



**EPiCUR**  
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR AN INNOVATIVE CAMPUS UNIFYING REGIONS

# Let's Become a European University

Webinar by the EPICUR Student Board

15 July 2020, 14:00 (CEST)

## Welcome!

Feel free to add your home institution to your name:

*University of Strasbourg (Unistra), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT),  
University of Haute-Alsace (UHA), University of Amsterdam (UvA), Adam-  
Mickiewicz-University (AMU), University of Life Sciences and Natural  
Resources Vienna (BOKU), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (ALU-FR),  
Aristotle University Thessaloniki (ATh)*

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



# Welcome by the Student Board

Mathias Hempfling  
*EPICUR Student Board*

# Overview of the Webinar

*Start: 14:00*

1. Welcome by the Student Board
2. Welcome addresses
3. Introduction to EPICUR
4. A European University in practice: Input from EPICUR staff
5. Co-Creating EPICUR (1): Break-out sessions
6. Outlook: The EPICUR Student Forum
7. Co-Creating EPICUR (2): Sharing back
8. Reflections and discussion
9. Conclusion

*End: 16:30*



# Breakout-Sessions

## Options:

1. What is university about?
2. Mobility
3. Programme design

- *Indicate your preference or you'll be randomly assigned*
- *By chat to 'tech support' during the addresses*



# Getting to Know You

# Welcome Address by the President

Michel Deneken

*President of EPICUR, University of Strasbourg*

# The European Universities Initiative

Oana Dumitrescu

*Higher Education Unit, DG EAC, European Commission*



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

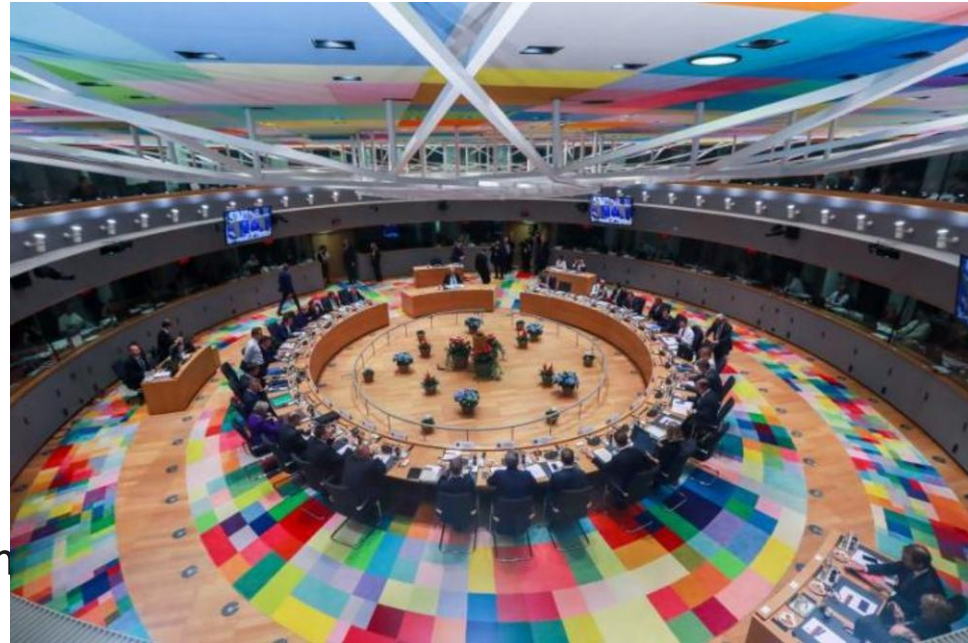
# The European Universities Initiative

Oana Dumitrescu,  
DG EAC, Higher Education  
European Commission



# The context

- December 2017 European Council Conclusions
- "Education and culture are key to building inclusive and cohesive societies, and to sustaining our competitiveness."
- Stepping up mobility and exchanges, including through a substantially strengthened, inclusive and extended Erasmus+ programme
- Encouraging the emergence by 2024 of some twenty 'European Universities'





