eMobility Platform
Working Group "Broadband in Europe"
Brussels, March 22nd, 2007

Minutes of Meeting

Location:

Ericsson
Bourgetlaan 44 / Avenue du Bourget
B-1130 Brussels

Times:

Start: 10:30, End 15:00

Notes according to agenda topics

Agenda:

1. 10:30 Welcome and review of the agenda

2. 10:40 Introduction of participants

3. 10:50 Review of the Joint Mirror Group meeting on February 13, 2007 on Structural Funds and discussion (Karl Schattauer)

4. 11:30 PART I: Presentations of best practice examples for the use of Structural Funds including discussion and lessons learned

   4.1. Structural Funds in Poland (Tomasz Gerszberg)
   4.2. Investments & Innovations in the Free State of Saxony supported by Structural Funds (Helmut Ennen)
   4.3. SEI – Service Enabling Infrastructure (Bojan Grujcic Kastelic)
   4.4. Broadband & Mobile services R&D – cooperation interests (John Katsimardos)
   4.5. Promoting Broadband using Structural Funds: the case of Greece (Vasilis Kaldanis)

5. 12:30 Lunch

6. 13:30 PART II: Presentations of best practice examples for the use of Structural Funds including discussion and lessons learned

   6.1. Broadband initiatives in Macedonia (Liljana Gavrilovska)
   6.2. Statement on Complementarities between French activities and Structural Funds (Jacques Magen)
   6.3. Statement on eMobility platform for "connected cars" (Giovanni Roso)
   6.4. Regional test bed for test and validation of new mobile services – Övre Norrland-SWEDEN (Karl Schattauer)
   6.5. Introducing ICT to SMEs through enthusiasm for football – East Midlands-UK (Karl Schattauer)

6.6. NYNET – North Yorkshire broadband network – UK (Karl Schattauer)
6.7. MAN – Metropolitan Area Networks – IRELAND (Karl Schattauer)
6.8. Bridging the broadband communications gap – GREECE (Karl Schattauer)

7. 15:00 Wrap-up and further steps

8. 15:15 Close of the meeting

1. Welcome and review of the agenda

- The agenda was approved.
- The list of participants is attached.

Last Name	First Name	Organisation	e-mail
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3. Review of the Joint Mirror Group meeting on February 13, 2007 on Structural Funds and discussion

- A short overview was given on
  - how the topic developed (slide 4),
  - the strategic planning and the decision process of Structural Funds (slides 6-8),
  - commonly identified technology areas for potential use of Structural Funds (slide 9)
    - Mirror Group members and EC representatives asked for examples of best practice for the use of Structural Funds for communication technologies

Details: 3-0 Mirror Group meeting February 13 2007
3-1 Presentations JMGM_2007_02_13

4.1 Structural Funds in Poland

- Tomasz Gerszberg presented the Polish plans on the use of Structural Funds in the coming period 2007-2013.
- He mentioned that the process of how to apply for SF in the coming public tenders are not yet known and that it would be very helpful to get contacts on persons experienced in setting-up such projects.

Details: 4-1 Structural funds in Poland

4.2 Investments & Innovations in the Free State of Saxony supported by Structural Funds

- Helmut Ennen gave an overview on how Structural Funds successfully have been used for investments and innovations in the Free State of Saxony in the past periods.
- Via public tenders Structural Funds have been allocated directly to industry for investments.

Details: 4-2 Investments and Innovations in the Free State of Saxony

4.3 SEI – Service Enabling Infrastructure

- A brief description of a planned ISKTRATEL project, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) from the 2000-2006 period budget, setting up a service enabling platform, was presented by Bojan Grujcic Kastelic.

Details: 4-3 SEI – Service Enabling Infrastructure

4.4 Broadband & Mobile services, R&D – cooperation interests

- In place of John Katsimardos who joint the meeting later Constantinos Velentzas presented the project proposal “Case Study: Broadband services platform”. The project, partly financed by Structural Funds, will be vendor independent.

