

The ILS Research group “Mobilities and Space” is looking for you (m/f/d) to join us from **1 September 2025** as

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Researcher (m/f/d) (Transport / Mobilities Research)

‘DR9: Spatial and Temporal Constraints and Opportunities through Reflections of Interactions between Travel Behaviours and Urban Transformations’ in

TRANSFORM: Urban mobility cultures in transition: socio-spatial implications of transformative practices

We invite applications for a **full time, fixed term position (36 months) as a Doctoral Researcher** at the ILS Research gGmbH, Dortmund, Germany. This position is one of 13 doctoral researchers being recruited as part of a European funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network ‘TRANSFORM: Urban mobility cultures in transition: socio-spatial implications of transformative practices’.

The successful applicant will register for a PhD at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, and contribute to the work package ‘Behavioural change & social dimension’ with the topic ‘DR09: Spatial and Temporal Constraints and Opportunities through Reflections of Interactions between Travel Behaviours and Urban Transformations’. Only applicants who have not been a resident in Germany for more than 12 months in the last three years preceding the start date are eligible for this post.

About TRANSFORM: TRANSFORM aims to break new academic ground by studying from a holistic, interdisciplinary, intersectoral, and gender sensitive approach the meaning and functioning of transitions in urban mobility cultures, examining whether and to what extent transformative practices are effective mechanisms for activating and consolidating the transitions mentioned as well as the resulting socio-spatial effects.

The project will recruit 13 doctoral candidates, aiming to pursue post-graduate studies towards the acquisition of a doctoral degree. The research program of these individual researchers will be integrated into a set of eight work packages that include the participation of 16 highly-reputed European academic institutions and nine experienced non-academic organizations of relevance for urban mobility. The project will focus on training of a new generation of researchers through an innovative, comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral doctoral program that includes: (i) academic training; (ii) non-academic training; (iii) transferable skills training; and (iv) specific and coordinated supervision and mentoring.

This full-time post will be available from September 2025 and offered on a fixed-term 36-month contract. The doctoral researcher will complete a research project on **‘Spatial and Temporal Constraints and Opportunities through Reflections of Interactions between Travel Behaviours and Urban Transformations’**. The primary objective of this thesis is to propose and evaluate “transitional urban spaces” (e.g. street space redistribution, car-reduced neighbourhoods) and temporal interventions (e.g. speed limits, parking restrictions, congestion charges) for sustainable mobility. This will be achieved by examining ongoing experiments and implementations of transformative policies and applying them to different mobility cultures and case studies. To accomplish this, the first step is to develop the concept of “transitional urban spaces” and identify ongoing urban experiments, such as tactical urbanism, local-scale initiatives, and urban labs. Building on this foundation, the second step involves integrating elements of “transitional urban spaces” into living labs and testing their transformative potential in collaboration with policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders. Finally, the third step focuses on identifying the impact of spatial and temporal interventions on people’s travel behaviour and decision-making processes. This will be investigated through a quantitative survey conducted in Dortmund (N=600), employing choice and regression modelling techniques.



This position involves working in the **research group ‘Mobilities and Space’ at ILS Research** and with the international TRANSFORM project team, publishing in international academic journals, and the regular presentation of papers at national and international conferences. More information on this and other TRANSFORM projects are available at www.transformresearch.eu.

About the ILS Research gGmbH and the Research Group ‘Mobilities and Space’: ILS Research gGmbH is a subsidiary institute of ILS – Institut für Landes- und Stadtentwicklungsforschung gGmbH (Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development Research). As a non-university urban research institute with around 60 spatial and social urban researchers based in Dortmund, Germany, ILS Research gGmbH conducts international comparative research on the dynamics and diversity of urban change. The goal of our application-oriented basic research is a better understanding of recent urbanization processes in order to develop inter- and transdisciplinary findings for a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable transformation and design of urban spaces in an active dialogue with practice, politics and society.

ILS Research investigates the various dimensions of urban change at different levels of scale and in international comparison. In active dialogue with practitioners, policy-makers and societal stakeholders, ILS Research gains important insights from this for the sustainable transformation and design of urban spaces. ILS Research is a member of the R network of spatial research in Germany as well as of the Johannes-Rau research community. The research group ‘Mobilities and Space’, headed by Dr. Thomas Klinger, focuses on all interdependences between built environment on the one hand and travel behaviour as well as transport policy on the other hand.

