# Place Attachment as a Catalyst for Community Resilience

## Analyses on the İşçi Blokları Neigbourhood throught the Continuum from the Establishment of the Construction Co-operative and the Formation of Neighbourhood Identity

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# Research Aim

- Measuring the possible influnces of the place attachment in the resiliency of the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood.
- Measuring how socio-cultural factors alters the place identity of the neighbourhood.

# Research Question

- What is the role of place attachment in shaping community resilience?
  - What is the effect of the dissolution of the Türk-İş Co-operative on the place identity?
  - How the place identity of the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood is shaped after the events such as the dissolution of the worker's cooperative and the changing population. How did it affect the resiliency of the area?
  - How do different social groups within the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood contribute to the place identity?

# Definitions: Place Attachment

| | **Place (Neighbourhood) Attachment** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dimensions | Physical Dimension | | Social Dimension | |
| | **Place Identity** | **Place Dependence** | **Community Identity** | **Social Dependence** |
| Definitions | **individual's self-identity in reflection from the physical environment** in relation to conscious and unconscious ideas, beliefs, preferences, feelings, values, goals, and behavioural tendencies | concerns the potential of a particular **setting to satisfy the needs and goals of an individual** | **individual's self-identity in relation to the social environment** in relation to conscious and unconscious ideas, beliefs, preferences, feelings, values, goals, and behavioural tendencies | potential of a particular social setting which satisfies **the bonds between individuals and their social circle** |
| Scope | History, Culture of a setting | Accessible public spaces and facilities | Social class and diversity | Level of social bonds and actvities |

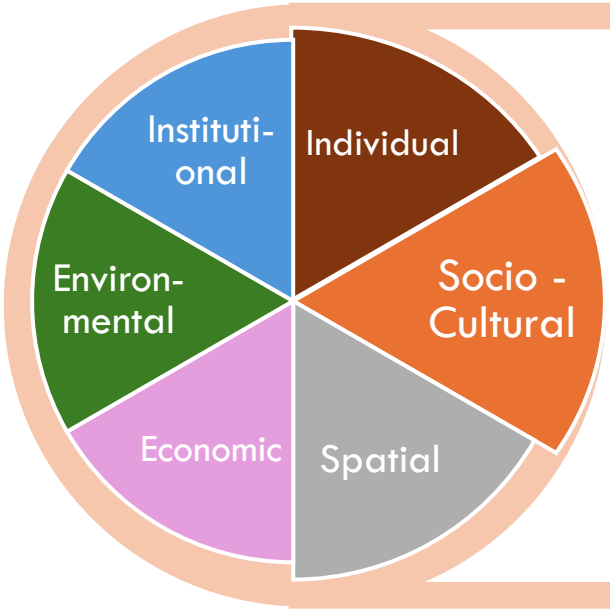
**Place Attachment as a Catalyst for a Resilient Community**

The place attachment strengthens community resilienc by leading; Community Collabration, Social Network, Social Cohesion…

# Definitions: Community Resilience

- "Community resilience is the existence, development, and engagement of community resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterised by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, and surprise." (Kelly et al., 2014
  - The ability to recover quickly from a shock;
  - The ability to withstand a shock;
  - The ability to avoid the shock altogether.

(Georgia Tech Basic Economic Development Course — Economic Resilience: Building Capacity for Strong Communities, 2017)

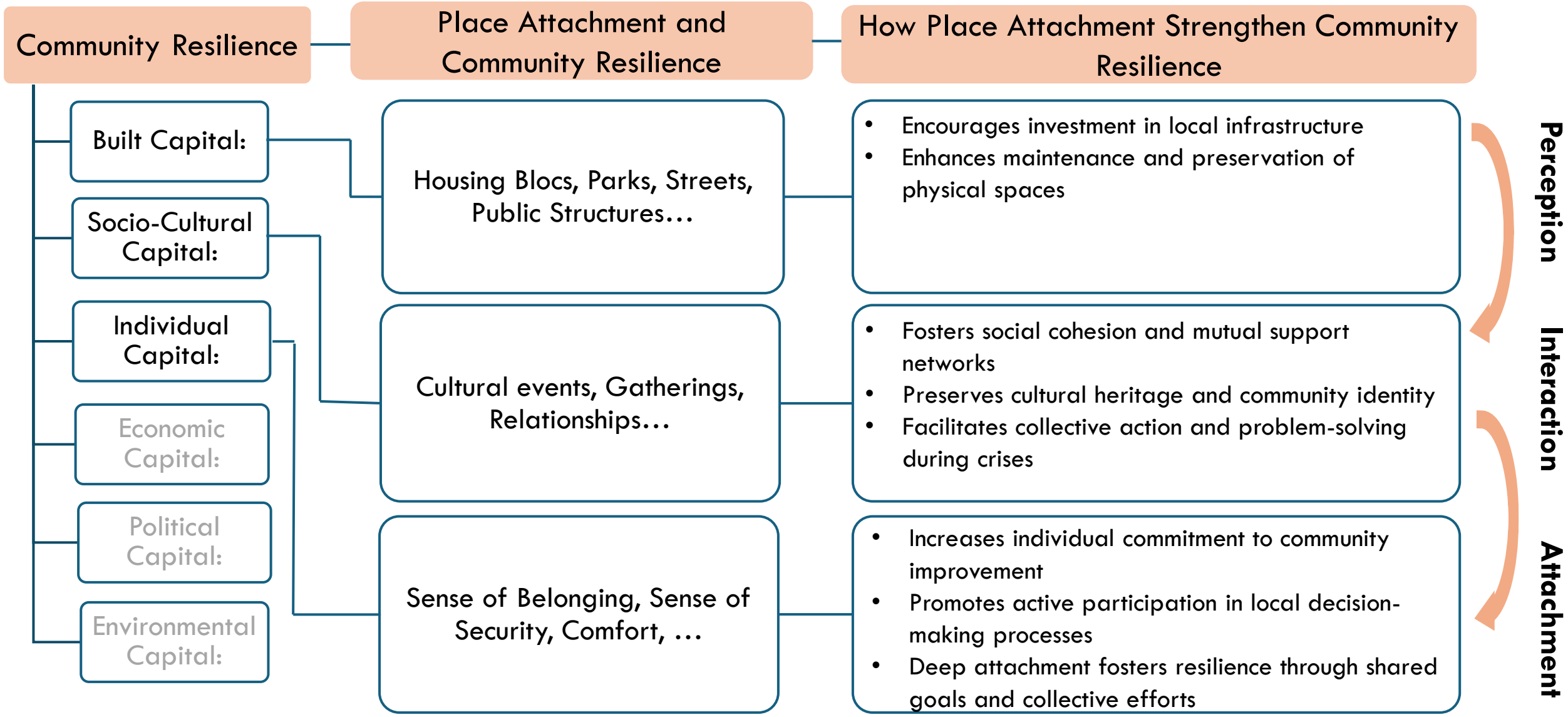



**Socio-Cultural Capital:**

Socio-cultural capital refers to the collective resources derived from social networks, community cohesion, cultural practices, and shared values that enhance the community's ability to respond to and recover from challenges.

Place attachment is a crucial element of socio-cultural capital, enhancing community resilience through strong social networks, community engagement, revitalising cultural practices, shared values, trust, and informal support systems.

# Conceptual Diagram



# Research Strategy

**Parameters that generates place attachement:**

- Analyses Parameters;
  - Shared Values;
    - Figuring out common values which are promoting the sense attachment.
- Implementation Parameters;
  - Social Cohesion;
    - Promoting act in cohesion in case of undesirable events.
  - Community Participation;
    - Promoting various opportunities to its residents to participate different socio-cultural activities.
  - Trust Networks;
    - Ensuring trust among networks with enhancing communication channels.

