1st ANNUAL EPICUR FORUM

9 to 11 December 2020 / ONLINE

Press release

Presentation

The EPICUR alliance will organise **its first Public Forum between 9 and 11 December 2020.** The Forum is an opportunity to connect, to share experiences and to develop ideas with all members of the academic community. It will also provide an occasion to discover the - entrepreneurial - ecosystems of the eight universities of the alliance. Hosted by the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), this year's Forum will be **a fully virtual event.** It aims to bring together students, teachers, researchers, administrative staff and professionals around a broad range of activities dedicated to the themes of "Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development."

Our Forum is an invitation to local, regional, and European stakeholders as well as the members of its diverse academic communities to explore the EPICUR alliance and its many inspiring projects that lay the foundation for one of the first truly European Universities.

The Forum offers a journey through our European university partners and their communities by offering: a V*irtual Start-up Tour*, enlightening *Panel Discussions*, *Keynotes* on sustainability and entrepreneurship, *Workshops, EPICURtalks & Virtual Booths* for all interested in the future of teaching and learning, an *ERASMUS challenge* for students…

Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development is one of the world's biggest challenges, it demands responses on all levels and from all sectors of society. This requires entrepreneurial spirit in business matters as well as in the way we organize communities, universities and all the activities which make up our daily lives. The intersection of sustainability and entrepreneurship is a source of discovery. For this reason, the EPICUR alliance dedicates its first annual forum to these topics which are at the heart of its many projects. The program of the Forum represents the beginning of the grand effort to build bridges between disciplines and universities, between campuses and regions and most importantly between people.

Taking equally an interdisciplinary and a transdisciplinary approach, the Forum reflects the larger aim of the EPICUR alliance to develop innovative study programs and forms of mobility that channel the SDGs into every aspect of university and community life, embracing a true entrepreneurial spirit in teaching, learning, and starting new businesses.

Website:
https://epicur.education

Registration link:
https://indico.scc.kit.edu/event/2252/registrations/332/

Video of presentation of the Forum:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vXCEiQUsQQ

Programme

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY
Shaping a sustainable future for Europe.
FORUM SCHEDULE, DECEMBER 2020

WEDNESDAY 9/12

MORNING
ERASMUS Feeling Challenge Kick-Off
10 am - 12 pm CET
Audience: Students (all study levels)
of the EPICUR Universities

AFTERNOON
Onboarding
12 pm - 2 pm CET
Audience: Public event

Welcome speech by Vice-President
Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth (KIT) & EPICUR
President Michel Deneken (Unistra)
4.45 pm - 5.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

Keynote by Prof. Dr. Orestis Terzidis (KIT):
Entrepreneurship Education – good
practices and future opportunities
5.30 pm - 6.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

EVENING
Keynote by Maria Vassilakou:
Planning the City of Tomorrow -
Towards a Major Urban Transition
6.30 pm - 7.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

Meet an EPICURean - Networking Carrousel
7.30 pm - 8.00 pm CET
Audience: Public event

THURSDAY 10/12

MORNING
Experiential Learning
& Experimental Teaching – Part I:
"Train the Trainer" - Workshops
9 am - 12 pm CET
Audience: Teaching Staff (all levels),
Study Programm Coordindators
& Teaching & Learning Centers

ERASMUS Feeling Challenge
Morning Check-in
9 am - 11 am CET
Audience: Students (all study levels)
of the EPICUR Universities

AFTERNOON
Digital Lunch Break Networking for All
interested in Teaching & Learning
12 pm - 2 pm CET

Experiential Learning &
Experimental Teaching – Part II:
Virtual Fair & EPICURtalks.
2 pm - 5 pm CET
Audience: Public event

EVENING
Keynote by Prof. Phoebe Koundouri,
Director Climate-KIC Greece:
Financing Environmental Projects
5.45 pm - 7 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

ERASMUS Challenge "Digital Pub Quiz"
7 pm - 8.30 pm CET
Audience: Students (all study levels)
of the EPICUR Universities

FRIDAY 11/12

MORNING
Virtual Start-up Tour – Innovative
solutions for European challenges
10.45 am - 12.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

AFTERNOON
EPICUR Staff Lunch quiz
12.30 pm - 2 pm CET
Audience: EPICUR team

Panel Discussion – Entrepreneurial
Student Clubs as hotbeds
for Start-ups at Universities
1.45 pm - 3.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

Meet an EPICURean- Networking Carroussel
3.30 pm - 5 pm CET
Audience: Public event

EVENING
ERASMUS Feeling Challenge
Final Presentation:
4.45 pm - 7 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Students (all study levels)
of the EPICUR Universities

Official Closing with Vice-President
Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth (KIT) and
Vice-Rector Dimitrios Koveos (AuTh) (TBC)
7 pm - 7.30 pm CET (Livestream)
Audience: Public event

Keynote Speakers

Welcome Speech by Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth, Vice-President for Innovation and International Affairs at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) & EPICUR President Michel Deneken (UNISTRA)
Public event

Michel Deneken has been teaching at the University of Strasbourg since 1989, where he became a professor in 2003; he was dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Strasbourg from 2001 to 2009. From January 2009 to December 2016, he was First Vice-President in charge of finance and then of initial and continuing education at the University of Strasbourg. In December 2016, he was elected Chairman of the
University of Strasbourg.

