

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 October 2013

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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: 31/ 1/2014

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 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.

The third workshop took place in Turin on 27th June and dealt with the in-depth analysis and good practice review, a critical review of early SABER findings and conclusions, innovative approaches in business and deployment models for satellite broadband in public procurement. The following day a trip has been organised to visit a mountain hut and see satellite broadband in use.

The fourth workshop took place in Bruxelles on 11th October and included a critical review of the previous deliverables which were the base of the new set of deliverables due at the end of work package 3, a summary of the lesson learnt for 2013 and their impacts on future public policies. It has then decided to draft the new deliverable as an evolution and integration of the ones already issued. In particular we find an enriched satellite broadband implementation cases section taking in account north American and Australia experiences and a further deepening of non-technological roadblocks.

The new deliverables are Regional / National / International satellite broadband implementation case studies and Final report on Satellite Broadband as an option for Regions.

In addition to that SABER consortium produced a set of broadband satellite FAQs: one addressed to Public authorities and the other to final users.

All along the first year of activity SABER was presented in many occasions and participation started with NEREUS and EURISY with which official letters of support have been signed.

Other collaborations started with ESA which helped the deliverables critical review process and ESOA which brought to the participation of SABER to the Broadband for all official presentation

initiative on 17th October in Bruxelles at the presence of Commissioner Neelie Kroes and MEP Lambert Van Nistelrooij and later to the drafting of a voucher scheme for satellite broadband to be used by Public Authorities all over Europe.

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;

Specific work package 3 (In-depth analysis and good practice review) objectives:

- to perform a critical review and analysis on each of the satellite deployment case studies developed in WP2 using an agreed review framework
- to validate the research findings from the situational analysis with national, regional, industry and subject expert stakeholders
- to work with the main stream of regions to explore the possibility of using public funds to invest in satellite broadband to achieve 100% broadband coverage (DAE 2013 target) including exploring the potential for demand aggregation.

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.

Work Package 3

All the work package objectives were reached although with a delay in releasing the second set of deliverables due to the amount of material to process.

International cases from Australia, Canada and USA were added and a critical review process has been introduced. Finally, Piedmont Regions, thanks also to SABER work implemented a satellite broadband user funding scheme to allow people not reached by any other mean to have a contribution for the purchase and installation of a satellite broadband connection.

A new sub-deliverable has been introduced: a set of satellite broadband FAQs addressed to both Public Authorities and final users.

The deliverable is currently available in English and French, other translations in Italian, Greek and Slovenian are underway.

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 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
D1.1	Network Launch	1	1	other	public	1	Yes	09/11/2012	
D1.2	Profiles of region streams	1	1	report	public	1	Yes	30/11/2012	
D1.3	Dissemination Plan	1	1	report	public	2	Yes	27/2/2013	
D1.5	1 st Dissemination Report	1	1	report	public	6	Yes	30/04/2013	Website has been used to document dissemination progresses
D1.7	2 nd Dissemination report	1	1	report	public	12	Yes	31/10/2013	Website has been used to document dissemination progresses
D2.1	1 st Round Table & Workshop report	2	23	report	public	3	Yes	22/3/2013	
D2.2	Early Guidelines on Satellite Services Procurement	2	23	report	public	6	Yes	28/05/2013	
D2.3	Regional and national satellite broadband implementation case studies x 5	2	23	report	public	6	Yes	28/05/2013	
D2.4	Early report on Satellite Broadband as an option for regions; including non-technological roadblocks	2	23	report	public	6	Yes	28/05/2013	
D2.5	2nd Round Table & Workshop report	2	23	report	public	6	Yes	30/04/2013	

D3.1	3rd Round Table & Workshop report	3	23	report	public	12	Yes	3/7/2013	
D3.2	Critical assessment of actual deployments and presentation of good practice case studies	3	23	report	public	12	Yes	20/2/2013	Title was changed to “Regional-National-International satellite broadband implementation case studies” to reflect the continuity with the first set of deliverables
D3.3	Final report on non-technological roadblocks	3	23	report	public	12	Yes	20/2/2013	Title was changed to “Final report on Satellite Broadband as an option for Regions” to reflect the continuity with the first deliverables
D3.4	4th Round Table & Workshop report	3	23	report	public	12	Yes	25/10/2013	

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	
MS10	3rd Round Table & Workshop report	9	Yes	8	Anticipated to avoid holiday time
MS11	Critical assessment of deployment case studies	12	Yes	16	Postponed due to the complexity and quantity of material invovled
MS12	Final report on non-technological roadblocks	12	Yes	16	Postponed due to the complexity and quantity of material invovled
MS13	4th Round Table & Workshop report	12	Yes	12	

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 year of activities.

Changes in the consortium, if any

The following changes in the Consortium happened:

1. Partner number three: Fundecyt changed its name to Fundecyt-Pctex (Fundecyt Parque Científico Tecnológico de Extremadura).
2. Partner number nine: Niverlan changed its name to Niverlan – Syndicat Mixte Ouvert Nièvre Numérique

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;
4. third workshop, Turin, 27 June 2013;
5. fourth workshop, Bruxelles, 11 October 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 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 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:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Date</i>
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
SABER presented at Carnative Workshop, Hungary	Infoter	1 June 2013
SABER presented during the EARSel (European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories)	CNR-IREA	5 June 2013
SABER presented to ESOA Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting	Eutelsat	25 June 2013
SABER presented at NEREUS next Telecommunications Working Group meeting	Eutelsat	2 July 2013
SABER results presented at the “Université d'été de e-Sante” Castres Within the Space & Health Workshop	Astrium	3-5 July 2013
SABER presented to ESA	CSI-Piemonte	1 October 2013
SABER participated to the ESOA “Broadband for All” portal launch event	CSI-Piemonte	17 October 2013
SABER presented at Tourism, Education and Management 2013 conference in Portoroz, Slovenia	RD Horizon	24-25 October 2013
SABER presented at "Satellite applications for multi-level irrigation management: capitalising on experience to drive regional innovation" within RITECA project	Fundecyt-Pctex	31 October 2013
SABER in the Eurisy Newsletter n. 66 (October 2013)	Eutelsat	October 2013

During the first period two major cooperation agreements were signed with NEREUS and EURISY. SABER and NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) signed a cooperation agreement on 21 November 2012.

SABER and EURISY signed a cooperation agreement on 1 May 2013.

Cooperation started with both ESA and ESOA in fall 2013.