# Foundations of the Neighbourhood

- **1950's:** Urban area population increased rapidly in Ankara
- **1961 Constitution 19th Article:** "the state is responsible of meeting the housing needs of the low-income people in healthy conditions"
- **1971:** Türk-İş Syndicate started the organisation of social housing in Aydınlıkeveler Neighbourhood for 2500 members. Which was not sufficiant for 4906 members.
- **Early 70's:** With the cooperation of the Syndicate and the Municipality, an area of 43 hectares within the borders of Karakusunlar Village was expropriated through a development plan.

* Karaağaç, E. Alkım. (2015). Bir İşçi Kooperatifi Konut Modeli Olarak 100. Yil İşçi Bloklari Mahallesi; *Konut Paneli, Panel Bildirileri, TMMOB Şehir Plancıları Odası Ankara Şubesi, Ankara.*

# Construction of the Neighbourhood

- Karakusunlar Village, 1970's

***Şekil 11.*** Beş katlı ve çok katlı İşçi Bloklarının yapımından bir fotoğraf (1970'li yıllara ait olduğu tahmin edilmektedir.).
Kaynak: İbrahim Sezgin kişisel koleksiyonu.

* Öztürk, Ö. and H. J. A. A. D. Nur (2023). "Edimsel Topoğrafyada Kırsaldan Kentsele: Karakusunlar'ın Dönüşümünü Haritalamak." 11(2): 293-319.

# Construction of the Neighbourhood

- **1973:** Construction starts with loans from SSK and Emlak Bankası, continuity of financing was ensured by collecting dues from the members.
- **1973:** Two large parcels of land in the centre of the site were sold to local contractors to raise funds for the co-operative
- **1976-1980:** Construction and delivery of the first phase 5 Storey buildings
- **1980-1986:** Construction and delivery of the second phase 5 Storey buildings, Construction of the Multi Storeys buidings and delivery of A,B Blocks
- **1986-1987:** Delivery of the remaining Multi Storey building
- **1990's:** Completion of public service areas (parks, schools, marketplace, mosque…)

* Karaağaç, E. Alkım. (2015). Bir İşçi Kooperatifi Konut Modeli Olarak 100. Yil İşçi Bloklari Mahallesi; *Konut Paneli, Panel Bildirileri, TMMOB Şehir Plancıları Odası Ankara Şubesi, Ankara.*

# Neighbourhood Named after the Co-operative

Neighbourhood Named after the Co-operative;

- **1973:** Türk-İş Blokları,
- **1981:** 100. Yıl Site ( Because of the Atatürk's 100th Birthday).
- The name of the neighborhood was settled as 100. Yıl İşçi Blokları Neighborhood.

* Karaağaç, E. Alkım. (2015). Bir İşçi Kooperatifi Konut Modeli Olarak 100. Yil İşçi Bloklari Mahallesi; *Konut Paneli, Panel Bildirileri, TMMOB Şehir Plancıları Odası Ankara Şubesi, Ankara.*

# İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood

''Neighbourhood is the connecting spaces between individual dwellings, other structures and to the wider city system and are arenas of casual interaction as well as being a key site of the routines of everyday life"

''It is difficult to define neighbourhoods based on a set number of dwellings or spatial size, as boundary and size of neighbourhoods are context dependent and can differ from society to society" (Larimian, T., et al. 2020)

- Build & Sell
- First 5 Stories (1976-1980)
- Second 5 Stories (1980-1986)
- Multi Stories (1980-1987)
- Educational Facilities
- Religious Facilities
- Market Area
- Commercial Areas

# Common Property Areas

- Central Heat Center;
  - Sold in 2012 for 8.581.000 TL.
- Merkez Çarsı;
  - Each shop sold by auction.
- Üçgen Çarsı;
- Kabere Buffet;
  - Still belongs to the Multi Storey Blocks, the profit made here is reduced from the condo fees.

*100. Yıl Site Isı Merkezi*

# Survey

**Questions**(21-24)

21. Which aspects led you to live in this neighbourhood?
22. Do feel a sense of attachment to this neighborhood ?
23. Do you think that the current identity of your neighbourhood reflects its history and culture?
24. Were you or your family members of the Türk-İş Union Housing Cooperative during the construction of the "İşçi Blokları"? If your answer is yes, how did the dissolution of the housing cooperative affect your life in İşçi Blokları Neighborhood?

**Sampling Size**

| | |
|---|---|
| Face to Face Participants: | 54 |
| Online Participants: | 55 |
| Total: | 109 |

