



EPIC Newsletter # 2

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. In the second edition of our 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.

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EPIC Handbook for EU researchers published



The Handbook on Australia, New Zealand and Singapore funding programmes for EU researchers published this month by EPIC equips EU stakeholders with a clear panorama of local research programmes open to collaboration with Europeans, detailing the possibilities and the conditions of funding programmes in the project's target countries, with dedicated chapters for each region.

Researchers in Europe looking for opportunities to collaborate with Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore will no doubt realize that finding a suitable funding scheme is not always easy. However, this should not mislead nor discourage EU researchers with an interest in collaborating with their colleagues overseas. Europe is still seen as a reliable partner with outstanding research competencies. Long historical relations and cultural ties contribute to a generally very welcoming atmosphere and environment for European researchers. The EPIC handbook is aimed at building on these relations and encouraging further collaborations.

Some EU countries actively maintain networks of their expats in order to facilitate collaboration both within the network and of those networks with their countries of origin or the EU. The network of French researchers in Australia – AFRAN – is a good and active example (see the Australian resources section for points of contact), but other countries have similar activities.

For the full picture, you can directly download the whole handbook [here](#).

The GDPR's effects on International Research



On 25th May 2018, the new **General Data Protection Regulation** will become enforceable in the European Union, replacing the 1995 Data Protection Directive. It will impose many new obligations on organizations that process personal data of EU residents.

While the regulation is generally intended to strengthen privacy rights, it is also of central importance to the EU Digital Single Market initiative, which is aimed at boosting digital innovation within the European Union by enabling equal access to online products and services across the EU.

In order to find a balance between privacy values and legitimate interests of researchers and innovators, the regulation does offer exemptions for scientific, historical and health research. Organisations processing personal data for research purposes may avoid restrictions on secondary processing and on processing sensitive categories of data. As long as appropriate safeguards are implemented, research organisations will even be able to override a data subject's right to object to processing or seeking the erasure of personal data.

Additionally, the GDPR may permit the processing of personal data without the data subject's consent and in some cases, researchers will even be able to transfer personal data to third countries for research purposes. As the GDPR adopts quite a broad definition of research, the data analytics of many organisations might qualify as such and it is unclear how far the research exemption will extend. However, it has been repeatedly emphasized that the new regulation aims at encouraging innovation, as long as appropriate safeguards are implemented.

Generally, by setting up clear rules regarding consent, the reuse of personal data for another purpose and general data management and processing, the GDPR is expected to do just that.

For more detailed information, please get in touch or visit the site of the [European Commission](#).

The France-Singapore Year of Innovation



Aimed at strengthening the ties between the countries' innovation ecosystems, 2018 was named the France-Singapore Year of Innovation and will therefore see a number of research, science and start-up collaborations initiated. France aims to continue developing joint French-Singaporean laboratories not only by enhancing existing collaborations, but also by supporting further high-profile French research institutes to set-up partnerships in Singapore. Examples include the Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (INRIA) in particular in the area of Artificial Intelligence.

The Year of innovation will also be accompanied by manifold events in both Singapore and France, particularly in certain priority sectors such as sustainable cities, fintech and aerospace. Events include the [VivaTechnology](#) in Paris in May and the [Startup Weekend Hackaton](#) in Singapore at the beginning of June.

For a full event calendar, please click [here](#).

EU-Australia Leadership Forum seeks Emerging Leaders



From 18 to 22 November 2018, the EU-Australian leadership forum will take place in Brussels. Every year, the forum brings together key European and Australian leaders to provide input and ideas designed to diversify and intensify the EU-Australia relationship in key areas. For this year's event, the forum is still looking for promising young leaders from Australia to take part in the Emerging Leaders Forum.

Specifically, the project seeks young Australian or EU citizens who have proven potential leadership ability in diverse professional backgrounds such as government, business and academia. Applicants must also have experience in the priority areas of EU-Australia relations with particular preference given to the following topics:

- Movement of people: EU and Australian perspectives
- Environment, climate change and energy transition
- Industry 4.0
- Women's leadership in Europe and Australia
- Regional challenges: the view from the Indo-Pacific and the EU
- Digitalisation with a focus on privacy and data protection
- Space cooperation: the next frontier
- Civil society in the EU-Australia relationship

Flights, accommodation, transfers and other forum expenses will be fully supported. The call is still open until May 31st. For more information click [here](#).

New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarship



The New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarships (NZIRDS) provide international students undertaking a PhD study in New Zealand with financial support. Aimed at attracting top international students, maximising research capability and building deeper educational partnerships, the scholarship covers tuition fees, an annual living stipend and medical insurance coverage.

International doctoral candidates from any country except New Zealand with a minimum equivalent 3.6/4.0 GPA or A/A+ average in their most recent or highest postgraduate tertiary qualification may apply and will be selected based on academic excellence and the impact of the proposed research for New Zealand.

The call is open until July 15th, for more information click [here](#).

Help shape New Zealand's new R&D tax incentive!



The New Zealand Government intends to introduce a new tax incentive for research and development in 2019. EPIC partner Callaghan Innovation was involved in the design process and together with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, they are looking for input. The submission deadline is 1 June 2018, you can find the discussion document and further information [here](#).

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