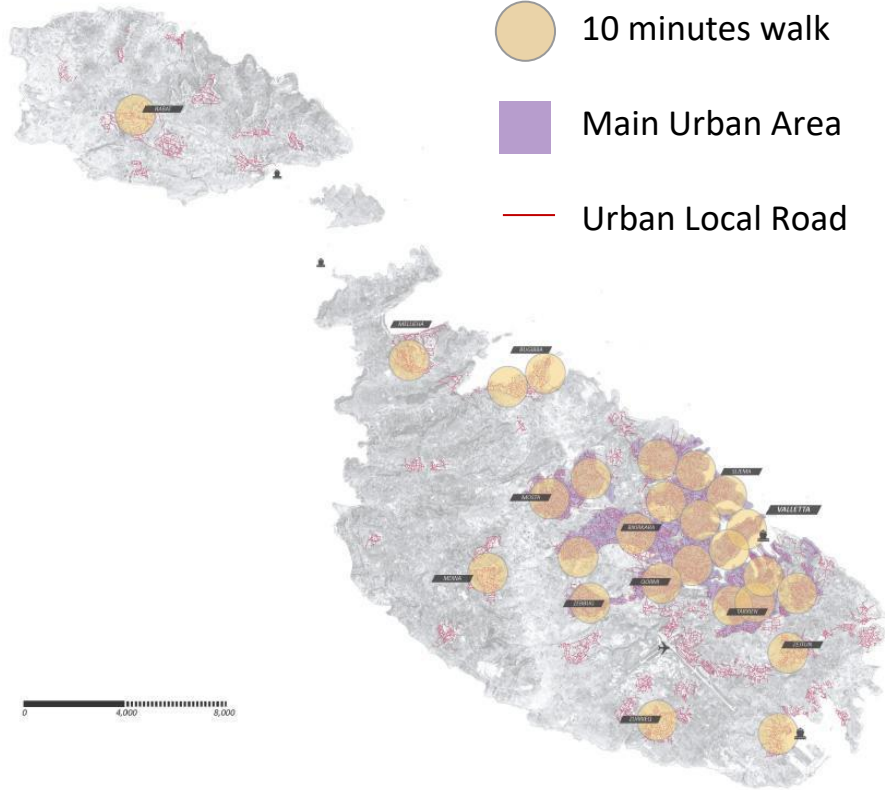
One of the highest motorization rates in Europe
(Transport Malta, 2016)

Predict and provide type of transport policy (Attard, 2017)

Modal split of 84.3% private vehicle; 5.2% bus;
7% walking and 3.5% other modes (NSO, 2022)



Are Timed Cities applicable to Malta?



Objectives

- To **establish a GIS platform** and gather spatial data required for analysing the Timed City Concept for the Maltese conurbation;
- To develop **state of the art research** by testing the Timed City concept through **Participatory GIS (PGIS)** techniques so as to understand user needs and perceptions relating to active travel and living locally;

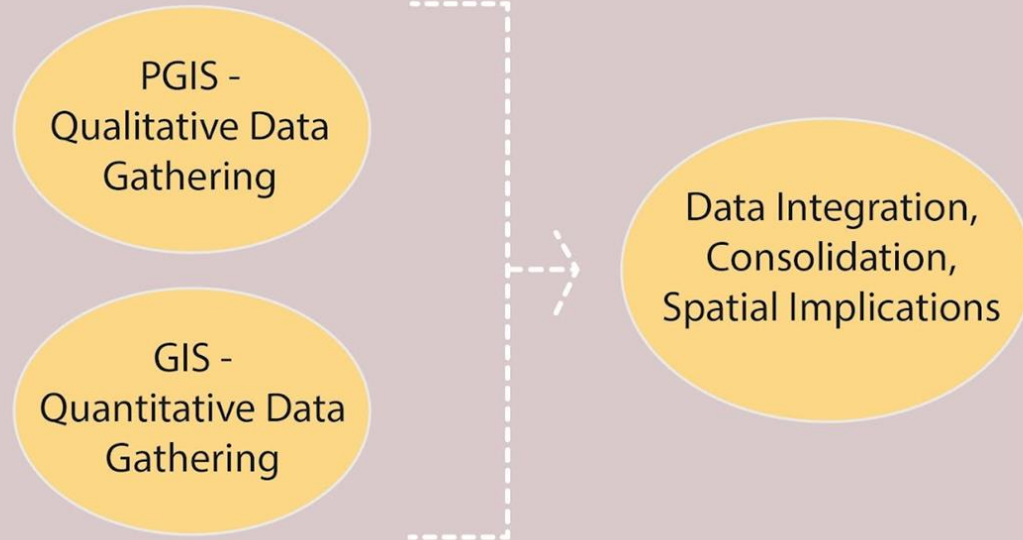


Objectives

- To set the groundwork for developing and establishing a **long-term working relationship** between the **University of Malta and local stakeholders** with the aim of sharing data sets and contributing to knowledge building in the field of integrated transport, open space, and land use planning; and community engagement / citizen science; and
- To use the outcomes and results to **develop actionable recommendations** for policy making and spatial planning specific to the Maltese context.



