

Transnational Network of Integrated Planning Labs:
Co-creating knowledge on forward-looking transdisciplinary
planning perspectives addressing climate change and urban
life in the post-pandemic city
Project number: 2023-1-EL01-KA220-HED-000160477 Erasmus+

Analytical planning-support approaches for integrated urbanism-mobility planning Knowledge Sharing Workshop, 6th June 2025

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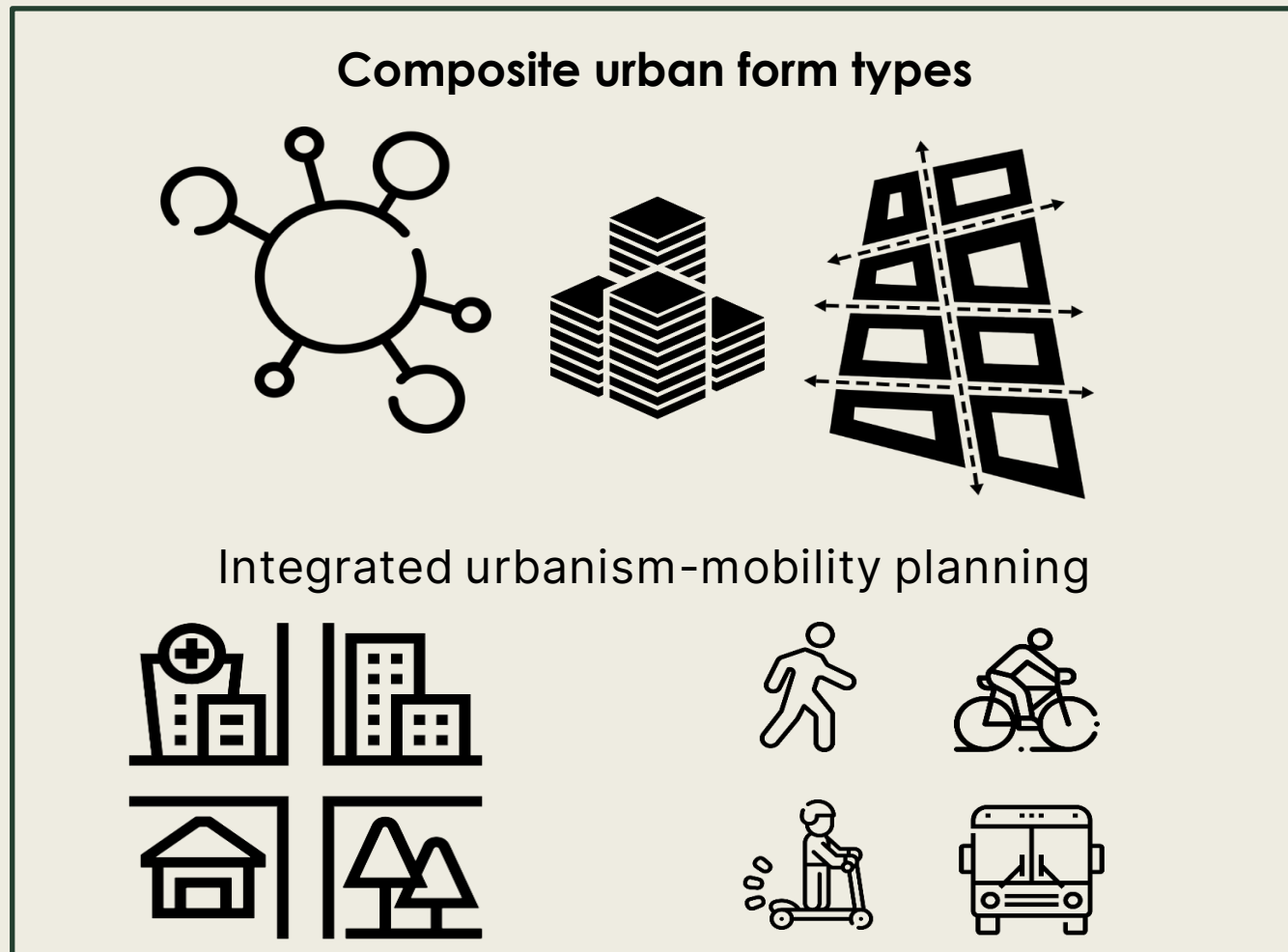


