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Dipl.-Ing in Civil Engineering (1996) and Applied Cultural Studies (1996), have a PhD in Spatial Planning (2002).

Coming from civil engineering and applied cultural sciences Dirk is currently managing director of a planning office called 'pakora.net – Network for Towns and Regions'. Beside his office work Dirk teaches at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

His main tasks are consulting and research in national and international projects on urban planning, regional development and land use management. Recent tasks are e.g. a research project on land use management for communities for the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, leader of a European working group with several cities within the URBACT programme on mediation on settlement structures for the Region of Stuttgart and their bordering regional authorities or the state of Luxemburg.