Methodology: Mixed Methods using a Case Study Approach



Which place can be used as a case study?

Paola (Maltese: *Raħal Ġdid*) means "New Town"

It has a population of 9,339 according to the 2021 census, with a population density of 3,736/km² over 2.5km²

As the commercial centre in the Southern Harbour area of Malta, it is found 5km from the capital Valletta, and is contiguous to Tarxien and Fgura, with which it forms a single urban area.



Implementing a Participatory GIS

Mapping for Change was the chosen platform to carry out a survey amongst 100 people in Paola

The data were gathered at different times of day between July and August 2023

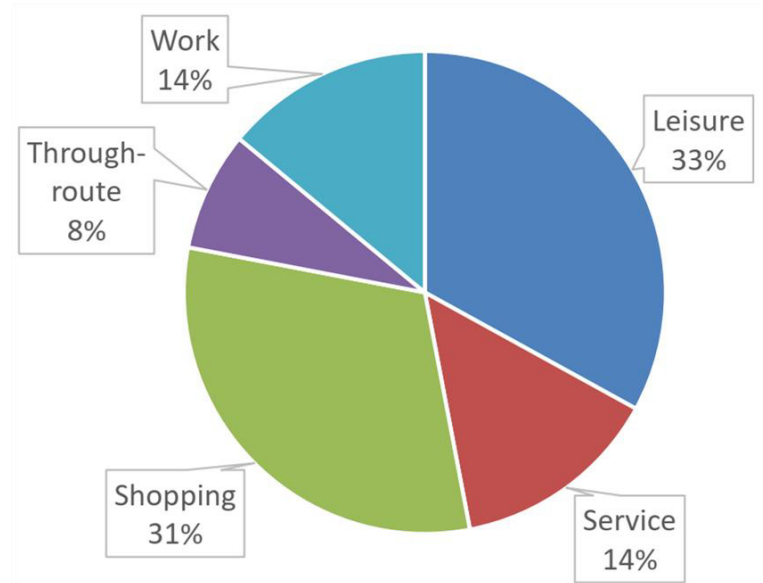
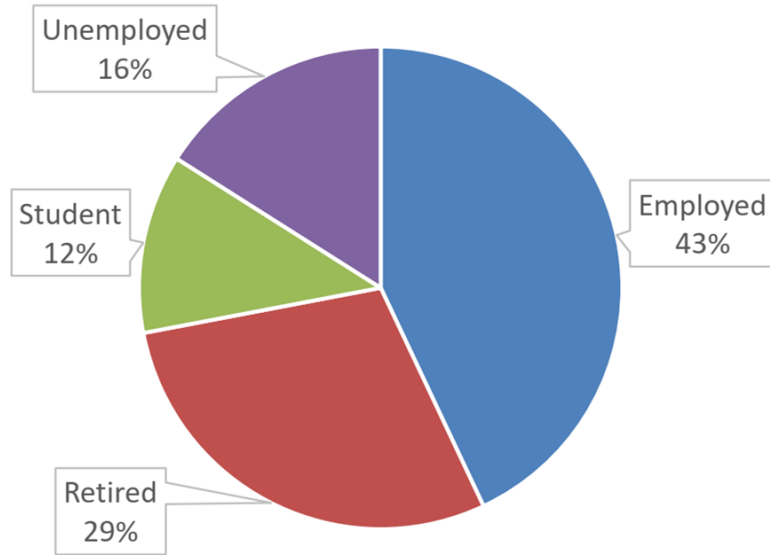
Considerations related to Timed Cities:

- Demographics of the participants
- Proximity of uses and basic services
- Walkability features in the environment

