

## Call for Membership

The Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz-Association (ARL) analyses the spatial effects of human activities in the areas of economy, society, ecology and culture in order to support sustainable development. As a multi-disciplinary network of experts from academia and practice, the academy gives impulses with its research results and provides science-based consultancy services for politics and administration. This is ensured by means of thematic, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary working groups at different spatial scales.

The ARL is currently looking for participants to establish an International Working Group (IAK) concerning the issue of

### **Gender- and climate-just Cities and Urban Regions – Challenges and Perspectives in Europe**

as a platform for inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue between academia and practice. Participants are sought who wish to make their own contributions to the working group and who have already taken a scientific perspective on the topic in question or some aspects thereof or are concerned with the issues in their working fields.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Doris Damyanovic, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU Vienna), and Prof. Dr. Ulrike Sturm, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (LUASA) will be the chair of the working group.

#### **Subject matter**

In the course of climate change cities and urbanized areas will be increasingly affected by heat waves, resulting draught and flooding. There is a strong need for adaptation and mitigation strategies to combat climate risk in cities. Urban growth, alongside increasing density in urban areas, has put urban green spaces and open landscapes under pressure and has led to its loss. Climate change is intensifying the so-called urban heat island effect and has negative impacts on cities, their residents and their quality of life and health. Currently, formal and informal planning tools for climate neutral and smart cities are being developed in practice and research. We see that questions of gender equality are basically relevant to the topic, also on a European level. The former ARL-IAK “Gender and spatial Planning” (2014-2018), reflected gendered impacts of climate change very clear.

Green cool spaces are an urban amenity that supports a good quality for varying everyday realities of people of different gender, age, social and cultural backgrounds in the urban and rural context. The fair distribution of private and public green and open spaces is a key factor for environmental and social justice for all residents in cities. Gendered approaches to climate smart cities and regions will make useful contributions to sustainable liveable just cities and regions, as well as to the reduction of CO<sup>2</sup>-emissions which is one of the main goals of the Paris Convention 2015. As gender equality is one of the SDGs as well as it is a tool to achieve other SDGs such as climate action, sustainable cities should integrate the gender dimension and should actively promote gender equality. Gender justice in this case means also environmental justice for every community and to improve all citizens’ wellbeing (European Green Deal 2019).

## Aims and research questions

This working party should support the theoretical and practical current debate on challenges to cities and regions in their combat against climate change by widening the knowledge base and emphasising gender approaches concerning climate neutral and smart cities. Transdisciplinary processes and approaches engaging academic researchers in engineering and social sciences, as well as government and corporate planners are important in the formulation of problem-based research questions and in seeking solutions for gendered climate neutral and resilient cities and regions. From the current state of art, we will have a closer look on the social, gender and diversity dimension in the broad debate on approaches to climate neutral and just cities and urban regions in Europe.

Out of this, *two core research question* emerge for the working party:

- How is the social and gender dimension integrated in climate neutral and smart planning processes instruments and policies of (green) cool urban spaces and landscapes in the European context? Which aspects of climate justice are reflected in these instruments?
- What is the added value to integrate a gender perspective on planning urban open spaces concerning climate neutral and smart cities and urban regions? How can it help to further climate justice?

## Product / expected results

A peer-reviewed scientific publication is planned and will be discussed within the members of the working group. This may be an Open Access (Book on Demand) publication undertaken by the ARL or it may be published in a special issue of a journal. Further publications of partial findings in specialist reviewed journals or the compilation of a project proposal (e.g. Horizon Europe, see also Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility,) are welcome.

## Organisation and procedure

The members of the working group will meet twice a year. The group shall consist of about 12 permanent expert members from Europe, complemented by invited guest experts to support the topics or to give external impulses. Travel expenses to the working group meetings will be reimbursed according to the German Federal Travel Expenses Act. The research and work programme will be set out in more detail at the constituent meeting, which will take place in spring 2021.

## Application

The IAK's work programme requires an inter- and transdisciplinary approach, inviting the involvement of members of research institutions as well as members of local and regional planning-institutions who operate in relevant fields for the named topics. We are looking for academic researchers in engineering and social sciences, as well as government and corporate planners, who are interested in the topic of gendered climate neutral cities and urban regions.

If you are interested in participating in the working group, please submit your statement of interest by

**18.09.2020**

Your application (max. 5.000 characters without blanks) should explain your interest in participating and refer to your relevant professional skills and experience. We would also like you to submit a brief CV (max. 2.500 characters) and your five most important topic-related publications / projects in digital form. Please send your application to Dr. Barbara Warner, Academy for territorial planning in the Leibniz-Association ([warner@arl-net.de](mailto:warner@arl-net.de)). For any further content-related questions please contact also Prof. Dr. Doris Damyjanovic ([doris.damyjanovic@boku.ac.at](mailto:doris.damyjanovic@boku.ac.at)) or Prof. Dr. Ulrike Sturm ([ulrike.sturm@hslu.c](mailto:ulrike.sturm@hslu.ch)).