

Working Group

Digital Transformation

Conference Call: 13 January 2020

Draft meeting notes

Agenda:

- Introduction (purpose and process, Robbert & Roland)
- Brief tour de table (max 10 minutes)
- Intro to the specific working group (max 5 minutes), how do we see it, our initial suggestions for topics
- First round of key topics to be brought forward by the participants (15 minutes)
- Discussion (15 minutes)
- Conclusions and next steps (10 minutes)

Participants:

Edvard P. Beem: The Netherlands Organization of Health Research and Development; Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing

Jan van den Biesen: Key Digital Technologies partnership;

Simeon Angelov: Omnitel; Synchronisation of the digitalisation in education, science and the government.

Dagmar Auerbach: EURAMET e.V.; Science for measurements and its digitalisation;

Georgi Dobrev: European Affairs Consulting Group; Specialisation in the area of energy and healthcare; involved in the horizon framework; especially in digital transformation regarding SEE and CE.

Jonas Bylund: Urban Europe Joint Programming Initiative; building partnerships towards Horizon Europe in the area of digital transformations, focusing on challenges in urban transformation towards sustainable urbanisation. Public funders; include industry, civil society and public administration.

Judit Sandor: Shift2Rail; focus on the European rail research, how digitalisation is affected by new technologies and the setting of future railways.

Robbert Fisher: K4I, moderator

Roland Strauss: K4I

Introduction:

- Working breakfasts since October on European Partnerships
- Anthony Whelan in the cabinet of President Von der Leyen responsible for the digital part in the cabinet is invited to attend the digital transformation session.
- Successful implementation of Horizon Europe requires a continued dialogue and cooperation among European Partnerships and stakeholders.

Priorities and objective of the working group:

- This is in a series of events leading up to the sessions during the 11th EIS. Next will be the physical breakfast meetings on the 21st of January and a second call in the last week of January.
- The sessions of the 11th EIS will round up and present recommendations, on key issues to ensure the impacts are reached from a stakeholder perspective to the EP and EC. The recommendations will be validated through discussion and debate with a wider audience.
- K4I serves as the platform of the European Parliament to bring together stakeholders; Commission and policy makers to tackle topics that are considered most critical for a specific area.
- Working groups come up with specific recommendations that are brought forth at the conference to foster a dialogue between stakeholders, the EP and the Commission, financial institutions and investors; the working groups are a mechanism to focus the discussions and run over the lifetime of Horizon Europe.
- Horizon Europe as an effort to implement strategies and orientations; reorientations over the period of seven years as well as a continuous discussion of the budget allocation.
- The instrument “K4I MEP policy brief” informs MEPs about a certain subject matter. The sessions are accompanied by those briefings that lay out the topic, the priorities, the challenges and policy options or recommendations.
- Establish seven currently planned partnerships.

Ideas:

- Jointly produced document that raises the challenges like the impact of digital transformation, including issues such as digital sovereignty
- Demand driven initiatives are needed to reach anticipated impacts

Key issues/Focus areas:

Health/Demography & Digitalisation

- Demographic change puts pressure on health and care systems with a growing elderly population and a shrinking young population & health care workforce.
- Convince the Commission and Member States to collaborate and initiate a dialogue; to make use of the achieved progress of the last 10 years and not start from the beginning.
- Establish a holistic approach including the social/societal perspective as well as the technological one to develop one strong partnership.
- The current health & care systems are not adapted to the demographic and technological change, more oriented towards illness and disability. The goal is to orient the system towards self-sustainability & self-management to make use of available human resources.

Data Traceability & Digitalisation

- Data is always available through smart devices but there is no traceability or proof of the data being of decent quality, and sometimes even its provenance.
- Agreed standards for measurement supporting the data quality and data exchange will foster trustworthiness in quality and reliability to enable optimisation of digitalization.

Innovation Gap of Member States

- Focus on closing the innovation gap between new and old Member States without targeting one specific area, but more through levelling out the unbalanced access to different programs between old Member States (e.g. Germany, Austria) and CE & SEE Member States through digitalisation.
- Establish better internet access, energy efficiency & exchange of data.

Competitiveness/Technological sovereignty

- Provide key technologies for digital transformation in order to boost competitiveness and technological sovereignty.
- A mechanism to align national research and innovation policies by addressing a range of technologies that then can be implemented in several areas (health; mobility; energy; digital manufacturing).
- Extend the scope of digitalisation and advanced computing.

Digital transformation as a connective tissue

- Digital transformation affects all aspects of society today.
- Harness digital transitions in order to support open transformations towards sustainability in a challenge driven way and in a multi stakeholder context.

- Simplifies and shortens cooperation between organisations.
- Capacity building at regional and local level is required.

Multimodal transport systems through digitalisation

- Have a better integrated European rail system; also, in regard to e.g. ticketing systems.
- Establish traffic management systems
- Involve and use big data and artificial intelligence to create a transnational European system.
- Cooperation regarding cyber security solutions and communication systems.

Main challenges:

- Efficient implementation of digital transformation
- Enhance interaction and collaboration between the different stakeholders and partners
- make the framework conditions imposed by the Commission sufficiently attractive for private partners to participate. There is an imbalance regarding the financial participation contribution between e.g. private partners and other participants; which creates different incentives for partners to join