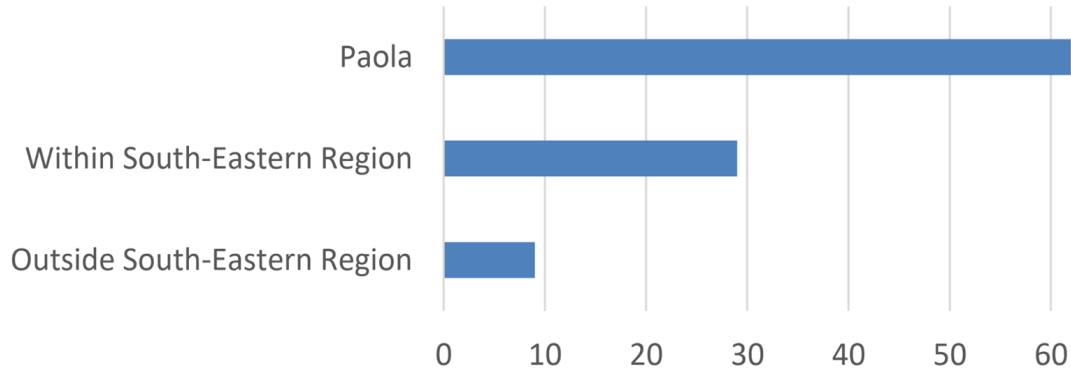


Of the 100 participants, 58% female and 42% were male

What is their professional status and why were they in Paola?

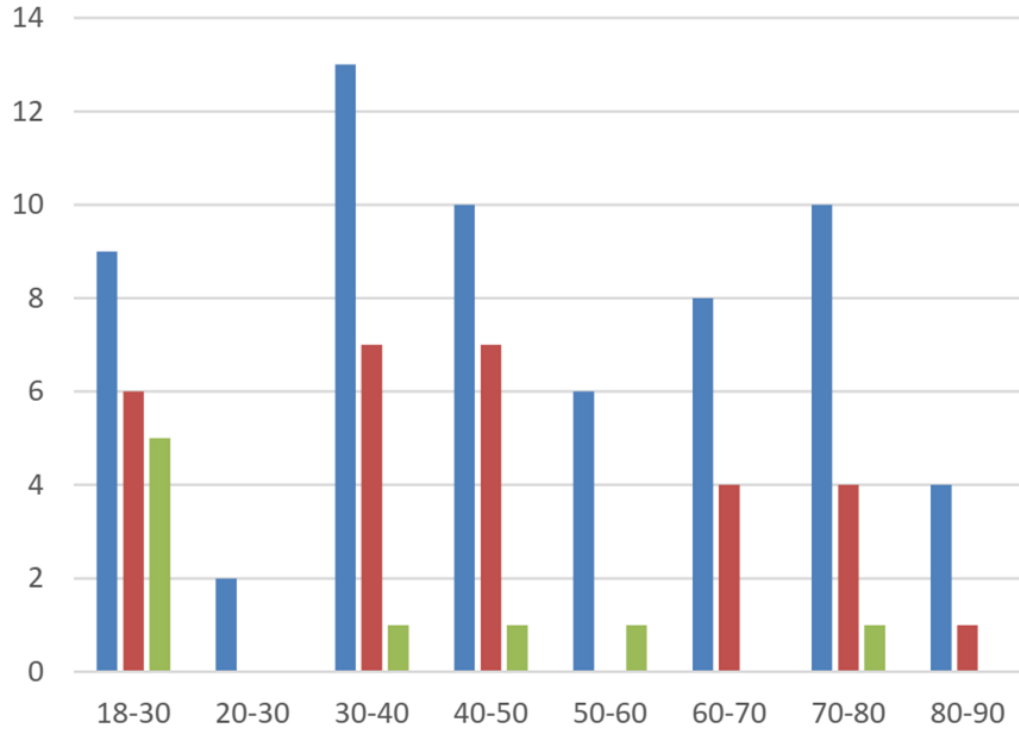


Where did the participants travel to Paola from?