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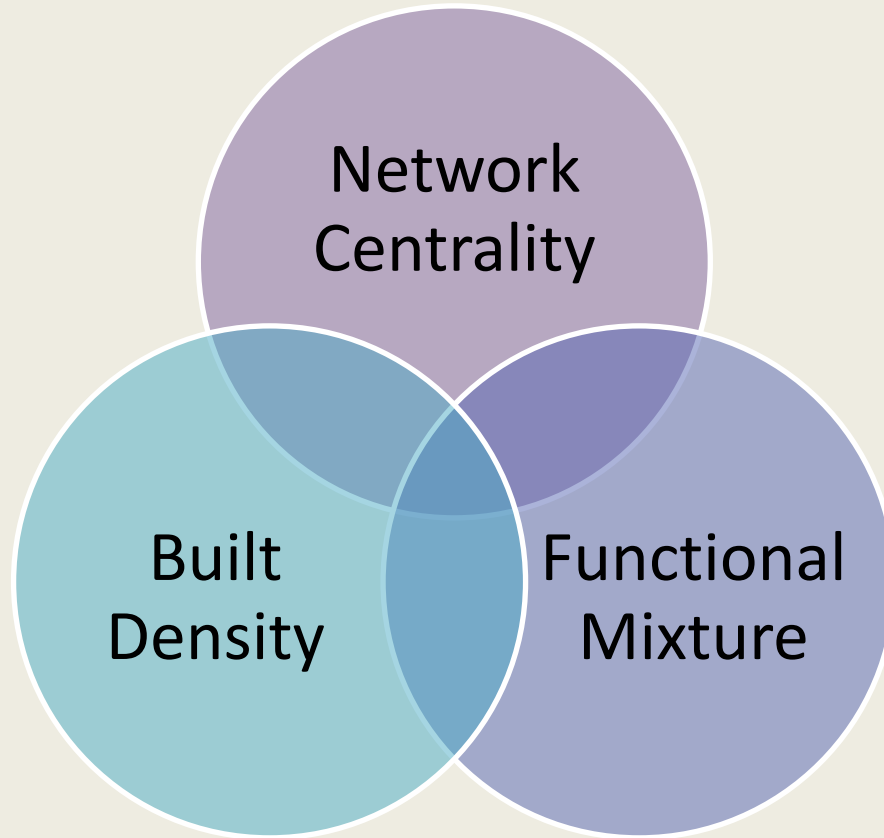
The Concept

Building blocks of this mini-course



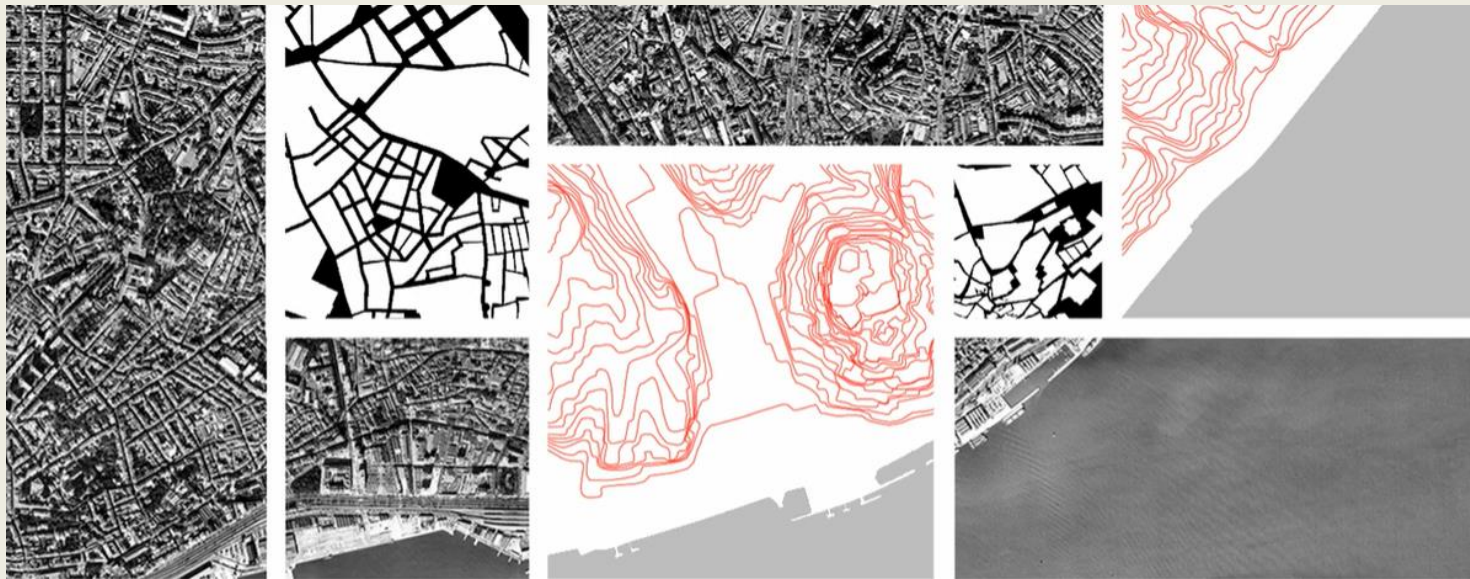
Spatio-functional urban types: Addressing Form + Function,

