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| European Commission logo | EUROPEAN COMMISSIONDirectorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and TechnologyData**Accessibility, Multilingualism and Safer Internet** |

Stakeholder Consultation on
Language Technologies & Web Accessibility

Luxembourg 3-4 October 2019

Background information

## **Next Generation Internet**

The ‘Next Generation Internet’ is an intervention area under Cluster 4 ‘Digital, industry and space’ of Pillar II ‘Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness’ of Horizon Europe.

Under the Next Generation Internet, Horizon Europe intends to support research on:

* personalised solutions to increase web accessibility and digital inclusion;
* language technology to foster competitiveness and language diversity and improve human machine interaction.

The Internet has become the critical infrastructure for Europe as many social and economic activities depend on it.

The Internet of today has significant limitations. The risk of breaches of security or privacy, lack of accessibility, lack of user control of their data, and manipulation or disinformation are some of the major challenges to be tackled.

Furthermore, the internet economy is vulnerable to concentration of market positions from devices to networks. Concentration in few powerful providers generate potential threats of user lock-in. Breaches of citizen's security or privacy, lack of accessibility, lack of user control of their data, and manipulation or disinformation are some of the major challenges to be tackled.

Being a global network of networks Europe has no choice but to invest further in R&I to be a leading force shaping its technological and market development.

The next generation Internet (NGI) initiative aims to develop the key technology building blocks and the infrastructures for the Internet of tomorrow, while addressing the growing societal and political concerns and service needs, with a human-centric trustworthy internet enabling full connectivity and accessibility and collective intelligence (people, processes, data, content and things) and safeguarding core European values. It aims at supporting an autonomous European Internet supply chain, which can meet the future industrial and societal needs establishing Smart Networks and Services (including Internet of Things, cloud/edge computing continuum, and cognitive cloud) and Content platforms. The initiative addresses the innovative immersive, media and business applications supported by such platforms. It builds on a comprehensive strategy including a technology push and an application/ market/end-user pull, and composed of technological layers with different time to market cycles.

Interactive Technologies, including immersive technologies and language technologies, will allow for a more inclusive, user-oriented/driven and innovative use of computers, machines and the Internet.

Distributed ledger technologies, being cross-cutting enabling technologies which support efficiency and trust in validation of transactions, can enable the development of EU data spaces while empowering citizens, public services and businesses to control and share access to data.

## **Horizon Europe**

* [**About the Horizon Europe programme**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme_en)
	+ [Orientations](https://ec.europa.eu/research/pdf/horizon-europe/ec_rtd_orientations-towards-the-strategic-planning.pdf) towards the first Strategic Plan implementing the research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe.
	+ [Co-design consultation 2021-2024](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HorizonEurope_Codesign_2021-2024) (closes on 4 October)
	+ [Brief interim report](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/documents/ec_rtd_he-consultation-interim-report_092019.pdf) on the web-based consultation
	+ Horizon Europe - [Investing to shape our future](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/research_and_innovation/strategy_on_research_and_innovation/presentations/horizon_europe_en_investing_to_shape_our_future.pdf)

## **Web Accessibility**

* Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies
	+ [About the Directive](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016L2102)
	+ Implementing decision [monitoring and reporting](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568639407970&uri=CELEX:32018D1524)
	+ Implementing decision [accessibility statement](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1568639407970&uri=CELEX:32018D1523)
	+ Implementing decision [harmonised standard](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018D2048)
* Harmonised European standards on accessibility requirements for ICT products and services [EN 301 549 v2.1.2](https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_en/301500_301599/301549/02.01.02_60/en_301549v020102p.pdf)
* [EU-funded research projects into technologies for accessibility](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/eu-funded-research-projects-technologies-accessibility)

## **Language Technologies**

* [The European Parliament Resolution on Language Equality in the Digital Age](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0332_EN.pdf)
* [H2020 projects on language technologies](https://cordis.europa.eu/search/en?q=(%27Language%27)%20AND%20contenttype%3D%27project%27%20AND%20(programme%2Fcode%3D%27H2020%27%20OR%20programme%2Fcode%3D%27H2020-EU.2.1.1.%27)&p=1&num=10&srt=Relevance:decreasing)

## **Technology readiness levels (TRL)**

* TRL 1 – basic principles observed
* TRL 2 – technology concept formulated
* TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept
* TRL 4 – technology validated in lab
* TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
* TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
* TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment
* TRL 8 – system complete and qualified
* TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)