PROGRESS REPORT

Grant Agreement number: 325132

Project acronym: SABER

Project title: Satellite Broadband for European Regions

Project type: ☐ **Pilot A** ☐ **Pilot B** ■ **TN** ☐ **BPN**

Periodic report: **1ˢᵗ ■** **2ⁿᵈ ☐** **3ʳᵈ ☐** **4ᵗʰ ☐**

Period covered: **from** **November 2012 to April 2013**

Project coordinator name, title and organisation: Vittorio Vallero, CSI-Piemonte

Tel: +390113165227

Fax:+390113168740

E-mail: Vittorio.Vallero@csi.it

Project website address: http://www.project-saber.eu

I, as coordinator of this project and in line with my obligations as stated in Article II.2 of the Grant Agreement declare that:

- The attached periodic report represents an accurate description of the work carried out in this project for this reporting period;

- The project (tick as appropriate):

  ☐ has fully achieved its objectives for the period;

  ☐ has achieved most of its objectives for the period with relatively minor deviations;

  ☐ has failed to achieve critical objectives and/or is deviating significantly from the schedule.

- The public Website is up to date;

Name and position of Coordinator: Vittorio Vallero – International Projects Specialist

Date: 30/04/2013

Signature: ....

Publishable Summary

The purpose of the SABER Thematic Network is to create a long term, sustainable environment in which stakeholders interested in tackling the Digital Divide by contributing to the roll out and take-up of broadband for all, at increasing speeds, and in particular through satellite-based services, can proactively collaborate. The scope of the SABER Thematic Network is to create the conditions for the most efficient and effective contribution of satellite systems to support the achievement of the objectives set in Europe 2020 and subsequently in the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE).

The main objective of the SABER Thematic Network is to address the requirements as set out in Objective 5.3 of the ICT PSP Work Programme 2012. The SABER Thematic Network is fully aligned with the specific objectives of the ICT PSP Work Programme (highlighted in **bold** and *italics* below). The SABER Thematic Network will ***bring together regional authorities***, and ***analyse the experience*** of those which have used satellite solutions for broadband access, in order to: ***develop guidelines*** for deployment, ***share best practices*** and ***disseminate information to regions across Europe in need*** using a common, easy to access, ***information repository*** which offers access to relevant information including ***cost benefit analysis*** of broadband access by satellite, satellite offers and technical capabilities, ***state aid, business models, funding options including demand aggregation*** and recommended solutions to ***non-technological roadblocks***. The SABER Thematic Network will explore the possible ***use of regional funds*** in relation to ***demand aggregation schemes*** and assistance, and will propose plausible ***adaptations in call specifications*** to incorporate satellite communication solutions in such calls.

The SABER Thematic Network has assembled an extensive partnership of 26 regional and industry organisations to ensure a wide range of expertise and experience within the network. The partnership comprises a triple helix of stakeholders including:
   a) Regional Organisations responsible for economic and social development at a regional level;
   b) intermediaries that provide support at the regional level;
   c) private sector companies, in particular companies that manufacture, deploy and operate satellite broadband infrastructure and services across Europe, and in particular, have extensive experience in publicly funded deployments.

Partners can be classified into three broad categories:
   1. Regional partners with experience of deploying satellite broadband solutions;
   2. Regional partners with an interest in exploring satellite broadband solutions
   3. Satellite industry partners with experience of addressing broadband deficits in regions across Europe and the globe.

After a preparatory phase dedicated to the delivery of the official documents needed in order to establish the SABER partnership, the project was officially launched in November 2012, through the organisation of a **kick-off meeting** in Bruxelles. During this first meeting the consortium fully shared project objectives, activities, outcomes and roles. A particular stress has been put on the chosen approach and the actual definition of project streams as well as an overview of the five work packages and the project-management system.

Three of the satellite industry partners, Eutelsat, Skylogic and SES Broadband Services delivered a 'crash course' on satellite broadband which covered satellite applications, industry players, the value chain, satellite costs and lifespan, technology aspects, some advantages of satellite and the potential role for satellite in delivering on the Digital Agenda for Europe targets.

Moreover, each partner had the chance to present itself to the others.

