

Project Deliverable D8.7

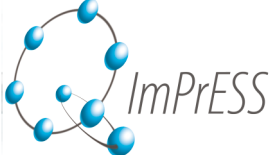
Collaboration Plan

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Abstract

This document contains the strategic plan for SSAI&E inter-project collaboration. It is intended to complement the exploitation and dissemination plans described in project deliverable “D8.5: Plan for the Use and Dissemination of Foreground” and describe the collaboration objectives and priorities of the project, the collaboration strategy and the planned collaboration activities. The document also contains a preliminary calendar of collaboration events listing the events scheduled within the first project year.

Keywords: collaboration plan, inter-project collaboration, SSAI&E, collaboration working group, joint dissemination

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

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1.0	26.08.2008	Mircea Trifu	Final version

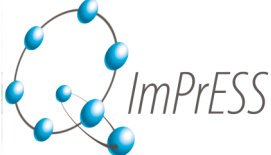
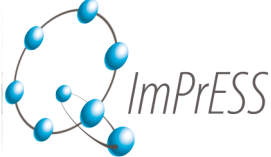

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

Table of contents

1	INTRODUCTION TO FP7 ICT SSAI&E COLLABORATION.....	5
1.1	BACKGROUND	5
1.2	OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR Q-IMPRESS	6
2	COLLABORATION PLAN	6
2.1	COLLABORATION STRATEGY	7
2.2	PLANNED COLLABORATION ACTIVITIES	8
2.2.1	<i>Participation in the CWG on QoS & SLA</i>	<i>8</i>
2.2.2	<i>Participation in the CWG on Contribution to Standards</i>	<i>8</i>
2.2.3	<i>Joint Dissemination Activities.....</i>	<i>9</i>
2.2.4	<i>Showcase on Enterprise SOA.....</i>	<i>10</i>
2.3	EVENTS CALENDAR.....	11
2.4	INTEGRATION WITH DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION GOALS	11
3	CONCLUSIONS	12

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

1 Introduction to FP7 ICT SSAI&E Collaboration

The purpose of this document is to present the strategy and planned activities for the Q-ImPrESS project within the context of the inter-project collaboration between ICT projects under the WP2007/2008 objective “Service and Software Architectures, Infrastructure and Engineering” (SSAI&E).

The rest of this document is structured as follows. Section 1.1 provides some background information about ICT SSAI&E collaboration, while section 1.2 presents the objectives and priorities of the collaboration program relevant for the Q-ImPrESS project. Section 2.1 presents our overall collaboration strategy, while section 2.2 describes the planned collaboration activities in detail. A timeline for the implementation of these activities is presented in section 2.3, and the activities’ relations to the project dissemination and exploitation goals is discussed in section 2.4.

1.1 Background

Inter-project collaboration between ICT SSAI&E projects builds upon previous collaboration activities already started in FP6 in the areas of Software & Services and Grid Technologies. The rationale behind these activities is to allow the ongoing research projects to benefit from each other and exploit potential synergies.

Many supporting activities carried out as part of the various ICT SSAI&E projects do not contribute directly to the advancement of the state of the art. Nevertheless, these activities are necessary to ensure the success of these projects. Some examples include the organization of dissemination events, contributions to standards, and contributions to repositories of reference implementations. In order to avoid duplicating this overhead in all these projects, the European Commission together with the participating projects devised a collaboration mechanism, which allows the projects to divide and share the effort associated with such activities.

The cornerstone of SSAI&E collaboration is the joining of forces to achieve a critical mass potentially having a significant impact on the current state of the art, and to avoid wasting valuable project resources on duplicated supporting activities.


The collaboration task included in all ICT SSAI&E project proposals defines the following action lines for the planned collaboration activities:

- Exploitation of synergies and technical concertation
- Contribution to standardization efforts
- Joint activities for dissemination and training
- Contribution to repositories of reference implementations

The activities within each action line are organized around Technical Working Groups (TWGs) or sometimes called Collaboration Working Groups (CWGs). There are different Working Groups for different topics of common interest, so as to allow the work of these groups to be focused and efficient.

