

Dear NESSI Community Member, this is the regular newsletter to update you on the recent developments in Technology, Policy and Society on matters relevant to NESSI.



## NESSI News - May/June 2013

Dear NESSI Members,

We are glad to inform you that on 25 June, negotiators for the European Parliament and the Council reached an informal deal on the package of laws that establishes EUs next framework programme for research and innovation - Horizon 2020. Member States and the Members of Parliament however still need to formally adopt the package, and the budget of approximately 70 billion EUR (the Commission proposal is 80 billion EUR) will depend on the outcomes of the discussions on the Multi-annual Financial Framework. The European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Máire Geoghegan-Quinn said that "this is a very important step that will help ensure that Horizon 2020 can launch as planned next year".

As part of our preparations for the launch of Horizon 2020, NESSI has written a manifesto which outlines the envisaged role of NESSI in the future digital environment. We are very pleased to present this strategically important roadmap for NESSI and hope you will join us in conveying our message and highlighting the importance of NESSI and the Software and Services domain also in the forthcoming research landscape.

In our last issue, we reported on the public Cloud consultation organised by the European Commission earlier this spring. The report which summarises the outcomes of the Cloud consultation has now been published and the report refers to the NESSI's consultation response as well as other NESSI white papers on several accounts. You will find a link to the report (which will lie as ground for Cloud related research priorities in the first work programme 2014) further down in this edition of NESSI news.

NESSI is also looking forward to the ICT2013 conference in November – the conference where participants will have a chance to learn more about the directions of research funding for ICT-related projects under Horizon 2020. NESSI has submitted proposals for participating in ICT2013 and hope to organise networking sessions related to Cloud and Big Data as well as an exhibition stand.

Let us know if you plan to attend the ICT2013 conference - we want to meet you there! And if you are interested in finding out more about what is on the NESSI agenda, don't hesitate to send us an email at [office@nessi-europe.eu](mailto:office@nessi-europe.eu) or visit our website <http://www.nessi-europe.com>.

We hope to hear from you soon!

The following briefings about our activities are included in this March/April edition of NESSI News:

- **The NESSI Manifesto**
- **Cloud consultation report published**
- **ICT2013 programme presented**
- **Update on European Cloud Strategy**
- **OPTIMIS project toolkit video**

## The NESSI Manifesto

NESSI is very pleased to present its manifesto for the road towards the next digital information society and economy. The NESSI Manifesto, together with the supporting document NESSI Prospectus, outlines the vision and mission of NESSI within the context of the upcoming research programme Horizon 2020.

In the manifesto, NESSI describes an ICT sector which has progressed with an accelerating pace. Technologies such as telecoms and infrastructure, software and services as well as information and content have clearly converged. Along this continuous development of our digital environment, NESSI sees **Software**, software-based **services and data** as the **key facilitators** for these changes. NESSI is committed to further drive these changes through the support of its member community.

As stated in the Manifesto – the mission of NESSI is to:

- **provide thought leadership** in Europe on the convergence of the networks of data, things and services and the transformation into a new digital society, on the technological and socio-economic implications, and on the consequent business opportunities;
- **drive convergence and transformation** by strengthening and advancing the software and service-based economies in Europe; and
- **stimulate the creation of ecosystems** around software, services, and data; and
- **provide visionary, comprehensive input** to the European Commission, thereby shaping the European research and innovation agenda.

To read the full version of the NESSI Manifesto, please click [here](#), and to read the supporting document, the NESSI Prospectus, please click [here](#).

## Cloud consultation report published

In May, the European Commission published a report which summarizes the outcomes of the public consultation on Cloud, Software and Services launched at the start of 2013. The report also takes into account the views expressed in the post-consultation workshop organised in April this year, where NESSI presented its contribution. Overall, the consultation generated 43 responses and 26 presentations were made during the workshop.

Before the consultation opened, the European Commission published a draft paper on the research and innovation challenges in Cloud Computing and Software and Services, based on research priorities put forward in, among others, NESSI position papers. According to the final consultation report, the paper received a broad support even though the consultation responses suggested a slight change of emphasis on some of the objectives put forward.

To access the Cloud consultation report, please visit this [link](#).

## ICT2013 - Conference programme presented

In November the European Commission is organising the ICT2013 conference in Vilnius, where further details of research funding for ICT-related projects under Horizon 2020 will be presented. Just recently the conference programme was published. The agenda includes three thematic plenaries and three parts focusing on different themes of ICT research: ICT for Excellent science; ICT for Industrial Leadership and ICT for Societal challenges. Find out more about the detailed conference programme [here](#).

ICT2013 expects to bring together more than 4000 researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, industry representatives, young people and politicians from ICT research to discuss the future for Europe's ICT research policy. The conference allows you to share your vision for the future with EU policy-makers, and see the latest advances in EU-funded ICT research. NESSI submitted proposals for participating in ICT2013, both as organiser of networking sessions related to Cloud and Big Data and an exhibition stand.

Find out more information [here](#), and register for the ICT2013 [here](#).

## Update on the European Cloud Computing Strategy

On 27 September 2012, the European Commission adopted a Cloud Strategy for Europe to drive European business and government productivity via Cloud Computing. Key actions of the

- Cutting through the jungle of technical standards so that cloud users get interoperability, data portability and reversibility; necessary standards should be identified by 2013;
- Development of model 'safe and fair' contract terms for cloud computing contracts including Service Level Agreements;
- Support for EU-wide certification schemes for trustworthy cloud providers;
- A European Cloud Partnership with Member States and industry to harness the public sector's buying power (20% of all IT spending) to shape the European cloud market, boost the chances for European cloud providers to grow to achieve a competitive scale, and deliver cheaper and better eGovernment.

