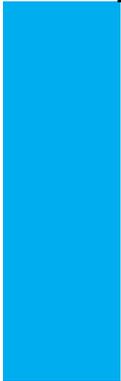


# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	Jeanne Blok
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<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	Imagining European Regions
Teachers / tutors	Verena Balz
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Complex Cities Imaging Europeans Regions researches regional planning and decision-making, which relates to the topic of the migration crisis in Europe.

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Interconnected migrants on the move: a study investigating the spatial organization of aiding ICT for irregular migrants and their navigation on their European journey
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Europe and the cases of Athens and Katsikas
The posed problem,	The emergence of affordable ICT changes the 'irregular' migrants organize their journey towards more informative decision-making and self-organization. Often experience irregular migrants long and fragmented journeys with high risks and find themselves in situations between human rights. ICTs gives these migrants an interconnection with their social network worldwide and in that way extends their opportunities such as economic resources and valid information that decreases their risks and their length of the journey (Collyer, 2007, REACH, 2017). Economic and social resources, as well as the capability to access key information may greatly affect the migration experience (Collyer, 2010). One of the main first questions migrants ask on arrival in Europe is "Where is Wi-Fi?" (Jump, 2015). The importance of such ICTs in the development process is

	<p>shown by the willingness of the poor to pay for service (Grace et al., 2004). For refugees and migrants that move across borders, internet access is a lifeline as critical as food, water and shelter. Wi-Fi hotspots offer the means to find safe routes, receive money transfers and contact missing family members or friends (Cernigoi, 2017). Phones, social media, mobile apps, online maps, messaging, translation websites, wire money transfers, cell phone charging stations, and Wi-Fi have created a new infrastructure for movement as critical as roads or railways (Latonero, 2016). New communication technologies are a key aspect in migration, though often paid little attention to in policies. Migration policies do not consider information and communication possibilities at the core, although, today, ICT is a key aspect in mobility around the world (Ros, González, Marín, &amp; Sow, 2007). There is a lack of knowledge of the ways information telecommunication flows shape irregular movements of people around the world and strategic spatial organisations of ICT in these kind of migration processes.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p><b>research question</b></p> <p>What spatial organization of ICT extends economic, social and knowledge resources for irregular migrants on their European journey and how to guide these migrants to aiding ICT?</p> <p><b>sub question 1</b></p> <p>What is the role of ICT in irregular migration and the spatial structure?</p> <p><b>sub question 2</b></p> <p>What are the needs in economic, social and knowledge resources of irregular migration and what ICT is consulted for this?</p> <p><b>sub question 3</b></p> <p>What are actors in the migration ICT infrastructure?</p> <p><b>sub question 4</b></p>

	<p>In what way do irregular migrants navigate seeking to needed resources through urban landscape?</p> <p><b>sub question 5</b></p> <p>What are aiding ICTs meeting the resource needs of migrants and their spatial structure?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design assignment is a strategic spatial organization of aiding ICT and ways to navigate irregular migrants to this ICT in Athens and Katsikas that extends economic, social and knowledge resources. These findings are projected on other European risk areas.</p>

## **Process**

### **Method description**

The methodology of this project consist of four parts: theoretical research, analytical research, design research, followed by a design proposal.

In the theoretical research is investigated what the role is of ICT in irregular migration and how it is spatially structured. For this is literature consulted in various fields. To gain a better understanding of the meaning of Information Communication Technology and the term 'information' is academic writing in the information field studied. From academic writing in sociology and urban environment, such as Graham, Marvin and Castlles, is learned what the spatial structure of ICT is. Then, more specifically, is theory consulted on the spatial structure of ICT in the migration context in the field of migration study. By means of empirical surveys is further investigated what the spatial structure of ICT is in irregular migration processes. Findings from this study are described in a theory paper and here from follow conceptual drawings on the spatial structures of ICT in irregular migration.

Analytical research is done to explore three sub research questions. These are all studied in a general sense and in an explorative in-depth case study. This in-depth case study is done in two opposite cases in European risk areas. These cases are opposite in the sense that one of these has an ICT availability in the area and the other an ICT unavailability. Although, both cases are in risk areas and have a lack of ICT accessibility for irregular migrants. The European journey for irregular migrants is dangerous, for example areas in Greece are currently problematic. The borders of the Balkan countries are closed, and so is the route from the Aegean islands to the Greek mainland. These developments leaves irregular migrants stuck in their journey to Northern European countries, the number today counts more than 50.000 people

(IOM, 2017). Greece is overcrowded in the encampments for irregular migrants and this leads to unsophisticated living situation that is beneath human rights. Legal crossings around the strict borders in the Balkan countries and Greece is for irregular migrants limited and alternatives in human trafficking appear in these areas. Two opposite cases of ICT availability in Greece are the capital Athens and the village Katsikas in the North. In Athens are many irregular migrants living on the streets and do not have access to ICT. Migrants mostly live at the Leofros Alexandaros park, Omonia square and Victoria square (Help Refugees, n.d.). In the village Katsikas, just before the border of the Balkan countries and the sea route to Italy, is an encampment located for irregular migrants and by the reason of a weak availability of ICT is the access little.