## Key Elements of European Universities by 2025

- Deep level of inter university cooperation
- Joint long-term strategy
- Made by and for students, academics, researchers and staff
- Involving all types of higher education institutions with broad geographical scope
- Structural, Systemic and Sustainable impact



# The two pilot calls

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES**  
Erasmus+

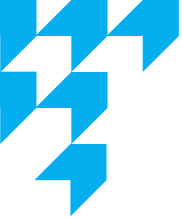
**EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITIES**  
*A key pillar of  
the European  
Education Area*

**41  
ALLIANCES**

**More than 280  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

Up to **€5 million** from Erasmus+  
Up to **€2 million** from Horizon 2020  
per alliance

**26  
MEMBER STATES + Iceland, Norway,  
Serbia and Turkey + United Kingdom**

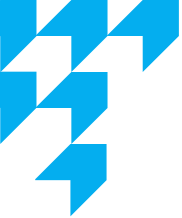


# Unleashing the potential of European Universities

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A **first joint** webinar between European Universities, the Ad-hoc expert group and **students** with more than 300 participants





## KEY MESSAGES FROM STUDENTS

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Good progress of student involvement:

- Students are more aware and informed on the European Universities Initiative
- Disparity of the progress



# KEY MESSAGES FROM STUDENTS

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Challenges persist:

- Communication flow to students from university alliances needs to improve
- Students should be involved more on the content side
- A more direct link between the Commission and the students could help



Thank you for your attention!



European  
Commission



# Introduction to EPICUR

Phillip Stöcks  
*EPICUR Student Board*



# EPICUR – Partner Institutions

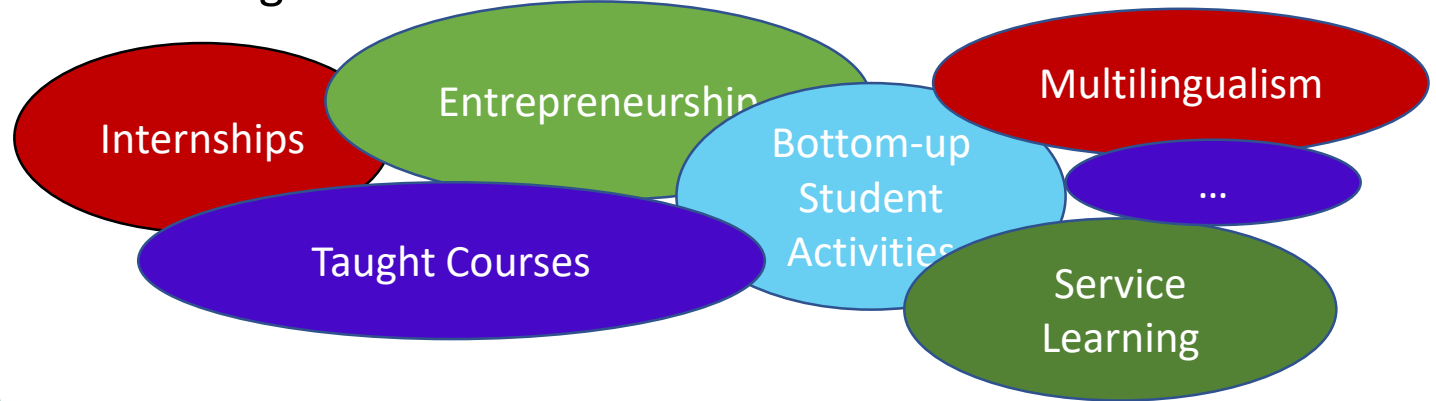
- University of Strasbourg, FR (lead)
- Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań, PL
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, AT
- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, DE
- University of Upper Alsace, Mulhouse + Colmar, FR
- University of Freiburg, DE
- University of Amsterdam, NL



