Future Internet Assembly, Aalborg

Session 1.2 – Open platforms for innovation

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Other contributors: Per Blixt (European Commission, Belgium), Suzanne Iacono (National Science Foundation, USA), Chip Elliott (GENI Project Office (GPO), USA), José Jiménez (Telefónica I+D, Spain), Alex Galis (UCL, United Kingdom).

Session summary
The Future Internet is currently addressed by several large R&D programmes in different regions and related countries. This session focused on the EU (Future Internet Public-Private Partnership and FIRE) and US (IGNITE and GENI) perspectives, analysing the differences and complementarities in approaches, business, challenges and involved stakeholders.

The session was kicked off by Didier Bourse of Alcatel-Lucent who explained its context and ambitions, introduced the speakers and highlighted the US and EU approaches for Future Internet research. He then presented specific perspectives to structure the discussion (see slides 11-13/15 of the related presentation), including the layered and using/building approach, the respective programmes’ features, as well as a set of additional questions (e.g. What would be the value chain, value sustainability and exploitation of the developed platforms and the usage areas or applications? What are the detailed KPIs/characteristics/expected outcomes of the platforms, beyond the initial qualification? ...).

Petra Turkama of Aalto University and Chip Elliott of GPO introduced respectively the FI-PPP and IGNITE programmes. Beyond the contractual presentation of the FI-PPP, Ms Turkama stressed the first year’s experience in terms of programme achievements and challenges (see slides 7/8 of the related presentation). The Core Platform (FI-WARE project) and the forthcoming Usage Areas pilots/experimentation (to be developed in the FI-PPP Phase 2) are key elements of the FI-PPP’s developments. The session participants were also invited to find out more about the programme and the upcoming Phase 2 Open Call at www.fi-ppp.eu. Mr Elliott introduced the IGNITE programme that has been recently announced and is in contract phase. He explained in detail how IGNITE leverages current NSF-funding in GENI across US campuses and cities (see slides 7-14/14 of the related presentation).

The panel was then introduced by Serge Fdida of University Pierre et Marie Curie and the Commission’s Per Blixt. Mr Elliott and José Jiménez of Telefónica I+D introduced respectively the FIRE programme, GENI programme and FI-PPP Core Platform (FI-WARE project). Mr Blixt highlighted the connection and interdependency between FI-PPP and FIRE (complement testing, mid-term (FI-PPP) market, long-term (FIRE) research) and the next steps in the FIRE developments (see slides 3-5/6 of the related presentation). Mr Elliott provided details on the GENI developments and architecture, and stressed the expansion of the current 100-200 US
campuses involved (see slides 4-5/6 of the related presentation). Mr Jiménez provided details on the FI-PPP Core Platform and Generic Enablers and stressed the challenge of building an open application platform, highlighting that innovation requires much more effort than research (see slide 4-7/8 of the related presentation).

The very interactive and lively panel discussion and Q&A session sought to answer the following questions: (1) Different or common potential innovation channels and innovators? (2) Different or common (technical) challenges for each of the targeted vertical application domains? (3) Different or common enablers for experimentation, pilots and testbeds? (4) Different or common roles for industry? (5) Different or common roles for academic/research centres? and (6) Different or common expected exploitation plans and success factors?

The main discussion points focused on the openness, scalability and sustainability of the developed platforms, the technical/technological enablers for these platforms, the experimental approaches (testbeds, pilots, prototypes…) and the architectural perspectives.

The session attracted some 70 participants, providing the opportunity for a well-balanced mix of presentations, discussions and Q&As. The session helped to foster greater mutual understanding between the EU and US approaches and identify potential synergies and convergence points.

It is anticipated that the discussion will be furthered in the context of the forthcoming TRIDENTCOM conference (11-13 June 2012 – Thessaloniki), GENI Engineering Conference or GEC (9-11 July 2012 – Boston) and Dublin FIA (February 2013 – Dublin). A specific session in the Dublin FIA could be targeted at the FI-PPP Core Platform (FI-WARE) use and usage.

**Links and info**


http://www.fi-aalborg.eu/index.php/program/session-1-2-open-platforms-for-innovation


