



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# **D2 Unleashing and enhancing local capacity through university and local government partnerships: International applicability of the EPIC, GCSO and Mistra Urban Futures Models**

## **Workshop**

**Date:** Friday, 27 April 2018

**Time:** 11:00-12:30

**Rooms:** S34-35

**Language:** English

**Contact:** Anthony Socci

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**Organized by:** EPIC-N Partners and GCSO

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) systematically matches city and local government needs with the innovation of students and academics to address a broad spectrum of sustainability related issues, with lasting and sustainable impacts for all involved. Colleges and universities paired with local governments can be a powerful force in making cities more sustainable and more resilient, connecting students and faculty to real-world projects that address the pressing needs of local municipalities who often have little or no additional capacity to adequately address the complex challenges before them.

Based on nearly a decade of effective and productive university/local government collaborations in various parts of the U.S., in 2017 the EPIC partners embarked on an effort to introduce the EPIC model to local governments and universities internationally. Although EPIC-N is a widely-recognized leader in helping cities become more resilient, there are other models for college/university-city partnerships that assist local governments in tackling their sustainability problems, including the Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes (GCSO) and Mistra Urban Futures.

The objectives of this workshop are to:

1. Describe the origin, make-up, attributes and differences among EPIC-N and similar partnerships;
2. Explain how these models enhance and/or unleash untapped local capacity to tackle local issues;
3. Present examples of how EPIC-style and related partnerships are presently being used to enhance local government capacity to address real issues. The examples will be mainly drawn from new and on-going partnerships in Lusaka, Zambia, Durban, South Africa and Nairobi, Kenya; Apache Junction, Arizona (USA); Karlsruhe, Germany; Tempe, Arizona; Mexico City, Mexico and Gothenburg, Sweden.
4. Foster a conversation among the presenters and the audience.



## OUTCOMES

Participants will leave the workshop session with:

- A better understanding of how EPIC-style partnerships work to enhance local government capacity to tackle issues of resilience, sustainability, adaptation and development.
- How EPIC and similar college/university-city partnerships provide students with a) real life experiences working with local governments and communities and b) skills they can apply upon graduation to help improve community well-being.
- Concrete examples of the types of collaborations possible, along with outcomes, drawn from various parts of the world.
- A sense of the various models' applicability outside of the U.S.
- Knowledge on how to participate in an upcoming EPIC training.

## METHODOLOGY

- The Facilitators will present a brief overview of the workshop and its objectives, and introduce the workshop participants. **(10 minutes)**
- Examples of implementations of the EPIC, GCSO and Mistra Urban Futures models and other models, along with outcomes, in various parts of the U.S. will include Durban South Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, Lusaka, Zambia, Kisumu City, Kenya, Cape Town, South Africa and Tempe, USA. **(60 minutes)**
- Open discussion among the audience and panelists, followed by concluding remarks **(50 minutes)**

## CONTRIBUTORS

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| Facilitators | <i>Anthony Socci, Senior Lead on International Resilience Climate Policy, US Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., USA</i><br><i>Rob Melnick, Executive Director, Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA</i> |
| Speaker      | <i>Jessica Barlow, Vice President, EPIC Network; Director of the SAGE Project, San Diego State University, San Diego, USA</i>   |
| Speaker      | <i>David Simon, Director, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden</i>   |
| Speaker      | <i>Gilbert Siame, Coordinator, EPIC Africa; Researcher, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia (video intervention)</i>   |
| Speaker      | <i>Sean O'Donoghue, Co-Coordinator, EPIC Africa; Senior Manager, Climate Protection Branch, Durban, South Africa (video Intervention)</i>   |
| Speaker      | <i>Edna Odhiambo, Tutorial Fellow, School of Law, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya (video intervention)</i>  |

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### **Further recommended reading:**

EPIC-N model: <http://www.epicn.org/>

Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes: <https://sustainabilityoutcomes.org/>

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