

***Eastern Europe and Central Asia Cluster
Position paper on***

***Enhancing collaboration among
the Networked European Software
and Services Initiative
and
research and industrial ICT actors
from the EECA countries***

July 2016



Rationale

The **EECA Cluster** (<http://www.eeca-ict.eu>) is comprised by EAST-HORIZON and EECA-2-HORIZON, two complementary projects funded by the European Commission under the FP7-ICT Programme, sharing a common goal: *to strengthen the links and boost cooperation among the research and industrial communities from the EU and the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries towards the development of long-term strategic and mutually beneficial R&I partnerships in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).*

Over the last 2,5 years (January 2014 – July 2016) the Cluster partners carried out a broad range of activities to bring together members of European Technology Platforms and EECA experts and build communities of people that will exchange ideas and share experiences and concerns on how to exploit emerging collaboration opportunities and address common societal challenges.

In this environment, the Cluster worked closely with **Networked European Software and Services Initiative** through Athens Technology Centre, a partner of the Cluster and a member of NESSI ETP. Through the course of the project and during various meetings, consultations, community building activities in the broader field of "*Software, Services and Data*":

- ✓ NESSI strategic priorities, objectives and activities were presented
- ✓ Numerous NESSI members as well members of the NESSI Steering Board had the opportunity to interact with key research and industrial actors from the EECA region and investigate their collaboration potential; and
- ✓ The common R&I priorities between NESSI and the EECA countries have been identified, discussed and validated

This document outlines our findings on how to enhance the collaboration between the **Networked European Software and Services Initiative** and relevant structures from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries in areas of mutual interest in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Common R&I priorities in the field of "Software and Services"

To create a common ground for long-term collaborations, the EECA Cluster performed a survey in order to examine which priorities under Horizon 2020 are common between NESSI ETP and EECA countries. The survey was conducted with the use of questionnaires distributed through the Cluster partners to EECA experts. The information collected was analysed by the Athens Technology Centre a member of NESSI and the main priority areas were discussed, validated and updated during the 4 international events organised by the Cluster in the presence of the EU and EECA experts, among which several NESSI representatives:

- ✓ 12 November 2015 in Baku, Azerbaijan
- ✓ 9 September 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia
- ✓ 20 October 2015 in Lisbon, Portugal (within the context of the ICT2015 event)
- ✓ 13 June 2016 in Chisinau, Moldova

The table below presents the main R&I priorities (listed in order of relevance) in the EECA countries in the field of "Software, Services and Data".

Priority No	Priority area
1	Smart Cyber-Physical Systems
2	Cloud Computing
3	Cognitive Systems
4	Media and Content
5	Privacy, security and trust
6	Smart System Integration
7	Software Technologies

Common Priorities of NESSI and EECA Countries under H2020

Identified Courses of Action for more effective cooperation among NESSI and EECA ICT actors

Towards the establishment of a feasible and dynamic NESSI-EECA community, the creation of a cooperation ground among NESSI and the research and industrial communities in the EECA region, the following set of actions are suggested:

- Rec #1: Appoint a NESSI partner to act as the liaison for International Relations in the EECA region. ATC volunteers to undertake this duty. The liaison will act as the contact to EECA partners when an action is needed from either side (e.g. gather information from the EECA viewpoint to add to a NESSI white paper or SRIA)

- Rec #2: Establish a NESSI-EECA Board with one high ranking executive from each EECA country represented in the EAST-HORIZON and EECA-2-HORIZON cluster. These executives will be responsible for gathering information or voicing requests from their countries

- Rec #3: Select one representative from the NESSI-EECA Board (rotating each year) who will be allowed to participate in the NESSI SC meetings as observer

- Rec #4: Create a directory of organisations from each EECA country active in the strategic areas of NESSI and interested in collaboration with European organisations. This can be a task coordinated by the NESSI-EECA liaison with information provided by the NESSI-EECA Board members

- Rec #5: Promote NESSI activities towards the EECA countries and EECA activities towards NESSI.