As a quantitative spatial language **decoding** urban space, **linking** analytical findings to planning solutions and **arguing** for supporting them



Urban form types

- Urban form is an important aspect of what constitutes the “city”, and typo-morphology is a valuable tool for reading and planning the city (Moudon, 1994; Moudon, 1997)



Source: <http://formaurbislab.fa.ulisboa.pt/indexEN.html>

- We will focus on exploring the typologies of **three elemental components of urban form** (Smailes, 1953; Lozano, 1990; Cowan, 2005) , which have been used extensively in relevant research (Berghauser Pont, et al., 2019; Ye, et al., 2017; Araldi & Fusco, 2019; Fleischmann et al., 2021): **built density, network centrality** and **functional mixture**.

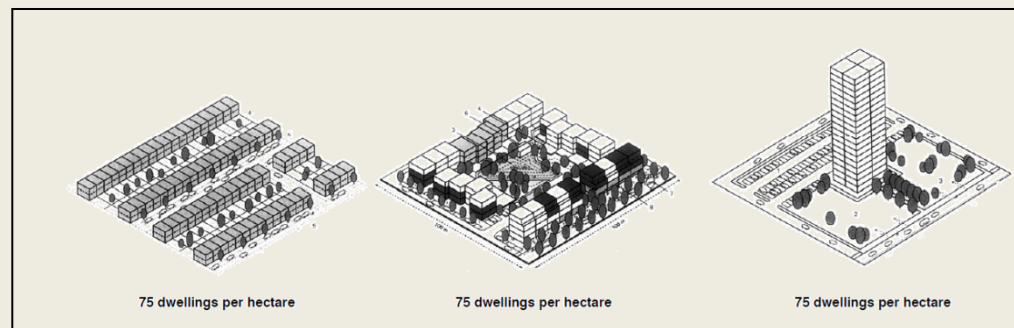
Why urban form types?

- Constitute the **backbone** of the city and it refers to characteristics **hardwired into the character** and **performance** of the city
- They can function as **proxies/“descriptors”** of the urban systems crucial for the everyday urban life (i.e. socio-cultural characteristics).
- **Availability of (open) datasets** for the European urban space providing an **accessible and cost-effective** planning-support framework

Composite Urban Form Types

Built Density | Definition of Analytical Components

- Built density is a crucial aspect for describing and planning the city, and a fundamental element of urban form (*Smailes, 1953; Shirvani, 1985*)
- However, built density should be defined as a multi-variable phenomenon in order to relate it effectively with urban form (*Van Nes, et al., 2012*)



Source: Berghauser Pont & Haupt, 2009

- Therefore, following the relevant literature (*Berghauser Pont, et al 2019*) for quantitatively describing the types of built density we used:
 - **Ground Space Index (GSI)**
 - **Floor Space Index (FSI)**

Built Density | Calculation of Analytical Components

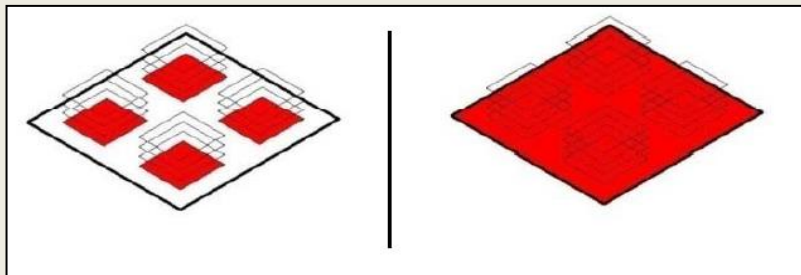
Ground Space Index – GSI

(Berghauser Pont & Haupt, 2009)

Reflects the coverage, or compactness, of the development.

It is calculated with the following formula:

$$GSI_i = \frac{\text{Built – up surface}_i}{\text{Area of the urban fabric}_i}$$



Source: Berghauser Pont & Haupt, 2009

Floor Space Index – FSI

(Berghauser Pont & Haupt, 2009)

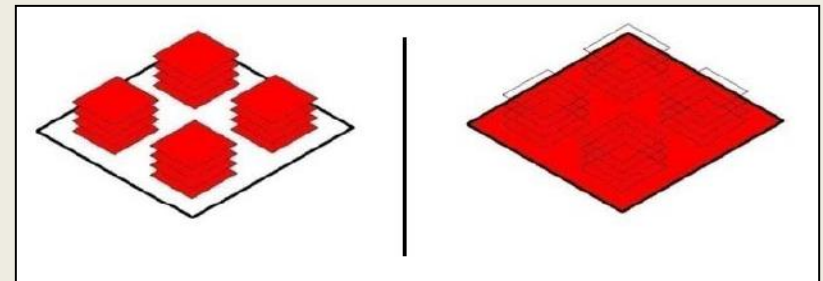
Gives an indication of the built intensity in an area.

