



**We are looking for a talented and motivated researcher (PhD Student) to advance the following research project:**

<h2>Early Stage Researcher (ESR 6)</h2> <p>From station area to sustainable TOD in RURs. Stakeholder imagination and transformation</p>
<b>An Innovative Training Network in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) for Rural-Urban Regions</b>
<p>TOD-IS-RUR is looking for talented and motivated candidates with the skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to help the Innovative Training Network (ITN) make significant research contributions to the scientific and societal challenge of countering sprawl in Europe. The 9 Beneficiaries and 12 Partner Organizations create a unique platform for 10 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), providing interdisciplinary and intersectoral training to analyze rural-urban placemaking and develop novel, context-based planning schemes for rural-urban regions (RURs). The network aims to extend the concept of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) to RURs with a context-based approach, in which interactions between mobility and urbanization are studied in relation to social and environmental qualities. Drawing on a wide range of European RURs and bringing in expertise from urban studies, research and training prepare a new generation of highly-skilled professionals able to meet the challenge of sprawl and implement inclusive and sustainable planning schemes for RURs.</p>
<b>Description of the research project (ESR6)</b>
<p><b>Scientific objectives</b></p> <p>The challenge of transitioning station areas in hybrid RURs is twofold: there is an imagination challenge and there is a transformation challenge. ESR6 aims to break the impasse on both these fronts by means of an experiential approach, iteratively testing and refining planning methods and techniques to jointly support place-making in station areas, the development of new mobility concepts, and stakeholder coalition forming. The project will investigate four cases in two national contexts: the Randstad in the Netherlands, and the southern RUR of Stockholm in Sweden.</p> <p><b>Tasks and Responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You perform independently scientific research within a collaborative international research consortium.</li><li>▪ You deliver written reports of your research on a regular basis.</li><li>▪ You prepare a doctoral thesis on the topic of stakeholder imagination and transformation for TOD in RURs.</li><li>▪ You publish scientific articles related to the research project.</li><li>▪ You support the valorization of research results into tangible deliverables.</li><li>▪ You participate in and contribute to scientific meetings and conferences, presenting your research to the scientific community.</li><li>▪ You actively participate in outreach activities aimed at promoting your research to a wider audience.</li><li>▪ You collaborate with the other members of the consortium to advance your research and training.</li><li>▪ You participate in the tailored training program.</li><li>▪ The selected candidate will take part in the following planned secondments: Province of Noord Holland: ‘learn by doing’ about the role and skills of civil servants in a Dutch regional government in promoting TOD; Unlimited Urban Management: ‘learn by doing’ about the role and skills of a Dutch planning consultant; KUNGLIGA TEKNISKA HOEGSKOLAN: to collaborate with Prof. Jonathan Metzger on Swedish case-studies and train in organization studies and environmental planning; IQ Samhällsbyggnad: ‘learn by doing’ about the workings of Swedish planning.</li></ul>
<b>About the Universiteit van Amsterdam (Center for Urban Studies)</b>
<p>The ESRs will be administratively and logistically hosted at the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development (GPIO) and scientifically embedded in the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (AISSR), and the Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) at the University of Amsterdam (UoA). AISSR unites all social science research at the UoA, and offers high-quality PhD training. CUS is one of 23 designated research priority areas at the UoA, combining expertise across the social sciences and beyond. Together, they will provide the PhD candidates with a world-class, strongly interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary training and scientific environment.</p>
<b>Profile and requirements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You hold a master’s degree in Urban Studies, Urban Planning, Urban Design, or other master’s degree with relevant expertise on planning, design and citizen engagement for place-making. Master students in their final year may apply. Final selection under the condition of showing transcripts of their master’s degree in July (15<sup>th</sup> at the latest).</li><li>▪ You have outstanding academic records.</li><li>▪ You are interested in inter- and transdisciplinary, theory-informed, practice-enhancing research and have strong analytical and creative skills.</li></ul>



- You have knowledge of and experience in participatory planning and design methods.
- You are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative, and a team player.
- You have strong communication skills.
- You are fluent in English (C1 level minimum) and have working knowledge of Dutch/Flemish (B2 level or more). Both are essential.
- Applicants must fulfill the general eligibility requirements for enrollment as a PhD student at the [University of Amsterdam](#).
- Applicants can be of any nationality but have to comply with the H2020 MSCA eligibility criteria:  
**H2020 MSCA Mobility Rule:** researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organization for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the recruitment date. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.  
**H2020 MSCA ESR eligibility criteria:** Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) must be, at the date of recruitment by the host organization, in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree. Full-Time Equivalent Research Experience is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged).

### Benefits

- The guaranteed PhD funding is for 36 months (i.e., EC funding).
- The start date will be September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.
- A competitive salary, plus allowances. Moreover, funding is available for technical and personal skills training and participation in international research events.
- The selected candidate will benefit from the designed training program offered by the host organization and the TOD-IS-RUR consortium.
- The selected candidate will participate in international secondments to other organizations within the TOD-IS-RUR network and in outreach activities targeted at a wide audience.

### Application

#### How to apply:

- The closing date for applications is March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Please apply through the University of Antwerp's online job application platform. First, complete the eligibility check form. Secondly, complete the online application form and be sure to include the following attachments: Motivation letter (max. 2 pages); CV (Europass format, including a list of all countries of residence in the last 4 years); Details of at least two referees or two reference letters; Copies of certificates (Bachelor & Master's degrees with the list of completed modules, English and other language certificates); Work samples (e.g., publications; Master's thesis summary); List of publications (if any).
- The selection committee will review all of the applications as soon as possible after the application deadline. As soon as a decision has been made, we will inform you about the next steps in the selection procedure. The online recruitment event with the shortlisted candidates will be organized in the first week of May.
- The recruitment process of ESRs within TOD-IS-RUR is in line with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

For more detailed information about the selection process and links to the application portal:  
<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/tod-is-rur/jobs/>

### For additional information

Prof. Luca Bertolini (supervisor)  
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