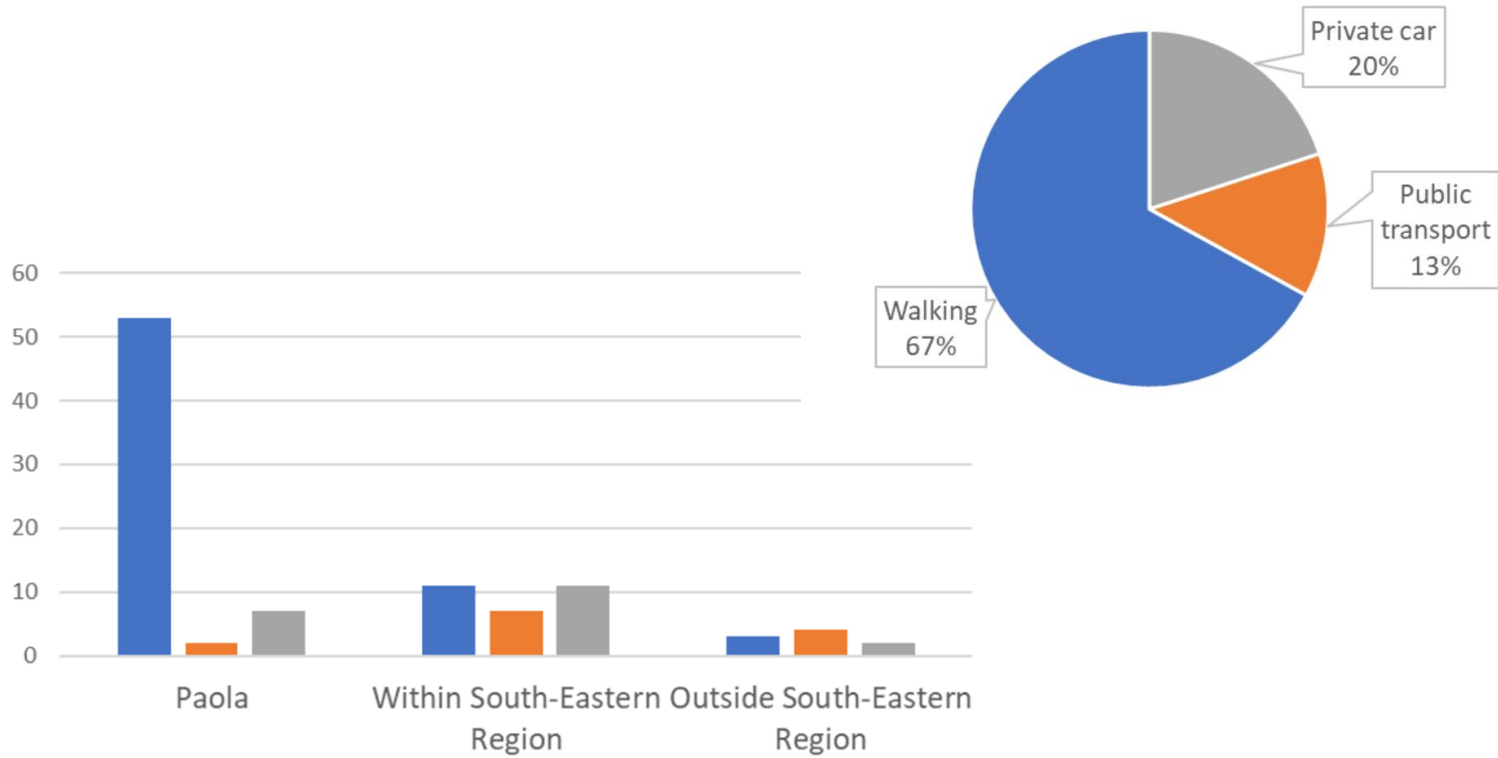
- Paola
- South-Eastern Region

How is this distributed by age?