The second sub research question focuses on a better understanding of the needs of irregular migrants in economic, social and knowledge resources and what ICT is consulted for this. Firstly, in general terms, documentary analysis done in reports of non-profit organisation, such as UNHCR and Human Right Watch, and articles in investigated journalism, such as Mhub and Mixed Migration Platform. Thereby experts are interviewed on their knowledge on the issue, these are academics in the migration field and employees from non-profit organisations such as Amnesty International and the UN Migration Agency. In the in-depth case study is research done by means of a fieldtrip from Athens to Katsikas, wherein is talked to irregular migrants and field workers of the above described topic and spatial structures that are observed are sketched. Findings are used for resource and ICT tool drawings displayed in schemes and maps, and maps and 3D visualisations of spatial expressions of the use of specific ICT tools for the necessary resources. The third sub research question addresses the actors that are involved in the migration ICT infrastructure. To gain knowledge herein is a case study done of various empirical surveys of ICT providers in migration such as Refugee Info Bus, MigAPP, Techfugees and MashPoint, and are experts interviewed similarly as the previous mentioned sub question. More specifically, is an actor analysis done in the two chosen cases, for this are reports consulted from agencies doing field work in Greece. Also, are the involved actors investigated in the above described fieldtrip. For the next sub question is investigated in what way irregular migrants navigate seeking for needed resources through the urban landscape. To study this is generally another documentary analysis is done in again reports of non-profit organisations and thereby interviews are conducted in experts in the migration field and urbanism department. Then in a more specific context, is in the fieldtrip observed and questioned how migrants move through the urban landscape and find the resources of their needs. On significant points of orientation, such as the arrival point of Piraeus or transfer point of Katsikas, is isovist sketching done to gain an understanding in what is

perceived in the physical environment. Results from this research are drawn out in principles of navigating, isovist maps of orientation points and navigate maps in finding the way to resources and tools.

Lastly, in the design research, is studied what are possible aiding ICT that are meeting the economic, social and knowledge resource needs of irregular migrants and what is their spatial structure. Experts in the ICT field are interviewed in possibilities of tools. In the in-depth case study are the two areas studied by design in concepts of aiding ICT and its spatial structure. Then, strategic planning of the spatial organization of these aiding ICT is designed. Also is hereby considered in what way these concepts of aiding ICT are implemented, in the sense of what actors play what role. This results in a design of possible spatial organizations of aiding ICTs.

The previous conducted research is used to make a proposal for the two cases in Greece. The design proposes ways to guide the navigation of irregular migration towards supporting ICT that extends economic, social and knowledge resources in which a strategic spatial organization of this is considered. Then to conclude, is in more generic terms, a proposal given for aid in interconnection for irregular migrants in other European risk areas.

## **Literature and general practical preference**

See reference list below.

## **Reflection**

### **Relevance**

#### **societal**

Irregular migrants are a vulnerable group that falls out of international protection framework. Recent shifts in the organization of irregular migration due to developments of affordable ICTs may be of great interest in the way aid is giving. The current situation for irregular migrants in Europe is problematic and supporting organizations are short on budget for enough aid. Aid in the form of giving interconnection may have great impact in reduction of the danger of the European journey of various risks, and has the potential to be of low costs. This project contributes to this by studying interconnective aid in the way it is effectively organized in the urban landscape and easily findable for irregular migrants on the move in unfamiliar territory. It has potential to be relatively cheap due to low cost ICT, but also because it raises options for irregular migrants to organize independently

#### **scientific**

As described on previous pages, there is a lack of knowledge in the ways information telecommunication flows shape irregular movements of people around the world and

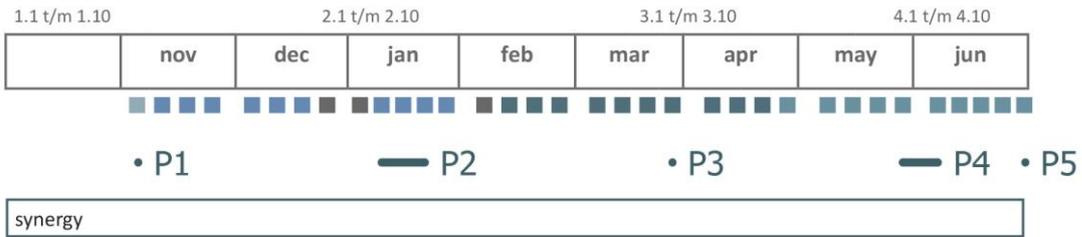
strategic spatial organisations of ICT in these migration processes. The project explores the complex relation of ICT and irregular migration flows and contributes by adding knowledge on the strategic spatial composition of ICT and guide principles. In the future, developments in climate change or war will continue to fuel people to need to flee from their home. Insights in ICT aid giving is most probably very relevant in future terms.

## **Time planning**

See page aside.

## **References**

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Athens and Katsikas

European risk areas