

# EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION

## Progress Report

April 27, 2009  
Brussels, Belgium

### I. Overview

The following is a progress report on the development of the European Alliance for Innovation initiative (hereinafter referred to as *the Alliance*) based on the two coordination meetings which have taken place in Verona (February, 2009) and Brussels (April, 2009). During these two meetings the participants have identified obstacles to innovation in Europe, including the fragmentation of research and development efforts, the absence of an entrepreneurial mindset, the lack of a unified European-centric professional grassroots society to support and bring together the necessary critical mass of actors, and inadequate exploitation and investment in the Intellectual Property generated from European research.

The coordination meetings, culminated in a series of recommendations proposed and agreed on by the participants in the following key areas:

1. *Principles* outlining the main philosophy, values and beliefs that members of the Alliance jointly intend adopting;
2. *Goals and Actions* summarizing the objectives and actions needed to support European innovation through a widespread grassroots movement of individual and organizational stake-holders in the innovation lifecycle;
3. *Tools* leading to a set of concrete instruments through which the proposed goals and objectives can be effectively implemented and achieved;
4. *Membership, Governance and Administration structure* setting an effective organizational and administrative framework for the successful implementation of the proposed activities of the Alliance.

### II. Participants

Experts involved in the development of the proceedings of the Alliance coordination meetings, and those interested in the outcome of the initiative represent the following organizations:

1. Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA)\*\*
2. Center for Research and Telecommunication Experimentation for Networked Communities (CREATE-NET)
3. Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS)
4. Directorate General Information Society and Media (DG INFSO)\*\*\*
5. EUREKA – A Europe-wide Network for Market-Oriented Industrial R & D\*\*
6. European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS)\*\*\*
7. European Cooperation in Science and Technology Office (COST)
8. European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)\*\*
9. European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)\*
10. European Multimedia Forum (EMF)
11. European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)\*
12. Europe Unlimited (E-UNLIMITED)
13. Fraunhofer FOKUS\*\*\*
14. Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI)
15. Informatics Europe (EI)
16. Institute for Computer Sciences, Social-Informatics and Telecommunications Engineering (ICST)
17. Joint Institute for Innovation Policy (JIIP)
18. Networked European Software and Services Initiative (NESSI)
19. National Office for Research and Technology (NKTH)
20. Public Safety Communication Europea (PSCE)
21. Wireless World Research Forum (WWRF)\*\*\*

### III. Principles

Participants have recognized the necessity to adopt the following three key principles in order to realize the full potential of the Alliance initiative to foster innovation in Europe:

1. Creating an Alliance platform that brings together individual and institutional stakeholders involved in all the key aspects of the European innovation ecosystem (education, venture capital, research, policy, etc.);
2. Pursuing a participation model that strengthens each member's own activities and interests with the objective of making European innovation more competitive through identified mutual synergies;
3. Adopting a governance model that promotes a unified organizational framework within which members can democratically define Alliance goals and activities, work effectively through a single entity to reach the critical mass of influence, and directly participate in charting the technical directions of European ICT policies.

\* Organisations that attended the first Alliance meeting in Verona but were unable to participate in Brussels

\*\* Organisations Invited as observers

\*\*\*Organisations that did not attend but who expressed interest in receiving information on the meeting outcome

#### **IV. Goals**

Following the consultations of the two Alliance meetings, the participants have identified the following list of goals to address the prevailing shortcomings of innovation in Europe:

1. Increase European research prestige;
2. Promote outreach and improve research dissemination;
3. Create rewards and incentive mechanisms to encourage participation fostering innovation;
4. Assess professional competencies via standardized certification mechanisms;
5. Develop Alliance coordination instruments;
6. Through cooperation establish a critical mass in strategic areas of ICT;
7. Share best practices at the European level;
8. Foster career development in professional areas of ICT;
9. Develop a research and innovation mapping;
10. Provide necessary training and education on various aspects of innovation.

