**Problem Definition**

Buying a home in Ireland has become more difficult in recent years. Many people and families are struggling to find affordable accommodation as property prices rise. High property prices and rigorous lending restrictions from banks make it difficult for people to get mortgages, while a lack of reasonably priced options limits their possibilities. Vulnerable populations, such as low-income families and first-time purchasers, face even more challenges. Hearne highlights that 'the financialization of housing,' where housing is treated more as a commodity for investment than as a basic right, has led to rising housing prices and insecurity. This trend, combined with limited tenant protections, makes it increasingly difficult for individuals and families to secure affordable housing (Hearne, 2020)

However, the crisis is more than just a supply-side issue. Potts believes that "the real problem is demand... While it is widely acknowledged that individuals require housing, they can only live in what they can afford. Some debates regarding housing 'demand' can be misleading... it is helpful to recognise that housing is not that different from other fundamental requirements, such as food" (Potts, 2020). As per Gillespie noted: ‘similar to the situation in Accra, where market-based approaches have largely failed to address the needs of low-income groups, 'the private sector has mainly concentrated on the upper income levels, because that is where the market is and that is where they can get their money' (Gillespie, 2018). These perspectives highlight the importance of affordability, rather than availability, in Ireland's housing crisis.