During the kick-off meeting the following official project logo has been selected:

as well as the responsible for each work package:

Work Package	Work Package Leader
WP1: Coordination & Dissemination	Vittorio Vallero, CSI Piemonte
WP2: Early Analysis & Guidelines	Luisella Ciani, Skylogic
WP3: In-depth Analysis and GP Overview	Stefano Agnelli, Eutelstat
WP4: Regional Guidelines & Recommendations	Rosemary O'Connor, Slí Nua Development
WP5: Consensus Building & Validation	Vittorio Vallero, CSI Piemonte

The first workshop took place in Cork on 19th February 2013 with a good participation of more than 40 people and here the partnership started to work on inter-consortium satellite broadband good practices, requirements of early stream regions, roadblocks on satellite broadband deployment and satellite services procurement and satellite services procurement guidelines. The work done in this first workshop laid the basis for the first set of deliverables.

The second workshop took place in Bruxelles on 23rd April 2013 and was aimed at finalising the contents of the deliverables:

- Regional and National satellite broadband implementation case studies
- Early guidelines on satellite services procurement
- Early report on satellite broadband as an option for Regions; including non-technological roadblocks and potential for demand aggregation.

During and after the workshop the consortium had very good feedbacks from the Commission that allowed the first set of deliverables to be released on 28th May 2013.

This first set of deliverables was meant to give quick and practical guidelines to any public authority interested in satellite broadband implementation and marked the end of work package 2.

All along the first six months of activity SABER was presented in many occasions and participation started with NEREUS with which an official letter of support has been signed.

1. Project objectives for the period

The objectives for the first period are shared between more general objectives valid throughout the project:

- induct the network members and ensure that all members are signed up to shared objectives;
- Regions that are able and willing to plan the deployment of satellite solutions through public funding (e.g. N+2) within the first 6 months of the project will be confirmed as early stream regions that can be live case studies within the project life-cycle;
- to launch a knowledge management platform to facilitate the creation and promotion of an information repository throughout the lifetime of the network; the Broadband Portal will be utilised as soon as available;

Specific work package 2 (Early analysis & guidelines) objectives:

- review and synthesis of Member State national broadband plans to assess their alignment with DAE policy and satellite broadband implementations in member states and regions (in particular in France, Ireland, Spain & the UK);
- review and synthesis of relevant past and ongoing partner projects;
- intelligence gathering & initial review;
- initial review of market and policy documents such as the guide on broadband investment models, guidelines for state aid rules in deployment of broadband networks and ESOA's contribution to this, ESA's Broadband Mediterranean Study (BB-MED) and other industry partner reports;
- initial review of satellite-based broadband service offers, capabilities (e.g. peak speed and performance), service models and tariffing relative to terrestrial broadband options with satellite industry players and other broadband providers;
- initial review of techno-economic analysis highlighting risks of relying on terrestrial technologies only to meet the DAE targets of achieving 100% broadband coverage;
- initial review of non-technological roadblocks and obstacles towards satellite communication deployment at both a European and wider International level;
- initial review of demand aggregation schemes in Europe and Internationally;
- preparation of preliminary guidelines on satellite deployment planning to support early stream regions;
- Two sets of Expert Round Tables & Workshops with regions to present preliminary guidelines, share experience and raise awareness;

2. Work progress and achievements during the period

Work Package 2

All the work package objectives were reached with a minor delay in releasing the first set of deliverables due to the necessity of taking in account the many contributions SABER had from different EU DGs, as a matter of fact more than 20 EU officials contributed with their feedbacks.

After analysing good practices from within the Consortium already a number of other European regions practices were added, as well as a BB-MED report analysis. A lot of contributions came from the debate between SABER Regions and EU during the workshop which provided many useful hints in drafting the documents.

The initial work plan has been respected with a good participation from each of the partnership member following what indicated in Annex 1 of the contract.

3. Deliverables and milestones tables

Deliverables (excluding the periodic and final reports)

