

Mission

- ▶ The IRS researches the interactions between social changes and the transformation of spaces. Its research focuses on people as social actors, who reflect on their environment and actively shape it, and on their practices. The IRS analyses how people initiate collective action to develop villages, cities and regions together. In this way, the IRS contributes to the understanding of current problems, their social and economic drivers including their historical roots, as well as corresponding solution strategies.
- ▶ The IRS provides impulses for the sustainable development of villages, cities and regions and for the alleviation of socio-spatial inequality. It advises actors from politics and civil society – from the municipal to the national to the European level – on the introduction of new social practices.
- ▶ With the Scientific Collections for the History of Building and Planning in the GDR, the IRS operates a research infrastructure that is also in international demand and uses it for its own research.

Vision

- ▶ The IRS investigates the role of disruptions in processes of societal change. Strategic action in spatial development increasingly takes place in an environment characterised by fundamental uncertainty.

The particular challenges are the limited predictability, the acute threatening nature and low levels of control of social and spatial processes. Social action is therefore often experienced as crisis-ridden and conflict-prone. However, disruptions can also represent opportunities for the emergence of novel practices. The IRS analyses the triggers and patterns of and the options for action within disruptive processes. It thus advances the state of scientific knowledge of resilient spatial development.

Guiding principles

- ▶ All employees contribute equally to IRS's mission and success. The IRS promotes a spirit of togetherness based on mutual appreciation.
- ▶ The IRS offers all employees opportunities for professional qualification and personal development. In this way, the IRS enables reliable career planning.
- ▶ We are guided in our work by the principles of sustainability.
- ▶ We live a culture of transfer that enables us to set important impulses in public debates and bring about changes in societal practice. To this end, we develop new formats and communication channels.
- ▶ We work across the individual research groups and research areas and tap the full interdisciplinary potential of the institute.
- ▶ The IRS offers freedom and opportunities for proactive research in emerging, even risky fields. This enables us to develop extraordinary research ideas and applications.