# Methodology

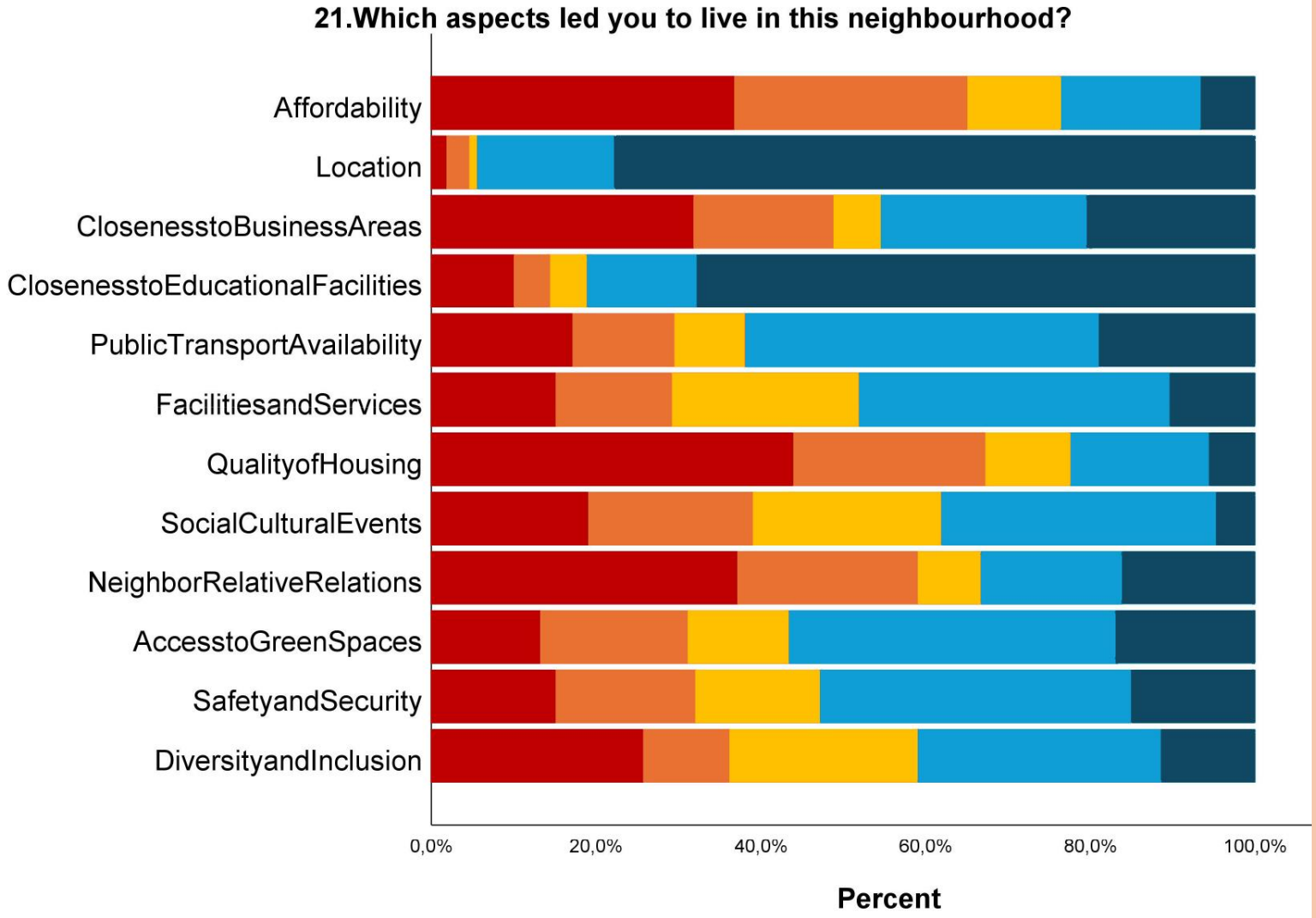
**Quantitative Analyses**

- **Regression Analysis**
  - To identify the relationships between multiple demographic variables (length of living, employment status, etc.) and the sense of place attachment among residents.
- **Correlation Analysis**
  - To determine if there is a significant relationship between two dependent variables, such as the level of place attachment and reflection of history and culture.
- **Cluster Analysis**
  - Comparing th results in the focal areas of the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood.

# Aspects led you to live in this neighbourhood

| | 21. Which aspects led you to live in this neighbourhood? | |
|---|---|---|
| Physical Aspects | • Location<br>• Closeness to Business Areas<br>• Closeness to Educational Facilities<br>• Public Transport Availability | • Facilities and Services<br>• Quality of Housing<br>• Access to Green Spaces |
| Social Aspects | • Social & Cultural Events<br>• Diversity and Inclusion | • Neighbour Relations<br>• Safety and Security |
| Economic Aspects | • Affordability | |

# Aspects led you to live in this neighbourhood




## Ranking

1. Location (m.4,66)
2. Closeness to Educational Facilities (m.4,24)
3. Public Transport Availability (m.3,34)
4. Access to Green Spaces (m.3,29)
5. Safety and Security (m.3,23)
6. Facilities and Services (m.3,14)
7. Diversity and Iclusion (m.2,92)
8. Closeness to Business Areas (m.2,85)
8. Socio-Cultural Events (m.2,85)
9. Neighbour, Relative Relations (m.2,53)
10. Affordability (m.2,28)
11. Quality of Housing (m.2,17)

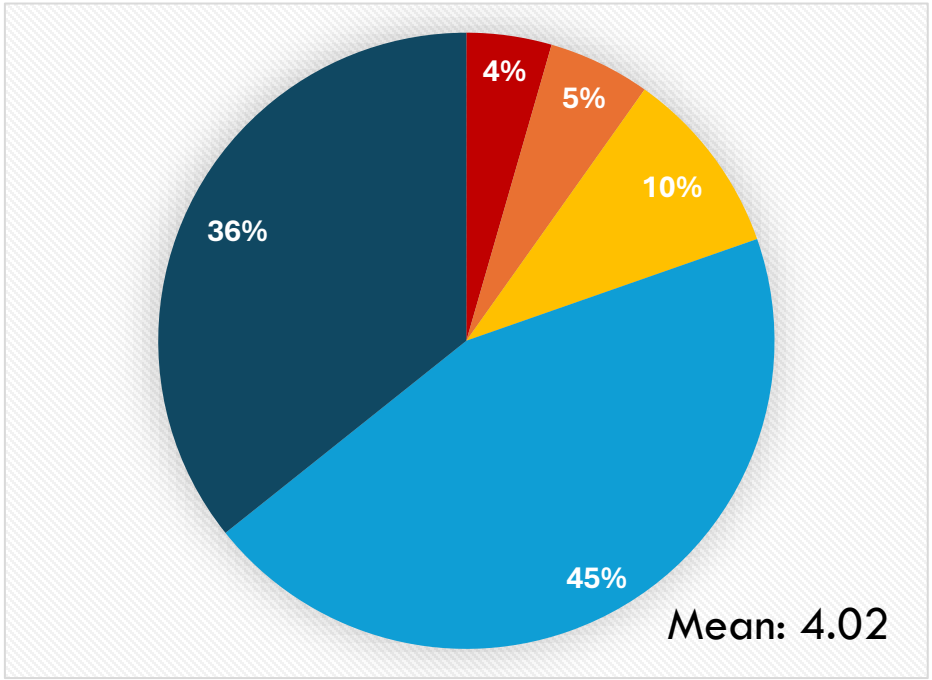
1. Physical Aspects (m.3,34)
2. Social Aspects (m.2,88)
3. Economic Aspects (m.2,28)

No Impact | Low Impact | Undecided | Moderate Impact | Highest Impact

# Sense of Attachment

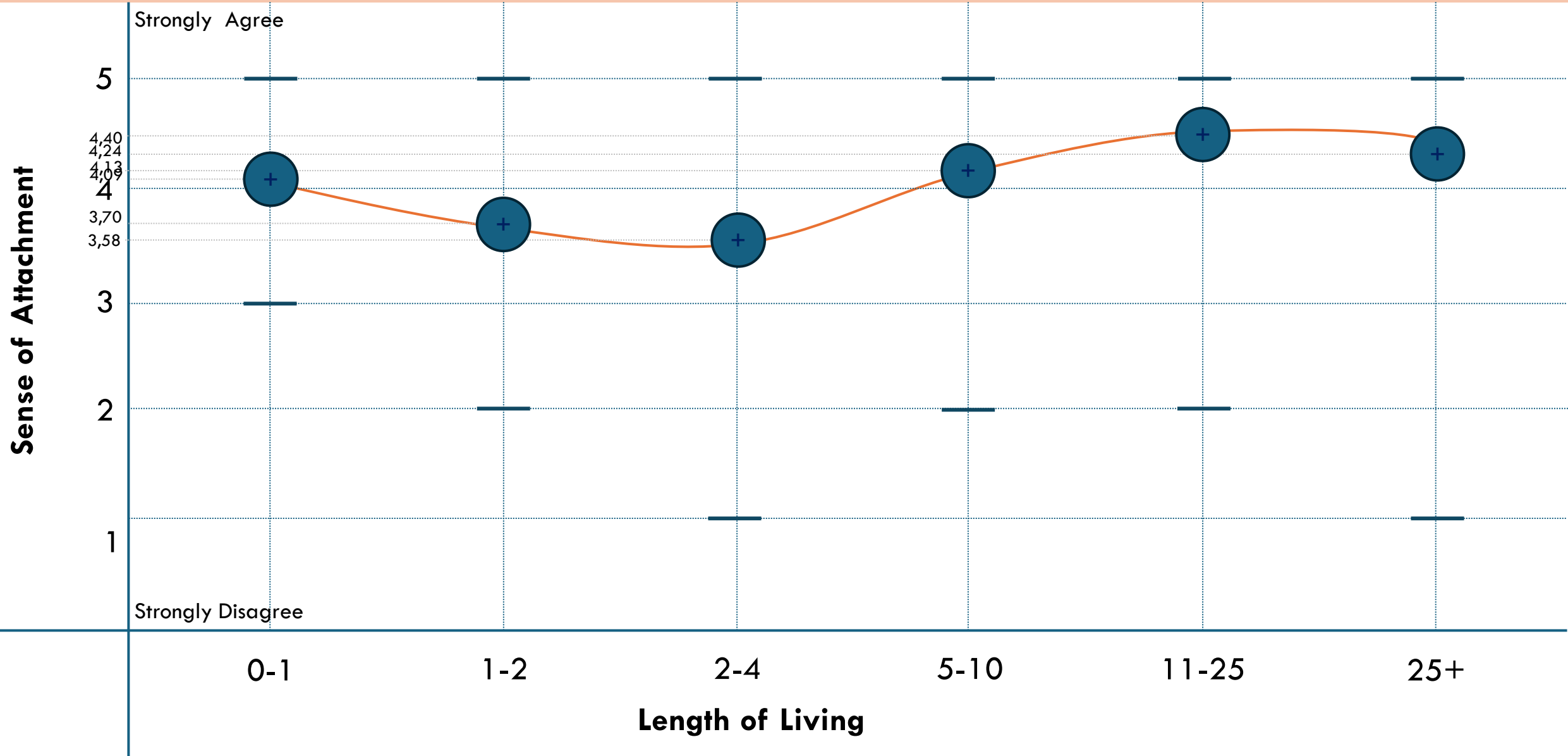
22. Do feel a sense of attachment to this neighborhood ?