The CWGs are also meant as a forum for exchanging information. For example, if the members of one project during their market survey come across a piece of information, which is not directly relevant for their project but is very important for another ICT SSAI&E project, they can get in touch with the members of the other project during the CWG meetings and discuss the issue.

Each CWG is coordinated by one of the participating projects, whose main responsibility is to collect input from all member projects and consolidate the objectives of the CWG, define an

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

appropriate action plan and supervise its implementation. The member projects are expected to contribute with concrete actions towards achieving these objectives and assume responsibility for some of the activities mentioned in the action plan.

The desired outcome of the collaboration effort is not to produce more deliverables, but to take measures to improve the impact of the research results both at European and International levels, so the action plan should already be aligned with this general goal.

1.2 Objectives and Priorities for Q-ImPrESS

Although the major action lines for the collaboration activities have already been laid out in the project proposal phase, the concrete objectives and priorities for these activities have been agreed on in March 2008, during the first concertation and collaboration kick-off event coupled with the joint official launch event of the ICT SSAI&E projects.

These objectives include the establishment of several new CWGs, but also the continuation of some existing CWGs from FP6. Below is a list of the new CWGs relevant for the Q-ImPrESS project.

Name of the CWG	Leading Project	Contact Person	Reference PO
QoS & SLA	IRMOS / SLA@SOI	Eddie Townsend / Wolfgang Theilmann	Annalisa Bogliolo / Lars Pedersen
Contributions to Standards	COREGrid / SLA@SOI / NEXOF-RA	Philip Wieder / Wolfgang Theilmann / Stefano De Panfilis	Charles Macmillan
Joint Dissemination	n/a	n/a	n/a

From the perspective of the Q-ImPrESS project, the collaboration kick-off event was very successful and allowed us to define priorities for the collaboration activities aligned with our internal exploitation and dissemination plan.

The first priority is to get involved in all the discussions on modeling and predicting QoS for services from the CWG on QoS and SLA.

The second priority is to participate in the CWG on Contributions to Standards in order to exchange information about and potentially influence upcoming standards.

And the third priority is to collaborate with the SLA@SOI project on a joint case-study, which might then be submitted to a repository of reference implementations. The final decision on this submission will be taken at a later stage, depending on the outcome of the collaboration activity.

In addition to these priorities, the Q-ImPrESS project will also try to exploit collaboration opportunities with the CWG on Joint Dissemination whenever such opportunities arise, in order to achieve a greater impact within the target communities.

2 Collaboration Plan

This section presents the collaboration plan for the Q-ImPrESS project. Subsection 2.1 presents the overall collaboration strategy and is followed by detailed descriptions of the planned collaboration activities in section 2.2. The timing of the planned collaboration activities is summarized in section 2.3, while section 2.4 discusses the alignment of these activities with the overall exploitation and dissemination goals of the project.

2.1 Collaboration Strategy

This section elaborates on the strategy for inter-project collaboration for the Q-ImPRESS project. The strategy was derived from the objective and priorities for Q-ImPRESS identified during the collaboration kick-off event.

Figure 1 shows a schematic overview of this strategy. The figure also shows the involvement of the project partners in each of the planned inter-project collaboration areas.

