Towards new avenues in EU-US ICT collaboration

PICASSO, a new project on ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society is launched in January 2016

Starting from January 1st, 2016, the new project PICASSO "ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society: towards new avenues in EU-US ICT collaboration", funded under the European Union Horizon 2020 programme, will bring together EU and US prominent specialists with the aim of reinforcing EU-US ICT collaboration in pre-competitive research in key enabling technologies related to societal challenges of common interest – 5G Networks, Big Data, Internet of Things and Cyber Physical Systems - and to support the EU-US ICT policy dialogue.

Tackling societal concerns through collaboration in key technology areas is today's challenge for both the EU and the USA. It is at the same time a generator of business opportunities and a source for wealth creation and growth.

Over the next 30 months, the PICASSO project will provide an exchange platform for EU and US experts through dedicated technology-oriented working groups in order to propose solutions for a smart society (smart cities, smart transport, smart energy…). In addition, a policy working group will aim at supporting the EU-US policy dialogue by contributions related to topics such as privacy, security, internet governance, interoperability, and ethics.

Based on an in-depth analysis of policy gaps in the three technology domains 5G Networks, Big Data, Internet of Things/Cyber Physical Systems, the analysis of industrial drivers, societal needs, and priorities for EU-US ICT collaboration, the working groups will propose measures to stimulate the policy dialogue in these areas. This synergy between experts in ICT policies and in ICT technologies is a unique feature of PICASSO with benefit to both the policy and the technology communities in the EU and the USA.

The PICASSO working group experts will meet regularly in order to prepare an Opportunity Report for EU-US ICT collaboration dedicated to large and small industries, academia and networks that will point out new avenues for EU-US research, innovation and policy collaboration. An "ICT Industry Toolkit" will be made available online and as a mobile application, providing information on funding programmes and collaboration opportunities (Horizon 2020 and US ICT programmes) in order to support company and academia exchange, and to provide access to reciprocal programmes.

Sustainable growth in the ICT sector is dependent on policy, standardization and regulatory issues. Policy experts from the EU and US who are brought together through PICASSO will identify policy gaps and prepare Policy Briefs that focus on specific aspects such as the potential needs for common standardization, for privacy and confidentiality or cyber security. An ICT White Paper will be developed, proposing the way forward to achieve fair competition and equal access to markets and technologies and means to help improve the mutual understanding of the differences in approaches and policies to overcome unproductive blocking situations.

PICASSO - ICT Policy, Research and Innovation for a Smart Society: towards new avenues in EU-US ICT collaboration

Project Communication N° 1 (Publication: December 2015)

PICASSO will investigate options for strategic initiatives (e.g. on standardization, regulation and de-regulation…) and put forward topics for exclusive EU-US collaboration under joint coordinated schemes to support EU-US pre-competitive research and innovation related to the core ICT technological areas and societal challenges.

The technology and policy specialists are invited to participate in additional activities. PICASSO will propose such as events, the development of success stories' factsheets, info sessions and webinars.

The PICASSO consortium is combining academic, industrial and policy support experience and includes the EU-based partners Technische Universität Dortmund and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, THHINK Wireless Technologies, UK, Athens Technology Center, Greece, Agenzia per la Promozione delle Ricerca Europea, Italy, GNKS Consult, The Netherlands, and the US-based partners Honeywell International, The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence (MFJMCE) at Florida International University, and the Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota, USA. The project is supported by NIST – the National Institute of Standard and Technology, USA. The PICASSO partnership is led by inno TSD, France.

PICASSO project website: www.picasso-project.eu (under construction)

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About the PICASSO project:

PICASSO is co-funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme.
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Duration: 30 months
Total budget: 1,160,031 €, including a contribution from the European Commission of 999,719 €

PICASSO consortium members:

	inno TSD, France – one of Europe's leading innovation management consultancy firms, specialised in helping major private and public stakeholders design and implement R&D and innovation projects. http://www.inno-group.com/
	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DORTMUND, Germany – a leading German technically oriented research university with strong research groups in big data, communications, smart grids, e-mobility and cyber-physical systems.. http://www.tu-dortmund.de
	THHINK WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED, United Kingdom - an ICT company founded in 2009 after more than a decade of research and development in wireless and energy harvesting technologies. http://www.thhink.com/
	ATC SA, Greece - an SME and Technology Centre in the field of ICT participating in 3 ICT European Technology Platforms: NESSI (Steering Committee member), NEM (member) and NETWORLD2020 (member), and founding member of European Big Data Value Association. http://www.atc.gr
	AGENZIA PER LA PROMOZIONE DELLA RICERCA EUROPEA, Italy – a non-profit research organisation, grouping together more than 100 members, including public and private research centres, industries, industrial associations, chambers of commerce, science parks and more than 50 universities, with the main objective to promote the participation in national and European RTD programmes. http://www.apre.it/
	HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC, United States – a multinational company and global leader that invents and manufactures technologies to address some of the world's toughest challenges initiated by revolutionary macrotrends in science, technology and society. The company's products and solutions are focused on energy and the environment, safety and security, and efficiency and productivity. http://honeywell.com/
	GNKS CONSULT BV, Netherlands - conducting strategic and policy research and evaluation, building on excellence in understanding of the impact of the emerging Global Networked Knowledge Society http://www.gnksconsult.com/
	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN, Germany - a full-scale university with 14 faculties, covering a wide range of fields in science and engineering, humanities, social sciences and medicine. https://tu-dresden.de/
	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, United States - The Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, (MFJMCE), a member of the global network of EU-sponsored Jean Monnet centers, has the mission to promote teaching, research and outreach activities relating to the EU. http://www.fiu.edu/; https://miamieuc.fiu.edu/
	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, United States – The Technological Leadership Institute bridges the gap between business and engineering. TLI's mission is to develop local and global leaders for technology enterprises. https://tli.umn.edu/