Details: 4-4 Broadband and Mobile Services

4.5 Promoting Broadband using Structural Funds: the case of Greece

- Vasilis Kaldanis gave an overview on
    - the actual situation of the Greek broadband market,
    - the Structural Funds period 2000 – 2006 in Greece and two projects, one related to broadband infrastructure and the other to broadband services.

Details: 4-5 Promoting Broadband

6.1 Broadband initiatives in Macedonia

- Liljana Gavrilovska presented the actual situation and future plans on broadband as an development booster in the EU candidate state Macedonia.
- She raised the question if a candidate state could already benefit from the 2006-2013 budget not yet allocated to member states, e.g. to prepare feasibility studies.

Details: 6-1 Broadband initiatives in Macedonia

6.2 Complementarities between French activities and Structural Funds

- In his statement Jacques Magen, representative of the French "Agency for Industrial Innovation", highlighted that
    - the Agency supports large projects in the range of 30-400M€ total costs proposed by industrial companies for activities beyond usual research R&D activities, in order to help them reach or strengthen a worldwide scope, with the two objectives: highly qualified jobs and export market,
    - all projects are operated under the "Programme to Mobilize Industrial Innovation – PMII" are managed and coordinated by industry with following key features:
        - clear innovation, potentially via disruptive technologies,
        - industrial objectives allowing the concerned companies to leapfrog their competitors and establish themselves in a sustainable manner on the global market,
        - support is provided to the R&D part of a PMII only if there is an identifiable risk that cannot be taken by industry on its own.

➔ for more information see www.aii.eu

6.3 Telecommunication Services

- Giovanni Roso explained that the expenses for Telecommunication services in Europe represent about 4% of Grand National Product, which is a significant contribution. It is very hard to maintain this level of income. The development of new value added services on traditional terminals and for person to person or person to content services do not create new willingness to pay
  Also in the ICT sector the traditional investment do not create sufficient return with respect to shareholders expectation. In practice the development of new products and services for the traditional markets is in a low appealing phase.
  In this scenario it is mandatory to explore new opportunities, i.e. new market, for economic growth. An important perspective to resume the growth in the ICT sector can be represented by new solutions, which are able to satisfy the expectations of European citizens in the area as pollution reduction and congestion reduction.
  New ICT application for transportation, logistics and energy can contribute to such reductions of very large costs due to externalities.

  In particular the application of new ICT solution in transportation area can be very interesting for the development of services as:
    - Floating car data;
    - E-payment;
    - Off board navigation;
    - Emergency call.

  At present there are many proprietary ICT solution based on the use of personal devices for traffic systems. In the future it is possible to expect a new generation of vehicles connected to a network. So it will be possible to have real time information and to give real time indication to assure an affordable level of traffic in urban and non urban roads.

  Structural funds can finance research and development of new solutions to assure standard products and services for a new scenario based on connected vehicles.

6.4 Regional test bed for test and validation of new mobile services – Övre Norrland-SWEDEN
6.5 Introducing ICT to SMEs through enthusiasm for football – East Midlands-UK
6.6 NYNET – North Yorkshire broadband network – UK
6.7 MAN – Metropolitan Area Networks – IRELAND
6.8 Bridging the broadband communications gap – GREECE

- Short descriptions topics 6.4 -6.8 including contacts and links see 6-4to6-8 Further Examples

7. Wrap-up and further steps

- Information to the participants was given on ***14 - 15 May 2007 Conference "Bridging the Broadband Gap conference: Benefits of broadband for rural areas and less developed regions".***
  For more information see
  http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/broadband_gap_2007/index_en.htm
- Further best practice examples are welcome and will be analyzed and provided to Member States and Regions to support their planning of innovative projects using Structural Funds.
- Access to presentations held at the Joint Mirror Group Meeting on February 13, 2007 will be given to the participants ➔ see topic 3.