



In August this year the EPIcenter summer school will take place in Leiden, The Netherlands. EPIcenter's overall goal is to provide graduates, PhD students and young professionals the opportunity to develop citizen-centric solutions that enable seniors to live a healthy, active and enjoyable life. For this purpose, organizing partners of the EPIcenter summer school seek inspiring challenges that you encounter in your daily practice with an ageing population. The participants work jointly with seniors on your challenges. The EPIcenter's participants uniquely go through the entire cycle of innovation methods (co-creation, design thinking, rapid prototyping, business modelling) to develop their and your innovations.

Middle-aged to older people are threatened by various chronic diseases. An active lifestyle is one of the most potent ways of preventing, treating, and coping with these age-related diseases. Experience shows, however, that engaging in an active lifestyle and maintaining this lifestyle is not easy at later age. For this summer school we seek challenges that are concerned with these issues. With your challenge, EPIcenter can generate actionable results, while inviting participants to use state of the art innovation methods for future health and vitality endeavors.

Program

EPIcenter is a two-week program (August 20th to 31st) that covers all phases of a real-world innovation trajectory, in which participants will have acquired the necessary skills- and knowledge-set to start entrepreneurial activities. In week one, the participants concentrate on the challenge and use design thinking methods to develop solutions. On the weekend a hackathon allows to build working prototypes of the solutions. In week two, the participants concentrate on the business model and develop their final presentation to be held on Friday. At the end of the programme participants will have a tangible solution for your challenge.

The participants are supported by experts, mentors and coaches specifically recruited for the challenges of the summer school. We intent to have 30+ experts around to intensively support the whole process. Most importantly, the participants will have developed citizen-centric innovations with end-users: they will co-design, validate and test ideas at each stage with consumers age 50+.

Location

EPIcenter will be hosted by the Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing, a multidisciplinary knowledge center that aims to improve the quality of life of older people. The venue is ideally located in Leiden's city center, close to the central station and the Leiden University Medical Centre. Parts of EPIcenter will be hosted at other interesting places, such as industry (Achmea), government (Leiden City Hall), and care (Leiden University Medical Center).

Propose a challenge

To develop solutions of high value and to give the participants the best learning experience, we plan to have real-world challenges from partners like you. After selection, each challenge will be chosen by five to six participants, who develop a working prototype and business model for commercialization.

The teams get the opportunity to continue with their own startup. The teams agree to give the challenge-owner a right of first refusal.

What you gain	What you contribute
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Solution, prototype and business model to enable seniors in your organization (or the seniors your organization works for) to live a healthy, active and enjoyable life➤ Contact to 30+ highly motivated young innovators➤ Presentation of your organization within the summer school and exposure among the 130+ partners of EIT Health➤ Placement of your organization as challenge-partner through our communication channels (website, social media, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A challenge from your organization concerning prevention, management or maintenance of an active lifestyle at later age➤ A person from your organization to guide the team - at least available by phone and present first Monday and last Friday on site➤ The allowance for the team to use the results of the summer school to create a startup

Proposing a challenge

Challenges can be proposed via the website of EPICenter:

<http://www.epicentersummerschool.eu/challenges>

Or via e-mail, using the attached format (

Deadline is July 1st.

Contact person

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Organization

EPICenter is an EIT Health Summer School organized by Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing, Heidelberg University, Achmea, Leiden University Medical Center, and ISAX. Together these partners provide the essential expertise; on healthy ageing; on IT development; on product development. EIT Health leverages the expertise of over a 130 leading organizations in healthcare to sustainably advance the foundations of healthcare and thus promote the future conditions for healthier living and wellbeing of people across Europe.