

## **Spatial aspects of housing: the demographic challenge in its spatial context**

From a policy point of view (including the spatial policy plan of Flanders) the challenge is put forward to absorb the expected growth of population and households (residential need) within the available scarce space. The resulting demand of space is currently not known. It depends on the available supply of vacant lots, vacant buildings, re-usability, possibilities of interweaving and compaction possibilities. The question rises whether this supply can -and should be- altered to strengthen existing spatial trends (compaction processes where remaining open areas are densified) or counter (suburbanization, ribbon development, sprawl). And which models can be applied to do so.

The doctoral research will focus on analysis of the existing urban fabric (built environment and potential supply of plots, demographic trends and projections, spatial policy and housing policy) and on realization of desired policy goals. The main question is "*How can the population growth until 2030-2050 be absorbed within our available space, in the assumption that the existing supply of vacant lots and building stock can be used, regarding building trends, demographic projections and the desired spatial policy*".

Insight is generated in growth and shrinking regions, spatial dynamics of building (interweaving, function changes, compaction processes, recycling possibilities, (sub) urbanization trends), and migration movements. Unexplored data including building permits will be exploited.