<table>
<tr><td colspan="11" align="center">TABLE 1. DELIVERABLES</td></tr>
<tr>
<th>Del. no.</th>
<th>Deliverable name</th>
<th>WP no.</th>
<th>Lead participant</th>
<th>Nature</th>
<th>Dissemination level</th>
<th>Due delivery date from Annex I</th>
<th>Delivered Yes/No</th>
<th>Actual / Forecast delivery date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
<tr><td>**D1.1**</td><td>Network Launch</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>other</td><td>public</td><td>1</td><td>Yes</td><td>09/11/2012</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D1.2</td><td>Profiles of region streams</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>1</td><td>Yes</td><td>30/11/2012</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D1.3</td><td>Dissemination Plan</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>2</td><td>Yes</td><td>27/2/2013</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D1.5</td><td>1st Dissemination Report</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>6</td><td>Yes</td><td>30/04/2013</td><td>Website has been used to document dissemination progresses</td></tr>
<tr><td>D1.7</td><td>2nd Dissemination report</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>12</td><td>Yes</td><td>31/10/2013</td><td>Website has been used to document dissemination progresses</td></tr>
<tr><td>D2.1</td><td>1st Round Table & Workshop report</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>3</td><td>Yes</td><td>22/3/2013</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D2.2</td><td>Early Guidelines on Satellite Services Procurement</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>6</td><td>Yes</td><td>28/05/2013</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D2.3</td><td>Regional and national satellite broadband implementation case studies x 5</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>6</td><td>Yes</td><td>28/05/2013</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D2.4</td><td>Early report on Satellite Broadband as an option for regions; including non-technological roadblocks</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>6</td><td>Yes</td><td>28/05/2013</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>D2.5</td><td>2nd Round Table & Workshop report</td><td>2</td><td>23</td><td>report</td><td>public</td><td>6</td><td>Yes</td><td>30/04/2013</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

Milestones

Please complete this table if milestones are specified in Annex I of the Grant Agreement.
Milestones will be assessed against the specific criteria and performance indicators as defined in Annex I.

	TABLE 2. MILESTONES				
Milestone no.	Milestone name	Due achievement date from Annex I	Achieved Yes/No	Actual / Forecast achievement date	Comments
MS1	Kick-Off meeting	1	Yes	1	
MS2	Knowledge Platform Launch	1	Yes	1	
MS3	Region Streams Definition	1	Yes	1	
MS4	Dissemination Plan Definition	2	Yes	2	
MS5	1st Round Table & Workshop	3	Yes	4	Slightly postponed to exploit Irish EU presidency
MS6	Early Guidelines on Satellite Services Procurement	6	Yes	7	Postponed to take in account all the comments
MS7	Regional and national satellite broadband case studies	6	Yes	7	Postponed to take in account all the comments
MS8	Early report on Satellite Broadband	6	Yes	7	Postponed to take in account all the comments
MS9	2nd Round Table & Workshop	6	Yes	6	

4. Project management

- *Impact of possible deviations from the planned milestones and deliverables, if any;*
- *Impact of possible deviations from the planned resources;*
- *Any changes to the legal status of any of the beneficiaries, in particular non-profit public bodies, secondary and higher education establishments, research organisations and SMEs status;*
- *;*
- *Use and dissemination activities during this period (if applicable).*

Please add any other relevant issue, which had or is likely to have an impact on project management

The section should also provide short comments and information on coordination activities during the period in question, such as communication between beneficiaries, possible cooperation with other projects/programmes etc.

Consortium management tasks and achievements

During the initial kick-off meeting the management rules of the consortium have been decided. During each and every meeting a coordination moment is present. Most of the decisions regarding the consortium are taken collectively using on-line polls.

Problems which have occurred and how they were solved or envisaged solutions

No major problems occurred during the first six months of activities.

Changes in the consortium, if any

NA

List of project meetings, dates and venues

The following meetings took place during the first period:

1. kick-off meeting, Bruxelles, 9 November 2012;
2. first Workshop, Cork, 19 February 2013;
3. second workshop, Bruxelles, 23 April 2013;

Project planning and status

The overall progress of the project can be considered good and important impacts could be measured along the project life therefore the planning tends to stick to what was originally foreseen. There had no major deviations from the original workplan but for the main deliverables release dates as the Consortium tried to privilege the quality and usefulness of the work. As a matter of fact o lot of interactions and feedbacks were obtained from both the European Commission and other external reviewer and the Consortium decided to fully take these in due account in the writing process.

Development and use of the Project website

The project website has become the repository of all the project activities. Here you can find all the deliverables, news and related documentation.

After an initial release in December 2012 the website has seen some modifications along 2013 in order to increase usability.

Use and dissemination activities during this period

A number of dissemination events regarding SABER took place during the first period. Here follows a list of the major ones:

Title	Partner	Date
SABER at the ICT-PSP Irish Info Day	Sli-Nua	1 February 2013
Satellite Broadband Technology and Digital Economy in Emilia Romagna	Lepida	11 April 2013

During the first period a major cooperation agreement were signed with NEREUS.

SABER and NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) signed a cooperation agreement on 21 November 2012.