It is calculated with the following formula:

$$FSI_i = \frac{\text{Gross Floor Area}_i}{\text{Area of the urban fabric}_i}$$

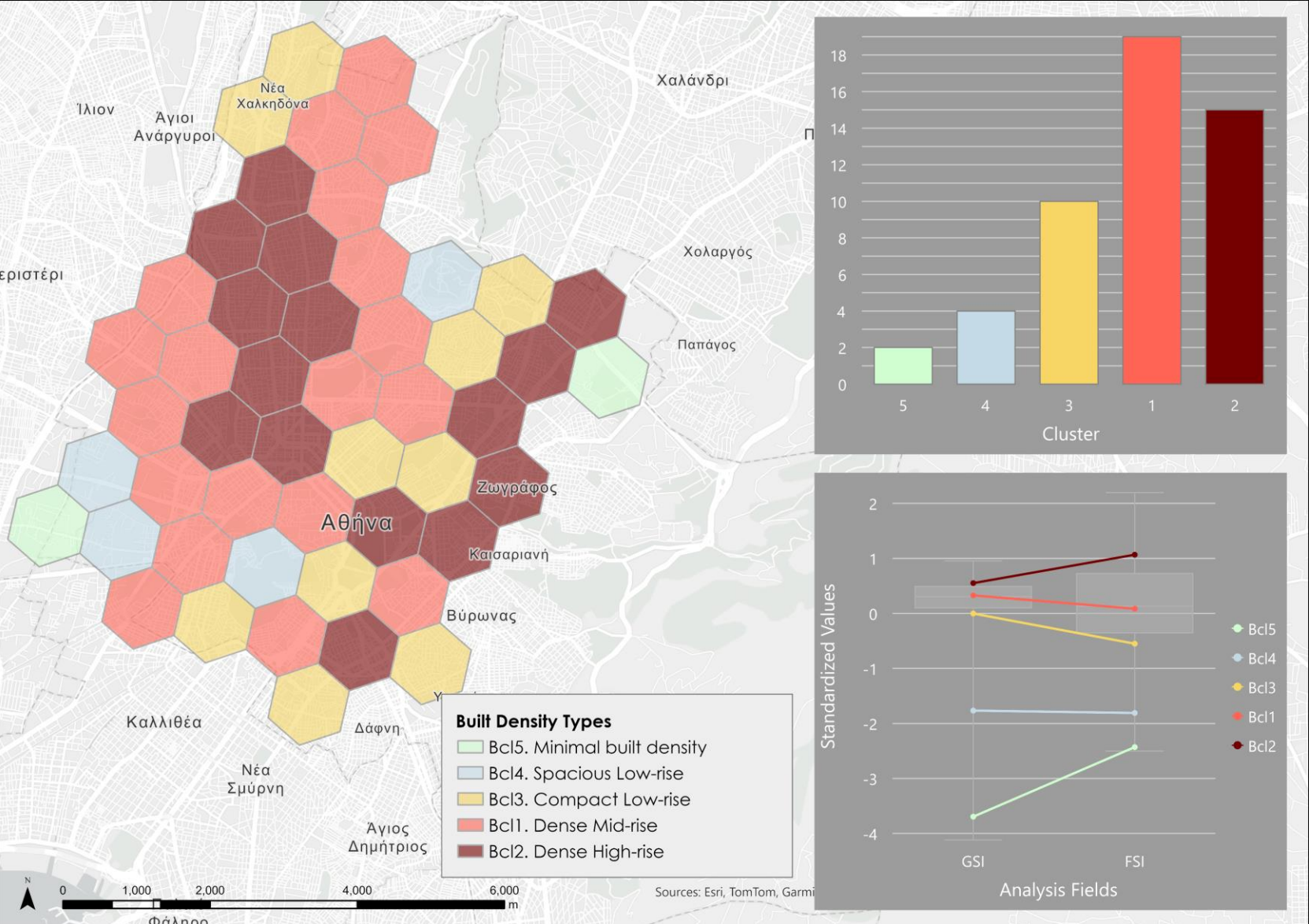
or

$$FSI_i = GSI_i \times AVG_BuidHeight_i$$



Source: Berghauser Pont & Haupt, 2009

Athens's types of built density



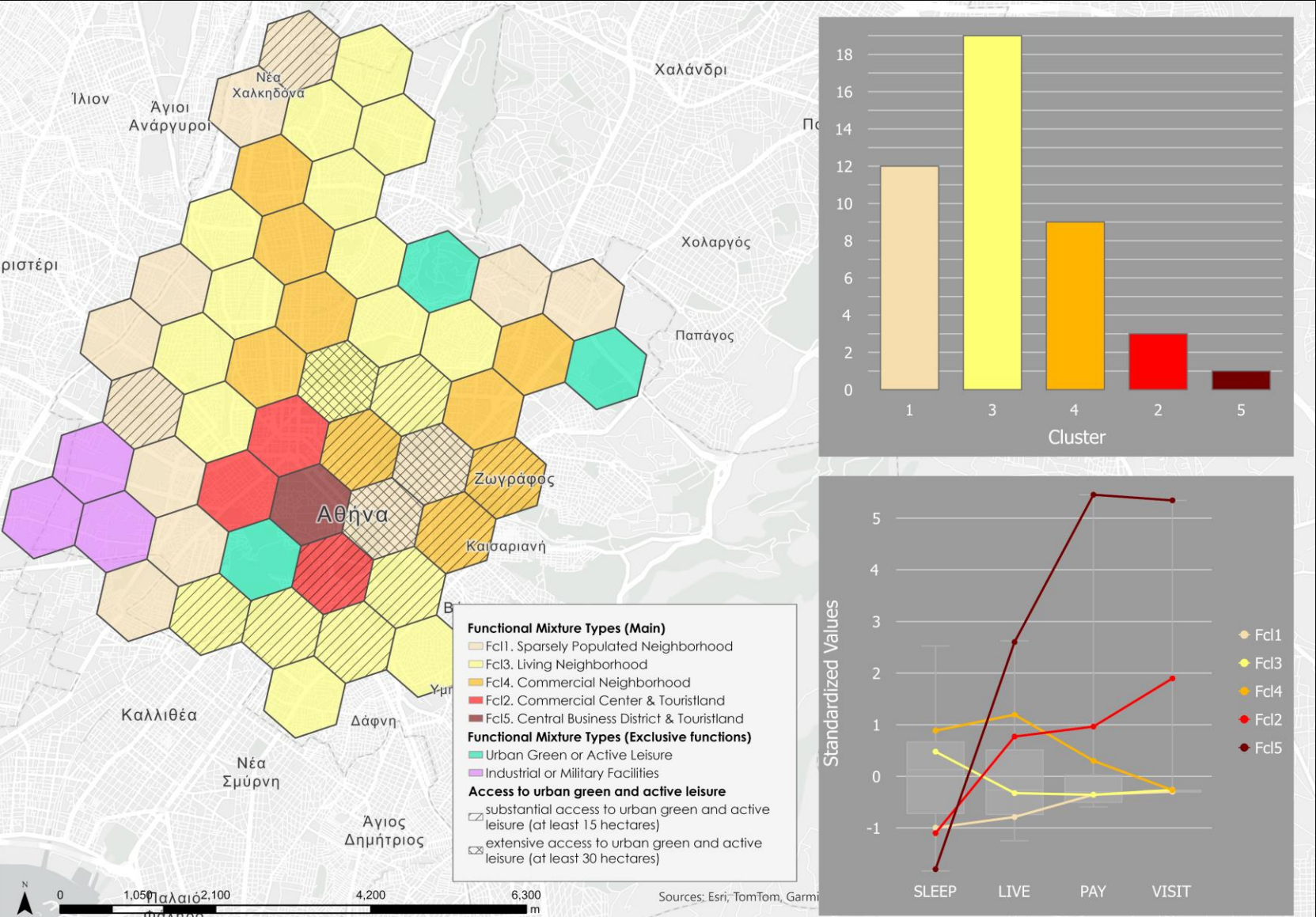
Functional Mixture | Definition of Analytical Components

- The “**functional mixture**”- encompasses important information about the **socio-economic characteristics** of a city (*Araldi & Fusco, 2019*) and they been recognized by many researchers as a fundamental element of urban form (Conzen, 1960).
- It refers to the **combination of land-uses**, as well as **economic** and **human activities**
- However, to successfully describe the **functional form** of a city the usual land-use map is not enough.

