



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

<h2>Early Stage Researcher (ESR 2)</h2> <p>Sustainable transitions for RURs. Future scenarios for regional TOD corridor development</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 prepares 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 (ESR2)</b>
<p><b>Scientific objectives</b></p> <p>Using a research by design approach, this project traces interactions between transport, urbanization, and landscape structures in rural-urban regions. Locating potential for improvement and sustainable transition, scenarios are developed offering tailor-made strategies fully rooted in rural-urban contexts. The scenarios give a range of futures: from small landscape alterations improving 'walking continuities' to public transport nodes, to no-car multimodal scenarios testing TOD corridors to its extreme for RURs with the development of new territorial figures beyond radial-concentric ones. The cases examined are the RURs of Switzerland (in particular the Grand Genève) and Flanders.</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 future mobility design scenarios for rural-urban regions.</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 secondment: Academic secondment to the University of Antwerp (5 months, Belgium) for complementary analytical approaches to large-scale infrastructure network-urbanization relations and including a historical perspective; non-academic: VRP (Belgium): to gain insight in the context of Flanders as well as in the professional context and ways of interacting with local governments; WSP (Sweden): gain expertise in international projects of corridor development; LL (Sweden): gain expertise in including landscape amenities in densification strategies.</li></ul>
<b>About EPFL – Habitat Research Center</b>
<p>Located in Switzerland, <a href="#">EPFL</a> is one of Europe's most vibrant and cosmopolitan science and technology institutions. <a href="#">Habitat Research Center</a> (HRC) is an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research platform at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). Its aim is to explore urban phenomena and to produce visions, strategies, and projects. Allying basic research and research by design, HRC is a logical and fruitful development of the EPFL mission, offering a unique aggregation of architects and urbanists, civil and environmental engineers, urban ecologists, and social scientists. HRC is founded on three main pillars: a strong interdisciplinarity; a future based approach; design as core and common activity. HRC regularly organizes and coordinates international PhD seminars and symposia; it has been selected as one of the multidisciplinary teams working on a vision for Greater Geneva at the 2050 horizon. It also participates in a number of EU-funded and other research projects and networks.</p>
<b>Profile and requirements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You hold a master's degree in Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning, or other master's degree with relevant expertise in research by design.</li></ul>



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 research and have strong analytical and design skills.
- You are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative, and a team player.
- You have strong communication skills.
- Language proficiency: excellent use of English is essential (C1 level minimum). Knowledge of French and/or Dutch (B2 level or more) is required; if necessary, language courses will be offered by the project partners.
- Applicants must be eligible to enroll in a PhD program at the host institution.
- 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. Paola Viganò (supervisor)  
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