

Work Package 1 Co-ordination & Dissemination

Deliverable 10:

Sustainability plan for the network

Version 1.0

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1. Sustainability Plan for SABER Network

All along the duration of the project and especially starting from the second year of activity it has been discussed how to sustain the network activities beyond the end of the project.

A lot of discussions have been conducted with the active participation of the European Commission in order to analyse all the possible work programmes to find a suitable way to maintain this very successful experience given the availability of a wide part of SABER partners to keep on participating.

Mainly two programmes have been analysed: Horizon 2020 and Interreg Europe.

Horizon 2020 seemed the natural candidate being the “evolution” of the current funding programme CIP-PSP. Problem is that, in the current Horizon 2020 programme, the research and or innovation component must be present and we could not really find any way to properly accommodate a thematic network project within the whole work programme.

Given some modification it cannot be excluded that future detailed work programme for 2016 on could find a suitable solution.

The other possible candidate analysed has been Interreg Europe in which such a thematic network could actually work with a major limitation: a very reduced participation by the private sector. As a matter of fact Interreg Europe is mainly directed to Regions and not to private companies while one of the strongest point of SABER network experience have always been the balanced mix of private companies and public sector. In particular having the whole satellite value chain present in the network allowed a wide and thorough confrontation with the public sector on satellite broadband technology themes.

Unfortunately the conclusion we came to is that it is not possible to truly elaborate a sustainability plan for the network given the current rules and programmes.

We can only hope that this project will put in motion the necessary changes within the European Commission to actually change this situation.