Functional Mixture | Definition of Analytical Components

- To that end we propose multiple analytical components to quantitatively describe the types of functional mixture:
 - **SLEEP** referring to the **residential** function and quantified by **population density**
 - **LIVE** referring to the **amenities and facilities** relevant to **everyday life** and quantified by the kernel-estimated density of relevant points of interest
 - **PAY** referring to the **commercial** facilities for **entertainment and shopping** and quantified by the kernel-estimated density of relevant points of interest
 - **VISIT** referring to the **tourist facilities** and **attractions** of the city and quantified by the kernel-estimated density of relevant points of interest
- Apart from the analytical components of used for developing the main functional mixture types, we also include **Urban Green and Active Leisure** referring to the shared spaces of urban green, sports and leisure

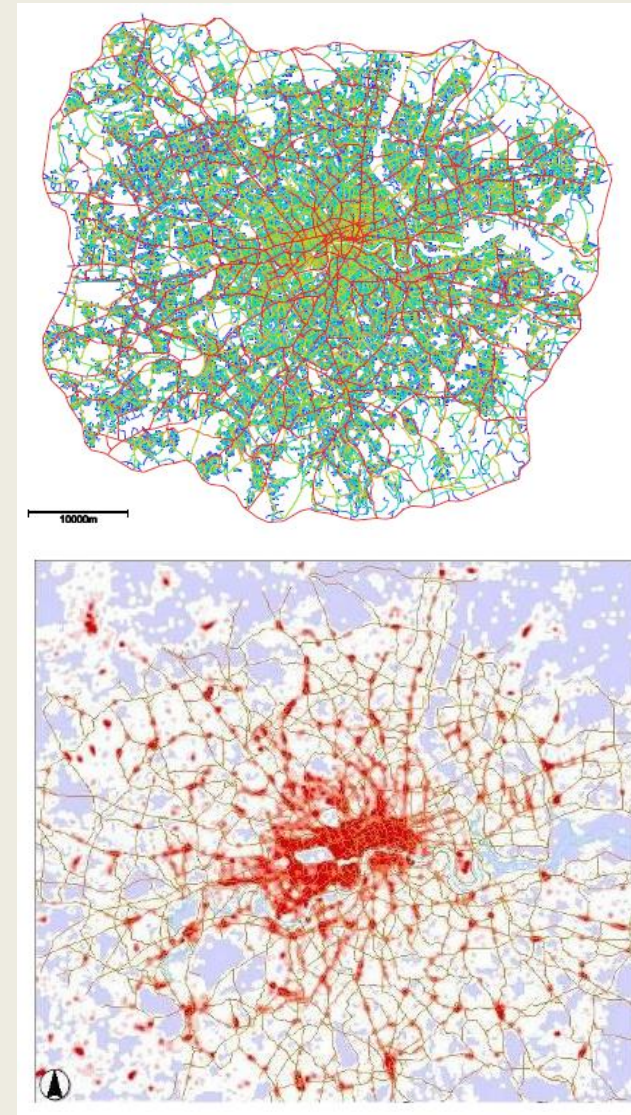
Athens's types of functional mixture



Network Centrality

Definition of Analytical Components

- The network is the urban element connecting all urban functions in the city and a key aspect of urban form (*Smailes, 1953*) It has an architecture, that is a certain geometry, a certain topology and a certain scaling.
- Network centrality, as defined by space syntax (*Hillier & Hanson, 1984; Hanson & Hillier, 1987*), addresses the inherent property of space to shape human movement and ultimately activity in space (*Hillier, et al., 1993; Penn, et al., 1998*)
- Apart from the space syntax derived centrality, we utilize the infrastructural characteristics of network that can produce centrality



