

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 May 2014 to October 2014

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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: 30/12/2014

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 5th workshop took place on 23rd 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 work package 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 6th workshop took place on 10th 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 work package 4 deliverables.

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

SABER last workshop took place in Arendal, Norway on 24th June 2014 and focused on the guidelines methodology and review process. It allowed also a confrontation with local authorities on satellite issues.

Starting with 2014 many ways have been explored to sustain the network beyond the project dates but also after many meetings with the EC it has not been possible to identify a suitable program to support this kind of action.

The final part of the project was focused on preparing the Final Conference as an important moment of dissemination to the widest possible audience. Actually over 160 people took part at the event held at the Committee of the Regions under the patronage of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event was very successful in transmitting how modern and future satellite technologies are and will be able to cope with the new DAE 2020 objectives. To practically support the process the final set of guidelines have been released.

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.

Specific work package 5 (Consensus Building & Validation) objectives:

- to validate the draft toolkit and guidelines with network members seeking to deploy satellite solutions and then finalise them with input from external stakeholders;
- to engage the future stream of regions and offer support through case studies and the toolkit and guidelines for satellite deployment planning;
- to consider future satellite technology developments in addressing the DAE 2020 targets.

2. Work progress and achievements during the period

Work Package 4

All the work package objectives were reached within the reporting period.

Using the material produced in work package 2 and 3 (summary of main deliverables were created) modules were developed, including tools, methodologies and guidelines on the following areas:

- selecting appropriate technology solutions;
- addressing state aid;
- developing appropriate business models including funding options and demand aggregation;
- developing appropriate deployment models;
- developing an appropriate business case including a cost benefit analysis;

Conclusions and recommendations to the European Commission for future pilot actions and partnerships for satellite broadband deployments were developed as well as recommendations on plausible adaptations to calls for proposals and procurement terms of reference for procurement of satellite solutions.

A satellite technology (space and ground infrastructure) evolution roadmap has been detailed including innovative ways of delivering NGA services and applications to users utilising satellite and other complementary services.

A first workshop in Toulouse and a second in Bruxelles were organised.

Work Package 5

All the work package objectives were reached. The final toolkit and set of guidelines has been released through a peer review process of the previous work package contents.

SABER partnership built the guidelines with the aid of 14 peer reviewer outside of SABER partnership.

Moreover a final version of the future technology report has been released.

The project organised its final conference on 31st September 2014 at the Committee of the Regions in Bruxelles. The event was very successful and saw the participation of 162 people.

3. Deliverables and milestones tables

Deliverables (excluding the periodic and final reports)

TABLE 1. DELIVERABLES									
Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature	Dissemination level	Due delivery date from Annex I	Delivered Yes/No	Actual / Forecast delivery date	Comments
D1.10	Sustainability plan for the network	1	1	other	public	22	Yes	31/08/2014	It has not been possible to find a way to sustain the network
D1.11	4 th Project Management / Coordinator reports	1	1	report	public	24	Yes	30/12/2014	
D4.12	4 th Dissemination report	4	1	report	public	24	Yes	30/12/2014	Website has been used to document dissemination progresses
D4.13	Satellite White paper	4	1	report	public	24	Yes	15/09/2014	

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.

TABLE 2. MILESTONES					
Milestone no.	Milestone name	Due achievement date from Annex I	Achieved Yes/No	Actual / Forecast achievement date	Comments
MS20	7th Round Table & Workshop	21	Yes	20	
MS21	Sustainability plan definition	22	Yes	22	
MS22	White Paper on satellite broadband solutions	24	Yes	23	Inputs were expected by BRESAT project but did not come
MS23	Final Toolkit and Guidelines	24	Yes	24	
MS24	Future Developments in Satellite	24	Yes	22	
MS25	Final conference	24	Yes	23	

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 eleven: SWRA ceased to exist on June 1st 2014 as Regional authorities were abolished by Irish government. In consultation with local elected representatives and local stakeholders the SWRA has agreed that its portfolio of EU co-financed projects should remain in our former region and has been transferred to Cork County Council (CCC).
2. Partner number twelve: MWRA ceased to exist on June 1st 2014 as Regional authorities were abolished by Irish government. All MWRA projects and competences were therefore transferred to Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly.

List of project meetings, dates and venues

The following meetings took place during the last six months of the project:

1. seventh workshop, Arendal, NO 24 June 2014
2. final conference, Bruxelles, 31 September 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. Again in the last year many interactions and feedbacks were obtained from both the European Commission and other external reviewer actually contributing to the success of the project.

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 second year. Here follows a list of the major ones:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Date</i>
SABER presented at PSCE-Public Safety Communications for Europe Forum Conference in Gothenburg, SE	Airbus Defence & Space	20-21 May 2014
Paper entitled 'Satellite's Role in the Penetration of Broadband Connectivity Within the European Union' has been accepted for the 2014 7th Advanced Satellite Multimedia Systems Conference (ASMS) and 13th Signal Processing for Space Communications Workshop (SPSC) in Livorno	Eutelsat	8-10 September 2014
SABER presented at European Economic and Social Committee conference in Palermo	CSI- Piemonte	30 th October 2014
SABER outcomes presented NEREUS General Assembly in Bruxelles	Eutelsat	8 th November 2014