

Dresden Leibniz Graduate School

Sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions

Description of the Major Research Topic

The DLGS – Dresden Leibniz Graduate School is a joint activity of the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden (IÖR), and the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD). The DLGS launches a continuous call for fellowship applications at doctoral level for up to three years in Dresden, Germany. The DLGS is oriented towards making cities and regions more sustainable, resilient and inclusive. Doctoral Candidates investigate new concepts, policies and instruments for promoting social development, economic growth, and environmentally sustainable urban and regional development.

On September 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Agenda outlines a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development. SDGs are universally applicable considering different spatial realities, capacities and levels of development.

Taking United Nations ideas as a general framework, the major DLGS research interest is to concentrate interdisciplinary efforts towards building more sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions. Specific research interests integrate social, economic and environmental aspects, recognizing and promoting their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. Doctoral theses at DLGS are supposed to contribute to the theoretical discussion and to methodological issues through the analysis of empirical cases.

Topic

Research proposals shall deal with the analysis of inequalities within cities as well as between cities and rural areas, and/or the role of integrated policies, strategies and plans for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions, giving attention to environmental issues and environmentally sustainable approaches and solutions.

Cases could be related to the following fields:

1. Urban and regional development and planning

- Integrated policies and plans for sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities and regions
- Eco-cities as drivers for environmentally sustainable urban and regional development
- Revitalization strategies for increasing sustainable urbanization, resilience and inclusion
- Smart cities - technology and innovation as drivers for faster growth and for enhancing adaptive capacity to threats

2. Landscape planning

- Green infrastructure policies and social integration in the informal settlement
- Methods for strategic environmental assessment in the urban context of less developed countries
- Nature based solutions for urban planning in emerging countries
- Offset strategies - a tool for compensating for urban impacts on biodiversity in Europe?

3. Economics

- Inequality and the development of resilient and sustainable cities
- Economic policies for adequate and affordable housing in less developed countries
- Efficient provision of public infrastructure and public transport / understanding the political economy of public infrastructure provision
- The fiscal capacity to finance inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities

4. Sociology

- Increasing social inequalities between cities and rural areas
- Advancing peaceful co-existence of different groups of inhabitants in cities
- Power relations with special focus on gender relations in public spaces
- Gentrification and social movements

Applicants are to mention the field they are interested in (1 to 4) and elaborate a detailed research proposal accordingly. Each proposal has to refer to theoretical and/or methodological questions. Please use the form available on the DLGS website (www.dlgs-dresden.de).

The time frame of the DLGS doctoral program is three (3) years. Applicants are to have a sound academic background in Spatial Planning and Development (including City and Regional Planning and Landscape Planning), Economics, Sociology, Geography, or Environmental Sciences.

Deadline for application and submission of a research proposal as part of the application materials:
September 15, 2018.