

Public Private Partnership Workshop

in the field of Future Internet and Broadband Investments

Attracting investment in Future Internet through the PPP model

Riva del Garda, Thursday, 4 October 2012

Due to the financial and economic crisis, investments in infrastructure in Europe and beyond, including in the ICT sector, are being adversely affected, with lenders taking a more cautious approach in providing finance for infrastructure projects. Despite all this, ICT-related deals are still taking place and the PPP market, especially in mature economies, is still thriving, making the PPP model as ideal for injecting the much needed private capital in infrastructure.

The objective of this workshop is to analyse, identify and understand how to implement a ICT PPP project, especially in broadband infrastructure, what are the legal and financial conditions and constraints for the project to succeed and what are the classical mistakes that could be avoided. We will analyse in specific how to attract investment in broadband projects and how to facilitate the deployment of Future Internet infrastructures. Furthermore we will identify which are the PPP models in broadband, especially at the regional level, that are attracting attention and are worthy of further interest.

Context

For the past fifteen years, the UNECE has been working with member States in the area of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) focusing on increasing the expertise of governments to identify, negotiate, manage and implement successful PPP projects. UNECE's work in this area is carried out through exchange of knowledge and experiences of PPPs by member States, including experts from public and private sectors, particularly in the identification of best practice leading to the preparation of guides on best practice, studies and innovative tools that are used in capacity-building programmes and training. Drawing on the expertise of its extended PPP network of experts, the UNECE is involved in assisting member States getting started in PPPs to develop their PPP capabilities. UNECE's work in PPPs is delivered through the International PPP Centre of Excellence in Geneva, Switzerland, and its affiliated Specialist Centres hosted by member States around the world dealing with specific topics, such as the proposed PPP Specialist Centre on ICT/Broadband Infrastructure hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in Baku.

The European Alliance for Innovation (EAI) was created by leaders from industry, research, and policy making organisations to engage the global community with the shared goal of securing Europe's future competitiveness through innovation. By harnessing the potential of

the ICT revolution, EAI engages the global community in all sectors of society to explore ways in which innovation in technology and business can benefit society at large. EAI combines vision and advocacy of society leaders with a grassroots democratic participative model, functioning together through innovative web tools covering all stages of the innovation cycle to build a new and sustainable innovation paradigm.

The INFINITY project is charged with creating a new, useful and valuable repository of infrastructure capability and capacity that relates need to opportunity and facilitates the creation of an international community. Capacity building, which will be underpinned by collection of infrastructures gathered by INFINITY, is paramount to a successful Future Internet Public-Private Partnerships (FI-PPP) and the uptake of its results for commercialisation. A key aspect of the capacity building process is the engagement of the wider stakeholder community, both inside and outside of the FI-PPP initiative.

The UNECE and EAI, in collaboration with INFINITY project are proposing a panel workshop that will investigate how Public Private Partnerships can facilitate the deployment of ICT investments in Europe especially in the field of Future Internet and Broadband Investments.

The Challenge

The challenge is:

How best to realise capacity building processes within the PPP leveraging national and regional initiatives and stakeholder representative groups. As the broadband investments are in need of new deployment opportunities and schemes; and while FI-PPP moves towards the integration of European wide infrastructures and the deployment of FI-PPP projects on these infrastructures; the challenge is to address the future expansion phase by attracting new members, new regions proposing new credible and sustainable models for broadband deployment and Future Internet infrastructures adoption.

Identifying what the capacity building initiative will offer to the different stakeholders in support of their participation is important. Who are the participants and what are the processes that need to be in place such that this is achievable?

Some specific challenges are:

- Regional clusters vs. pan European solutions to PPP capacity building, should the focus be on building capacity at a regional level first and then inter-linking them rather than going for a more overall pan European approach. A hierarchical/layered strategy to capacity building.
- What is the most effective way of ensuring that the results of investments at European, national and regional level are effectively shared among stakeholders to ensure that we can build on previous investments and trial outcomes?

- Are current funding mechanisms sufficient or are new more adaptable mechanisms necessary? Do they need to be customised for a particular stakeholder and project? Are those funding mechanisms good for software projects?
- How are end-user groups incorporated into the trial infrastructures pilots and the capacity building process?
- What the conditions or the pre-requisites that needs to be respected to facilitate the adoption between infrastructures owners and investors?
- Is there scope for Regional or National funding agencies to support regional participation in PPP and specifically in the capacity building aspect?
- What could be the role of the International PPP Specialist Centre on ICT/Broadband Infrastructure in the field of Future Internet and Broadband Investments? How we build an effective framework which enables sharing of information and expertise at European, national and regional level?

Speakers

Tony Bonnici, UNECE

Crister Mattsson, Senior Advisor Acreo

Luigi Telesca, COO CREATE-NET

Representative of the Ministry of ICT, Azerbaijan

EU Commission Officer

Alessandro Zorer, CEO Trentino Network

Sergio Bettotti, Dirigente Provincia di Trento

Leo McKenna, PPP Specialist

Anthony Smith, PPP Specialist

FIWARE Partner

Infinity Partner

Participants

1. private sector involved in ICT,
2. govt officials from at the national, regional and local levels,
3. research institutions involved in ICT Rese,
4. representatives of intergovernmental orgs (EU and UNECE)
5. PPP specialists
6. ICT experts

7. Broadband experts
8. Infrastructure Owners (Best Practises exchange)
9. FI PPP Community
10. SMEs/SME Associations
11. National Funding agencies

Host

European Alliance for Innovation (EAI)

Local Organization

CREATE-NET

Output

A set of best practises review and recommendations based on projects that have been successful in delivering next stage Internet through PPPs, which can be translated into a framework for future capacity building activity, highlighting the different approaches used. A guideline for PPP activity in the ICT sector.

PPP Best-Practice Guide for ICT/Broadband Infrastructure

Scope and Deliverables

The PPP Best-Practice Guide for ICT/Broadband Infrastructure will consist of two separate releases. The first one will be realised as a concrete output to this event:

- PPP in the ICT/Broadband Infrastructure: A Formula for Success

The Guide will be regularly updated by the International PPP Specialist Centre on ICT/Broadband Infrastructure affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, with substantive input from the European Alliance for Innovation (EAI) and CREATE NET.

	PPP in ICT/Broadband Infrastructure A Formula for Success
Purpose	To provide governments with an overview of international experience of PPP in the ICT/Broadband Infrastructure, and how PPP can deliver social as well as financial outcomes
Audience	Senior executives (private sector), PPP policy makers (public sector), and senior researchers/market analysts
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1: milestones in the development of PPP in ICT/Broadband Infrastructure • Part 2: government and private sectors PPP strategies in the ICT/Broadband Infrastructure • Part 3: recommendations for best practice use of PPPs in the ICT/Broadband Infrastructure
Writing style	Newspaper style, in plain English (designed for English as a second language readers)
Page Length	30 to 50 pages
Publication	Hard Copy and online
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Russian (later stage) • French (later stage)
Delivery Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft completed by [End 2012]