

SABER 7th and last Workshop conclusions

June 24th, Arendal – Norway

This last SABER workshop took place in Arendal, located in the East Agder county on the east coast of Norway; it was hosted by our regional norwegian partner Bykle og Hovden Vest, established to undertake among others, the Digital Agder project. The workshop was launched by Mr Arild Eielsen, chief executive of East-Agder County Council.



The 7th workshop objectives encompassed local users feed-backs regarding satellite broadband services and a review of the last set of SABER deliverables, namely the *Toolkit and guidelines for regional deployment planning*, the updated *Guidelines & recommendations on satellite procurement, deployment and management* and the *Report on future roadmap for satellite technology*.

Local users' and actor's interventions proved again to be of utmost interest. Indeed, Digital Agder today brings together the municipalities of east and west Agder counties with the target to guarantee broadband and mobile telephony to all residents at favourable prices. Thanks to the testimony of a local entrepreneur having chosen to live in very rural area, the workshop allowed identifying a further potential roadblock for satellite services deployment. Indeed, this entrepreneur reported a very reliable service, answering his mandatory needs namely relating to the education of his kids and the development of his business. However, he reported speed measurements showing performance 5 times lower than the 20 Mbps advertised in the subscription: real-time discussion with our Eutelsat partner concluded that the speedometer used for the measurement was meant for terrestrial broadband services and thus based on a very short file transfer, and therefore not suited for high-latency networks such as the satellite ones, as short file transfer does not allow the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) to progressively attain the largest possible window size. In fact, TCP windowing limits the initial throughput well below the bandwidth actually made available by the network. Satellite operators usually provide much more accurate speed tests based on large file transfer. The entrepreneur was informed about how to obtain the right device and will hopefully soon report adequate speed measurements. Another non-technological roadblock identified and hopefully erased soon!

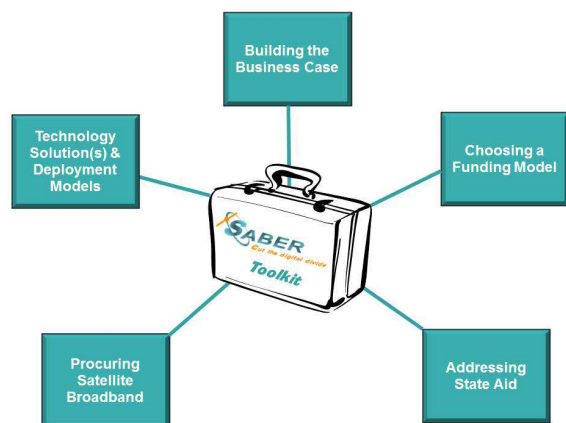
Another Norwegian feedback was provided by Mr Grotte from WNRI (Western Norway Research Institute) acting as secretariat for the National Broadband Plan; it namely manages the budget, establish links between the service providers and the ministries, stimulate the demand etc . **Mr Grotte acknowledged SABER as an unexpectedly efficient tool for awareness raising and dissemination.** Over the 19 counties addressed by the national broadband council, only two counties are deploying satellite solutions and SABER findings are thus used SABER to successfully promote

satellite services over all the remaining counties. Beside, a new fund has been created which will serve the deployment of infrastructures including railways, roads and broadband networks. Eligibility criteria encompass very pragmatic aspects such as cost efficiency (20% weight) and local societal and economic impact (15%).

This 7th workshop was also the occasion to present and discuss the last of SABER deliverables.

In particular, the **SABER toolkit** provides practical guidance and suggested models for regions that are planning a satellite broadband deployment. The guidance is presented in five modules as illustrated beside. A guidance validation methodology to test was proposed, inviting each partner region to share the SABER findings with a few regions of their choice and assess the guidance against a given review framework.

Also, the **procurement guidelines** are updated and completed with references to recent publications such as Handbook State Aid guidelines, the general block exemption, the evolution of satellite services performances etc.



Lastly, the **technological and operational evolutions** which will allow to reach the DAE 2020 targets with satellites solutions are consolidated. They encompass, among other, the opportunities provided by the use of satcoms to enable a quick, seamless, pan-European provision of converged services throughout hybrid broadcast-broadband networks. Recommendations are made regarding the support European institution are asked to provide on this front, among other, through H2020 Space and H2020 ICT research programmes

The SABER final conference will be held on September 30th at the Committee of Regions in Brussels. The network will present the SABER achievements and will gather high level and expert panellists from the public and the industry world to discuss together the current Digital Agenda for Europe status and the way forward.