# Activities within EPICUR

## Multiple working fields

- Good practice from Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) programs across the partners
  - Implementing those for different disciplines
  - Strengthen interdisciplinarity
- Potential study tracks to topics, e.g. sustainability, interculturality
- Future topics: Artificial Intelligence and Public Health



# The EPICUR approach

## Flexible and guided mobility

- Not term-based like ERASMUS+
- Based in tracks and courses
- Possibility to attend follow-up courses at partner institutions later

## Easy recognition

- Will be ensured throughout the network
- Certificates and badges are discuss

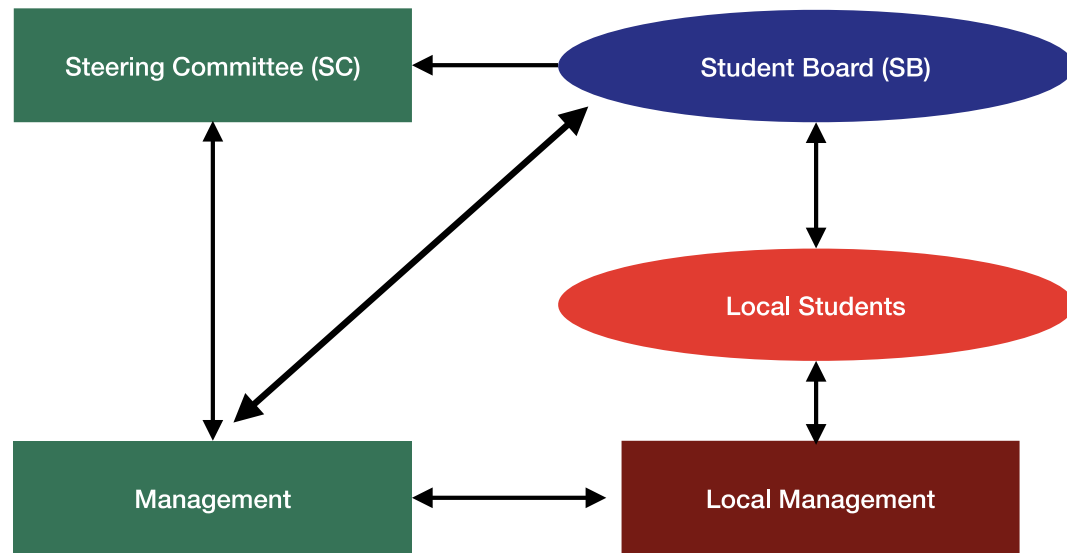
**=> All of this remains to be discussed with you in the break-out-session**



# Student Involvement in EPICUR

## The EPICUR Student Board

- *Students from all eight partner institutions*
- Meeting every four weeks
- Involvement on operational and on steering level
- Get in touch:  
[students@epicur.education](mailto:students@epicur.education)



