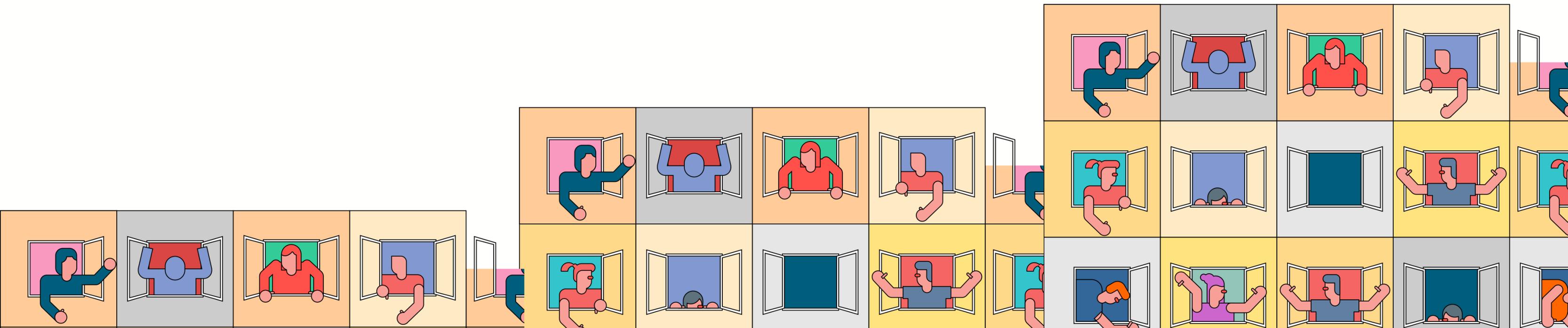


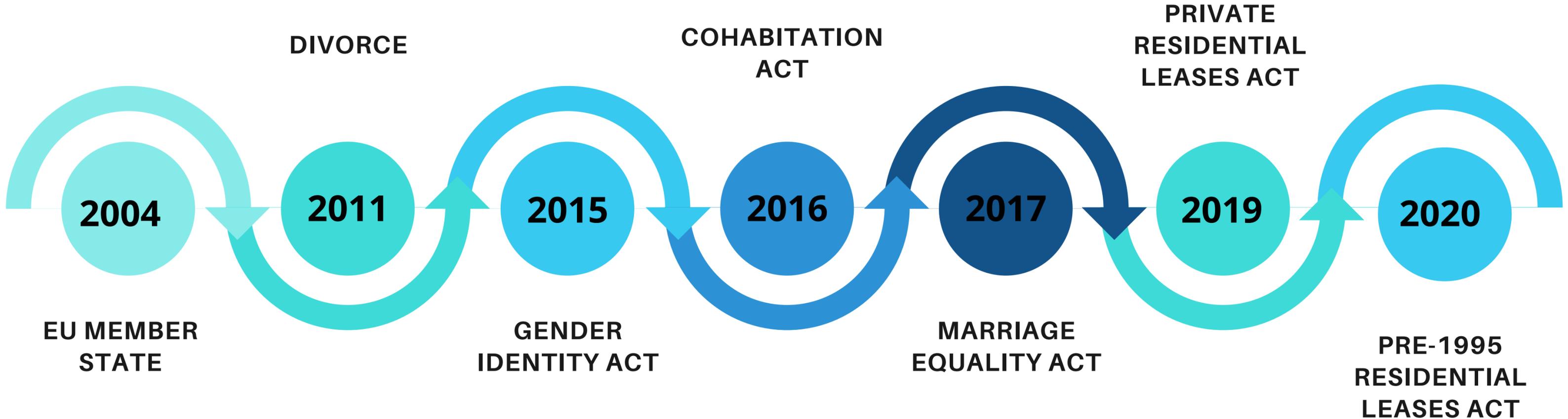
changing homes, changing society: *carbon-neutral housing solutions through design*

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Household at the core of legislative changes in Malta



Alternative Domesticities

- Shrinkage of 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 & LGBTIQ families.



Social housing applicants (2021)

- **75% females;**
- housing needs (affordable, autonomous & independent, family-friendly housing);
- social policy and legislation (namely access to benefits, conjugal law, employment, family, health, rent reform, salaries and transitional policy);
- social welfare (concerning employment, family, health, and general social wellbeing);
- **interior domestic redesign needs.**

The Shrinking Household and Energy Consumption

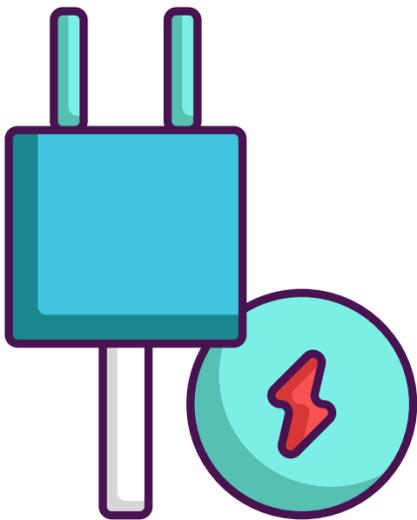
Smaller households tend to increase (direct and indirect):

- energy and resource consumption,
- domestic waste,
- production of CO₂, and
- biodiversity losses across a range of national contexts.

(Liu et al., 2003; Mackellar et al., 1995; Moll et al., 2005, Yates., 2016)

Towards Common Resource Use

- People living alone do, own, make and consume resource-intensive things alone rather than together.
- Increased solo living fundamentally affect domestic life and domestic resource consumption.
- Larger households appear to share resources more effectively.





GOVERNANCE & HOUSING

Shift towards green principles that re-imagine our homes as:

1. generators of human flourishing
2. connectors to open and green spaces
3. foundations of political, environmental & economic resilience
4. a right to housing





How can carbon-neutral housing practices promote sustainable consumption while keeping wellbeing at the centre?



**Putting *social relations*
& *resource sharing* at
the centre**



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Housing for Tomorrow

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS



How can a housing system promote carbon-neutral solutions?

- Changing households as a unit of analysis.
- Social & Environmental factors included at planning stage.
- Common resource use through sharing.











Q 3. Advice on replicating best practices

1. Understanding the type of society that you are working in.
2. Social & environmental thinking at planning stage.
3. Household-in-flux as an analytical category.
4. Shift towards common resource use in new housing developments.
5. Health value of domestic space.

Carbon-neutral housing solutions through design

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

*Thank
you!*