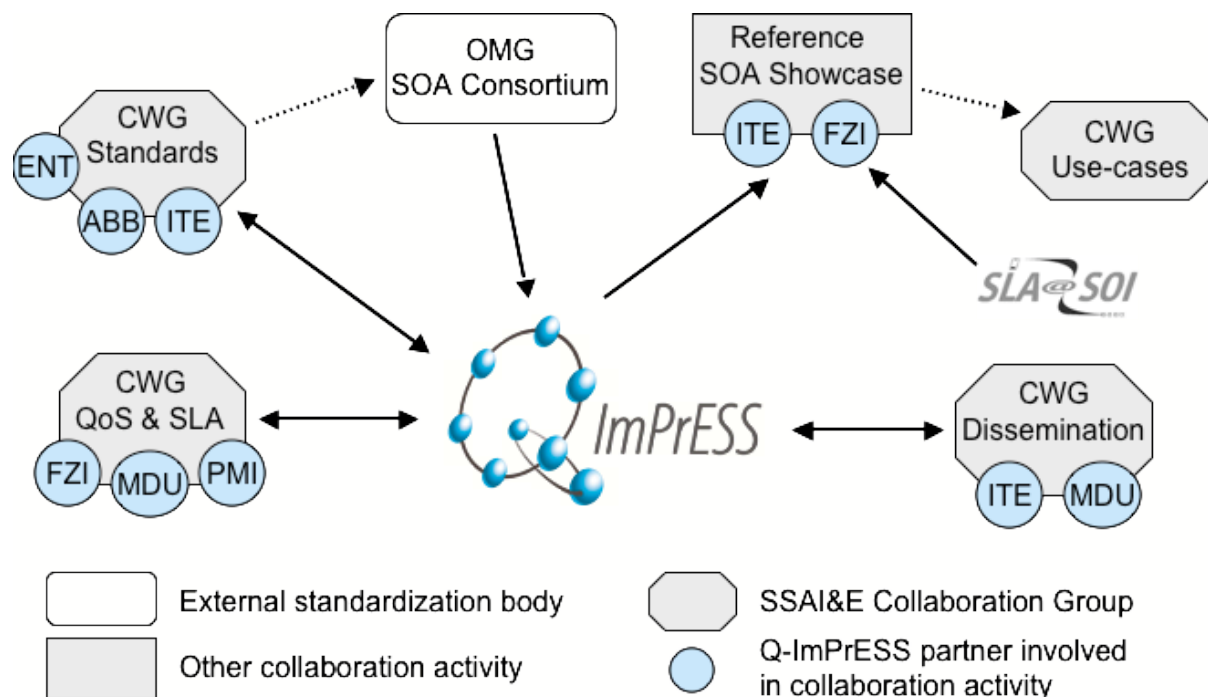


Figure 1: Collaboration strategy for the Q-ImPRESS project

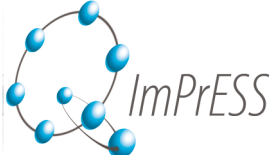
The Q-ImPRESS project will actively participate in the following collaboration areas.

Participation in Collaboration Working Groups

The Q-ImPRESS consortium will be actively involved in two of the newly established collaboration working groups: the “CWG on Standards” and the “CWG on QoS & SLA”. The bidirectional arrows between the Q-ImPRESS project and these two CWGs in Figure 1 suggest a bidirectional information flow, meaning that on the one hand the Q-ImPRESS project will provide input to the CWGs, and on the other hand it will benefit from the results of the CWG.

Contribution to Standards

The members of the Q-ImPRESS consortium will keep in touch with the OMG standardization body and especially with the SOA Consortium subgroup in order to monitor relevant standards in the area of modeling services and service architectures. Of particular interest here is the upcoming UPMS (UML Profile and Meta-model for Services) standard, which is currently in the drafting phase. Information about these standards as well as other topics of interest for the Q-ImPRESS project with high potential for standardization will be fed into the CWG on Standards, which might then decide to approach the standardization body with a written proposal for improvements. The dotted line between this CWG and the OMG in Figure 1 suggests this desired information flow.

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

Joint Dissemination

The Q-ImPrESS consortium will exploit opportunities both to organize and to participate in joint dissemination activities, hence the collaboration with the “CWG on Dissemination”.

Reference Case-studies

In addition to the involvement in the above mentioned collaboration groups, the Q-ImPrESS project will work together closely with the SLA@SOI project on the integration of the Enterprise SOA showcase with the Open Reference Case-study from SLA@SOI. The purpose of this integration is to create a single reference showcase to demonstrate the key concepts and features of both projects. The resulting showcase is a first step towards creating a standard example for demonstrating and comparing different service-oriented engineering approaches.

2.2 Planned Collaboration Activities

This section discusses each of the above-mentioned collaboration areas in more detail and presents the concrete activities planned for the realization of the collaboration strategy.

2.2.1 Participation in the CWG on QoS & SLA


The Collaboration Working Group on QoS and SLAs is one of the strategic and most relevant inter-project collaboration areas for the Q-ImPrESS project. The main objectives pursued by Q-ImPrESS in this CWG are to achieve an alignment of the terminology used throughout the different participating projects and to achieve the necessary common understanding on topics such as: relevant quality attributes, metrics for assessing these attributes, influence factors, definition and specification of required versus measured or predicted QoS, decomposition and aggregation of QoS values across the vertical service stack and the relation to existing standards for modeling QoS.