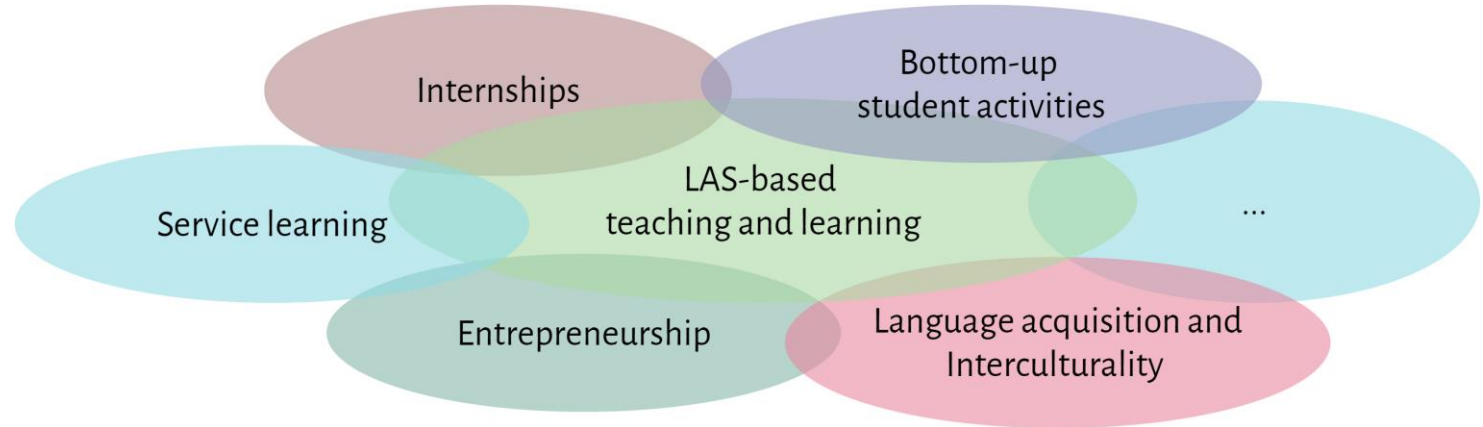
# A European University in Practice

Paul Sterzel, Jie Han, Hoai Truong, Tiffany Boersma  
*EPICUR Project Staff*

# A European University in Practice (1): EPICUR Track Design

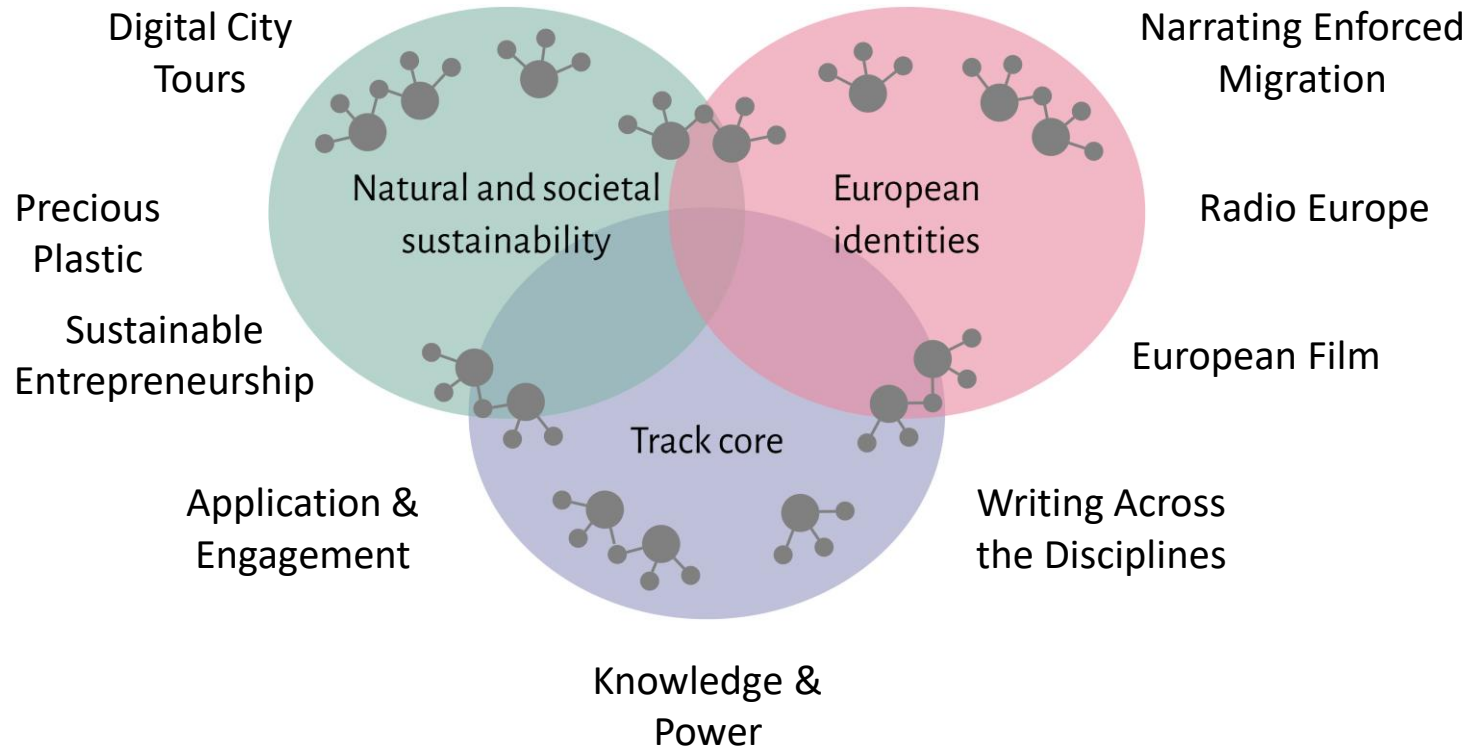
Paul Sterzel  
*University College Freiburg (UCF)*

