



EPIC Newsletter #01

Dear Madam or Sir,

The European-Pacific Partnership for ICT collaboration in research, development and innovation - EPIC - aims to strengthen the ties between the EU and Australia, Singapore & New Zealand through academic, industrial, and political partnerships and a manifold of activities across all these regions and supports the building of transnational collaboration in ICT at the level of researchers, innovators and at the policy level.

In our first EPIC Newsletter, we are happy to give you an overview of some of our past and upcoming activities as well as other relevant topics for collaborations between the EPIC target countries.

1. EPIC Call for Expert Visits

To investigate joint RTDI collaboration potential in topical ICT fields, EPIC is organizing expert trips either from the EU to one of the partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region or vice versa. Therefore, we are looking for scientists, researchers and innovators from the EU or Australia, Singapore & New Zealand with concrete international ICT collaboration ideas and potential partners in mind.

Selected experts receive a lump sum of €2,000 for travel and accommodation. The topic of the collaboration idea must be within the EPIC focus areas:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Security
- Internet of Things (Wearable Computing, Industry 4.0)
- ICT in Transport
- Digital Economy / Digital Disruption
- Next Generation Internet / Future Internet
- Spatial Intelligence

The call is open for continuous submission.

[More information](#)

2. Canterbury Tech Summit

On September 14th 2017, EPIC was present at Canterbury Tech Summit. This event in Christchurch, New Zealand is the South Island's largest annual tech conference that brings together leaders in innovation, technology and business to share ideas, grow their networks and be inspired.

The summit explores trends, opportunities and major shifts in ICT. This year, it focused on four main topics:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity & Bitcoin
- Hi-tech Export
- Strategy and Leadership

EPIC coordinator Erich Prem was part of the Artificial Intelligence Panel at the Summit, answering questions like: What actually is Artificial Intelligence and what are the building blocks of AI? He emphasized that data is key, as an algorithm can never be more clever than the underlying data and commented, that people still underestimated the difficulty of tuning and pre-processing data. Furthermore, he highlighted the need to combine and exploit current developments like cloud computing, lower computing and memory costs and the availability of large amounts of data in order to further advance AI.

The panel concluded with the importance of the educational sector promoting logic and computational thinking.

A video of the full panel, that also included Kathryn Hempstalk, Senior Data Scientist at Xero and Ben Reid, Executive Director of the AL Forum of New Zealand, can be found [here](#).

3. Interview: Graham Leedham, TUM Create

Each EPIC newsletter also features an interview with a professional involved in international research collaboration. In this first interview, Graham Leedham, Technical Director at TUM Create was so kind to give us some insights on the Singaporean research landscape.

4. German-Singapore Collaboration Programme

In every EPIC newsletter, we would also like to introduce you to one of the many interesting calls that encourage collaboration between our partner regions. This call by EPIC partner A*Star, the Science and Engineering Research Council and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research aims to promote research and development bilateral collaboration between Singapore- and German-based public and private institutes and organizations, through joint scientific projects.

Key topics include:

- Advanced manufacturing and cyber-physical systems in production (Industry 4.0)
- New material and methods for additive manufacturing
- Robust security systems for Industrial Internet of Things
- Smart sensors and actuators for production

Submission deadline: 29 March 2018

[more information](#)