



European Project Leaders' Network Society
(EPL)
ACTIVITY REPORT 2015-2016
Lisbon

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EPL Activity Report 2015 & 2016

FOREWORD MESSAGE

I am very pleased to present EPL's Annual Activity Report (AAR) for 2015–16.

The intent of this report is to enable universities, research centers, business, the community and government organisations to understand EPL activities and to invite them all to engage in this project.

The year ahead will be particularly hard, taking into account the world's geopolitical climate. Therefore our mission and objectives are now more relevant than ever.

I would like to remember all that in EPL we believe in Education as an effective solution to inspire generations for paradigm shifting for a better world. Academic and industrial engagement are the main streams to achieve our goal. Sharing knowledge and the European cooperation experience (of more than two decades) could strengthen relations, tackle cultural barriers and facilitate understanding of each other.

We are trying to make a difference, by benefiting from the synergetic cooperation of international projects engaging the Academia, Non-profit Organisations and Industries (Large & SMEs).

I wish to acknowledge with sincerest gratitude, the support of EPL members and managing team who's sincere and untiring efforts have made it possible for EPL to exist and achieve significant results in our first year of activity..

We have started. The challenge is in front of us.

Prof. Dr. Pedro Alexandre da Costa Sousa
President of EPL

AT A GLANCE

WHO WE ARE

European Project Leaders' Network Society (EPL) is a network of entities who are leading European RTD Projects. Our objective is to extend collaboration beyond the European scope into the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

WHAT WE DO

"The European Project Leaders Network Society" as a non profit group aims to support global sustainable development by creating a bridge between academic and industrial entities from all around the world. We believe in Education as an effective solution to inspire generations for a paradigm shifting for a better world. Academic and industrial engagement are the main streams to achieve our goal. Sharing European knowledge and experience as a result of more than two decades of cooperation could strengthen relations, tackle cultural barriers and facilitate understanding of each other. We are trying to make a difference in the world, by benefiting from the synergetic cooperation of international project leaders from the Academia, Non-profit Organisations and Industries (Large & SMEs).

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are policy decision-makers, researchers, research institutes, universities, and industrial and service companies.

WHERE WE ARE

While our main office is located in Lisbon, Portugal, we have two new offices in opened in 2016 in Italy and Iran.

Main office:

Edifício Madan Parque
Rua dos Inventores, Quinta da Torre
2825 - 182 Caparica. Portugal
Tel.: +351 21 043 86 86

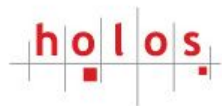
Italian office:

Via Leonardo Bistolfi 49 20134 Milano.
Italy.
Tel (+39) 2 2171 1809

Iranian office:

Unit Four, Second floor, khalij Fars
Commercial center, Derakhti Ave,
Dadmand blvd.
Shahrak-e-Gharb. Tehran. Iran.

Institutional founding members



Individual founding members

Claudio Cenedese, Italy | João Paulo Branquinho Pimentão, Portugal | Pedro Alexandre da Costa Sousa, Portugal | Javad Jafarali Jassbi, Portugal |
Helder José dos Santos Silva, Portugal | Ernestina Menasalvas Ruiz, Spain | José António Barata de Oliveira, Portugal | Alessandro Sonogo, Italy

Other European effective members



Members throughout the world

GERMANY

ITALY

PORTUGAL

ROMENIA

SPAIN

SWITZERLAND



GOVERNANCE

EPL is a non-profit association. The EPL governance structure is made up of the following bodies:

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all the members of EPL and meets at least once a year. The General Assembly is the ultimate authority of the international association.

The Executive Board

EPL is managed by the Executive Board, which implements the decisions of the General Assembly. The Executive Board is competent for all decisions relating to EPL administration and finances, and decisions which are not the exclusive competence of the General Assembly. The Executive Board is composed of the EPL President, a Vice-President, the Treasurer and two Board members.

The Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee is a collection of individuals who bring unique knowledge and skills which complement the knowledge and skills of the Board members in order to more effectively govern the organization. The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Board.

The Treasury Audit Board

This board will monitor the financial well being of the Association. It will analyse and approve the accounting results of every fiscal year.

EPL specific committees and task forces

The EPL committees and task forces may be created by the Executive Board to help pursue EPL objectives.

The President

The President is elected by the General Assembly.

