

# PROGRESS REPORT

Grant Agreement number: 325132

Project acronym: SABER

Project title: Satellite Broadband for European Regions

Project type:  Pilot A  Pilot B  TN  BPN

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Periodic report: 1<sup>st</sup>  2<sup>nd</sup>  3<sup>rd</sup>  4<sup>th</sup>

Period covered: from November 2013 to April 2014

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

Tel: +390113165227

Fax: +390113168740

E-mail: [Vittorio.Vallero@csi.it](mailto: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: 30/6/2014

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 practises*** 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 the first year of activity the SABER network the partnership started consolidating the findings into draft guidelines and confronting with the future developments of satellite broadband technologies issues.

Following the succesful Broadband for all event in October SABER started drafting a document describing the characteristics and advantages of the voucher scheme as a demand side stimulation measure voucher scheme. The document has been then sent to ESOA with which SABER cooperates.

Regular meetings with the other CIP-PSP funded satellite broadband project BRESAT started in December 2014

SABER 5<sup>th</sup> workshop took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014 in Toulouse at Airbus Defence & Space premises and saw the participation of more than 50 people including BRESAT project partners.

The workshop started to analyse the future technological development of satellite technology as well as the new programming period funding instruments.

It must be noted that a representative of Italian Ministry of Agriculture attended to the workshop because of his great interest in the voucher scheme as a way to stimulate demand in Italian rural areas. A thorough evaluation of the scheme has been conducted by the Ministry and by its mandated bodies in order to allow its use by the Regions using the EARDF still available funds.

The workshop has also be the starting point for the workpackage 4 deliverables which should be seen as the simplification process of the huge quantity of material produced during workpackage 2 and 3.

The following day the BRESAT project workshop took place in Thales Alenia premises in Toulouse with the participation of many SABER partners.

SABER was then presented to Space4you conference organised in BARI by NEREUS, SABER cooperating partner.

SABER started cooperating with Interreg IV-C project ONE on elaborating a new indicator to be included in SABER deliverables.

SABER 6<sup>th</sup> workshop took place on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Bruxelles with the participation of 36 persons and it dealt primarily on how move from availability of broadband services to actual penetration and how to meet DAE 2020 objectives.

The afternoon was then dedicated to working on workpackage 4 deliverables.

During the reporting period SABER cooperated with the EU Broadband guidelines for the parts involving satellite broadband.

## **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;
- to continuously disseminate the findings, results and outcomes of the network's activities throughout the course of the project to member regions and to a wider audience across the Member States. Each partner has committed to disseminating the network's outputs to their own network of partner regions and associations.
- to embed the activities of the network in other relevant organisations and stakeholders such as ESOA, ISI, NEREUS, Eurisy and ESA to ensure its ongoing sustainability beyond the lifetime of the network project.

Specific work package 4 (Develop guidelines & recommendations) objectives:

- taking the results of the preliminary analysis and the outcomes of the round table seminars and workshops, develop tools, methodologies and guidelines for each of the core elements to assist regions and industry wishing to deploy satellite broadband initiatives to address broadband deficiencies in their area;
- continue working with main stream regions to consider satellite solutions.

## **2. Work progress and achievements during the period**

### **Work Package 4**

All the work package objectives were reached with a minor delay in releasing the second set of deliverables due to the complexity of the reports.

Building upon the previous report extra European good practises were added such as those from Canada, USA and Australia. 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)

<b>TABLE 1. DELIVERABLES</b>									
<b>Del. no.</b>	<b>Deliverable name</b>	<b>WP no.</b>	<b>Lead participant</b>	<b>Nature</b>	<b>Dissemination level</b>	<b>Due delivery date from Annex I</b>	<b>Delivered Yes/No</b>	<b>Actual / Forecast delivery date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
D1.8	3rd Project Management / Coordinator reports	1	1	other	public	18	Yes	30/04/2014	
D1.9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dissemination report	1	1	report	public	1	Yes	30/11/2012	Website has been used to document dissemination progresses
D4.1	5 <sup>th</sup> Round Table & Workshop report	4	22	report	public	15	Yes	31/1/2014	
D4.2	Draft toolkit and set of guidelines	4	22	report	public	18	Yes	31/05/2014	
D4.3	Guidelines & Recommendations on satellite broadband services procurement, deployment and management	4	22	report	public	18	Yes	31/05/2014	
D4.4	Conclusions and recommendations on future pilot actions and partnerships for satellite broadband	4	22	report	public	18	Yes	31/05/2014	
D4.5	Report on future roadmap for satellite technology	4	22	report	public	18	Yes	31/05/2014	
D4.6	6th Round Table & Workshop report	4	22	report	public	18	Yes	31/05/2014	

## 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.*

<b>TABLE 2. MILESTONES</b>					
<b>Milestone no.</b>	<b>Milestone name</b>	<b>Due achievement date from Annex I</b>	<b>Achieved Yes/No</b>	<b>Actual / Forecast achievement date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
MS14	5th Round Table & Workshop report	15	Yes	15	
MS15	Draft toolkit and guidelines	18	Yes	18	
MS16	Guidelines & Recommendations on satellite procurement, deployment and management	18	Yes	18	
MS17	Conclusions and recommendations on future pilot actions in for satellite technologies	18	Yes	18	
MS18	Future roadmap for satellite technology definition	18	Yes	18	
MS19	6th Round Table & Workshop report	18	Yes	18	



#### **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 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 reporting period.

##### **Changes in the consortium, if any**

The following changes in the Consortium happened:

1. Partner number twenty-four: ASTRIUM SAS changed its name to Airbus Defence & Space

##### **List of project meetings, dates and venues**

The following meetings took place during the first period:

1. fifth workshop, Toulouse, 23 January 2014
2. sixth workshop, Bruxelles, 10 April 2014.

##### **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. As a matter of fact a 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 is the repository of all the project activities. Here you can find all the deliverables, news and related documentation.

The website has seen continuous development during the reporting period 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:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Date</i>
SABER presented at "Space4You" International Conference in Bari - Living Lab: Space for Regional Best Practises	Eutelsat	24 April 2014