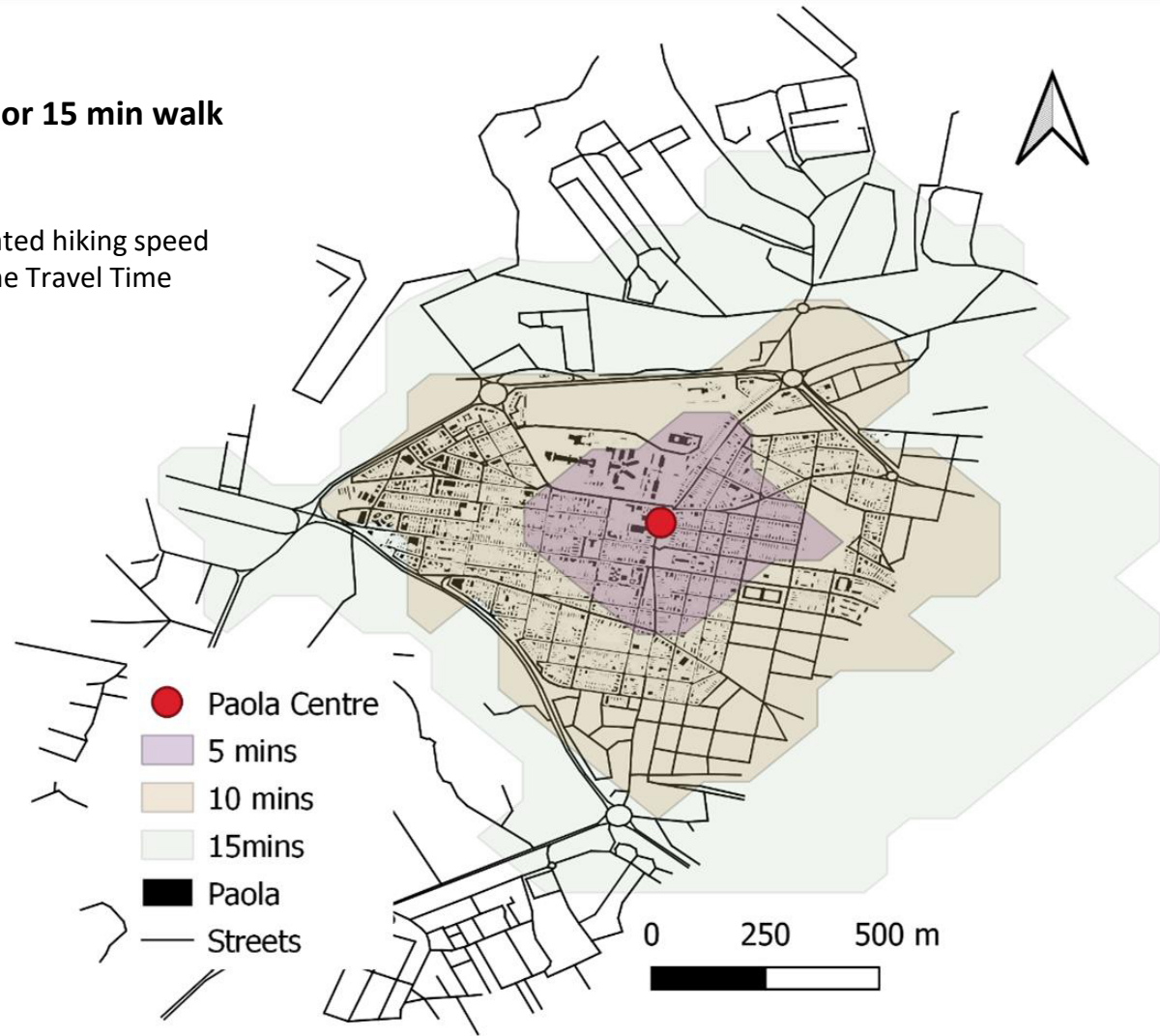
- Paola
- Within SE Region
- Outside SE Region

How did each participant get to Paola?