GOVERNANCE

EPL is a non-profit association. The EPL governance structure is made up of the following bodies:

The General Assembly

President: Hans-Rudolf Helfer

Secretary: João Paulo Pimentão

The Executive Board

President: Pedro Alexandre Sousa

Secretary: Claudio Cenedese

Treasurer: José Barata de Oliveira

Ernestina Menesalvas Ruiz

Javad Jassbi

The Treasury Audit Board

President: Sebastian Scholz

Secretary: Paolo Moiraghi

Oliviu Matei

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

September 2015

Participation in RTEX 2015 (Dubai)

Participation in Rtex - Robotic Technology Exhibition 2015 the only dedicated robotic & automation technology exhibition of its kind in the MENA region (Middle East & North Africa) RTEX provides an exhibition platform for solution provider and solution seekers. EPL had a presence in the exhibition area, an extensive seminar program and developed networking opportunities.

RTEX

ROBOT
TECHNOLOGY
EXHIBITION

March 2016

Website creation - www.eplnet.org

Trip to Iran

We were in Teheran from 23 to 27 January. As international guests of the 2nd Iranian Conference on Smart Cities. We were invited for 3 Keynote speeches.

January 2016

Formal Kick-off Meeting

On the 28th of January, took place the EPL Kick Off Meeting, in order to achieve and approve the bylaws, the internal rules and the election of the corporate bodies members. The planning of activities for 2016/2016 was also discussed and approved.

April 2016

EPL presentation to the European Commission DG Research and Innovation.

EPL presentation and description of Association objectives and future activities to the European Commission DG Research and Innovation Unit C.3 European Neighbourhood, Africa and Gulf.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

August 2016

First conference in Industry4.0

Successful completion of Conference in Iran with Middle East and European participants in partnership with the Institute of Trade Studies and Research (ITSR) and the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade of Islamic Republic of Iran. Conference dealt with Industry 4.0: **Fourth Industrial Revolution**.

The Conference was able to meet its specific objectives and set up the conditions for a new Conference in February 2017.

Most participants had the opportunity to interact with regional colleagues in a way which was not common for them and which they enjoyed enormously. Comments from the evaluation indicated that participants felt very productive.

Further information regarding Conference is available in the Short Conference Report.



Post conference meetings:

Minister of Industry to present Industry 4.0 and discuss first potential areas of co-operation (e.g. electrical vehicles)

Two vice-ministers of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture, to discuss future areas of co-operation: hi-tech solutions for agriculture (Agriculture 4.0); post-harvesting technologies (food processing techniques); crop production in greenhouses

September 2016

Opening of the Italian office:

Via Leonardo Bistolfi 49 20134 Milano. Italy.
Tel (+39) 2 2171 1809



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

October 2016

Launch of a co-operation

Among EPL's Italian Partner Microglass, an Iranian Company (KIF) and the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture, in the areas of "Industrial equipment for post-harvesting processing".

EPL full Legal formalization

It ended the formalization of the Association, thus becoming a private non-profit association.



November 2016

EPL registration in the European Commission database

Registration of EPL in the EC database enabling participation in EC funded projects.

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Participant Portal

December 2016

Opening of the Iranian office:

Unit Four, Second floor, khalij Fars Commercial center, Derakhti Ave, Dadmand blvd. Shahrak-e-Gharb. Tehran. Iran.



Ministry of Agriculture of Iran

Second meeting with the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture to discuss priorities and collect requirements

WHAT'S NEXT ?

WHAT'S NEXT

ON GOING

Among others, we have the following undergoing subjects:

February 2017

Second Industry 4.0 Conference

To introduce future paradigma of business
27th-28th of February, Tehran

28th of February, Tehran

EU Research and Innovation Programme -
Horizon 2020.

Opportunities for the Iranian academia and
industry



17th & 18th of February, Dubai

Drones for Good

August 2017

Third conference in:

Industry 4.0
Agriculture 4.0

November 2017

UAE Innovation Week

One of the largest innovation initiatives in the world and a consolidated effort by government, the private sector and individuals to help create a widespread culture of innovation in the UAE and strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation.

MoU negotiations:

- Karafarin Fund
- EDP Innovation

Task force

- Started the first task force on Agriculture led by Claudio Cenedese

Focus

- Open an office in Dubai
- Attract new members from Center/North of Europe

الإمارات تبتكر



UAE INNOVATES

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Activity Report 2016 & 2017 is a collective effort which involved EPL staff, members and external suppliers.

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