Majority of the residents posseses a sense of attachment towards the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood.

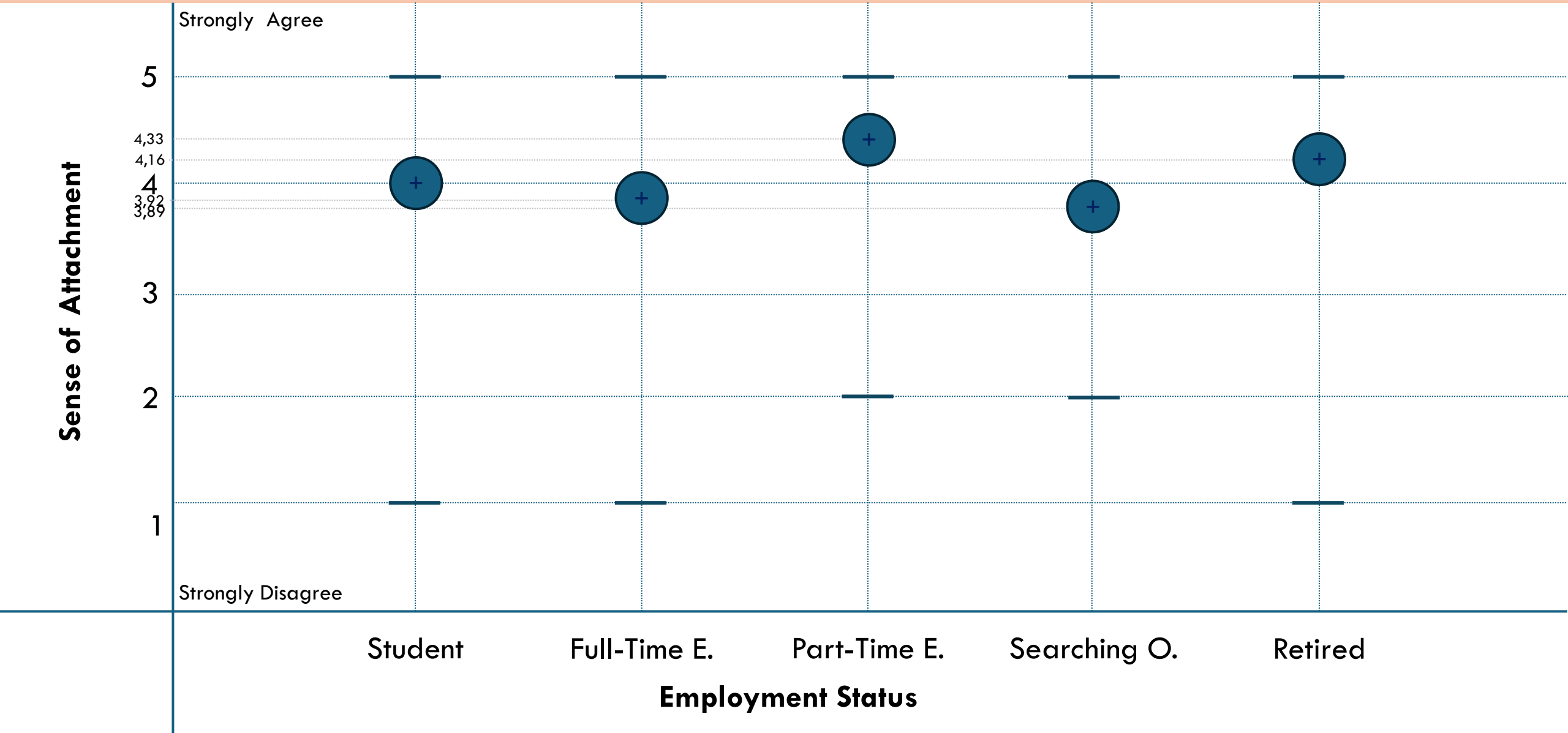



Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree

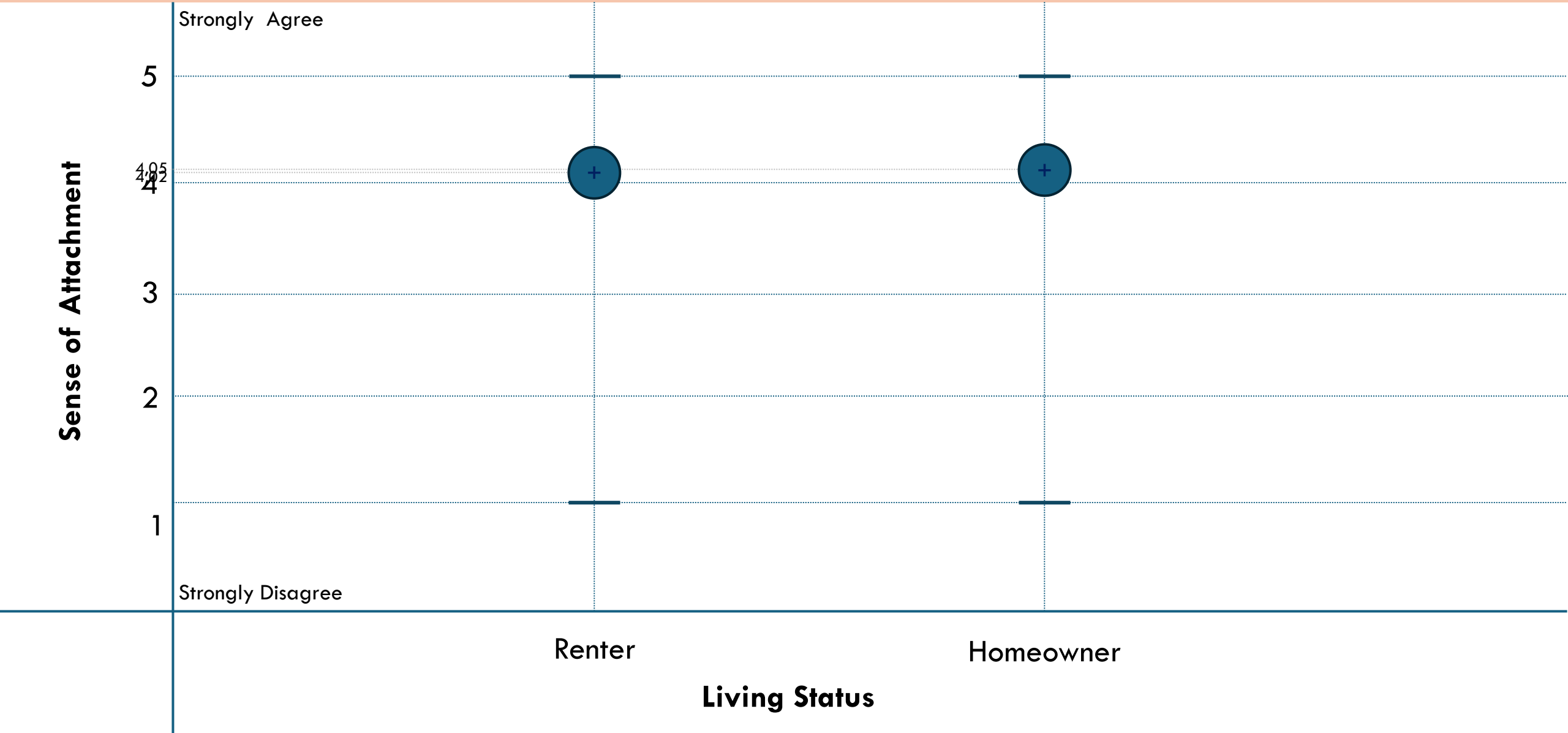
# Sense of Attachment and Length of living



