

ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development gGmbH (Germany)

Institutional Information (Last update at: 02/01/2012)

Institution name (Native language)	ILS - Institut für Landes- und Stadtentwicklungsforschung gGmbH
AESOP reg Number	AF-049-08
AESOP Member Status	Affiliate Member
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Contact persons

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Institution Information

Full time academic staff members	31
Part time staff members	28
Staff members engaged in research	43
Staff members engaged in	0

The ILS- Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development is a non-university research institute for the spatial sciences. The Institute's activities cover the entire spectrum ranging from theory- and concept-driven fundamental research (with a strong empirical orientation) to application-oriented and academically underpinned consultancy services. With the main issue of "New Urbanisation Processes in the European Context - The Urban Future" the ILS is committed to analysing the causes and consequences of new urbanisation processes and concepts for sustainable development, adopting an interdisciplinary and internationally comparative perspective.

With this main issue the ILS seeks:

- to investigate the diverse causes of the both structurally and qualitatively new processes of urbanisation which can currently be observed,
- to analyse the social and spatial results and effects of these processes in changing urban configurations,
- to explore the discursive, behavioural and institutional changes accompanying these new forms of urban development and urban structure,
- and thus to contribute to a better understanding of current and future trends and to theory development, and to produce viable proposals and concepts for a sustainable pattern of urban development and of new spatial configurations for urban structures.

The framework for the ILS research is provided by five research areas:

- Metropolisation: Metropolitan locations in the space of flows
- Regionalisation: Postsuburban differentiation of spatial structures and processes
- Mobility: Living in a highly mobile society: accessibilities and spatial interaction
- The City as Social Space: Social disparities, spatial fragmentation and social integration
- The Built City: Living in the city, building culture and urban planning

As a research institution, the ILS generates and processes new knowledge within the framework of research and development projects, it organises forums and events, publishes the findings of research studies and is actively involved in various research networks. The Institute regards itself as a hub linking a diverse array of networks in the fields of spatial and built environment research in North Rhine-Westphalia, but also at the national and European levels, especially through its partnerships with universities and other renowned research bodies.