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Where do we go from here? EPIC's impacts and legacy

After 2.5-plus years, the Horizon 2020-funded EPIC project has reached the end of the road as far as its official activities go. But while the active stage of the project may be complete, EPIC is far from finished. Throughout its duration, at events, over social media, through meetings and webinars and more, EPIC has built up stakeholder networks which we expect will continue to further engage, pushing forward the project's agenda. In fact, for those who maintain an active interest in EPIC's key topics – and of course, the importance and relevance of these topics will only increase – there remains ways to keep in touch. For example, the EPIC Twitter community continues to grow – at last count, we were up to 413 followers. You can still join us by following @EPIC_ProjectEU. The LinkedIn group, which can be found by searching *EPIC - Europe's ICT innovation partnership with Australia, Singapore & New Zealand*, has also increased since the project ended – and the momentum does not appear to be slowing. Here, in a nutshell, are some of the ways that the EPIC name will remain sustainable moving forward:

- The EPIC Book Sprints produced two textbooks on the relationship between ethics and robotics and artificial intelligence that will be published in English and German, and which imply that generations of researchers will be trained using this result from the project.

- The EPIC Roadmap for Stronger Collaboration is a document which discusses future collaboration potential in several ICT areas between the EU and the project partner countries of Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. It includes information for policy makers and useful situational analyses.

- The network created in EPIC will continue to be used by the project partners and facilitate communication with stakeholders that have an interest in Europe's collaboration with the target countries.

- EPIC helped generate new insights into international RTDI policy: EPIC contributed towards a change in understanding of and insight in international ICT RTDI policy collaboration, which will result in continued discussions and contributions to the international discourse on RTDI collaboration politics.

As the banner on the EPIC website continues to read: ***The Future is EPIC!***

Warm regards,

Erich Prem,
EPIC Project Coordinator

Ongoing funding opportunities

Are you an **EU researcher** interested in collaborating with partners in **Australia**, **New Zealand** or **Singapore**? Or, a researcher in one of the EPIC partner countries interested in coming to Europe to work? If so, then we the following information is for you.

As one of the concluding EPIC activities, we have updated the [Funding](#) section of the EPIC website to reflect long-term, ongoing or annual funding calls for these regions. Follow the links to find the latest information and upcoming deadlines for opportunities.

In addition, EPIC has also published an updated version of its '[Handbook on Australia, New Zealand & Singapore programmes for EU Researchers](#)' which offers a clear overview of local research programmes open for European researchers interested in collaborating with their peers in Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. This useful resource can be downloaded for free and is a worthwhile tool for anyone considering such an exchange.

This growing network of research exchanges is just one of the impacts produced by EPIC.

The EPIC 'Library'

Over the 2.5-year project rollout, EPIC produced several publications – and videos – to inform the project's various stakeholder audiences. We invite you to visit the EPIC collection to revisit the project highlights, to learn about topical recommendations derived from project findings, and much more.

Below are some of EPIC's most popular outputs:

- One of the project's final – and perhaps one of the most important – publications is the **[EPIC Roadmap for Stronger Collaboration](#)**, a document which discusses **future collaboration potential** in several ICT areas between the EU and the EPIC partner countries AU, NZ and SG.

- For those curious about the **impacts**, **outputs** and **results** of the project, as well as what the future **legacy** of EPIC will be, the **[final brochure](#)** provides a concise project summary and wrap up.

- EPIC produced a series of **[policy briefs](#)** in order to inform and provide guidance to policy stakeholders in the EU and the partner countries on current and future ICT areas including **e-Research**, **spatial intelligence**, **artificial intelligence** and more.

- A series of **[whitepapers](#)** relating to the **Digital Single Market** and its impacts on international organisations.

- An informative series of 20 **[videos](#)** which include **event highlights** and **expert interviews.**

Visit the full EPIC library **[here](#)**. View the EPIC video series **[here](#)**.

If you have any questions on any of the above, reach out to us at **info@epicproject.eu.**

The European Commission's CORDIS website has recently published a story on EPIC entitled '**EU-ASIA Pacific cooperation in ICT research to create a new roadmap for academia and industry**'. You can read about the project **here**.

EPIC Expert Visits: Researching for the future

The **EPIC Expert Visits** were designed to explore the potential for joint RTDI cooperation in current and upcoming ICT areas such as **artificial intelligence**, **cybersecurity**, **machine learning** and **transport**. The main interest was to explore the potential for RTDI cooperation fostered by providing direct financial support to domain experts - including scientists, researchers and innovators - from the **EU**, **Australia, New Zealand** and **Singapore** with concrete ideas for international ICT cooperation and potential partners.

The general aims of the EPIC Expert Visits were:

- to organise expert trips investigating the collaboration potential in a specific topical ICT field,
- to advertise EU RTDI excellence and stimulate interest in EPIC, and
- to help test grounds for research projects and other actions with an emphasis on longer-term research cooperation including joint labs and longer exchange visits.