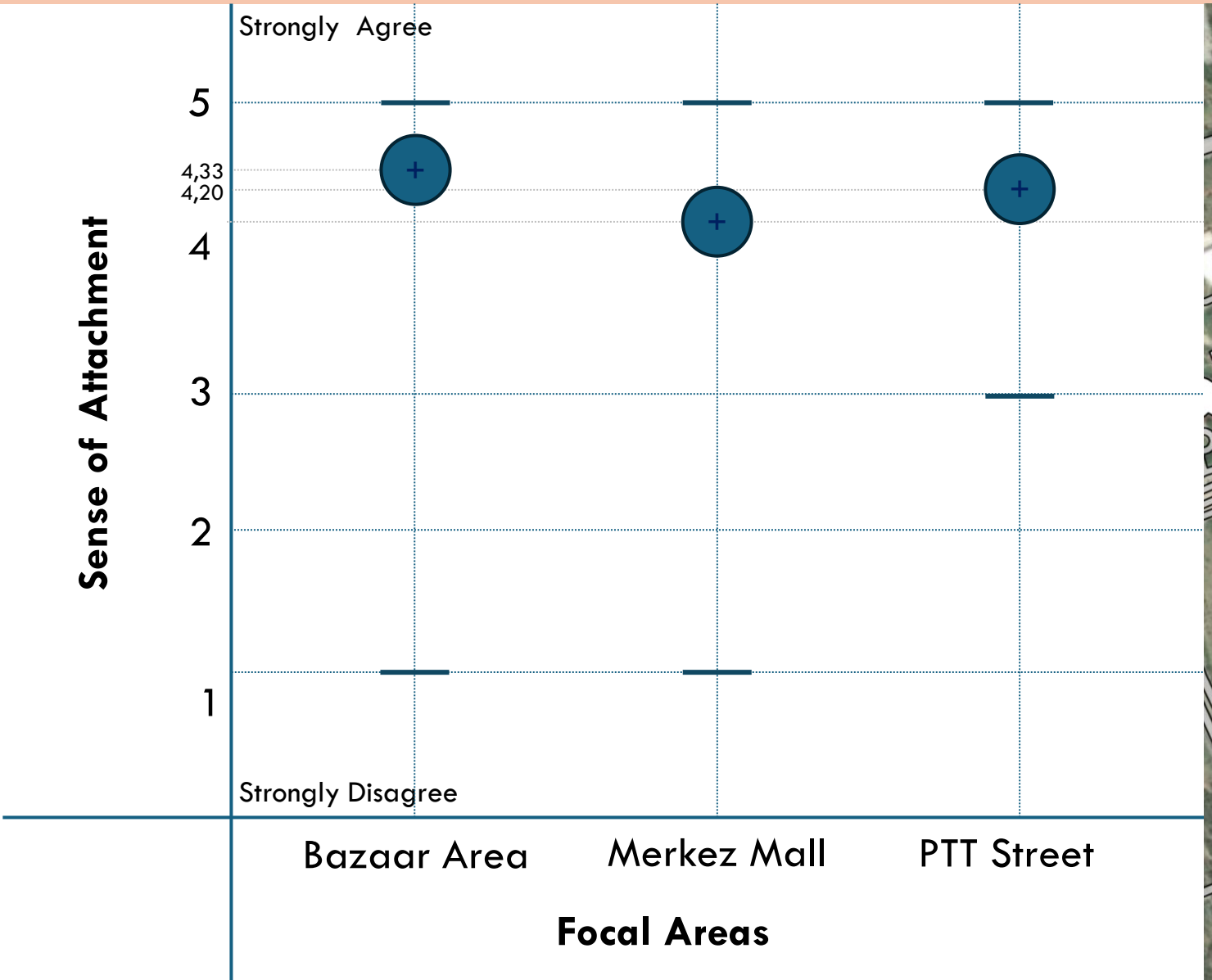
# Sense of Attachment and Employment Status

