



4th October 2011

EPIC NEWS



Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for the EPIC project, an innovative European initiative helping to create 'smarter' services for cities across Europe.

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of the progress and planned activities of the project over the coming months.

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For more information about EPIC, join our Facebook group [Cloud and the City!](#)

1. What is EPIC?



EPIC - The European Platform for Intelligent Cities - is a European Commission-funded project (ICT PSP) that aims to wed state-of-the-art cloud computing technologies with fully researched and tested e-Government service applications to create the first truly scalable and flexible pan-European platform for innovative, user-driven public service delivery.

In so doing, EPIC will present public administrations with a unique opportunity to cut costs and drive innovation by providing access to a market-leading shared infrastructure that facilitates rapid prototyping and testing.

To achieve its vision, EPIC will work with Living Labs and citizens across Europe to create and test new city services that can be rapidly prototyped and shared via the Cloud platform:

- Brussels, Belgium: Relocation Service Application - helping families to relocate from another European country to Brussels,
- Issy-les-Moulineaux, France: Urban Planning Application – enabling users to visualise changes to the urban landscape
- Manchester, UK: Smart Environment Application - helping households to reduce their carbon consumption
- Tirgu Mures, Romania: Shared services validation through replicating and testing of the new services

The EPIC project kicked-off in November 2010 in Helsinki in conjunction with the



Commission's Smart Cities conference and since has made its mark as one of the leading Smart Cities projects in Europe.

Further information about EPIC's can be found on our project website [here](#).

2. Stakeholders EPIC Involvement



The first phase of the EPIC project ensured that the new Cloud delivery platform and its initial services would be developed in a manner that met the usability requirements of end users – notably public administrations and SME's. To help achieve this aim EPIC organised several stakeholder workshops across Europe to introduce the project concept and vision to a range of council administrators and decision makers in order to gather their feedback on user requirements.

During the Manchester Workshop on the 29th of March, Hildebrand demonstrated to the stakeholders the smart web service 'energyhive' that will be piloted in Manchester using the EPIC platform. Stakeholders were then engaged in discussions around the types of service requirements they would need from the EPIC platform.

In order to develop the relocation application for expats, the Brussels Team (IBBT, Immoweb and Brussels Regional IT Centre) concentrated on two types of activities during their stakeholder Workshop on the 22nd of March. Firstly, the team strived to get a clear and detailed view on expats (in Brussels and in general) followed up with a survey approach to collect user requirements to help the technical development of the application.

Presentation of the EPIC vision and the Issy 3D application kicked off the Issy Workshop that took place on the 25th of March. Issy 3D was showcased as a digital solution for managing, sharing and communicating the urban planning and development projects of the city. Stakeholders were asked to address some on the potential challenges highlighted by the EPIC team.

During all three workshops the stakeholders identified the main benefits of making their cities 'Smart', the key users of the presented applications, the main requirements for the applications front-end as well as potential limitations of the new technology. Based on the received input, the pilot Teams have started to develop the application prototypes and we look forward to testing them soon.

3. An EPIC Entry to Europe



EPIC's eFuture at the BLED Conference

In June this year the EPIC Team developed a working panel for the Smart Cities Portfolio at the prestigious 24th Bled eConference in Bled, Slovenia. Chaired by Dr. Julia Glidden of 21c Consultancy, the panel highlighted the developments and achievements of the top projects co-funded under the last wave of European Commission's ICT PSP Smart Cities call – namely Smart-IP: Smart Innovation and People presented by Prof. Pieter Ballon, Peripheria: Networked Smart Peripheral Cities for Sustainable Lifestyle represented by Alvaro Duarte de Oliveira and lastly the EPIC project represented by Dr. Glidden. The panel discussed the various merits of making cities 'smarter' while acknowledging the security concerns and the technical and procedural limitations that have to date prevented European cities from harnessing the full power of Living Labs.

EPIC selected for eChallenges 2011

EPIC has been selected as a conference paper for the prestigious eChallenges conference taking place this year in Florence, Italy. eChallenges provides an international forum to share success stories and lessons learned from applied information and communication technology related research at the European Level



(FP6 & FP7).

The EPIC paper is titled: 'Is there a need for a Cloud Platform for European Smart Cities?' and proposes an innovative solution for city administrators to provide 'intelligent' services to citizens and visitors exploiting Cloud computing and frequency identification technologies. Using the EPIC platform, cities can become 'smart' by extending their applications with a new set of technical, functional and business capabilities based on the particular requirements of each city and the needs of end users for applications. The applications deployed on EPIC will take the advantage of the platform services for scalability, sustainability and low operational cost becoming available to a pan-European (and possible worldwide) market. In addition, the EPIC Roadmap will simplify the process of extending existing applications or developing new 'smart' services for cities and leverage the involvement of enterprises and SME creating new business models and value networks.