### *European Parliament organised mini-hearing on Cloud*

On 30 May, the European Parliament organised a mini hearing called "Unleashing the Potential of Cloud Computing in Europe". The hearing focused on the European Cloud Strategy adopted by the European Commission on 27 September 2012 with them aim to report on the progress as well as inviting different stakeholders to share their views on the strategy. In the audience were also several Members of the European Parliament as well as representatives from the relevant units in the European Commission.

Ms Margot Dor, European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) reported on the progress on mapping Cloud standards across Europe. ETSI has been requested by the European Commission to coordinate with stakeholders in the cloud standards ecosystems and devise standards roadmaps in support of EU policy in critical areas such as security, interoperability, data portability and reversibility.

According to Ms. Dor, the first two deliverables are ready to be plugged into the third (and last) one and a rough sketch will be delivered by mid-2013, with the final delivery of the road map by the end of this year.

In addition to this, Mr. Stefano Fratta from Telefonica Digital, had the objective to "dissipate some common misconceptions about the Cloud industry". According to Mr Fratta, Cloud will actually ensure *better* protection of the data of European Businesses rather than traditional IT solutions such as storing the server in-house. He was also of the opinion that Cloud does not require cloud-specific rules but rather necessitates less, but more uniform, rules. At the hearing, the topics of consumer protection as well as data protection were also discussed. To read the full versions of the panellists' statements, please click [here](#).

### *Call for experts to identify safe and fair Cloud Computing contract terms*

On 21 June, the European Commission launched a call for experts to work on identifying safe and fair contract terms for Cloud Computing services. The European Commission is dedicated to facilitate the up-take and development of Cloud Computing services in the EU. One big concern is that users and companies are reluctant to use Cloud services because of unfair contracts. To counteract this situation, the European Commission now seeks a pool of experts that will identify best practices and terms and conditions for Cloud Computing contracts. The experts shall represent cloud service providers, consumers and small firms, academia and legal professionals.

To access the call, please click [here](#).

### **OPTIMIS toolkit video**

The EU research project OPTIMIS is about to come to an end. OPTIMIS' vision is that hybrid clouds will become commonplace, realized by private clouds interacting with a rich ecosystem of public and other cloud providers. Furthermore, OPTIMIS aims at enabling organizations to automatically externalize services and applications to trustworthy and auditable cloud providers in the hybrid model. The OPTIMIS activities are intended to support and facilitate an ecosystem of providers and consumers that will benefit from the optimal operation of services and infrastructures. The optimization covers the full lifecycle of services and their interactions. To read more about the project, please visit this [link](#).

To share the final results of the project, the OPTIMIS project team has produced a video describing the OPTIMIS Toolkit. The video summarizes the value and results covered with the software that is intended to improve cloud optimization and adoption for developers, organizations, service providers and infrastructure providers. To see the video, please click [here](#).

## Events and news in short

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### News in short

#### Neelie Kroes on Big Data

On 23 May, Commissioner for the Digital Agenda, Ms. Neelie Kroes gave a speech on the social and economic benefits of data. She highlighted the fact that we are currently at the edge of a paradigm shift where knowledge is the engine of our economy and data its fuel. She mentioned the vast amounts of data being generated every day and how we are getting better at storing, processing and analysing it. She continued by saying that policy makers can support this process in several ways.

To read the full speech, please click [here](#).

### Event report

#### Big Data event organised in Brussels

On 18 May, the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres organised an event in Brussels on the topic "Big Science, Big Data – Big Challenges, Big Solutions?". The objective with the event was to discuss the challenges arising from the increasing amount of collected data. On this occasion, the vast amounts of data were discussed within the context of Brain research, more precisely the Human Brain project.

Dr Carl-Christian Buhr, Member of the Cabinet of Ms Neelie Kroes, European Commission Vice-President for Digital Agenda, talked at the event about *how* to make data accessible. He emphasized the need to adopt policies for creation of data infrastructures and, in parallel, use the existing data infrastructure. He specifically stressed that we can't wait until an ideal and final infrastructure and infrastructure system will be developed. He also mentioned that Europe also needs to develop its skills in the area of data visualisation, automatic data processing.

Prof Wilfried Juling, Chief Science and Information Officer at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology suggested that we look at the global information tide not only as a challenge, but also as a chance due to the fact that science is moving increasingly from hypothesis-driven to data-driven discoveries. The project leader for Long-term Data Preservation in High Energy Physics at CERN, Dr Jamie Shiers, highlighted the importance of international collaboration in data management and analysis. In addition, the subsequent panel discussion addressed topics such as creating a unified system of persistent data identification, data packaging and data exchange, international collaboration and the education of data scientists.

### Upcoming dates/ events

#### 2 July 2013

Future Internet PPP - Startup Europe Workshop (Brussels)

#### 29-31 July 2013

8th International Joint Conference on Software Technologies (Reykjavik)

#### 27-28 August 2013

Big Data Schweiz (Zürich)

#### 10-13 September 2013

Fifth International Conference on Internet Technologies & Applications (Wrexham)

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## Digital Enlightenment Forum (Brussels)

**1 October 2013**

## The European Big Data Conference (Brussels)

**6-8 November 2013**

## ICT 2013: Create, Connect, Grow (Vilnius)

ICT2013 will bring together Europe's best in ICT research, with businesses old & new, web start-ups and digital strategists to plan a path for Europe's ICT research policy. Join us to share your vision for the future with EU policy-makers, and see the latest advances in EU-funded ICT research.

The ICT 2013 event will be the first opportunity to learn the details of research funding for ICT-related projects under Horizon 2020, the EU's new research program for 2014-2020.