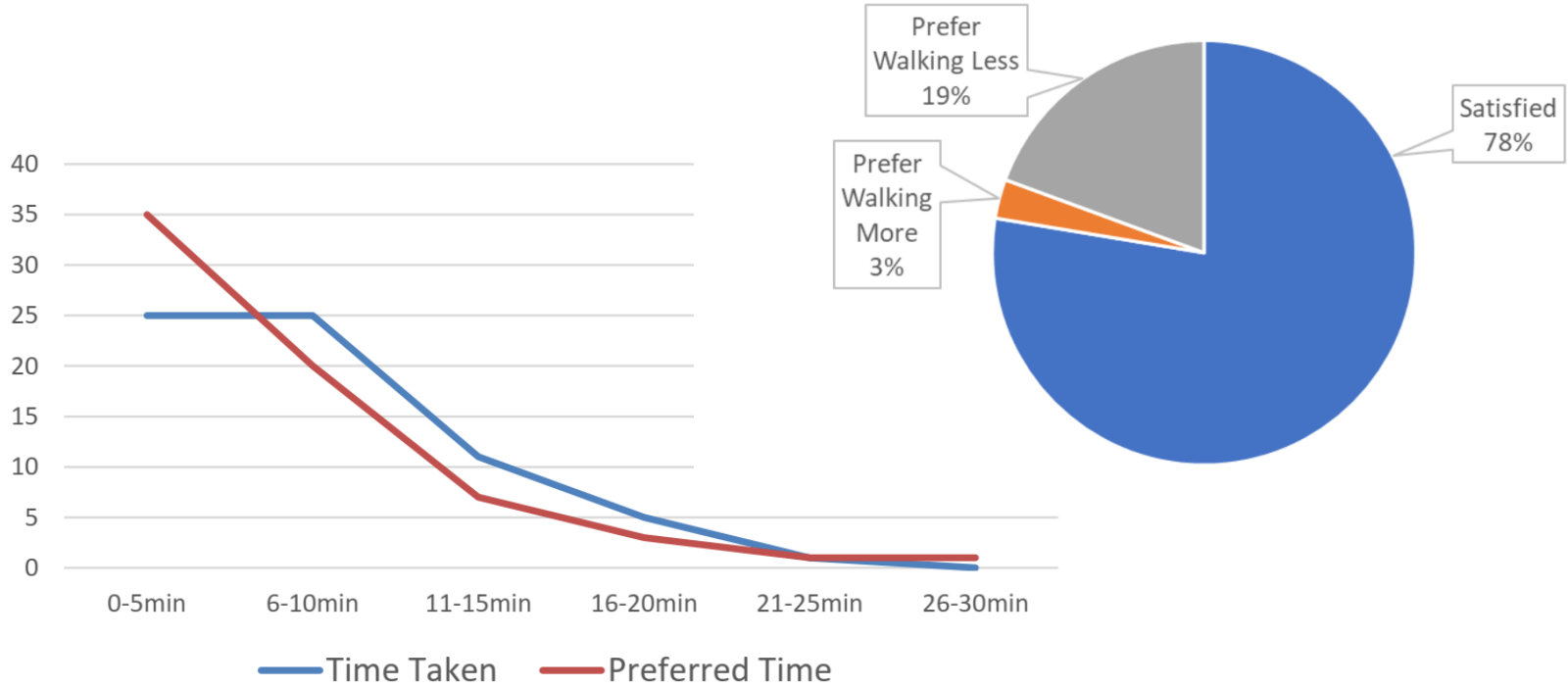


How far is a 5 min, 10 min or 15 min walk in Paola?

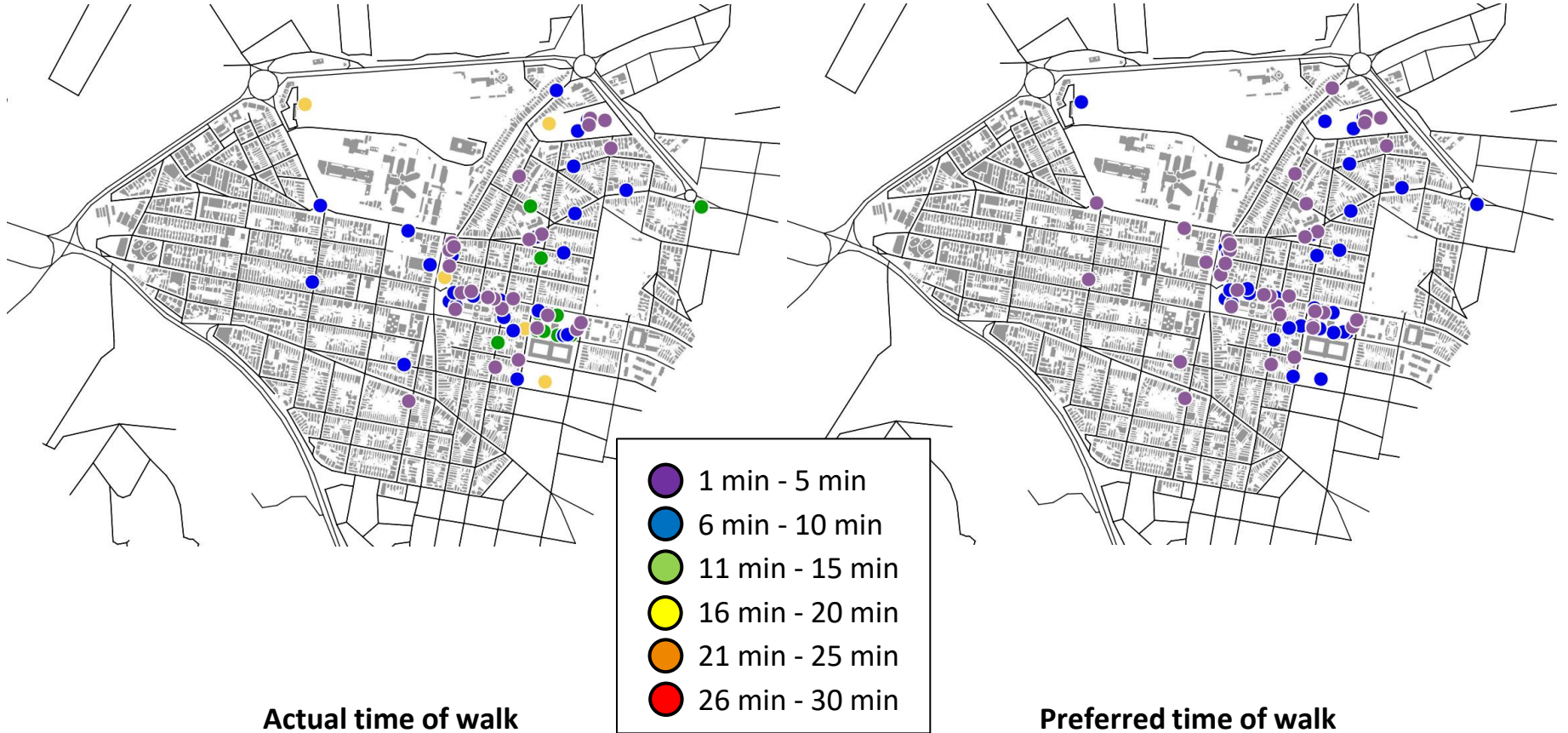
This is based on Tobler's estimated hiking speed on 5kph and generated using the Travel Time Platform in QGIS



