IO8: Documentation of impact and benefits for companies

Output Description

The output consists of the following:

- A systematic approach to measure the costs and benefits for companies participating in student projects. We will encourage the usage of this after each joint student project (also beyond the EPIC project) because it creates awareness among the participants on the value of student projects, and can also be used for further improving the collaboration approaches.

- The evaluation results from all student projects carried out within the EPIC partnership.

Tasks Breakdown

Task 1: develop and describe the systematic approach to measure the costs and benefits for companies in participating in student projects. This will be developed so that it is ready to be used by the end of the first cycle, and revised every year at the end of the cycle if needed.

Task 2: perform the evaluations and document the benefits, which is done by the end of each yearly cycle.

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Responsibilities

- UPC: Is the overall responsible for the output, and is responsible for performing and documenting the yearly evaluations.

- Talaia: Is responsible for developing and describing the systematic approach to measure costs and benefits, and for making the yearly adjustments.

- Atene: Assists Talaia in developing the evaluation approach, and the yearly adjustments.

- RTU is responsible for the reviews and quality checks.

Year 1 Results

A template for the measurement of EPIC costs and benefits for companies has been created. It includes questions about:

1. Expectations

2. Follow-up (progress of the project)

3. Results: Cost/Benefits analysis (tangibles: product, prototype, process; intangibles: knowledge, human resources…)

4. Self-criticism: How to improve companies' participation in EPIC?

5 companies (AteneKom, Nokia, Talaia, SICK AG, SSI Schäfer) involved in EPIC first year filled in the template.

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Results Analysis: Positive feedback

- Companies appreciate the contact with young motivated potential candidates to be hired.
- New topics with no strict requirements for profit can be studied. Explore new fields.
- Company workers feel interesting this kind of initiatives.
- New collaborative remote working tools used.
- Not huge investment from the company side.
- International (multi-cultural) dimension.

Results Analysis: Things to improve

- Results achieved (in students projects) below expectations. Nevertheless, new (unbiased) points of view are gathered.
- Difficult to coordinate remote people.
- Projects definition should be improved. Co-ordination between companies and universities.
- More face-to-face meetings would be positive.

O₈ Template

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EPIC: Impact and Benefits for Companies – 2018

Name:
Company:

Expectations prior to project start:

Follow-up / project progress: *Were milestones met? Were bigger adjustments necessary throughout the project? How do you evaluate the the remote work with the students? How did you allocate resources (internal and external)?*

Results: What's the project outcome? How did the results meet your expectations? If applicable, what do you see as cause for not meeting all expectations/ not achieving the planned results?

Cost – Benefit – analysis: How do you sum up your participation in the EPIC project regarding costs and benefits?

Suggestions: How to improve companies' participation in EPIC? Did you miss anything that should be provided by EPIC? Do you think an ongoing collaboration with 1-2 projects per year can improve the benefits for companies?

Additional comments

Year 2 Improvements

- Introducing quantitative evaluation of O8 results

- Work on more realistic projects' definitions to not overestimate the expected results

- Improving coordination between companies and academic supervisors