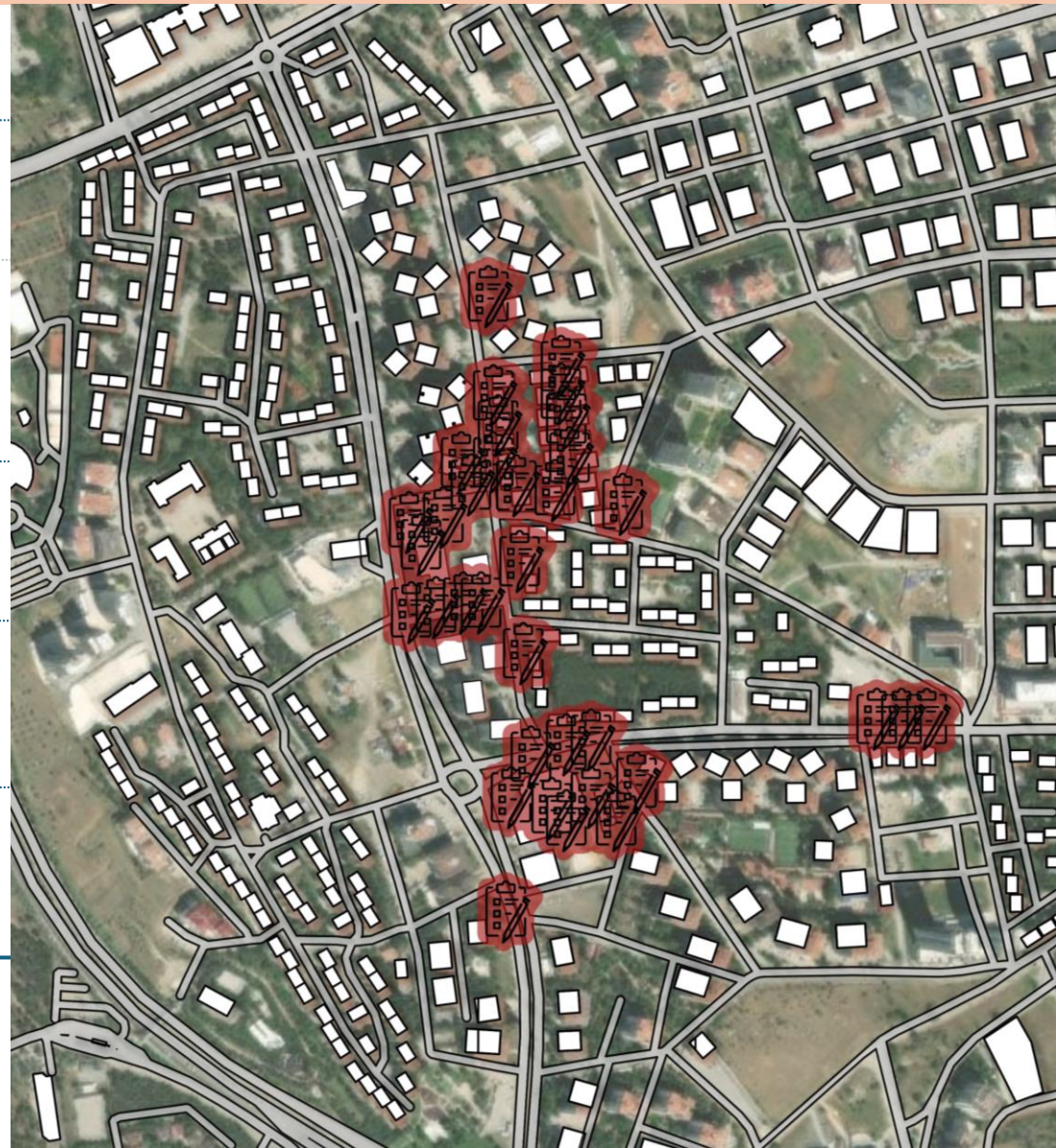


# Sense of Attachment and Living Status



# Sense of Attachment and Focal Areas

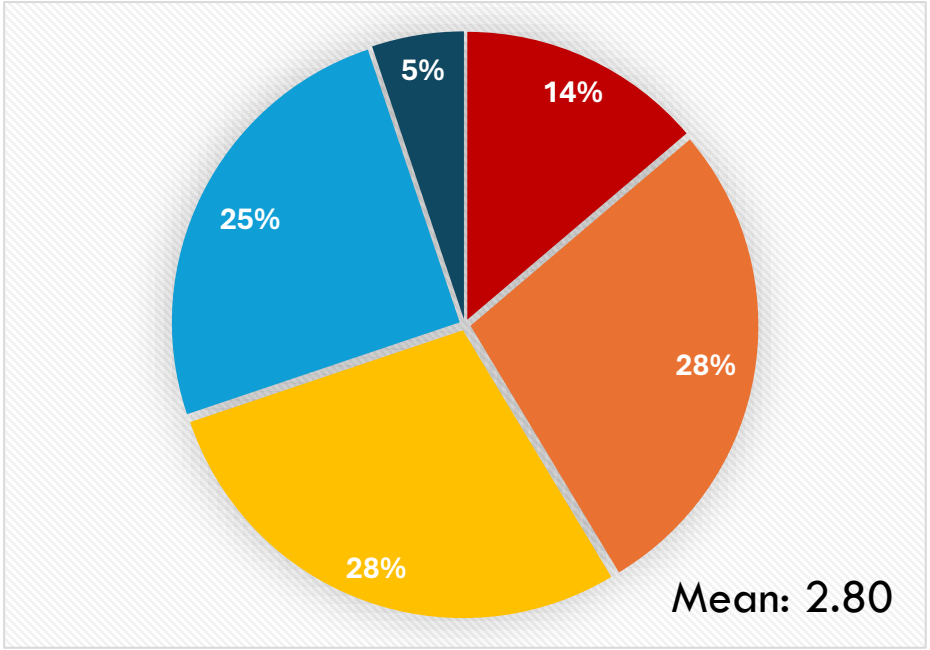


# Reflection of History and Culture

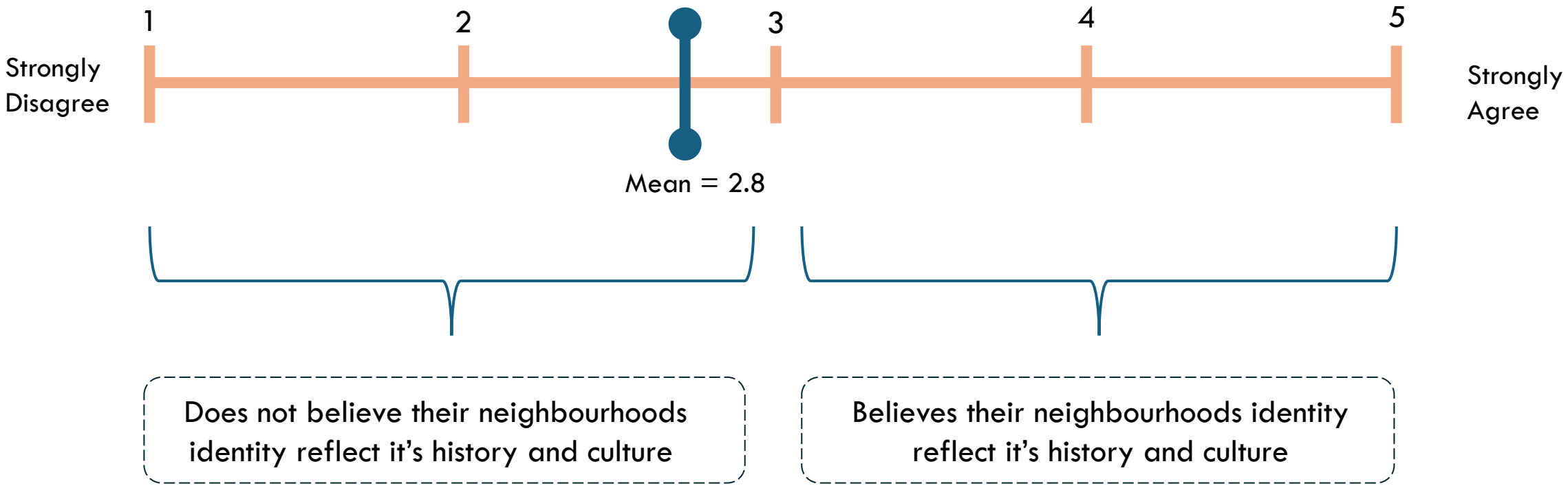
23. Do you think that the current identity of your neighbourhood reflects its history and culture?

The distinct history and culture of İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood has an impact on building the place attachment to the neighbourhood.



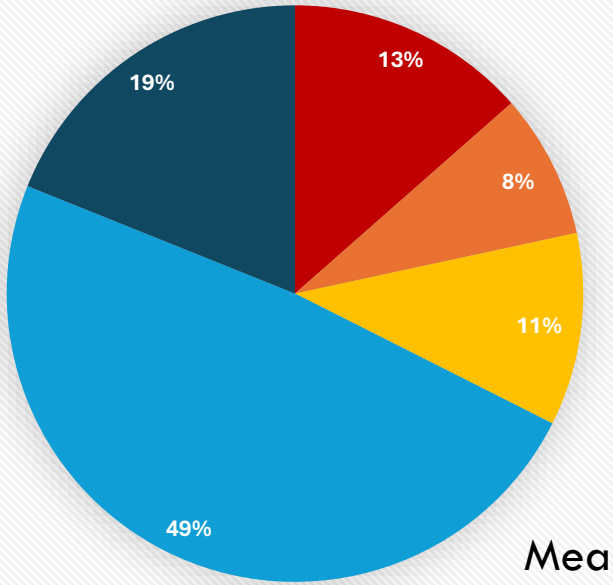
# Sense of Attachment and Reflection of History

23. Do you think that the current identity of your neighbourhood reflects its history and culture?



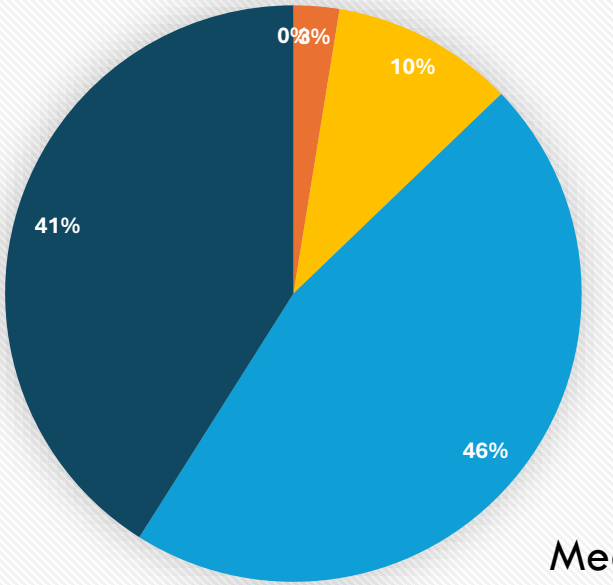
# Sense of Attachment and Reflection of History

