



## **An upgrade for the operating system of our society**

September 2019

Welcome to the 21st century.

Artificial intelligence beats us in poker, driving is increasingly autonomous, and algorithms do our shopping, yet we try to meet the great social challenges with last-century means.

### Time for an upgrade

Answering the fundamental questions of our time is currently in the hands of a few, while the abilities and ideas of the many are largely ignored. However, if we create diverse spaces for effective social participation — physical as well as digital — everyone can make a positive contribution to solving important questions of the future, especially via collaborative, creative and constructive exchange with others.

### Time for better decision processes

Results that are achieved by majority rule or even hierarchically in competition among rigid opinions neglect the perspectives and proposals of those who do not get their chance. The need to find a holistic solution takes a back seat. Collecting diverse ideas from different perspectives and integrating them into a common solution is the better approach for answering complex questions. In addition, the satisfaction of those involved also increases noticeably, and with it the acceptance and sustainability of the results. The necessary processes and methods are available and have been tested with great success. All that is missing so far is a suitable overall social framework.

### Time for social networks to be socially responsible

Digital and physical public spaces are currently worlds apart. Neither area benefits from the strengths of the other; no meaningful interaction occurs. Well-designed online participation platforms offer a wide reach as well as technical possibilities to overcome barriers and to bundle diverse input in a meaningful way. However, these platforms need to be supplemented by physical spaces with interpersonal exchange and cooperative co-design in order to overcome divisions in society and allow people to increasingly approach one another.

Time for more humaneness

We live in a decisive phase of history. Will we remain passive consumers of societal developments or will we become active co-designers? Can we learn to take responsibility together and make co-creative decisions? Will we be able to put people at the center of our aspirations and develop both digitalization and globalization in the sense of global cooperation?

Time for EPICS.eu

This is no mere utopia: a social participation network of European coinage that places the needs of the people in the foreground and lets us all become co-creators of our common future. The technical possibilities already exist. The financial expenditures would remain manageable in comparison to the benefits. The ability of people with the appropriate motivation to jointly achieve even great goals has been proven. And the energies that emerge in social media and in movements such as Fridays for Future show that people's desire for effective participation is continuously growing.

Together we can develop and implement an upgrade of our society's operating system. Together we can implement a positive new vision of cooperation. Welcome to [EPICS.eu](http://EPICS.eu).

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