Prof. Hirth is responsible for entrepreneurial activities at KIT – one of the two leading German universities in this sector – and will talk about the fact that research, teaching and innovation must interlock directly if we want to be successful, both as a European university and as a society.

Professor Dr. Thomas Hirth became director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB, Stuttgart in 2007. From 2008 to 2015 he in addition has been professor at the University of Stuttgart and head of the Institute of Interfacial Process Engineering and Plasma Technology and from 2012 to 2015, Thomas Hirth has been vice-dean of the Faculty of Energy-, Process-, and Bio-Engineering at the University of Stuttgart. Since January 01, 2016, he has been Vice-President for Innovation and International Affairs of KIT. Moreover, he is chairman of the Steering Committee of ProcessNet and Spokesperson of the THINKTANK Industrial Resource Strategies.

Keynote by Prof. Dr. Orestis Terzidis (KIT): Entrepreneurship Education – good practices and future
Public event

Prof. Orestis Terzidis of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology will present his thoughts on teaching Entrepreneurship and developing successful entrepreneurial ecosystems around universities.

Orestis Terzidis heads the Institute for Entrepreneurship, Technology Management and Innovation (EnTechnon) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). After his doctorate in physics, he worked at SAP from 1998-2011, first as an application developer, later as assistant to CEO Henning Kagermann and director of the SAP Research Center in Karlsruhe. In October 2011, he joined KIT as a full professor.

Keynote by Maria Vassilakou: Planning the City of Tomorrow - Towards a major Urban Transition. *Public event*

Maria Vassilakou will share her expertise coming from her experience as the former Deputy Mayor & Executive Counsellor at the City of Vienna (urban development, climate issues and participation) (2010-2019) as well as a Member of the European Commission's Mission board (Climate-neutral and smart cities) for Horizon Europe for 2021-2027. She will present new approaches to urban development, notably regarding the shift of role paradigms in the interplay of politics, economy & civil society.

Maria Vassilakou was the first green vice mayor of Vienna and city councillor for urban development, traffic, climate protection, energy planning and citizen participation. She strongly advocates sustainable urban development and gentle mobility.

Keynote by a Prof Koundouri, Director of the EIT Climate-KIC. On Financing environmental projects *Public event*

Professor Dr. Phoebe Koundouri will introduce the emergence and requirements of entrepreneurs who tackle the issue of sustainability. She will further discuss the requirements for funding such projects with a link to the SDGs and then give a concrete explanation of how to obtain funding as well as some examples of projects already funded by Climate KIC Greece. There will be plenty of opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Professor Dr. Phoebe Koundouri holds a PhD and Master of Philosophy in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Cambridge (UK). She is Professor in Economic Theory and Policy, School of Economics, Athens University of Economics and Business (Greece) and she is the elected President of the European Association of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists EAERE and Director of the EIT Climate-Kic for Greece. Prof. Koundouri is listed in the most-cited women economists in the world, with 15 published books and more than 250 published scientific papers.

Challenge (3 days)

EPICUR "Digital Erasmus feeling" Challenge.
Audience: Students (all study levels) of the EPICUR Universities.

Before challenging students to explore new digital formats to recreate a semester abroad digitally, we have invited students and alumni of all ages to share their ERAMUS experiences by sending short video clips available on our youtube channel and Instagram #EpicurErasmusChallenge.

During the Forum, diverse groups of students from the 8 universities will form teams of 5 to 7. Together, they will brainstorm to define the important factors contributing to the Erasmus feeling by capturing small facets. On the last day, each group will have 3 minutes to present their creative solutions by giving a lecture, showing a video, photos or even making a musical presentation of their ideas. The three best ideas will be rewarded with various prizes.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This challenge will take place in three steps:

- The kick-off session with the creation of the groups and an introductory speech by Oana Dumitrescu, Director General for Education and Culture at the European Commission.
- The following day, the activity will continue with tutorials and discussions in the morning and an Erasmus quiz in the evening.
- On Friday, the final presentation of the "Erasmus Feeling Challenge" will take place in the presence of Kostis Giannidis, President of the Erasmus Student Network, followed by the award ceremony.
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Session on Innovations in Teaching and Learning

Experiential Learning & Experimental Teaching in Digital Settings
Audience: All those interested in Teaching & Learning (Restriction Apply in Part I)

In the current pandemic, digital and blended learning has gained new momentum. This has boosted innovation and creativity among university educators and e-Learning experts at the eight EPICUR partner universities. The EPICUR Forum will offer **a two-part event** that explores the potentials and challenges of "Experiential Learning and Experimental Teaching in Digital Settings," offering the opportunity to share and exchange on out-of-the-box ideas about the future of education in European Universities. Framed by two keynotes on the impact of "Digitization in Higher Education" and "Working & Learning 4.0", the EPICUR team invites you to an interactive and inspiring journey into the future of learning and teaching.

