NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017

NESSI - the European Technology Platform for Software, Services and Data

Dear NESSI Member,

We are pleased to present to you the April 2017 edition of the NESSI Newsletter.

As always, we hope that you find this edition of NESSI news interesting and would welcome you to follow us on our website www.nessi-europe.eu for the latest updates.

Best regards,
NESSI Office

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NESSI Contribution to the Consultation on Cloud Computing Research Innovation Challenges for WP 2018-2020

The *Cloud and Software* Unit of DG CONNECT held a public consultation to identify the research and innovation challenges in cloud computing, in preparation of the H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020.
NESSI responded to this consultation, recognizing the **importance of cloud computing** as we head towards a *software continuum* which brings together self-managing software, able to carry out tasks without human intervention, and citizen software, which represents advances in user empowerment concerning software 'programming' (see also NESSI Recommendations for ICT Work Programme 2018+ at http://www.nessi-europe.eu). Although in recent years we have seen dynamic evolution and growing adoption of cloud computing, NESSI identified that challenges remain unsolved both for cloud infrastructures and for cloud services development. Most notably, the distribution of systems, the connection of new types of devices to the cloud, the unified management of data and processing, the life cycle of applications, and the introduction of 'smart algorithms' at all levels are challenges that still require research and innovation initiatives within Europe.
In November 2016 NESSI was invited to present its views in a post-consultation workshop, along with a large variety of stakeholders from academia, research centres, enterprises and SMEs. The presentations showed a diversity of concerns, from improvement of current solutions (for example on data privacy) to long term research propositions to change software engineering paradigms or to develop formal models for the clouds. Propositions from NESSI found support from other actors, including the importance of distribution, the integration of

NESSI Recommendations for ICT Work Programme 2018+

NESSI has recently has provided the EC with recommendations towards the ICT Work Programme 2018 – 2020.
The paper focuses on the key role that generic software engineering principles, techniques and tools will play. It argues for key software engineering challenges to be addressed by research and innovation actions towards realizing a Software Continuum. To avoid replicating investments and research effort, NESSI advocates setting up centralized activities on generic software engineering principles, techniques and tools, which may feed complementary more domain specific activities.

the IoT and cloud platforms, the emergence of 'smart algorithms' (based on big data, machine learning, analytics and semantics) in infrastructures and applications, and the evolution toward seamless integration, deployment and management of applications in the cloud.

As presented by the European Commission, cloud computing will be a subject to a dedicated call before the end of 2017. NESSI will stay in contact with DG CONNECT to propose priorities, and we are open to any discussion with Members on this subject.

Further details of the consultation on cloud computing are available at https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/consultation-cloud-computing-research-innovation-challenges-wp-2018-2020 and http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/events/cf/public-consultation-on-cloud-computing-research-innovation-challenges-for-wp-2018-2020/stream-items.cfm?id=369.

NESSI Questionnaire on Horizon 2020

NESSI recently invited Members to complete a questionnaire regarding their satisfaction with Horizon 2020. We thank all those who participated. Responses were equally divided between Partners and Members, coming from a good distribution of enterprises, SMEs, academia and research centres. The conclusions that can be drawn cover all aspects of proposal preparation and project participation.

There is consensus that the **funding rules** are better and more clearly explained than those of FP7.

There is strong agreement that the area of **software** has not been sufficiently covered in H2020.

On the topic of **consortium building**, the results show that support is inadequate. NESSI had the opportunity to discuss this topic with DG CONNECT of the European Commission, who confirmed that they will organize more brokerage events and info days in the remaining years of H2020.

Replies have also shown a desire for **pre-screening of proposals**, which in previous Framework programmes was much valued..

Responses have indicated that a clear explanation of **evaluation process** is available, the results are mixed as to whether the evaluation criteria are clearly explained. The other problem remarked on by respondents is that the evaluation summary report does not provide useful comments on problems with the proposals.

Replies have shown that the time and process for **contract preparation**, and the **payment scheme** and the **execution of the project**, are generally acceptable. Moreover, replies have shown a general agreement that H2020 has improved the process for **initiating a project** compared to FP7.

NESSI is using the results of the questionnaire to inform the EC. Whilst we do not expect many changes in H2020, we expect the EC to consider our views in the planning of FP9.