**Letter of Intent (LoI)**

 **Smart Amber Road Regions (STARS)**

**trans regional alliance**

**1. BACKGROUND**

 **1.1 Aim:**

* to **address the complex problems of Smart Cities/ Regions** and  large  techno-social-economic  systems (Smart Ports, Borders, Seas, transport, etc) by applying the latest multidisciplinary research knowledge and expertise, system approach,  living lab methods and experimental platforms facilities
* **to join competences, efforts and interests** of Cities and  Regions, Living Labs and Innovation Agencies, Universities and Research Organizations in North and South European macro regions
* **to take advantage of regional diversities and complementarities** of business ecosystems, cultures, regional experiences and knowledge
* **to establish trans regional Alliance,** to promote long term collaboration,  to set up partnership and **permanent  entity for Alliance secretariat, Federated Knowledge Center and Living Lab**
* to contribute to trans regional **Smart Cities/Regions macro cluster development**
* to facilitate **inter regional and  trans regional  cooperation** within and between the macro regions with possible further extension to other EU regions and cities

**1.2. Purpose:**

* **to raise public, cities and regions awareness** of new Smart Cities/Regions technologies, systems,  services and tools. To educate users, public organizations to provide better understanding of capabilities, limitations and operational environments of Smart Cities and Regions
* **to launch regular trans regional multidisciplinary conferences** and  thematic workshops with the participation of leading experts and practitioners
* **to promote and to stimulate the development and integration** of new smart ICT technologies and systems
* **to facilitate interdisciplinary research** collaboration
* to stimulate  cooperation between research and innovations organizations, science and technology parks in Smart Cites/ Regions domains
* **to promote** the use of **Living** **Labs** methods and tools, internet, multimedia and mobile devices and to empower citizens participation in Smart Cities/ Regions service design
* **to highlight the importance** of  interoperability and **ethical aspects**
* **to develop vision** document

**1.3. Approach:**

 The STARS Alliance promotes **multidisciplinary**, **system** approach, **Living Lab** methods and tools, **citizens participation** in digital **services innovation**, cross sector and international **interoperability**, **open internet** based **systems, open data**.

**1.4. Activities:**

The STARS Alliance **activities** are **conferences** and **seminars**, **working groups**, **publishing** and **education activities**, **secretarial support**.

**1.5. Domains and Topics:**

* The **macro system domains** considered by the Alliance include but not limited to **economic development**, **Tourism, Sea and Ports, Logistics, sea and rivers basins macro systems, Culture, Immigration, Agriculture, Supply Chains, Building Industry and Automaton, Public Health**, **Environment**, **Intelligent Traffic Systems(ITS)**, **Critical Infrastructure Protection**, **Emergency and Disaster Management**, **City Management and Planning.** (domainsproposed by participants)

The examples of **topics** include but not limited to:

* Public safety and emergency management systems and tools
* Intelligent monitoring systems and tools. Decision support and situation awareness tools
* Smart border crossing at sea, land and air ports
* eHealth and telemedicine
* Smart Cities sustainability and resilience
* Risk management
* Secure and safe intelligent traffic systems (ITS)
* Intelligent critical infrastructure monitoring and protections systems
* Environmental monitoring
* Intelligent ICT systems, networks and applications, Future Internet and IoT
* Digital services innovation and design
* Techno-societal smart system of systems resilience and security
* Smart Cities experimental platforms , Living Labs and test beds
* topics proposed by participants

**1.6. Partnership:**

The STAR Alliance partners will contribute to establishing **partnership for Federated multidisciplinary Knowledge Center and Living Lab** that will be **platform for** **development** of innovative technologies, services, **education** methods and tools.

The partnership participants could be cities, regions, universities, companies, living labs, universities, cities and leading research organizations.

**1.7. Alliance organizational structure:**

 The Alliance will be established as registered independent non-profit self-funded **association** with permanent secretariat. The initial Alliance structure will include  **Alliance core group, board**, **technical coordinator**, **secretariat** and **working groups**. The initial organizational structure may change during the development of the Alliance.

**2. PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE LOI**

**2.1. Purpose of LoI**

This LoI sets for the terms, understanding between the partners and intent to establish and to participate to international STARS Alliance and its activities described in the paragraphs 1.1. - 1.4 of the LoI document.

**2.2. In particular, this LoI is intended:**

* **to collect expressions of interest** of originations interested to participate in the Alliance
* **to build an initiative group** for establishing Alliance association
* **to identify interests areas and potential contributions** of participating organizations
* **to initiate dialog** between interested organizations and forums to refine the scope and the aim of the Alliance
* **to identify the priorities areas** that will be initially proposed for the Alliance and will help to identify the Alliance organizational structure and its working groups
* **to set up management committees** and to define the Alliance rules of Association

**3. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES, THAT WE:**

* **RECOGNIZE** **the importance and timeliness** of STARS Alliance aims, purpose and topics and the importance and the need to consolidate trans regional efforts and to start the international multi-stakeholders dialog
* **AGREE** **with the aims, the purpose and the approach** described in the paragraphs 1.1 -1.3 of the LoI document
* **AGREE** **to participate and to contribute** the STARS Alliance activities presented in the paragraph 1.4 of the LoI document

**4. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS LoI**

Participating partyshall undertake the following activities:

* **participation** in the actions and events targeted to establishing of the SSC Alliance (meetings, telcos)
* **review** Alliance documents
* **contribution** to the Alliance WGs and events

**5. FUNDING**

 This LoI **is not** a commitment of funds

**6. DURATION**

This LoI is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from (list partners). This LoI shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the (list partners) and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from (list partners) this LoI shall end on.

**7. CONTACT INFROMATION**

Partner name:

Partner representative:

Position:

Address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

**8. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE**

This LoI shall be in effect upon the signature of Party authorized officials.

Parties indicate agreement with this LoI by their signatures.

*Signature and dates*

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