



1st ANNUAL EPICUR FORUM

9 to 11 December 2020 / ONLINE

Press release



FROM THE 9TH TO THE 11TH
OF DECEMBER

SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR EUROPE

FIRST ANNUAL
EPICUR FORUM



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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 *Virtual 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

Wednesday 9th December

Morning

- ERASMUS Feeling Challenge Kick-Off: *10 am – 11.30 am CET (1/4)*

Afternoon

- Welcome speech by Vice-President Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth of KIT 5 pm – 5.30 pm CET (Livestream)
- Keynote speech by Prof. Dr. Orestis Terzidis, KIT 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm CET (Livestream)

Evening

- Keynote by Maria Vassilakou: *"Planning the city of tomorrow - towards a major urban transition"* 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm CET (Livestream)
- Meet an EPICUREan - Networking Carrousel 7.30 pm – 8 pm CET



Thursday 10th December

Morning

- Experiential Learning & Experimental Teaching – Part I 9 am – 12 am CET (Livestream)
- ERASMUS Feeling Challenge Morning Check-IN 9 am – 11 am CET (2/4)

Afternoon

- Meet an EPICUREan. Networking for Educators & Staff 12.30 pm – 13.30 pm CET
- Experiential Learning & Experimental Teaching – Part II Virtual Fair & EPICURtalks. 2 pm – 5 pm

Evening

- Keynote on the Financing of Environmental Projects
Prof. Phoebe Koundouri, Director Climate-KIC Greece 6 pm – 7 pm CET (Livestream)
- ERASMUS Challenge “Digital Pub Quiz” (3/4)



Friday 11th December

Morning

- Start-up Virtual Tour 11 am – 12.30 pm CET (Livestream)

Afternoon

- Panel Young Entrepreneurs 2 pm – 4 pm CET (Livestream)
- ERASMUS Challenge Final Presentation 5 pm – 7 pm CET (Livestream) (4/4)

Evening

- Official Closing (Livestream)



Keynote Speakers

Welcome Speech by Prof. Dr. Thomas Hirth, Vice-President for Innovation and International Affairs at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). *Audience: General Public*

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 2012 to 2015, He was spokesman of the Fraunhofer Group for Life Sciences and Member of the Presidential Council of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Since April 2008, he in addition has been professor at the University of Stuttgart and head of the Institute of Interfacial Process Engineering and Plasma Technology IGVP of Stuttgart University. Since January 01, 2016, he has been Vice-President for Innovation and International Affairs of KIT.

Keynote Speech by Prof. Orestis Terzidis: Entrepreneurship

Audience: General Public

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. *Audience: General Public*

Maria Vassilakou will share her expertise coming from her experience as the former Deputy Mayor & Executive Councillor 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 *Audience: General Public, Student & Staff interested in Sustainable Entrepreneurship*

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.



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.



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.

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

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: Experimental Teaching

Audience: General public

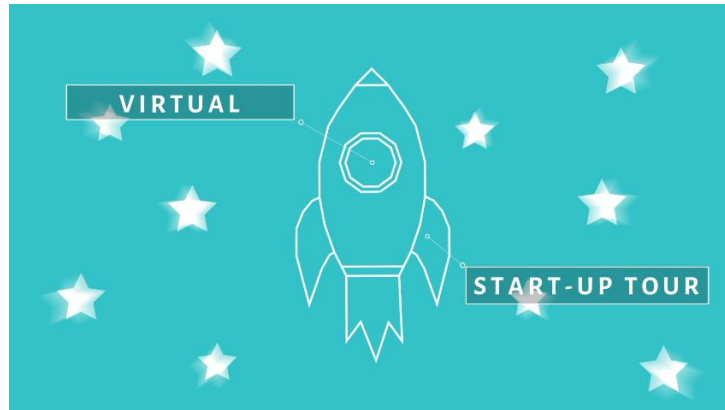
Focusing on “**Experimental Teaching**,” the second part invites everyone to a Virtual Fair, featuring EPICUR’s newest format “EPICURtalks” as well as virtual booths that give the floor to some of the most innovative and creative teaching formats within the EPICUR alliance.



Session on entrepreneurship (Friday)

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

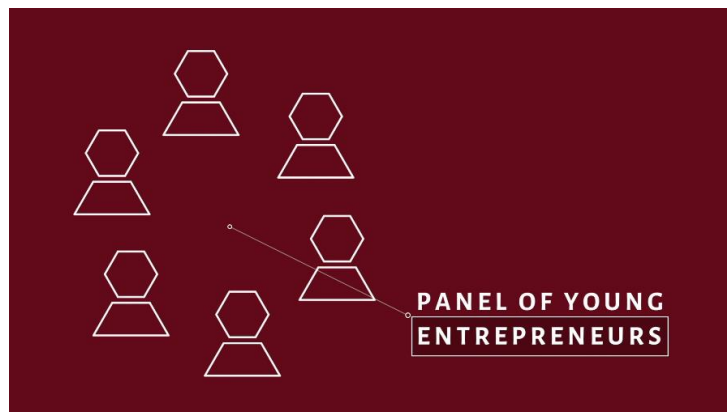
Audience: Public event. Startup teams from EPICUR Network. University Staff. Students from EPICUR Network



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 University.

Audience: Public event. Startup teams from EPICUR Network. University Staff. Students from EPICUR Network.



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.

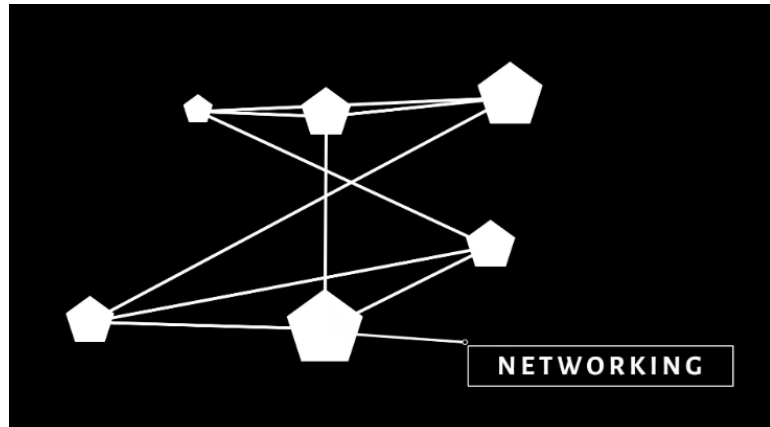
Networking

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 EPICURean – “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 Carrousel will be an open invite to all EPICUREans and will take place after keynotes.



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Registration for the forum:

<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>



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