Morning session. Experiential Learning & Experimental Teaching – Part I: "Train the Trainer" – Workshops
Audience: teaching staff, (early career) researchers, administrative university staff, young professionals

The first part, dedicated to **"Experiential Learning"** offers university lecturers, teachers, study coordinators, and didactic staff from all partners five parallel "train-the-trainer" workshops addressing interculturality, social learning, entrepreneurial education, summer schools and virtual exchanges.

Afternoon session. Experiential Learning & Experimental Teaching – Part II: Virtual Fair & EPICUR*talks*.
Public event

Focusing on "**Experimental Teaching**," the second part invites everyone to a Virtual Fair, featuring EPICUR's newest format "EPICUR*talks"* as well as virtual booths that give the floor to some of the most innovative and creative teaching formats within the EPICUR alliance.

Session on entrepreneurship (Friday)

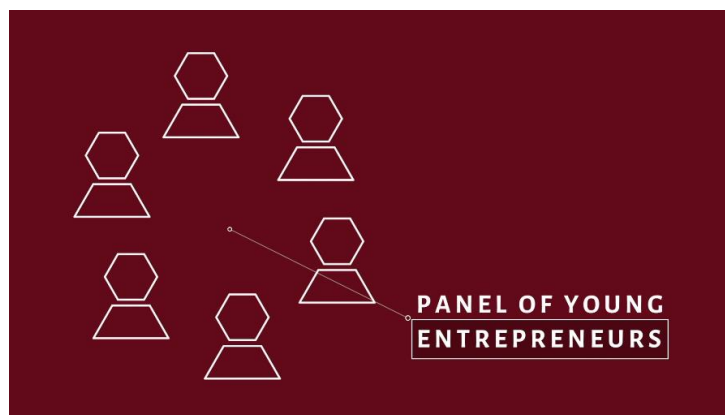**Virtual Start-up Tour – Innovative solutions for European challenges.**
Public event

In times of rapid change in Europe and worldwide, entrepreneurs take over responsibility and develop solutions to current trends and challenges affecting millions of people. In the virtual startup tour, 8 European startup companies introduce the participants to their innovative solutions and give key insights into their local entrepreneurial ecosystems' main characteristics.

Panel Discussion - Entrepreneurial Student Clubs as hotbeds for Start-ups at Universities.
Public event

Universities offer entrepreneurial students excellent conditions and support programs for creating innovative products and services. Entrepreneurial Student Associations are often best embedded in the local entrepreneurial ecosystem and serve as a hotbed for student entrepreneurs providing co-working spaces, mentorship, and support programs. The panel discussion aims to
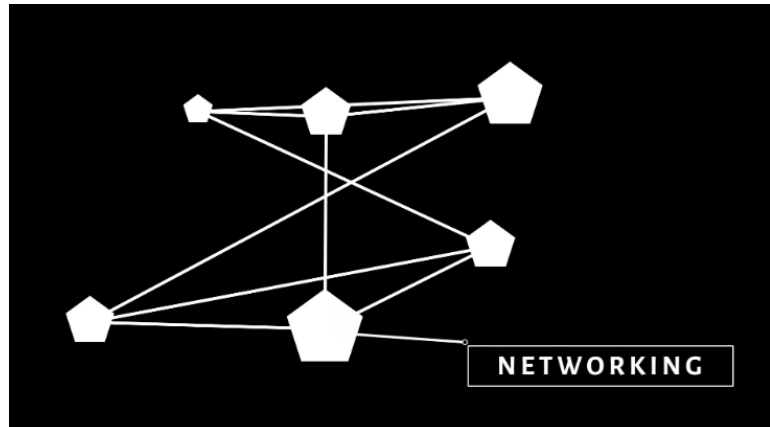
share experiences and give insights into good practice approaches from 8 European members of Entrepreneurial Student Clubs.

Networking

EPICUR Staff Quiz
Audience: EPICUR Team.

The EPICUR Staff Quiz will be a social event for the EPICUR Team (anyone that has been hired to work on EPICUR) of all eight partners. Taking the form of a pub quiz, teams made up of members from each partner will compete in a knowledge and creativity contest surrounding

not just EPICUR (hope you have that proposal memorized) but also our universities and their surrounding cities, the staffs hidden talents, and Europe in general. There will also be a couple of tasks that will demand creativity in order to be managed digitally across the EPICUR alliance.

Meet an EPICURean – Networking Carrousel
Audience: General Public, Staff & Students.

Meet an EPICURrean – "Networking Carrousel" is an innovative networking method for the community of EPICUR to meet informally and discuss the day's events, the keynotes, the European University. Equipped with a couple of short questions, participants will be randomly assigned to a breakout room with three other EPICUReans and will have 5-10min to get to know each other. The Networking Carousel will be an open invite to all EPICUReans and will take place after keynotes.

Contacts

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Registration link for the forum (Closing the 3rd December)
https://indico.scc.kit.edu/event/2252/registrations/332/

EPICUR website: https://epicur.education

Social medias
Twitter: https://twitter.com/EpicurAlliance
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/epicur-alliance
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/epicuralliance

With the support of our partners.

The Erasmus+ Programme

European Universities initiative

the Investments for the Future programme (PIA) by l'Agence nationale de la Recherche.