# Teaching & Learning



- Collaborative teaching & learning (e.g. seminars, summer schools, excursions...), joint training of instructors, bottom-up student activities
- Curricular (ECTS-based) and extra- / non-curricular formats (badges)
- Bi- and multilateral + digital and blended and F2F collaborations across partners and WPs and between instructors and students
- Based in 2 Study Tracks + Track Core → “Track design in collaboration with students”

# Study Tracks and Track Core





# Curriculum concept

## Requirements for Track completion

- Min. 30 or 24 ECTS credit points and 6 badges (recognition of non-accredited learning)
- Min. 18 ECTS credit points in one of the EPICUR Study Tracks
- Min. 6 ECTS credit points in the Track Core
- Remaining requirements from the Track or the Core (6 ECTS credit points) or via 6 badges
- Min. of 12 ECTS credit points must be gained outside the students' home university

## **Maxima** (Freiburg B.A. LAS student, Major Governance) – a possible EPICUR track student

- French courses in Freiburg, integrated in the LAS program and in collaboration with WP2
- EPICUR / WP3 digital course on Environmental Governance hosted at AUTH
- 2 courses at Sciences Po Strasbourg via EPICUR
- WP5-organized internship at the European Parliament
- WP3 course on EU Identity Politics

# Stay tuned!

- WP3 follow-up
  - Survey on teaching & learning ideas for EPICUR
  - Feedback and comments on the WP3 Track and Course Concept
  - September 2020 workshop on Track design in collaboration with students
- Online
  - [epicur.education](https://epicur.education)
  - <http://www.ucf.uni-freiburg.de/teaching-projects/epicur>
  - [twitter.com/EpicurAlliance](https://twitter.com/EpicurAlliance)
  - [linkedin.com/company/epicur-alliance](https://linkedin.com/company/epicur-alliance)



# A European University in Practice (2): EPICUR Research Internships

Jie Han

*Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)*

# Introduction

- Within EPICUR a **programme for research internships** on the **Bachelor** and **Master level** will be created
- Students will be enabled to gain **work-based experience** in three areas:
  - ❖ **Research institutes** (internal and external to the universities)
  - ❖ **Private enterprises** (start-ups, major companies, etc.)
  - ❖ **Civil society organisations**
- Research internships last approximately from **two to six months**
- We aim at designing a programme, which enables students to **visit a region of the eight EPICUR partner universities** for an internship (physical mobility).