The paper will be presented at 11:30am on Day one of the [eChallenges](#) conference.

4. EPIC at PICNIC 2011



Creating the cities of the future is not something that can be done from an ivory tower. Real life in cities is far more complex than planners and scientist can dream of in their offices. Therefore we need strong involvement of real citizens that together co-create the solutions of the future. Living Labs are the experimentation environments all over Europe that take on this task.

The European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) and Amsterdam Living Labs are organized jointly a Living Labs track at the PICNIC 2011, one the most inspirational tech expo festivals in Europe, a high-level meeting of bright and creative minds that bring together media entrepreneurs, thinkers, and creators together to share their stories with more than 1,000 delegates from all over the world.

EPIC was there!

See all presentations of state-of-the-art Smart City initiatives from the PICNIC 2011 Urban Labs, Living Networks [here](#).

5. Cities Becoming 'Smarter' in Europe



Living labs research concept helps Europe to find new ways to develop sustainable cities

Peter Ballon, manager of IBBT's iLab.o, and the international secretary of ENoLL (both organisations are partners of the EPIC project) has recently given an interview to The Smart+Connected Communities Institute explaining how the living lab research approach can help Europe to move towards sustainable cities. Ballon told the Institute - a network that provides political leaders, urban planners, developers, academic institutions, system integrators an online community where they can incubate ideas on future sustainable cities - that the living lab approach can help Europe determine whether people will actually "domesticate" a technology or service by observing how people react to various new technology and applications.

Further, Ballon stressed that living labs are proving to be the ideal way to bring citizens, government and businesses together for co-innovation. Living labs give both governments and citizens a way to explore various options to sustainable city initiatives and helps free them from limited choices provided by the big IT vendors. City officials face overwhelming options in selecting new technologies, and a living lab offers them a way to gain insights through vendor-neutral research.

The full interview can be found [here](#).

6. EPIC contributes towards the Rise of Cloud Computing in Europe



E-Government Bulletin published an article presenting results of a survey by a software company called Unit4 suggesting that the adoption of cloud computing models in the UK public and private sector is low but rising gradually amid lingering security concerns.

Susie Ruston, a project manager for EPIC from 21c Consultancy, told E-Government Bulletin that the practice of using isolated, bespoke ICT systems was now beginning to shift towards collaborative, smarter ways of working, including cloud computing.

“The current economic crisis, combined with growing citizen expectations for smarter services, is placing increasing pressure on both the public and private sector to provide better and more efficient infrastructures and services. This is the catalyst the EPIC project team believes will lead to increased cloud computing use in both the public and private sector over the coming decade.”

Stay with us to see how the EPIC project will help advance the adoption of cloud computing in Europe!

Read full article originally published in E-Government Bulletin issue 333 [here](#).

7. Coming Up



EPIC @ 3rd Innovation Summit at European Parliament

A workshop organised on October 11th, discussing the linkage between Future Internet Public Private Partnership and European digital cities, showcasing examples, debating and exploring opportunities for involving cities in FUTURE INTERNET roadmapping and service piloting.

The event is organized by IBBT, the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), CONCORD (Future Internet PPP), European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) together with Knowledge 4 Innovation.

Register [here](#).

OPEN DAYS side event: Regional Innovation through Future Internet Public Private Partnership

Europe needs strong measures to boost its economic growth through productivity and innovation for job creation in the coming years. It is widely recognized that the autonomous activities of single organizations cannot produce those radical, cross-disciplinary and architectural innovations that sufficiently address the need for public sector transformation in Europe.

The use of advanced technologies and the promotion of innovation has become a cornerstone of European policy making. Next to an obvious R&D focus, EU innovation policy also incorporates a deployment and piloting perspective. This is embodied in the the Future Internet PPP (FI-PPP). This non-technical workshop presents and debates the value of the FI-PPP for regional innovation, showcasing examples and exploring opportunities for involvement of new regions and cities.

Register [here](#).

Future Internet Week in Poznan, Poland

“Future Internet Event” (24th - 26th October) will offer three main events: Future Internet Conference, Future Internet Assembly, Future Internet Forum. During these conferences the vision of the future Europe will be linked with the tasks to be put before IT infrastructure to implement such strategies as: Innovation Europe or Digital Europe.



See more [here](#).

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