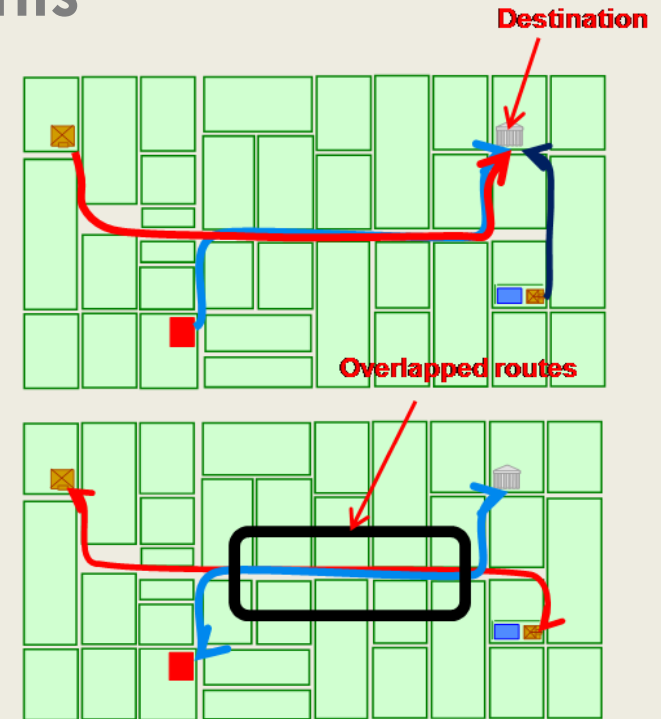
Source: Hillier, 2014

Definition of Analytical Components

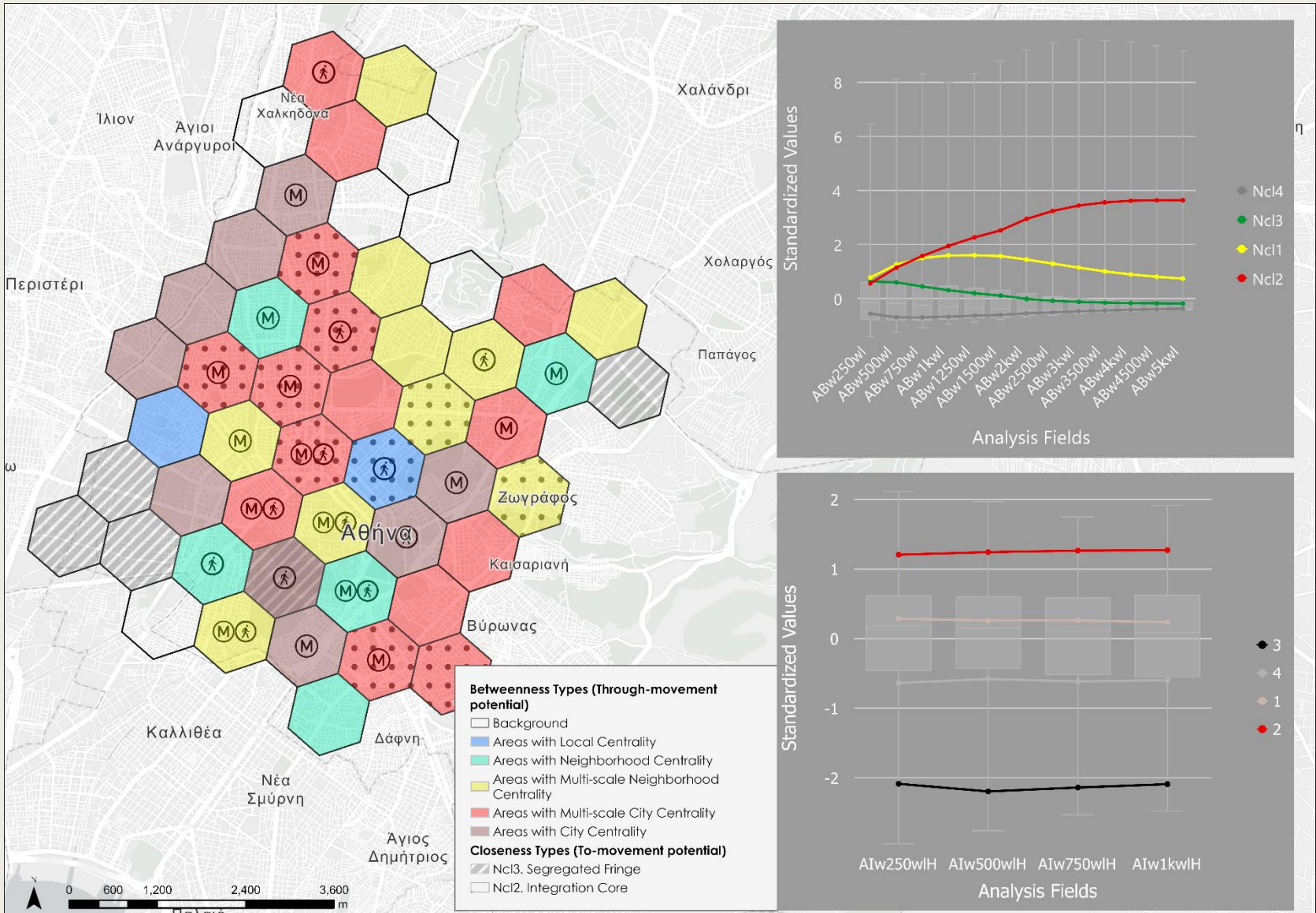
- **Closeness (integration)** reflects to-movement potential meaning the potential of place to attract movement as a destination
- **Betweenness** reflects through-movement potential meaning the potential of place to attract movement as a route/ pass-through space.