Residents **who does not believes** their neighbourhoods identity reflect it's history and culture **are less attached** to their neighbourhood




Mean: 3.53

Residents **who believes** their neighbourhoods identity reflect it's history and culture**, are more attached** to their neighbourhood

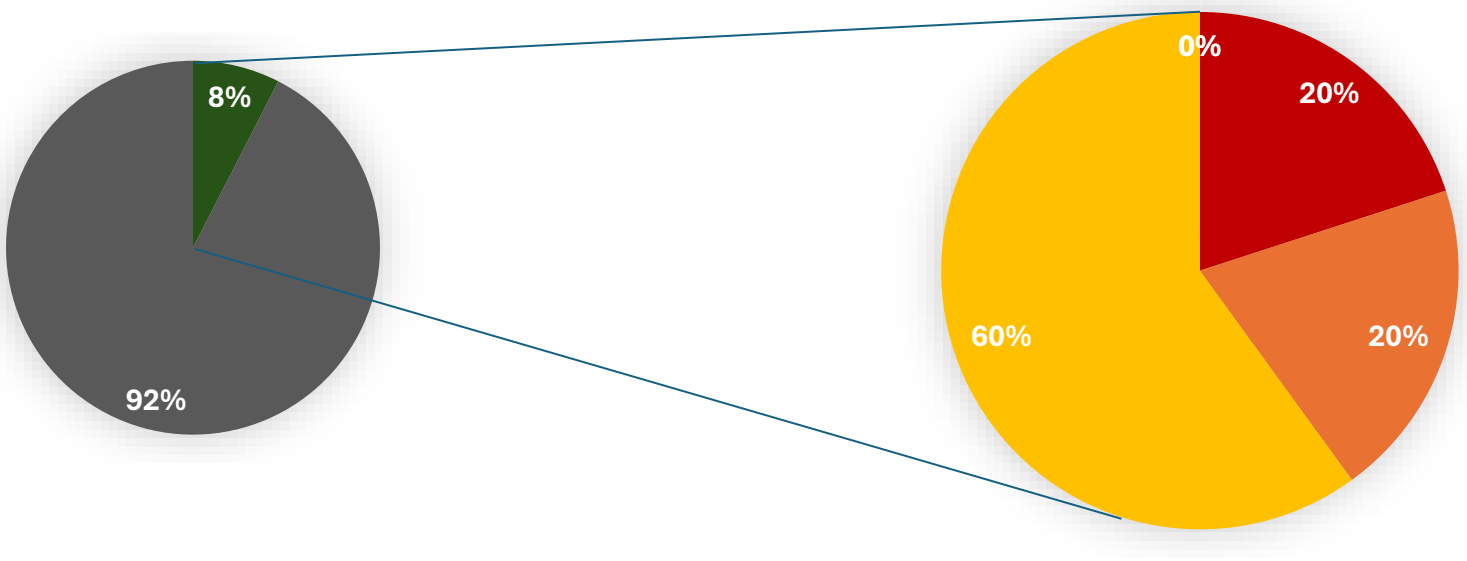



Mean: 4.25

Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree

# Co-operative Membership and It's Affects

24. Were you or your family members of the Türk-İş Union Housing Cooperative during the construction of the "İşçi Blokları"? If your answer is yes, how did the dissolution of the housing cooperative affect your life in İşçi Blokları Neighborhood?




No
Yes

Affected Significantly Negatively
Affected Negatively
Not Affected
Affected Positively
Affected Significantly Positively

# Discussion

**Initial Hypothesis:**

- The dissolution of the cooperative would negatively transform the neighbourhood's cultural identity and reduce the attachment to the area.

**Survey Results:**

- Place attachment is high regardless of the demographic variables.
- Physical aspects are more influential for residents to move into this neighbourhood. Nevertheless, the cultural identity of the neighbourhood is effective in creating a sense of attachment.

**Limitations:**

- Limited amount of survey count.
- Incomplete, inconsistent online surveys

**Final Outcomes:**

- Although the initial hypothesis does not align with the survey results, there are significant deductions regarding how place attachment exceeds expectations in different conditions.

# Future of the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood

**2 Scenerios;**

- <u>Unwanted Scenerio:</u>
  - Urban Transformation
    - Total loss of cultural ıdentity
    - Loss of place attachment

- <u>Desired Scenerio:</u>
  - Urban Revitalisation
    - Step by step renovation of low quality housing and infrastructure
    - Revitalisation of cultural events
    - Spot applications to problem areas

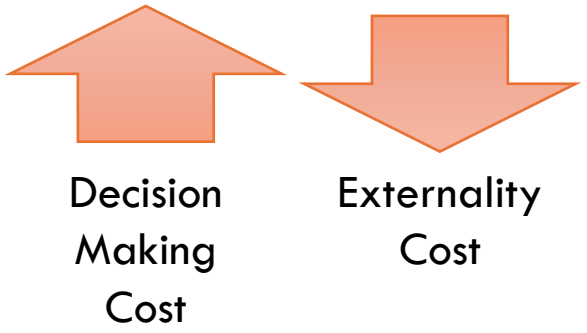
# Strategies

## 1. Bottom-up Planning Approach:

### Facilitative Planning

- İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood **residents as designers**
  - Community Involvement in the Planning Process
    - Benefiting from the high education level of residents to implement the plans.

- İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood **residents as inspectors**
  - Problem-solving mechanism
    - Communicate with residents to determine the vulnerabilities of the neighbourhood.



# Strategies

## 2. Short-term Experiments for Long-term Attachment:

The community cannot adapt to every planning approach; to create a sense of attachment to a place, implementations should experiment within real-life conditions.

- **Tactical Urbanism**: A city or community-led approach to urban planning involves making low-cost, temporary changes to the built environment to understand the needs and wishes of the community.
    - **Street Experiments**: Understanding how communities react to a certain alteration in a city with experiments conducted in real life.

# Strategies

## 3. Crowdsourced Planning

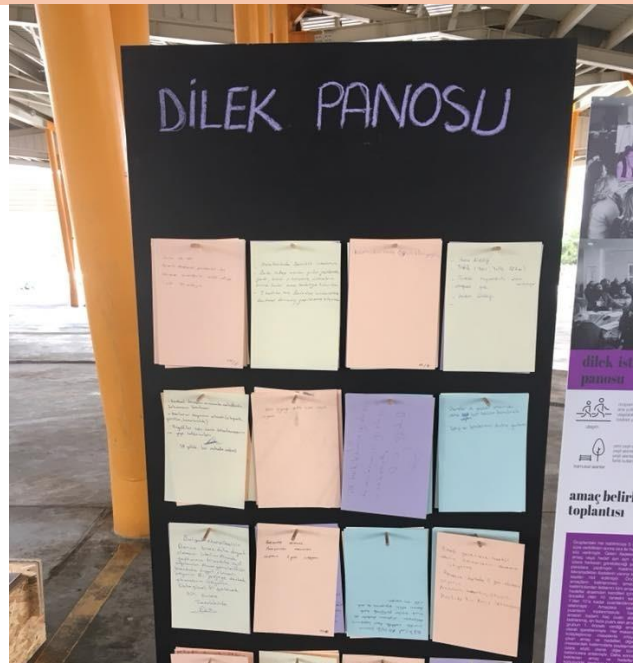
Utilising digital platforms to gather residents' opinions about future urban plans.