Amongst pedestrians, for how long did they walk and was this their preferred length of walk?



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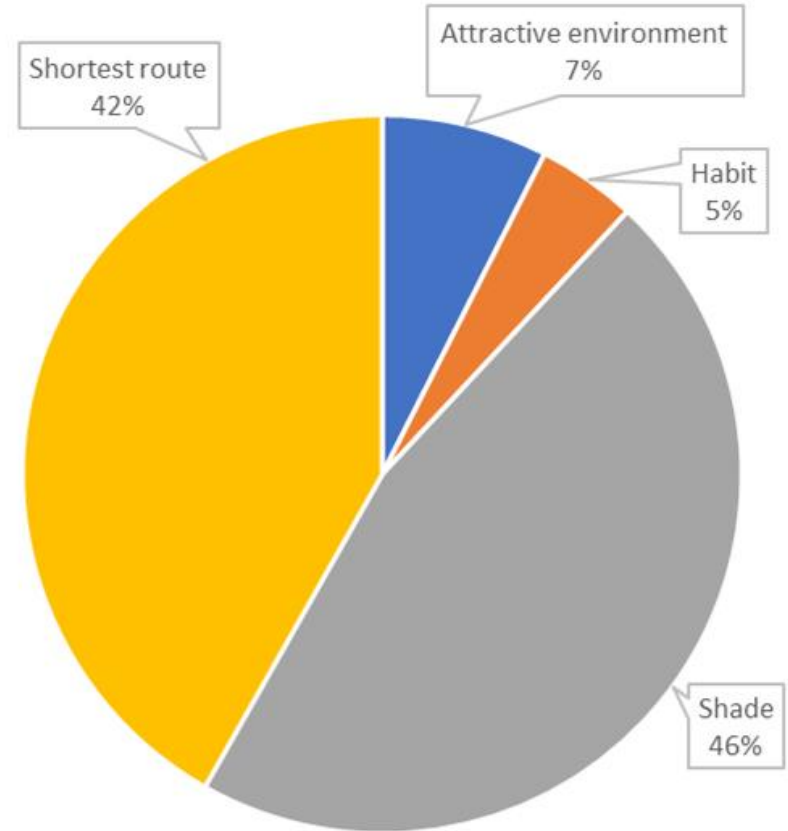


Why did each pedestrian choose their route?

Interestingly most respondents chose their route due to it being the shortest route or to be able to walk comfortably in the shade.

To be noted that survey was carried out during summer months, however an important consideration is that heat from the sun persists from April to November.

To highlight the prevalence of car use, a few people mentioned the difficulty of finding parking as one reason for walking to their destination.



How did each pedestrian describe their walk?

Most common reasons for 'Pleasant'