# Objectives

The **programme for research internships** within EPICUR aims at:

- Contributing to the **employability** of the graduates through hands-on experience
- **Deepening their knowledge** through applying the theoretical background from their studies in a concrete working environment
- Enhancing their **intercultural competences** and their **proficiency in a foreign language** through a stay abroad
- **Connecting the regions** of the eight EPICUR partner universities through physical mobility of the students



# Framework of the programme

We aim at developing a programme which:

- Provides **assistance in finding a suitable placement**, e.g. in the European institutions based in Strasbourg
- Comprises **guidance** on, how to apply for a **scholarship**
- Creates the **framework for voluntary as well as credit-bearing internships** (with the approval from the home university)

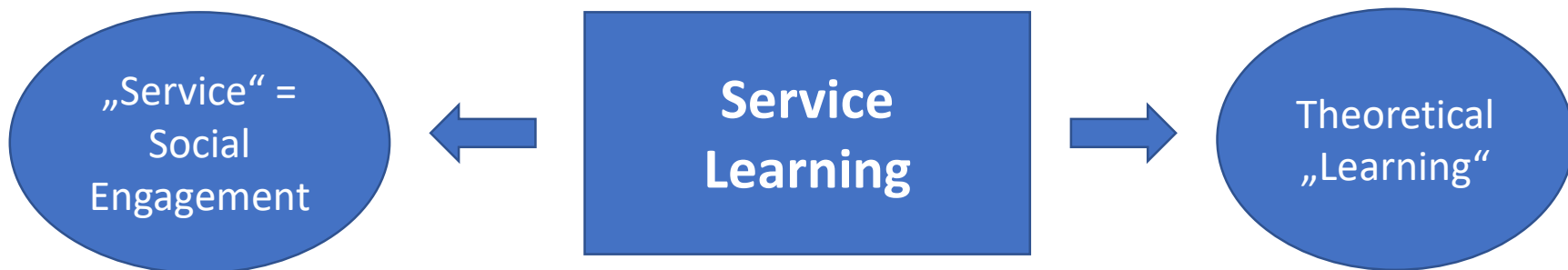


# A European University in Practice (3): EPICUR Service Learning

Hoai Truong

*Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)*

# What is Service Learning?





# Service Learning at universities

A teaching-learning format consisting of three components:

