

The IRS/Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning

researches social, economic and spatial urban and regional development and its governance.

With its research projects the institute devises objectives and strategies for the development and stabilisation of European sub regions. Our interdisciplinary basic research is practice-oriented and focuses on generating knowledge in four fields:

- Regionalisation strategies for economic spaces
- Regional institutional change to safeguard collective goods
- Knowledge milieus and settlement structures
- Regeneration of shrinking towns and regions.

The research area presently encompasses the new federal states, the Federal Republic of Germany as a whole, Eastern Central Europe and other EU countries.

The IRS co-operates at national and international levels with universities and extra-university research institutes. Co-operation agreements exist with the Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus and Potsdam University. The IRS currently employs a staff of 65. 14 of the 40 scientists are working on externally funded projects.



The IRS building in Flakenstraße, Erkner, can easily be reached from the centre of Berlin by regional express train.

The research departments in the 2003/04 programme of work

Department 1

Regionalisation and Economic Spaces

Head: Dr. Hans Joachim Kujath

Department 2

Regional Institutional Change to Protect Public Goods

Head: Dr. Timothy Moss

Department 3

Knowledge Milieus and Settlement Structures

Head: Prof. Dr. Ulf Matthiesen

Department 4

Regeneration of Shrinking Towns and Cities

Head: Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Bürkner

Scientific Collections

The IRS has compiled its own archive of papers and planning documents relating to the history of architecture and urban planning in the GDR. The archive is founded on the records of the former GDR's Institute for Urban Planning and Architecture. This material continues to be stored, catalogued and occasionally published by the institute for scientific purposes.

Legal Structure and Funding

The IRS is a registered association. It is academically independent and is member of the extra-university research bodies of the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Scientific Association (WGL). It receives funding from both the federal government and the state of Brandenburg on the basis of a general agreement on promoting research.



The pedestrian bridge crossing the Flaken river between the IRS and the S-Bahn railway station.

Administrative bodies

The bodies of the institute are:

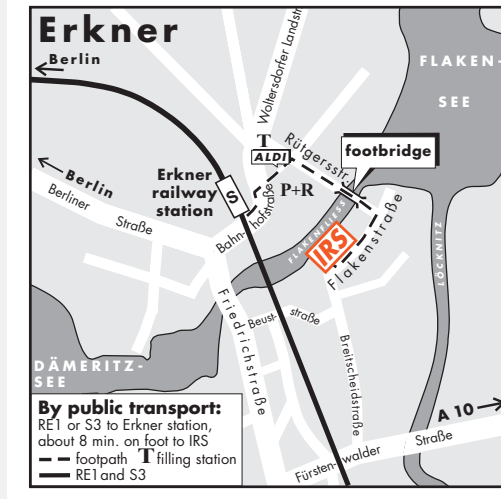
- The general meeting of the association
- the board of curators
- the board (director)
- the scientific advisory panel

Members of the board of curators:

- Brandenburg Ministry of Science, Research and Culture; Konstanze Pistor (chairwoman)
- Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing; MinRat Lutz Mehwald
- Brandenburg Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Transport; Rita Werneke
- Brandenburg Ministry of Agriculture, Conservation and Spatial Planning, Joint State Planning Department Berlin/Brandenburg; MinRat Manfred Hildenbrand
- Brandenburg State Chancellery; N.N.
- BTU Cottbus, Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Urban Planning; Prof. Volker Martin
- University of Dortmund, Faculty of Spatial Planning, specialist field geographical fundamental principles; Prof. Dr. Volker Kreibich
- Senate Department of Urban Planning, Berlin; Martina Pirch (adviser); N.N.
- Board of society/Director of the IRS; Prof. Dr. Karl-Dieter Keim (adviser)
- Prof. Dr. Ingrid Breckner, chairwoman of the scientific advisory council (adviser)
- member of IRS research staff, Heike Liebmann (adviser)

Scientific Advisers:

- Prof. Dr. Ingrid Breckner; TU Hamburg-Harburg (chairwoman)
- Prof. Dr. Gerold Ambrosius; University of Siegen
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus J. Beckmann; RWTH Aachen
- Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Wladislaw Bieda; TU Kraków (Poland)
- Prof. Dr. Hubert Heinelt; TU Darmstadt
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Krätke; European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)
- Prof. Dr. Harald Spehl; University of Trier
- Prof. Dr. Christine Weiske; TU Chemnitz



Director:

Prof. Dr. Karl-Dieter Keim

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