As input to the CWG, the members of the Q-ImPrESS project will bring a vast experience and a comprehensive expertise in the areas of QoS-oriented modeling of service-oriented architectures and prediction-based quality impact analysis. Since SLAs are not a major focus in Q-ImPrESS, but they are extremely relevant in the overall context of service-oriented systems with guaranteed QoS, the Q-ImPrESS project will rely on the experience of the other projects such as SLA@SOI and expects to gain new insights into the matter.

The CWG is still in the organization phase and the first face-to-face meeting between its members will take place in September 2008 at the Concertation Meeting in Brussels. In order to keep this momentum, the Q-ImPrESS project will host the first work meeting of the CWG in October 2008. The meeting is scheduled to run in parallel with the CompArch 2008 conference, thus allowing the CWG members already present at the conference to save time and travel expenses.

2.2.2 Participation in the CWG on Contribution to Standards

Keeping in touch with the relevant standardization bodies on SOA is a very important priority for SSAI&E research in general and for the Q-ImPrESS project in particular, because on the one hand it enables the project members to keep the project results aligned with upcoming standards and on the other hand gives them the opportunity to get involved and influence these standards. Because standardization demands sustained effort and major involvements, it has greater chances of success when this effort is shared among several projects. The CWG

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

on Contribution to Standards has a strategic role to bring together all SSAI&E projects interested in certain existing or upcoming standards, to facilitate information exchange between these projects and to elaborate a coherent inter-project strategy to approach the standardization bodies, needed for maximum impact.

The Q-ImPrESS project is interested in the upcoming UPMS (UML Profile and Metamodel for Services) standard and any related standards that might be proposed on modeling QoS related aspects.

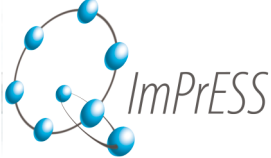
The Q-ImPrESS consortium members (especially FZI and Itemis) have already been in contact with the relevant standardization bodies (e.g. OMG and the SOA Consortium) and they can bring their experience and contacts into the CWG. The CWG is still in the self-organization phase and the first face-to-face meeting between its members will take place in September 2008 at the Concertation Meeting in Brussels, but in anticipation of the activities to come, members of the Q-ImPrESS project were already present at the OMG Technical Meeting and the SOA Consortium Meeting on June 25-26 2008 in Ottawa, Canada, and established contact with the technical group working on UPMS.

2.2.3 Joint Dissemination Activities

As already mentioned before, joint dissemination activities will be planned and organized in an opportunistic fashion. As a general rule, each dissemination event organized by the Q-ImPrESS project will be advertised not only through the appropriate academic or industrial channels, but also directly to all SSAI&E projects interested to participate. In some cases, depending on the actual topic of the organized event, the consortium members might also decide to directly invite selected people from other projects in order to achieve greater overall impact. Furthermore, the Q-ImPrESS members will also endeavor to participate in the events organized by other projects, provided that such participation is beneficial for Q-ImPrESS or for the event itself.

The table below gives an overview of the already scheduled joint dissemination activities, either organized or attended by members of the Q-ImPrESS consortium.

ORGANISED EVENTS			
Euromicro SEAA – Track on Component-Based Software Engineering			
Date:	05.09.2008	Link:	http://seaa2008.isti.cnr.it/
Responsible:	MDU	Location:	Parma, Italy
Participation:	Open to anyone (call for papers)		
Euromicro SEAA – Panel on SOA and Quality			
Date:	05.09.2008	Link:	http://seaa2008.isti.cnr.it/
Responsible:	PMI	Location:	Parma, Italy
Participation:	PLASTIC, SECSE, S-Cube (unconfirmed), Q-ImPrESS		
COMPARCH – Panel on Extra-functional Contracts versus Service Level Agreements			
Date:	15.10.2008	Link:	http://comparch2008.ipd.uka.de/
Responsible:	FZI	Location:	Karlsruhe, Germany
Participation:	SLA@SOI, IRMOS (unconfirmed), Q-ImPrESS		

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

ATTENDED EVENTS			
ARAMIS Workshop – Invited project paper			
Date:	16.09.2008	Link:	http://www.selab.isti.cnr.it/Aramis2008/
Responsible:	FZI	Location:	L'Aquila, Italy
Participation:	PLASTIC, SHADOWS, MUSIC, Q-ImPRESS		

The list presented above is expected to grow considerably in the project months to come, as new opportunities are discovered.