Interested experts were invited to submit applications in four separate calls throughout the project. Ultimately, 27 successful applicants took advantage of the opportunity to explore bilateral collaboration opportunities in both directions for each of the three pairs EU-Australia, EU-New Zealand, and EU-Singapore. The main impacts and follow-up activities reported by the participants included:

- Most trips went beyond just a basic visit to analyse potential fields and directions; the experts also often used the opportunity to establish concrete collaborations by starting to prepare joint publications. Several teams also collaborated on software or data and are planning further joint publications.
- The experts reported about gaining new insights and expansions of existing approaches into novel areas as a result of the interaction. Participants often linked up with larger research organisations and advertised collaboration between Europe and the partner country to a larger audience.
- Strengthened PhD/ student exchange collaborations were another outcome. Some experts interacted with students from the receiving institutions to discuss novel research ideas.
- Some visits even led to new contracts in the expert's region of origin, e.g. European researchers report about getting in touch with EU colleagues while overseas.

The EPIC Expert Visits have certainly laid the groundwork for future collaborations, providing positive spin-off impacts for years to come.

EPIC Expert Visit participant Giancarlo Fortino highlights the positive impacts of his trip. To see more examples of positive impacts generated by the action, visit **bit.ly/2Tgwfic**

The EPIC event series: Been there, done that

Interest in topics such as **artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, Europe's Digital Single Market, digital economy, spatial intelligence, Internet of Things and ICT in transport** are at an all-time high. At the same time, a trend towards internationalisation in research, technology development and innovation collaboration has emerged. It is against this backdrop that the EPIC project supported or participated in a series of ICT-themed industry and researcher events which spanned the period March 2017 through July 2019.

The project has maintained a busy pace over these 2.5 years, with involvement in **37** different public ICT-related events – 11 in Australia, 14 in New Zealand, eight in Singapore and four in Austria. And this list excludes an additional **9** private policy-oriented events! The public events ranged from targeted training seminars on H2020 proposal preparation, to webinars, to focused workshops and conferences with European experts on the EPIC focus topic areas. Attendance totalled some several thousand expert-level participants in both Europe and the partner countries – spreading the EPIC key messages and putting the project in touch with new stakeholders from academia, industry, policy and ICT backgrounds.

Now that the project has wrapped, we can look back and say with confidence that the EPIC events helped improve networks between European and target country researchers in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore. The events also provided information about current research collaboration opportunities emerging from the EU's Framework Programme or national calls in the target countries. Most importantly, they were effective in establishing in-depth communication about current research, technology trends, and demands for new solutions. ICT research collaboration talks were triggered, new partnerships established, and expert advice for the development of the EPIC roadmap for future collaboration between the EU and its partner countries Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore provided.

While all EPIC events produced meaningful results, each partner country played host to certain standouts:

Australia:

International Dimensions of Artificial Intelligence
22 February 2019 | Canberra

What made it epic? A sell-out crowd listened to experts from Australia and Europe participate in a dynamic discussion around research trends in different aspects of artificial intelligence. This was followed by several workshops on a wide range of pertinent research topics related to AI, such as cybersecurity, health, education, law, robotic vision and much more.

New Zealand:

The EPIC New Zealand Event Series
25 February 25 - 01 March 2019 | Christchurch, Wellington, Queenstown, Auckland

What made it epic? This series of four events attracted more than 50 participants eager to learn about the lessons learned in realizing Europe's new Digital Single Market and its implications for New Zealand and international businesses, in particular for innovation and future service delivery. The Queenstown event also had the distinction of being perhaps the southernmost Horizon 2020 presentation to ever take place.

Singapore:

Security and Privacy: The Role of Artificial Intelligence

09 April 2019 | Singapore

What made it epic? This sell-out, two-session event attracted an international roster of presenters, many of whom were trailblazers in the AI field. Part one highlighted the breadth of choices to deal with privacy – from ignoring it, to not using personal data to new and sophisticated methods for harvesting personal data without revealing it and was followed by a panel discussion in which discussants shared their thoughts on new AI-based approaches to protecting privacy. Session two focused on the topic of security and emphasised value objectives and the current lack of proper connection between data and AI. A second moderated panel focusing on security and the important role of international collaboration.

EU:

ICT Vienna 2018

04 - 06 December 2018 | Vienna

What made it epic? The event, organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technologies in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, brought together several thousand participants including members of the science community, policymakers, and ICT-enthusiasts to discuss the future in a digital Europe. EPIC was represented at the event through an exhibition booth, through a networking session, through an appearance at a networking dinner, and via a session on GeoAI and GeoBI at which project partner Orbica presented. ICT Vienna 2018 provided an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate international the EU's linkage with Australia, Singapore, and New Zealand.

Project coordinator DDr Erich Prem welcomes Australia's Ambassador to Austria Dr Brendan Hammer to the EPIC booth at ICT Vienna 2018.

Still epic: Upcoming events

Watch for EPIC in March 2020 at the **'From Austria to Australia: Research Collaborations between Austria and Australia'** Symposium in **Graz**, **Austria**, the focus of which will be "Collaboration in research and development in the area of IT and technology".

Europe's ICT innovation partnership with Australia, New Zealand and Singapore

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