

## PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### DISCLAIMER

The EPICUR Mobility Program is a test run coordinated by the University of Strasbourg, France. We will evaluate the application and selection procedures as well as the residencies in order to determine their interest and ease of use for early career researchers.

All participants in the program should understand that this program is currently under development and that your feedback will help us create a more vibrant, collegial program.

Participants will be asked to complete evaluation reports at the end of their residencies to assess the interest, value, and potential of the program, in order to update it and to implement a definitive version at a later date.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications are submitted online for a collaborative project by a team of early career researchers and are pre-selected by the following hard-eligibility criteria:

- Applications must be submitted by a group of a minimum of 5 members;
- At least 2/3 of the group must identify as Early Career Researchers<sup>1</sup>;
- Up to 1/3 of the group may be early career researchers affiliated with non-EPICUR or non-university institutions, or non-university professionals;
- Applicants must come from at least 3 different EPICUR universities. Applicants are invited to take geographical balance into consideration when assembling their team;
- Applicants must declare:
  - Whether they are involved in EPICUR and / or get paid as EPICUR Project staff;
  - That they have been involved neither in the conceptualization nor the selection processes of EPICUR clusters.

### CONTENT OF THE APPLICATION

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<sup>1</sup> In the EPICUR context, the term “early career researchers” includes doctoral candidates, researchers engaged in postdoctoral research and pursuing further qualifications, as well as researchers who are on their pathway to become a full professor (e.g., leaders of young investigators groups, junior professors, lecturers, and “maitres de conference”).

The application must be written in English and should not exceed 15 pages, including all the relevant documents and elements.

- Personal Information for all applicants
- Résumé of all applicants: Every Applicant must use the [Europass Portal](#), which is becoming the standard format for CVs in European application systems, to create and download their CV. The Corresponding Author will upload them collectively to the application portal
- Project Description (Title, EPICChallenge(s) addressed, Project Description of max. 250 words, Working Language)
- Choice of the EPICUR member university serving as a host for the project
- Approbation notice from supervisor (if relevant)
- Desired start and end dates of the project (1 to 6 months)
- A short summary describing the project. This summary should be written in a non-scholarly way of writing and accessible to most readers. Up to 1,500 characters including spaces.

Appendices should be submitted as a single PDF file and give a full description of the project (up to 10,000 characters including spaces):

- research fields
- research experience and interests of all group members (biographic abstracts) showing where they intersect and complement each other (group characteristics, interdisciplinary connections of the project)
- work plan (time schedule)
- potential for innovation, originality and relevance of the project in relation to a contribution to at least one of the predefined EPICChallenges (for 2021-23: Mobility, Migration, Identity / Sustainability Research / Transition of Public Health)
- potential for transdisciplinary work, listing non-university / non-academic partners with whom they will collaborate , **including whether they would like to benefit from mentorship opportunities**
- budget plan

- envisioned Open Science Day output (workshop, conference, meeting with researchers or non-researchers, etc.)

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection committee responsible for examining applications includes 8 researchers nominated by EPICUR's partner universities, 2 early career researchers nominated by EPICUR's Early Career Researcher Board, and 1 non-university partner. The selection committee will invite selected groups for an individual interview. Once the applications have been examined, the selection committee will decide on the list of selected groups, as well as the duration of the residency that will be granted to them.

The selection committee will meet in February 2023.

Applications are selected based on relevant project characteristics:

- originality, innovative character and societal relevant of the proposed research project;
- scientific quality and adherence to the challenge-based approach;
- high degree of inter-and-transdisciplinary approaches within the proposal;
- potential for outputs (fundability, advancement of the researchers, etc.) as well as dissemination and reception by civil society.

Each criterion will be evaluated with the following qualitative assessments: "insufficient", "fair", "good", "very good", and "excellent".