- 1.) Academic learning
- 2.) Social engagement
- 3.) Reflection

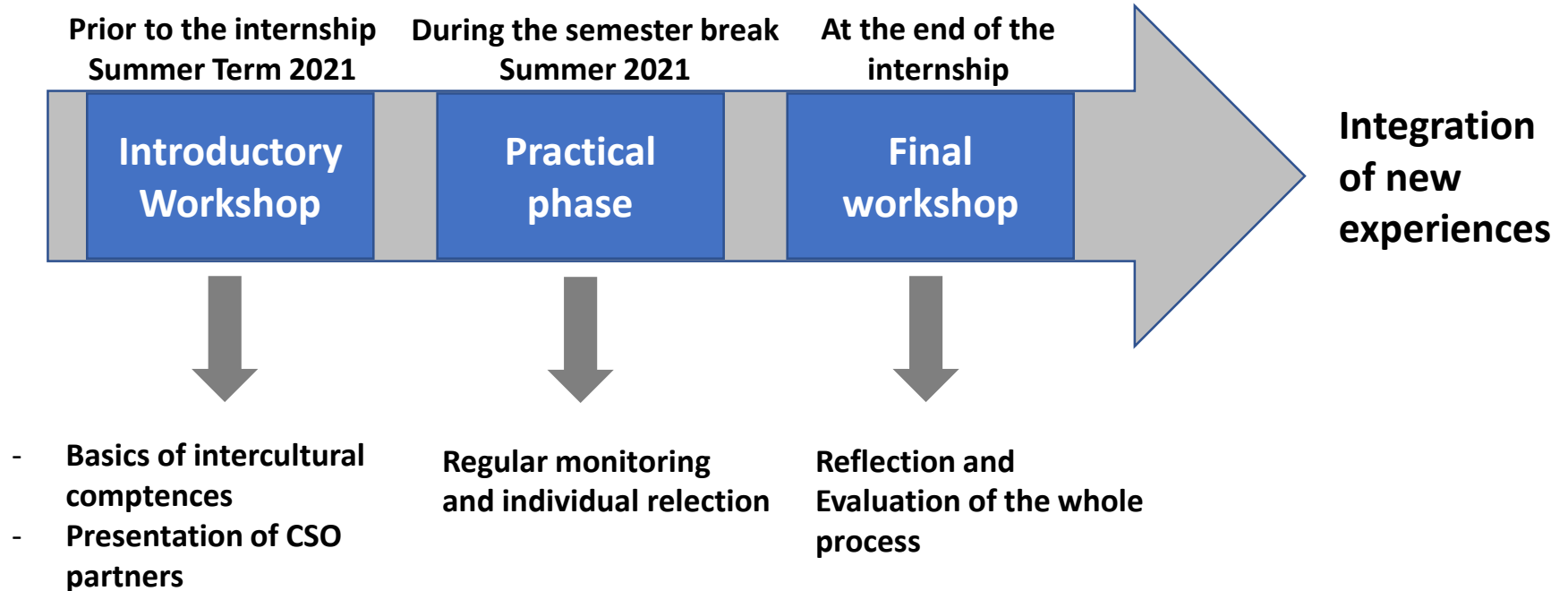


**Reflection is understood as the link between practical experience (“service”) and "learning" as the understanding and internalisation of what has been learned. Only through reflection, i.e. the thoughtful processing of one's own experience of action, does the process of action become an educational experience (Sliwka 2009:85).**

*Anne Sliwka: Reflexion: das Bindeglied zwischen Service und Lernen, in: Karsten Altenschmidt, Jörg Miller, Wolfgang Stark (Hrsg.): Raus aus dem Elfenbeinturm? Entwicklungen in Service Learning und bürgerschaftlichem Engagement an deutschen Hochschulen. Weinheim: Beltz 2009.)*



# Intercultural Service Learning Pilot – Idea:



# Intercultural Service Learning – Main learning aims for students

Fostering skills, awareness, knowledge and commitment:

- Development of personal competencies, social and professional skills
- Strengthening of metacognitive skills through reflexive thinking (Sliwa 2009)
- General political knowledge and awareness for effective citizenship in a democratic system

