



Follow the EPICUR Pathway to Research ¹

From EPICamps to EPIClusters

The EPICUR Idea

EPICUR, the *European Partnership for an Innovative Campus Unifying Regions*, is a first-generation European University Alliance, dedicated to shaping European Society in Transition through the development of collaborative inter- and transdisciplinary teaching and learning. With support of Horizon 2020, EPICUR establishes a complementary research and innovation agenda. This agenda is built on two main objectives, firstly to **promote challenge-based research** and secondly to **empower and support Early Career Researchers**. Creating new collaborative formats, digital infrastructures as well as proposing a new career assessment framework are only the first steps in initiating a new European research community that crosses over disciplinary borders and opens universities to their communities.

Moving From EPICamps to EPIClusters

The new collaborative formats EPICUR seeks to develop are placed along a Pathway from EPICamps to EPIClusters, building interdisciplinary research communities and projects from the ground-up. With Early Career Researchers at the heart of our efforts, we offer three major formats, each supporting different aspects of this process, which might be particularly challenging for scholars in the early stages of an academic career. While EPICamps, a virtual networking conference will serve as a mandatory foundation, early career researchers will be able to proceed on the EPICUR Pathway according to their own needs and interests. Whether young scholars wish to partake in EPICradles – extended research group stays – or not, participation in EPICamps will qualify them to apply for the EPICluster funding that will give them an opportunity to explore their research project over the course of an academic year.

EPICamps

With the help of several virtual networking conferences - the EPICamps - EPICUR seeks to foster the formation of research groups across disciplines and national borders, who address one of three societal (EPI-) challenges: sustainability, mobility/migration/identity, public health. Under the umbrella of these EPIChallenges, EPICUR will organize altogether six EPICamps throughout 2021/22, each narrowing in on different aspects of these broad themes and inviting a diverse round of researchers and societal partners to exchange ideas.

The first three EPICamps will take place in 2021.

- EPICamp I: Mobility, Migration, Multilingualism: Shaping European identities and languages in Past and Present (October 15/16, 2021)
- EPICamp II: Sustainability (November 2021)

Further EPICamps will focus on sustainability research (ecosystems, environmental justice, water, etc.) from different disciplinary perspectives and migration/mobility, as well as skill building and research careers.

Participation in EPICamps is mandatory for Early Career Researchers who wish to profit from the further funding and networking opportunity of the EPICradles and EPIClusters

Following the EPICamps, early career researchers will have an opportunity to compete for grants to grow their emerging research networks (the EPICradles) and/or transform research ideas into

¹ Please note that this leaflet is preliminary, specifics may change. This is due to EPICUR Research being a pilot to test new formats and means of collaboration and is using feedback to continually improve its offerings.

collaborative and challenge-based research projects run by ECRs (the EPIClusters). Early Career Researchers may choose to go through EPICradles in order to prepare EPICluster projects or to apply directly for EPICluster Funding.

EPICradles

EPICradles offer an opportunity for small research groups (3-4/5 Early Career Researchers from at least 2 partner nations) to spend additional time together in order to develop research projects. The EPICradle will feature two physical stays within an Institute of Advanced Studies and/or a fitting research infrastructure at one of our partner universities. During the EPICradle, *scholars* will have not just an opportunity to work and discuss together but will have access to any resources which may be relevant and useful to their prospective projects, including funding of up to 5.000 €. Participants will also receive stipends to enable their mobility and create the free space to explore and create research ideas (ca. 3.000 €). Ideally, EPICradles will lead to project proposals for EPIClusters and/or other funding schemes which EPICUR staff will support.

Applications to EPICradles will be only possible for preformed groups of ECRs which have partaken in EPICamps and hail from different partner universities. They will be evaluated on scientific merit, but more importantly, on their potential for inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration and originality. The Call for Application will open in spring 2022.

For updates on topics, the respective Calls for Participation and Call for Application, please consult regularly our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#). If you want to know more about EPICamps and EPICradles, contact **Eva Rüksamp** at epicur-research@mail.uni-freiburg.de.

EPIClusters

The EPICluster program fulfills three complementary missions: to welcome groups of up to five emerging scholars in residence for one-year stays or shorter with the opportunity to collaborate on interdisciplinary research; to foster new research methods, encourage the use of transversal skills, and set up an open, cultural, and scientific program aimed at a broad audience; and to shape future academic careers while ensuring that every participant receives continuous supervision, guidance, and safety from the host institution. The program emphasis on cooperation between academia and the rest of society addresses a number of long-term sustainable strategies on education and training, research, innovation, and service to society, formally known as the European Knowledge Square.

With their generous funding of up to 150.000 €, EPIClusters will give a small group of Early Career Researchers affiliated to EPICUR member universities the space to explore their research projects, start PhD Projects or finance a PostDoc transition. Project applications will be evaluated on their potential for inter-and-transdisciplinary collaboration and originality. The Call for Application will open in 2022.

To know more about the EPICluster program and the Call for Application, please consult regularly our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#). If you want to know more about EPIClusters, please contact **Guillaume Parodi** at parodi@unistra.fr

Shaping the EPICUR Pathway

Besides the three main EPICUR formats, the alliance and its partner institutions will make additional offers (e.g. courses, information and networking events, access to funding opportunities and much more) to support the emerging network of Early Career Researchers. The newly formed EPICUR Early Career Researcher Board, which brings together young scholars from all eight partner universities, will initiate such offers supported by the EPICUR institutions. We actively seek and encourage the engagement of researchers from all career stages to shape the EPICUR Pathway, as we believe that it is only through the mentorship and collaboration with advanced and established researchers, that the next generation of scholars will be able to enact their ideas. If you are interested in the EPICUR ECR Board or in participating in EPICUR activities, please contact **Camille Nguyen** at c.nguyen-trong@kit.edu.