## RESEARCH RESIDENCY AND HYBRID MOBILITY

EPIClusters are designed as flexible, hybrid residencies, meaning that program participants will choose whether they conduct their work through virtual means or to meet at a location of their choosing. This format is designed to allow for early career researchers originating from various universities to contribute to an EPICluster with various degrees of involvement, as some early career researchers may or may not be allowed to spend more than a certain period away from their designated research unit.

UNISTRA and AMU will be Host Universities for the 2023 EPICluster Mobility Program, meaning that both these universities will have the opportunity to welcome researchers in residence for the duration of their

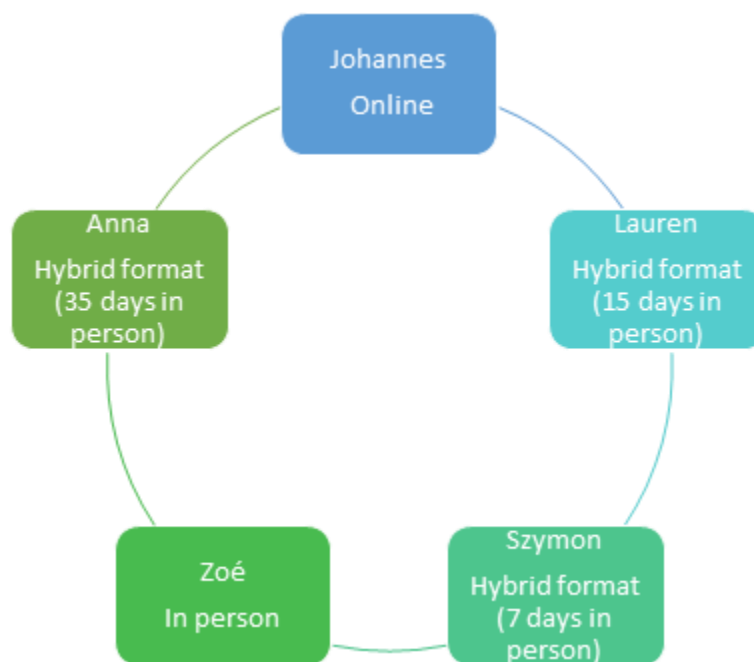
project. Groups are invited to reflect on which of these two host universities fits their research project best. Groups may complete their 1 to 6 months research residency from March 1, 2023, to November 10, 2023.

Program participants may choose to spend the entire duration of their project at the host university or to schedule several meetings spread out over a few months, with virtual collaborations taking place in between each meeting. Program participants may also elect to meet at a Research Infrastructure located at a non-host university within the alliance should it fit their research needs best.

While physical mobility remains a significant component of the EPICLuster Mobility Program, EPICUR-Research encourages early career researchers and participating experts to take the lead in reducing their carbon emissions in a way that sets a positive example to others within the research community.

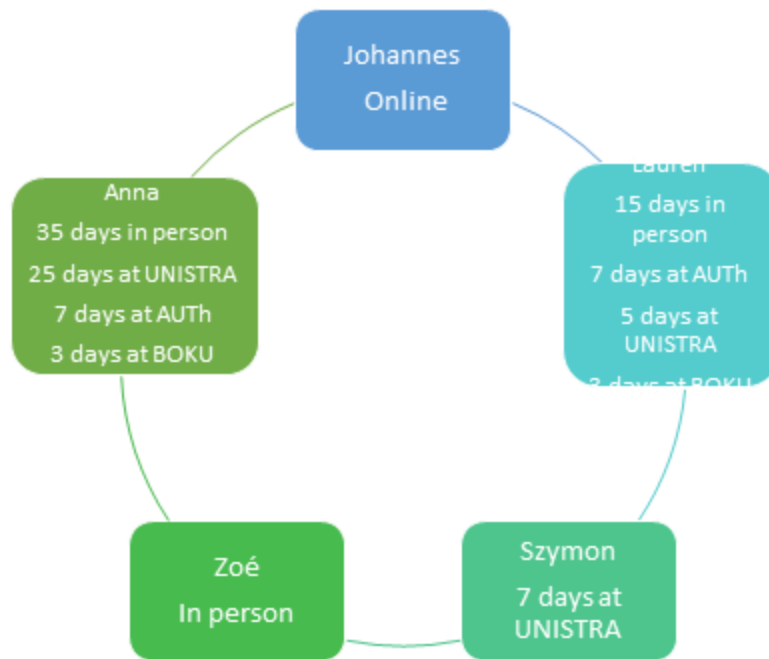
#### Example 1: Hybrid Mobility

Johannes, Lauren, Szymon, Zoe, and Anna wish to apply for a 60-day EPICLuster. Their hybrid collaboration would be as follows:



#### Example 2: Access to Research Infrastructures and Mobility

Johannes, Lauren, Szymon, Zoe, and Anna wish to choose UNISTRA as a Host University. They may access UNISTRA's research infrastructures as well as a specific research infrastructure at one or more partner universities. Lauren and Anna are interested in accessing a research infrastructure at BOKU for a duration of 3 days, and another one at AUTH for a duration of 7 days.



#### EXTERNAL PROFESSIONALS

External professionals may take part in the program at the request of the early career researchers themselves.

When actively collaborating with early career researchers on their project, external professionals may be full members of an EPICCluster group as up to a third of applicants may be affiliated with non-university organisations. When not members of group, external professionals may be offered the opportunity to mentor a group to provide support and guidance or to be invited as a guest speaker through a series of events tailored to early career researchers with insights on a specific topic (intellectual property, technology transfer, citizen science, etc.).

#### ACCESS TO RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Applicants may request access to research infrastructures from one of the EPICUR partner universities as part of their research residency. These infrastructures may be affiliated with the group's Host University or may be affiliated with a non-host university, meaning that researchers have the opportunity to access research infrastructures alliance wide.

UNISTRA's research infrastructures may be accessed through [CORTECS](#), the Scientific Core Facilities Network of the University of Strasbourg. Applicants are invited to contact [Guillaume Parodi](#), UNISTRA's

EPICUR-Research Project Officer, for more information on CORTECS and to access pricing and available services.

AMU's research infrastructures may be accessed through each faculty. Applicants are invited to contact [Dr. Agnieszka Budzynska](#).

## MENTORSHIP

Program participants may choose to receive ongoing support and guidance from mentors during their EPICCluster. Recognized as experts in their field of work, mentors will share their experience to help develop the next generation of European researchers and innovators. Mentors and mentees will be matched by the selection committee based on their area of expertise. Mentors will meet with the program participants to discuss their research progress, as well as any challenges they have encountered. For more information, please read our Mentorship Program Handbook.

## OPEN SCIENCE DAYS

EPICClusters are committed to fostering new research techniques, encouraging the use of interdisciplinary skills, and setting up an open, scientific program where various fields thrive as interrelated. To do so, host universities will facilitate and create opportunities for each group to highlight their “research in the making” rather than marketing or communication around research results. Host universities will support early career researchers in finding alternate ways of scholarly writing that fully reflect their approach, learning from scientists who experiment, and create with the actors of the scientific, entrepreneurial, and cultural industries.

Each group must participate in at least one Open Science Day. Open Science Days serve as a springboard between project participants, EPICUR members (students, teachers, early career researchers, and staff), and interested third parties (industry, schools, governments, NGOs, non-EPICUR universities, artists, etc.). The format of this event is left to the group's discretion, keeping in mind that these events should serve as a promotional tool for both the research project and EPICUR. Events could range from presenting science development through “research in the making” events, furthering collaboration with global creators and thinkers such as science-backed performances and hackathons, to exploiting the EPICCluster's progress or results through workshops, pitching, or marketing.

Applicants are invited in the application form to discuss how would they like to present their “research in the making” and what would be the most beneficial to the group to discuss with external third parties, should they be students, researchers, or even the public. The Host University will contact applicants once the residencies are granted to find the most suitable way and timeline to organize the event. The Host University is responsible for organizing the event physically at the host university or online, in accordance with the group’s ideas.