*Robertson-von Trotha/Scholl 2020, Sliwka 2009*

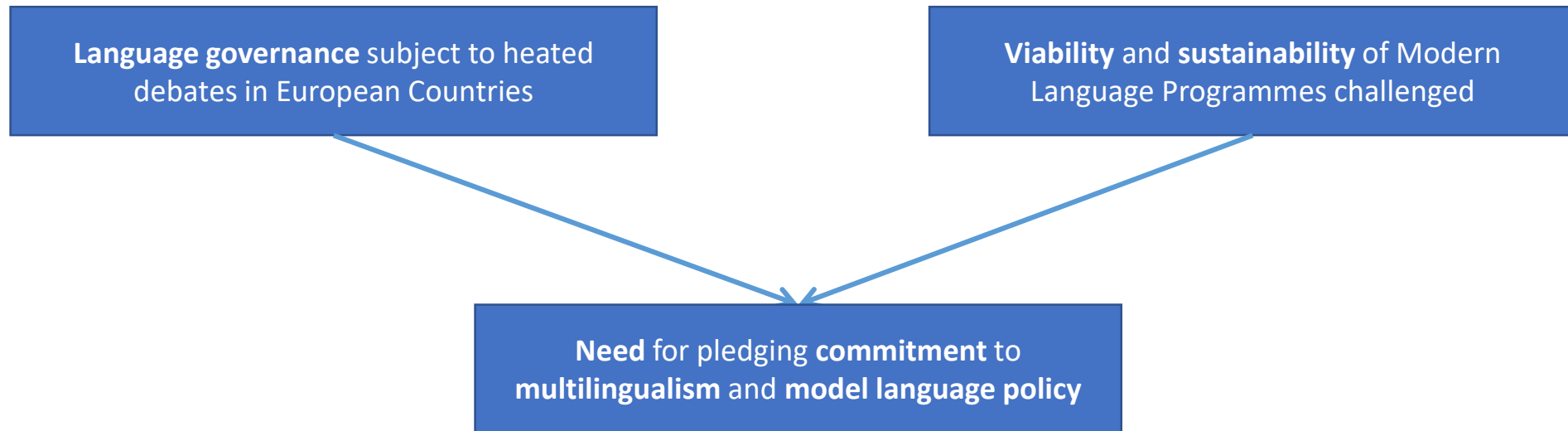


# A European University in Practice (4): EPICUR Multilingualism

Tiffany Boersma  
*University of Amsterdam (UvA)*

# Background

Multilingualism, language governance and the sustainability of language (study) programmes are all subjected to heated debates



# Focus & Moonshots Multilingualism EPICUR

- 1) multilingualism and study programmes focusing on European language education
- 2) setting up a EPICUR European model language policy with a focus on diversity and inclusiveness

- Focus

- The role language has to play in a Europe of the future, while taking into account linguistic diversity and accessibility to HEI for all Europeans – Consolidating linguistic diversity in Europe

- Ultimate Goal

- EPICUR as **preferred supplier** on **multilingualism** in higher education helping to fulfill the EC ambitions that future generations of Europeans will speak at least two languages in addition to their native language
- **Model Language Policy** for European HEIs ensuring inclusive accessibility to university education removing language barriers

- Middle long term goal

- Creating a **joint vision** and **approach** concerning **multilingualism** and **language training** in an academic context for EPICUR



# Key activities

- 1) EPICUR European model language policy
- 2) Consolidating multilingualism via language teaching and offers

## EPICUR European Model Language Policy

EPICUR Statement Multilingualism

Letter of Intent

EPICUR European Model Language Policy

- addenda on guidelines for implementation at institutional level and across European Universities alliances

What, from a student perspective, do we need to take into account when developing the model language policy?

## Language programmes and offerings

Mapping European Language offerings partner universities

Mobility strategy European Language Programmes

Incentives for students learning European Languages and raising awareness

Why would you choose to study European languages (as part of your study programme)?



# Co-Creating EPICUR (1): Break-Out Sessions

*EPICUR Student Board*

# Outlook: The EPICUR Student Forum

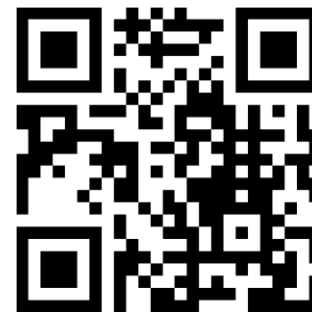
Daniel Fouchard

*EPICUR Coordination Team*

# Co-Creating EPICUR (2): Sharing Back

*EPICUR Student Board*

Please start posting your questions for the Q&A:  
**Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter 92 17 1.**  
You can also vote for questions!



# Short Reflection on Break-Out Session

Paul Sterzel, Wiebke Gröschler, Tiffany Boersma  
*EPICUR Project Staff*

Please start posting your questions for the Q&A:  
**Go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter 92 17 1.**  
You can also vote for questions!



# Q&A and Discussion

*All Guests*

Please vote for questions for the Q&A:  
**Go to [menti.com](https://menti.com) and enter 92 17 1.**



# Conclusion

Phillip Stöcks and Mathias Hempfling

*EPICUR Student Board*

# How to get informed / in touch

- new EPICUR website [epicur.education](https://epicur.education)
- Twitter: [EpicurAlliance](https://twitter.com/EpicurAlliance),
- Linked.in: [EPICUR Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/EPICUR-Alliance)
- Email: [contact@epicur.education](mailto:contact@epicur.education)
- Student Board: [students@epicur.education](mailto:students@epicur.education)
- Check out EPICUR course offerings for next semester on the website!  
(soon)



# Thank You!

We look forward to co-creating one of the first  
European Universities with you!