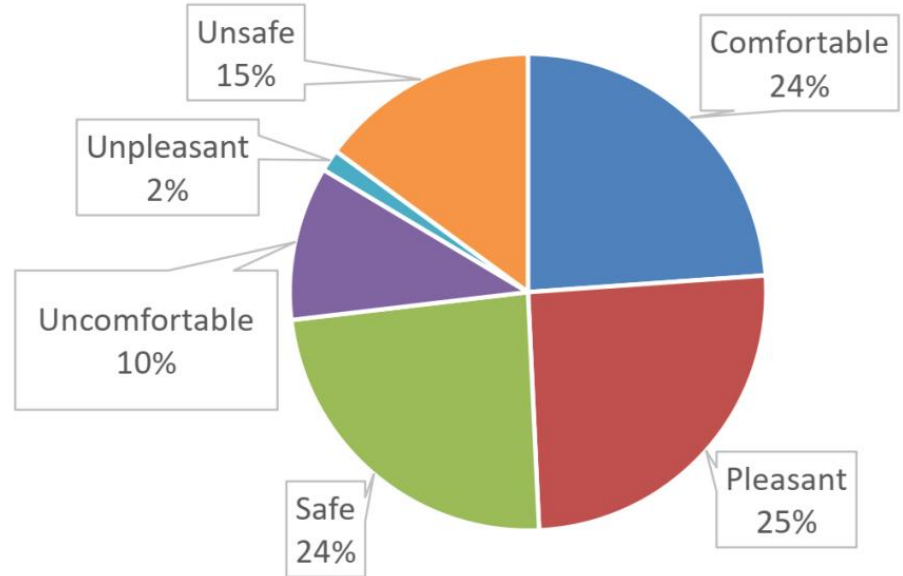
- **Good micro-climate (6), shade (8)**
- Nice place (6)
- Nice atmosphere (6)

Most common reasons for 'Comfortable'

- **Good micro-climate (11)**
- No difficulties (7)
- Trees (3), easy to walk (3)

Most common reasons for 'Safe'

- No traffic, not too many cars (8)
- No difficulties, no danger (8)
- Good sidewalks, infrastructure, crossings (8)



How did each pedestrian describe their walk?

Reasons for 'Unpleasant'

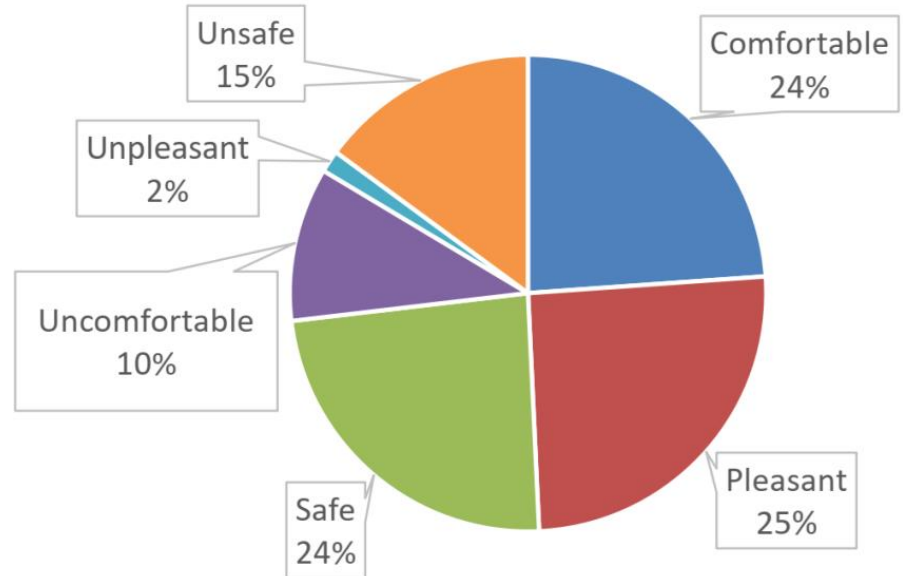
- Smells, cars, hot, too many people, dirty (1)

Most common reasons for 'Uncomfortable'

- **Sidewalk obstructions (4)**
- Hot, sun (3)
- Cars (2), difficult to cross (2)

Most common reasons for 'Unsafe'

- **No zebra crossings (8)**
- Many cars (6)
- Obstructions, bad state sidewalks (3)



Reflections

- Since most people from Paola walked to their destination, **there is a clear case for improving active mobility infrastructure within the locality** and thus for creating a modal shift away from the private car
- Paola is a Regional Hub, and therefore this change will **benefit not only the residents of the locality but also those from the surrounding localities**
- Most people considered the environment a positive one; **evidence of their experience relative to their familiar local pedestrian environment**
- **People's perspective on the quality of the infrastructure shows a lack of critical thinking related to the environmental attractiveness**





Article

Exploring the Potential for Timed Cities in Malta: The Case of Paola

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Way Forward

- **To analyse both the qualitative and quantitative data using GIS-based spatial analysis**
- **To further understand cultural specificities related to walkability, and its associated perceptions and requirements**
- **To continue promoting the need for an integrated planning system in Malta, based on such analytical techniques**



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Thank you for your attention!

If you have any questions, now is the right time to ask...
Contact us on the details below for further info:



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