#### **V. Actions**

The participants will launch a broad spectrum of bi- and multilateral cooperation initiatives to address the current challenges limiting European innovation. In order to quickly and efficiently kick-start Alliance activities priority will be given to the following areas:

1. Share membership access and provide common dissemination channels to maximize outreach to individual and institutional stakeholders in the European innovation process;
2. Develop instruments to promote European standardization and patenting potential;
3. Establish mechanisms to recognize scientific excellence to increase European research prestige;
4. Share best practices amongst the members and use benchmarking approaches;
5. Adapt a generic reward system to incentivize member participation at a grassroots level;
6. Pursue activities to support the better integration of the student community into the innovation lifecycle;
7. Form a unified voice on policy and project recommendations to increase lobbying and advisory power to national and supranational funding and regulatory organs and agencies;
8. Work towards changing the mindset regarding innovation and creating an entrepreneurial approach;
9. Design tools that facilitate research-industry interaction and cooperation to increase business participation in innovation activities.

#### **VI. Tools**

In support of the above objectives and in order to lower barriers and unify stakeholders for innovation, Alliance members will build a web community through dedicated portals with the following characteristics:

1. The community will be inclusive of both organizations and individuals;
2. The community portals will provide a structured one-stop shop approach;
3. The community portals will be supported on a voluntary basis but with the commitment of all Alliance members to provide content and with rewards for participation.

The three main principles will be manifested through the following concrete initiatives:

1. An official Alliance website and a series of linked portals to serve as central meeting places for all Alliance activities and as the agora for specialized web communities. The envisioned Alliance portals initially will focus on horizontal mechanisms, although where applicable vertical approaches based around a single technological area or compound technological challenge will be evaluated further.
2. A joint database to create the largest mailing list of professionals being part of the European innovation ecosystem.
3. An Alliance Reward Program to encourage prosumer participation and reward individual contributions.
4. An Alliance Awards Program to provide prestige by a European recognition of excellence.
5. Student chapters to support student participation in innovation activities with specific emphasis on instilling an entrepreneurial and innovation oriented mindset among European students.
6. Joint events to support dissemination and networking requirements of member organizations.
7. Reform of education in support of ICT growth in Europe

#### **VII. Membership**

The participants will implement a membership model that is inclusive of all types of potential member organizations provided they (1) have agreed to the founding objectives, principles and operating mechanisms of the Alliance, (2) have identified Alliance tools and activities that through the sharing of resources can individually benefit them and (3) have agreed on the common goal of

promoting European Innovation through cooperation under the name and the logo of the European Alliance for Innovation. Member organizations will decide which Alliance activities they would like to participate in or contribute to.

### **VIII. Governance**

The Alliance will establish a three-pillared governance model and organizational structure that provides representation opportunities for all member organizations. The (1) Governing Board will consist of initiators and a rotating representation of Alliance members and will act as the main coordinating body for the organization. The member organizations will establish a high level (2) Innovation Council with an advisory function that will identify and provide the Governing Board with recommendations regarding the technology areas, services, and participation models beneficial for the Alliance, through a democratic representation of each member organization. Administration, operation and infrastructure required will be provided by (3) the Alliance Secretariat.

### **IX. Administration**

The participants have agreed that the Alliance initiative will require substantial resources in order to ensure the necessary level of coordination among member organizations and the highest level of quality with regards to all the Alliance services and activities. Upon considering the benefits of the Alliance initiative and conducting its own evaluations internally, each member organization will decide on the type and amount of resources it will contribute to the Alliance initiative.

To support a timely initiation of the Alliance activities ICST will provide the necessary resources for secretarial, administrative, coordination and organizational services for the Alliance by acting as the official Alliance Secretariat through the direct provision and investment in personnel and infrastructure resources. The participants have agreed to also pursue without delay future funding opportunities from multiple sources through the Alliance Secretariat as the legal entity; funding opportunities will include private, government, NGO, regulatory and other related sources as identified by Alliance members.

### **X. Timeline for follow-up activities**

The participants will carry out the below listed concrete action items as a follow-up to the meetings by the date indicated:

1. Provide feedback with regards to the principles, objectives, tools and mechanisms and administration and governance model as described in this report (May 17, 2009).
2. Define the scope of mechanisms for the sharing and common usage of database, membership, and the Alliance logo, the European Union Digital Library (EUDL), and an Alliance Newsletter for dissemination purposes (May 20, 2009).
3. Based on the feedback provided by the participants prepare an Alliance Framework Agreement with common operational guidelines leading to a transparent Alliance governance model and a template for a Bilateral Cooperation Agreement to support member collaboration on joint services (May 20, 2009).
4. Present the Alliance Framework Agreement to the heads of the relevant organizations, such as the various Directorates General of the European Commission, the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (May 25, 2009).
5. Convene third Alliance meeting in Budapest, Hungary (on June 16, 2009).