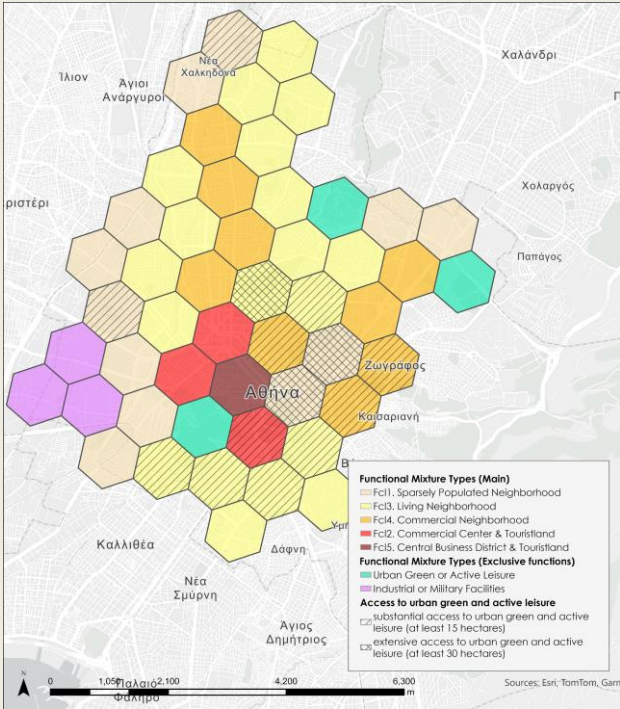
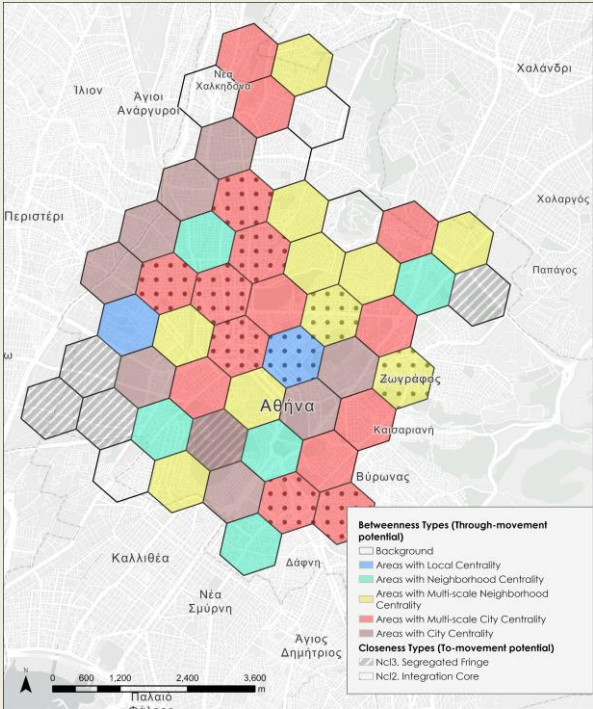
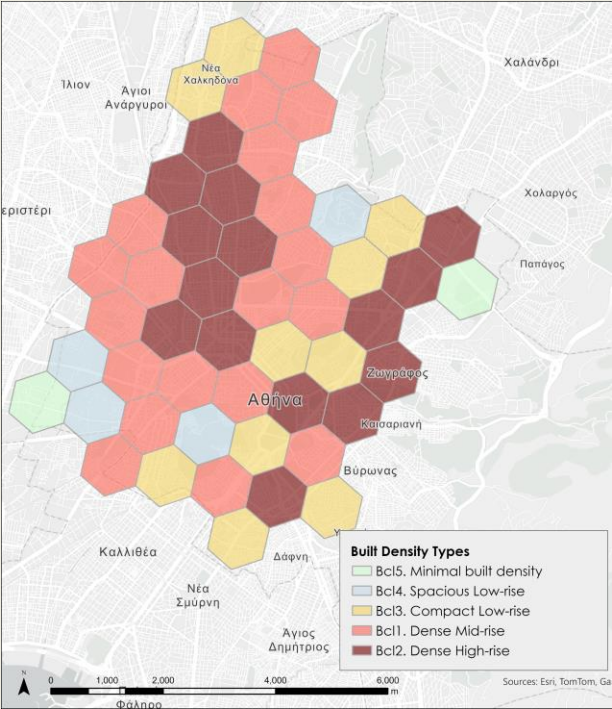
- **Active Mobility Conductors**
- **Access to high-speed public transport (metro or subway stations)**



Athens's types of network centrality



Urban form types towards integrated planning



Patterns of build density
Proxy for socio-cultural patterns and processes for production of space

Patterns of network centrality
Proxy for urban mobility, aims to predict human-scale movement

Patterns of functional mix
Proxy for urban activity and human practices in the urban space



thank you!

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