- Online Surveys
- Support Applications developed by unicipality or state.

# Strategies

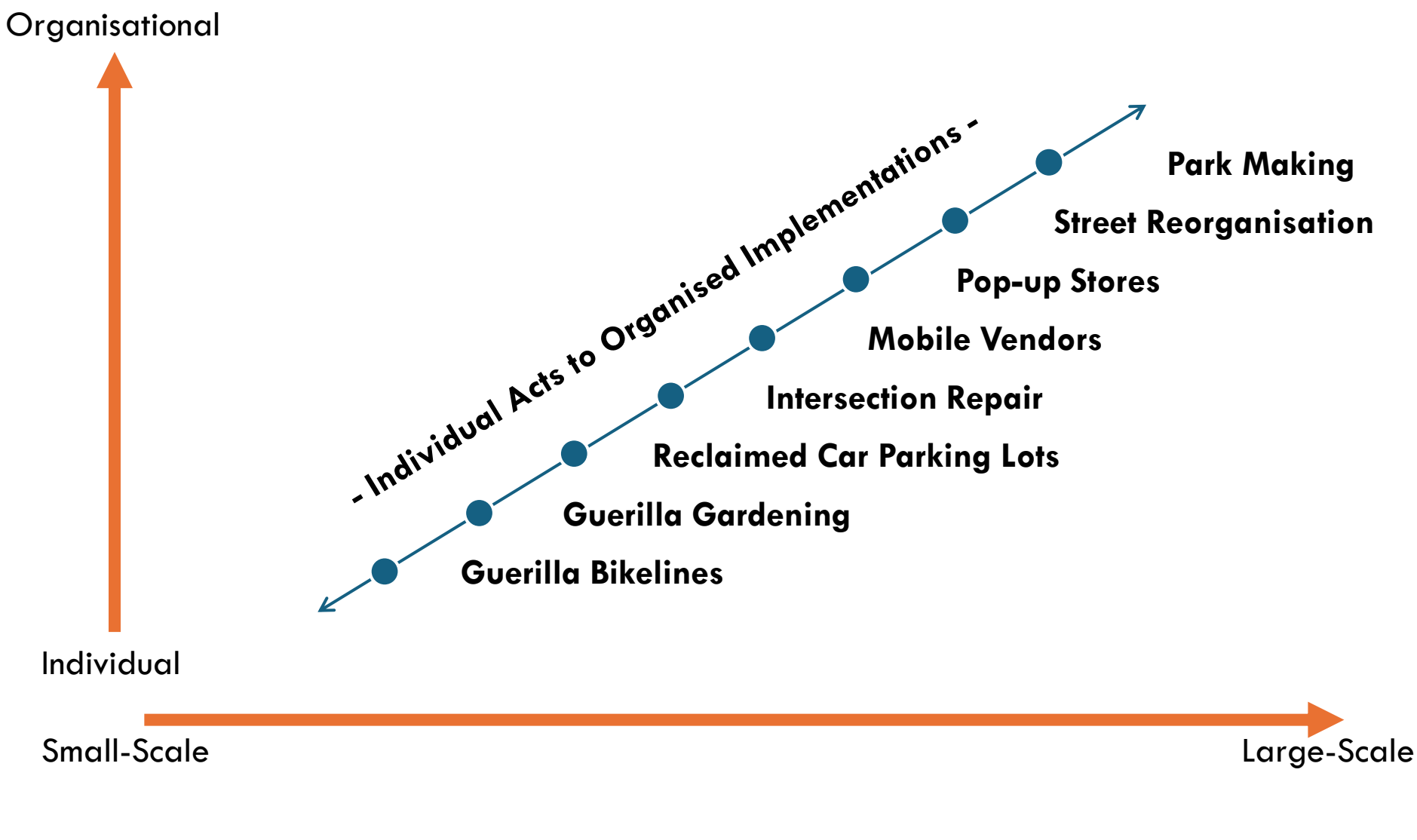
## 4. Including Universities and Organisations in the Planning Process

Universities near the İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood are a part of the Neighbourhood. They have high knowledge accumulation, which can be used in future planning implementations.



From İşçi Blokları Neighbourhood.
METU Architecture Faculty

# Place Attachment in Implementation



# Guerrilla Bike, Pedestrian Lanes

## Individual Enterprise

**Initiators:** Individuals or groups

**Objectives:**

- Improving safety and accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians in urban areas.
- Highlighting the need for dedicated bike and pedestrian lanes in cities where infrastructure is lacking.

**Implementation:** Painting lanes with low-cost materials such as chalk, paint, cardboards or planters.

https://urbanrepairs.blogspot.com/

# Do it Yourself (DIY) Urbanism Movement, Beyoğlu

**Community Initiative**

**Initiators:** Beyoğlu community and civil associations

**Participants:** Volunteers, and artists

**Objective:** Encourages community participation and collective consciousness in gardening

**Implementation** : Transformed from debris site into a self-sustaining garden, known as Roma Bostanı, promoting collective gardening and social interaction point

Alpaydın, Yeşim. (2020). ''Kendin Yap" Kentleşme Hareketi ve Kentsel Aidiyet. Retrieved from Türkiye Tasarım Vakfı: https://turkiyetasarimvakfi. org/tr/blog/6-kendin-yap-kentlesme-hareketi-ve-kentsel-aidiyet.

# Zümrütevler Square Transformation Rehearsal, Maltepe

## Community and Municipality Colloboration

**Initiators:** Bernard Van Leer Vakfı and Maltepe Municipality

**Participants:** Volunteers, children, architects, planners, students, and artists

**Objective:** Enhancing pedestrian safety in an area prioritized for vehicle traffic

**Implementation** : Turned into a park and relaxation area with active participation of the community

**Figure 4.** Zümrütevler Square – Before & After (Gürdoğan, et al. 2020).

Yalcin, D., & Kurkcuoglu, E. (2023). Place to space, space to place: A theoretical discussion on place-making in lost spaces. *Turkish Journal of Sense of Place and Urban Studies*, *1*(1), 1-16.

# Piazza Zenetti, Munich/Germany

## Municipality Led Implementation

**Initiators:** City administration

**Participants:** Professionals, citizens' initiative, city administration, interest groups, businesses

**Objective:** Creating a temporary place to experiment how community react to the design.

**Implementation:** A temporary meeting place is created on a former parking lot using wooden spatial elements and planting. Events for the neighbourhood and visitors will take place in a green environment.

https://www.arc.ed.tum.de/en/lao/research/research-platforms/research-projects/munich-lab/street-experiments-muc/piazza-zenetti/

# Engage Vicroria, Australia

## State Led Online Application

**Initiators:** State administration

**Participants:** Residents of Victoria

**Objective:** Informing community for the future urban plans, asking their opinions and feedbacks

**Implementation:** Developing an online platform o facilitate community engagement in urban planning processes.

**Engage Victoria**

The place to discover and access Victorian government consultations, share ideas and have your say about what matters to you.

https://engage.vic.gov.au/

# Summary

- **Research Question:** Understanding role of place attachment in shaping community resilience.
- **Concept:** Describing place attachments in its dimensions.
- **Survey:** Understanding
- **Strategies:** Planning wit he active collaboration of the community to ensure place attachment (Bottom-up Planning Approach, Short-term Experiments for Long-term Attachment, Crowdsourced Planning, Including Universities and Organisations to the Planning)

Thank you for Listening

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