



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

<b>Early Stage Researcher (ESR 7)</b> Mobility dependency in rural-urban areas. Can TOD mitigate?
<b>An Innovative Training Network in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) for Rural-Urban Regions</b>
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 to meet the challenge of sprawl and implement inclusive and sustainable planning schemes for RURs.
<b>Description of the research project (ESR7)</b>
<b>Scientific objectives</b> <p>This ESR-project aims to identify and analyze the factors that would help to adapt the TOD model to RURs, and to its inhabitants and practices more specifically. It focuses on the notion of “mobility dependency” defined as prejudice suffered by low-mobile people or people highly constrained in their daily trips. We assert that this phenomenon integrates many other dimensions than that of access to or exclusive use of the car, particularly through aspects related to the social roles of individuals, either in the professional sphere or the family. This ESR project will question the capacity of TOD to reduce mobility dependency in the RURs.</p> <p>A multiscalar methodology will be applied, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Socio-spatial analysis, inside and outside “TOD areas”, focusing on socio-environmental parameters and public policies disaggregated among social groups.</li><li>(ii) Qualitative analysis of individual mobility dependency of inhabitants based on semi-directive interviews and observation of mobility practices.</li><li>(iii) Comparative method assessing the socio-spatial dimensions of mobility dependency and the impacts of TOD in two RURs in France and Switzerland.</li><li>(iv) Policy recommendations on how TOD places may mitigate this dependency.</li></ul>
<b>Tasks and Responsibilities</b> <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 mobility dependency in the RURs and the role of TOD.</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 actively contribute to the organization of the Paris Studio and the final symposium, which both will be held as scientific events on Paris-Est campus.</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 secondment: Academic secondment to the Laboratoire de Sociologie Urbaine, École Fédérale Polytechnique de Lausanne (6 months, Switzerland) for a complementary approach in urban and mobility sociology.</li></ul>
<b>About the Université Gustave Eiffel – Laboratoire Ville Mobilité Transport</b>
<p><a href="#">City, Mobility and Transport Laboratory</a> (Laboratoire Ville Mobilité Transport) is a joint research unit bringing together <a href="#">Université Gustave Eiffel</a> and <a href="#">École des Ponts ParisTech</a>. The laboratory develops multidisciplinary research on the interactions between territorial dynamics, mobility and transport systems. Combining approaches from the social sciences (geography, planning and urban development, sociology, anthropology) and economic and engineering sciences (economics of networks and services, traffic engineering, urban modelling), the LVMT's work is organized into four main topics: mobility practices and urban imaginaries; space and policy; spatial and urban design; services and users.</p>



### Profile and requirements

- You hold a master's degree in Urban Studies, Sociology or Geography, or other master's degree with relevant expertise in relations between transport, mobility and urbanization. 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).
- You have outstanding academic records.
- You are interested in interdisciplinary, theory-driven research and have strong analytical skills.
- You are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative, and a team player.
- You have strong communication skills and interest to debate and share results with other PhD students using complementary approaches.
- Language proficiency: excellent use of English is essential (C1 level minimum). Knowledge of French (B2 level or more) is required; if necessary, language courses will be offered by the host organization.
- You have experience managing large datasets/in quantitative (basic statistics, indicators), qualitative (semi-directive interviews, field observations), spatial analysis methodologies /with Excel, R/SAS, QGIS.
- Applicants must fulfill the general eligibility requirements for enrollment as a PhD student at [Université Gustave Eiffel](#).
- 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/>



**Further administrative steps:**

- Please note that for this ESR project further administrative and pedagogic steps are needed in order to comply with the HR and doctoral regulations of Université Gustave Eiffel. In particular, the selected candidate will have to write, in relation with the (co-)supervisors, a thesis project of 6-7 pages, including a short state of the art, research question and hypotheses, methodology, field studies and calendar of the thesis. The thesis project will be included in the file application that will be submitted to the doctoral school “Ville, Transports et Territoires” (EDVTT) by **July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. The agreement of the doctoral school's council on the project is required before finalizing registration in the doctoral program of Université Gustave Eiffel. Please find here more information about the requirements for a doctoral degree at [EDVTT](#).

**For additional information**

Research Dir. Caroline Gallez (supervisor)  
Prof. Vincent Kaufmann (co-supervisor)

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