Position Duties: We are seeking to hire a motivated and committed doctoral researcher with a strong interest in conducting original research on transformations of the urban mobility system. The successful applicant will:

- complete a research proposal, containing research objectives, description of research, methodology, proposed completion time frame and originality of contribution;
- participate in network-wide training events in the course of the project and complete any additional training required to successfully carry out the research proposal;
- develop materials for TRANSFORM reporting and personal training requirements (e.g., personal career development plan; annual summaries of research findings);
- prepare and disseminate research findings, in academic journals and for relevant stakeholders;
- prepare regular research updates for the TRANSFORM website and social media accounts;
- prepare a manuscript for submission as a PhD thesis in accordance with the policies and procedures of Goethe University Frankfurt.

Essential Requirements: Candidates will be required to meet the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Researcher eligibility criteria (marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu).

- At the time of recruitment, applicants must not have resided in the (host country) Germany for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the appointment.
- Researchers must be early-stage researchers, i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment. Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible.

Additional Requirements:

- Master degree and excellent track record of academic achievement in Geography, Transportation or Mobilities Research, Urban Planning, Psychology, Social Sciences, or related fields with thematic relevance to the research project
- prior knowledge in Transport, Mobilities or Transition Research in urban areas (demonstrated by a relevant master thesis or involvement with a related research project)
- experience of conducting state-of-the art quantitative research in social sciences, including knowledge in respective data analysis software
- excellent skills in literature search
- excellent communication skills in English both written and oral
- ability and commitment to produce scientific outputs for publication in peer reviewed journals
- evidence of ability to work independently and collaboratively within an international team
- strong motivation, with excellent organisation skills and attention to detail and quality
- willingness to move to Dortmund and to travel for secondments, training, and academic events

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post.

Additional Information/Salary: The post is offered under the conditions of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Doctoral Network Scheme, and based on the collective agreement of the federal states in Germany (TV-L). This equates to about €64,900 per year (full-time in pay group 13, level 1; incl. special annual payments; pre-tax and social security; including Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility allowance).

Start date: This position is funded by Horizon Europe under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network programme and is available from September 2025 to contract end date.

Continuing Professional Development/Training: Researchers working at ILS Research and enrolled at Goethe University Frankfurt are encouraged to make use of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. In addition, applicants are encouraged to learn German.

Attractive working environment: We offer flexible time management with home office options and a family-friendly working atmosphere. ILS gGmbH is a certified member of the 'berufundfamilie' corporate network. We further provide collaboration in a motivated, interdisciplinary team. ILS Research is committed to diversity and equality. ILS Research aims to increase the proportion of women and therefore encourages women in particular to apply.

For more information, please consult the webpages of ILS Research and Research Group 'Mobilities and Space':

- www.ils-forschung.de/en/ils-research
- www.ils-forschung.de/en/the-ils/organization/mobilities-and-space
- www.linkedin.com/company/ils-forschung

To apply for this post, applicants are asked for the following:

- Motivation letter (indicating why you wish to conduct this research project and why you believe you would successfully be able to complete this project)
- Curriculum Vitae
- The applicant should provide the names of two individuals familiar with the applicant's professional qualifications for the position to provide references;
- Transcripts of results of Masters' degree in a relevant discipline;
- Evidence of good English language skills, written and spoken. The following certificates may be used as such evidence (level C1 under the 'Common European Framework of Reference for Languages'): TOEFL, IELTS or Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) or Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or an English-language Master's degree;
- Evidence of research/ teaching experience; policy and practice experience in a related area; demonstrable teamwork skills;
- 2,000-word research proposal for the research project in the following format:

Proposal format (not to exceed 2,000 words)

1. *Background (suggested word count: 600 words)*
Where do you see a challenge in promoting a socio-ecological urban mobility transition and what kind of knowledge could contribute to a successful implementation?
2. *Methodology (suggested word count: 1,000 words)*
How would you methodically assess the spatial and temporal constraints and opportunities of interactions between travel behaviours and urban transformations?
3. *Original contribution to knowledge of the proposed research (including potential for broader societal impact) (suggested word count: 400 words)*
How would you like your research project to contribute to scientific debate and social change?
4. *Literature references (max. 20 references, not included in word count)*

Contact: Please send your application with the **reference number FGM-WMA-DM-TRANSFORM-2025-01** by e-mail with the required documents in PDF format by **25 June 2025** to bewerbungen@ils-forschung.de.

For further information on the position, please contact Dr. Thomas Klinger by phone no. +49 231 9051-264 or thomas.klinger@ils-forschung.de. For information on the application process, please contact Joachim Kemper by phone no. +49 231 9051-226.