

## SATELLITE SYSTEMS TO SLASH DIGITAL DIVIDE IN EUROPE

Partially funded by the European Commission, the SABER project is a Thematic Network on the "Contribution of satellite systems to 100% EU broadband coverage" in the frame of the "Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme-ICT Policy Support Programme" (CIP-ICT PSP).

The purpose of the SABER Thematic Network is to create a long term, sustainable environment in which stakeholders interested in tackling the Digital Divide by contributing to the roll out and take-up of broadband for all, at increasing speeds, and in particular through satellite-based services, can proactively collaborate.

The scope of the project is to create the conditions for the most efficient and effective contribution of satellite systems to support the achievement of the objectives set for the Digital Agenda for Europe

(DAE) and Europe 2020, including assistance in the use of 2007-2013 EU unspent funds.

The SABER Thematic Network intends to bring together national and regional authorities, and analyse the experience of those which have used satellite solutions for broadband access, in order to develop guidelines for deployment and share best practices and disseminate information to regions across Europe in need using a common, easy to access, information repository which offers access to relevant information including cost benefit analysis of broadband access by satellite, satellite offers and technical capabilities, State aid, business models, funding options including demand aggregation and recommended solutions to non-technological roadblocks.

The SABER Thematic Network intends to explore the possible use

of regional funds in relation to demand aggregation schemes and assistance, and to propose plausible adaptations in call specifications to incorporate satellite communication solutions in such calls.

SABER works with regions in 3 streams:

1. an early stream for regions ready to plan deployments in the short term
2. a main stream to support regions in achieving the 2013 DAE objectives
3. a future stream supporting regions to achieve the 2020 DAE objectives.

Tools, methodologies and guidelines will be developed to assist regions in their own satellite broadband deployment planning.

SABER seeks to build consensus among stakeholders on solutions to address broadband gaps across European regions.

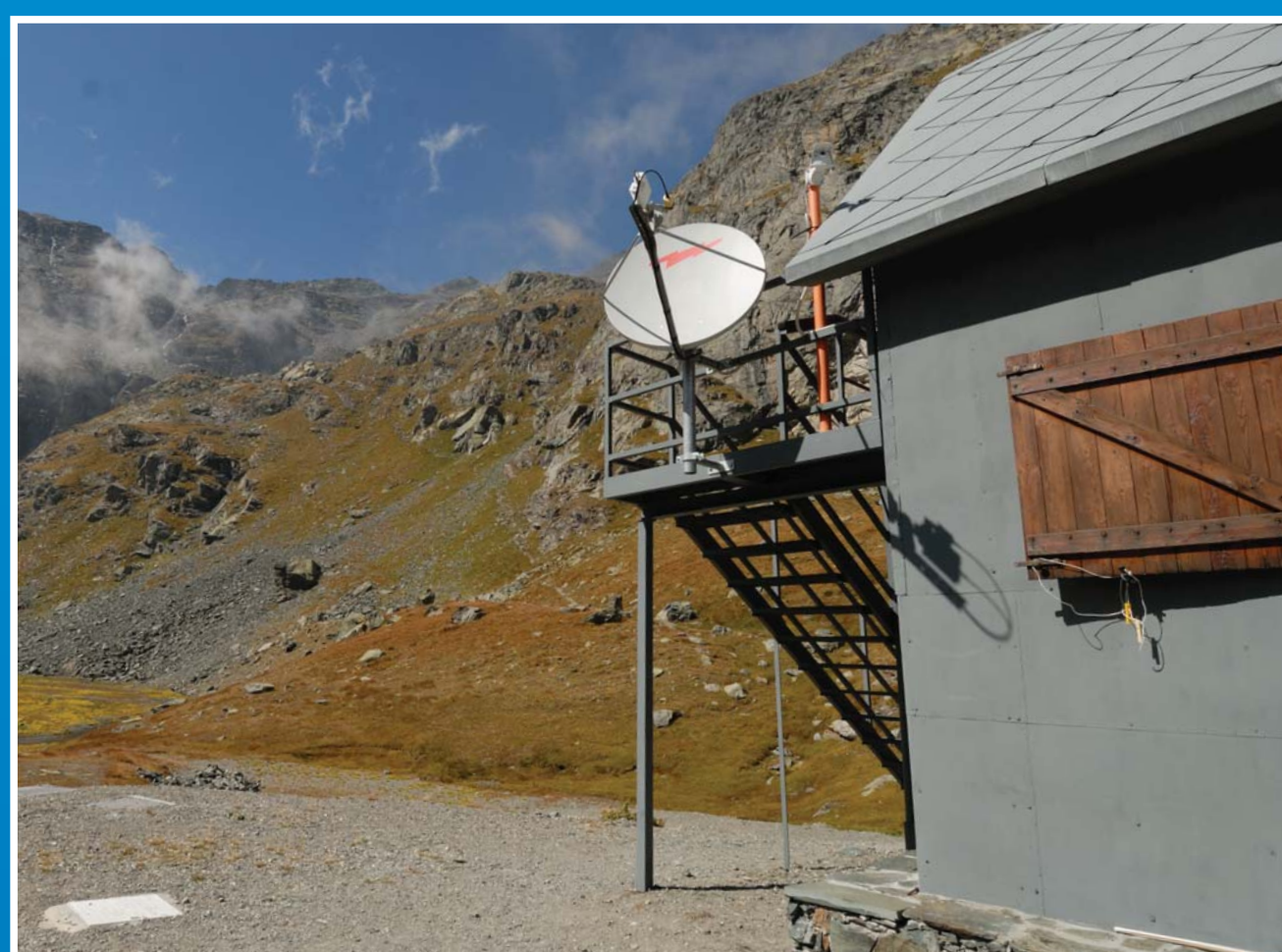


Photo by Ivano Basso

Led by CSI Piemonte, the 24 month project involves 26 partners, representing 13 countries.

The project partners, regional and industry organisations, cover all the broadband value chain and have extensive experience in publicly funded deployments.

CSI PIEMONTE - Consorzio per il Sistema Informativo (co-ordinator) - IT

CNR-IREA - Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - IT

FUNDECYT-PCTEX - FUNDECYT Parque Científico y Tecnológico de Extremadura - ES

LEPIDA spa - IT

SIR - Regione Abruzzo - Struttura Speciale di Supporto Sistema Informativo Regionale - IT

WNRI - Western Norway Research Institute - NO

BHV - Bykle og Hovden Vekst as - NO

NEM - New Economy Manchester - UK

NIVERLAN - Syndicat Mixte Ouvert Nièvre Numérique - FR

ACREO Ab. - SE

SWRA - South West Regional Authority - IE

MWRA - Mid West Regional Authority - IE

COI - Stowarzyszenie "Miasta w Internecie" - "Cities on the Internet" Association - PL

RDHOR - RD Horizon, Raziskave in razvoj, Davorin Rogina s.p. - SI

MIT - Mira Telecom srl - RO

ETA2U srl - RO

eTRIKALA - Anaptyxiaki etaireia dimou trikkaion anaptyxiaki anonymi etaireia ota - eTrikala - EL

TOSP - Associazione ToscanaSpazio - IT

INFOTER- Informatika a Tarsadalomert egyesulet - IT Pro Society Association - HU

DEVONCC - Devon County Council - UK

RCITT - Swietokrzyskie Centrum Innowacji i Transferu Technologii Spolka z Ograniczona Odpowiedzialnoscia Regional Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer - PL

SLINUA - Slí Nua Development Limited - IE

EUTELSAT s.a. - FR

ASTRIUM sas - FR

SKYLOGIC spa - IT

SBBS - SES Broadband Services - LU