2.2.4 Showcase on Enterprise SOA

Task T8.4 of the Q-ImPRESS proposal is the development of a showcase for Enterprise SOA (deliverable D8.6). The purpose of this showcase is to provide a minimal example used primarily to explain and disseminate the concepts developed in Q-ImPRESS based solely on Open Source Software. Functionally the showcase should implement processes in the area of order and shipment management. The showcase must be complex enough to be representative for the Enterprise SOA domain and, at the same time, simple enough to allow a global overview.

The requirements engineering phase showed that a more sophisticated showcase would be desirable. As the FP7 project SLA@SOI also aims to provide an Enterprise SOA showcase, the potential for synergies was evaluated. Resulting from these initial evaluations both research projects agreed on a common functional business scenario, which interconnects the showcases originally planned. Figure X.X illustrates the business scenario for the Q-ImPRESS part of this joint showcase next to the coupling with the SLA@SOI showcase.

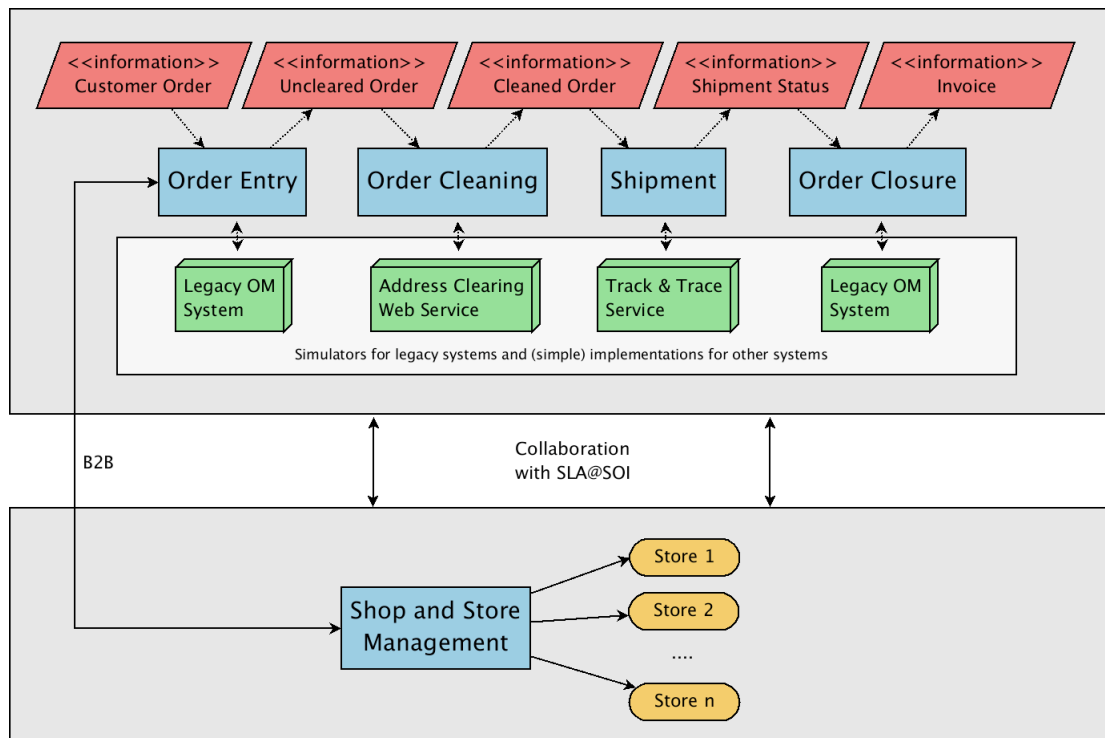



Figure 2: Business scenario for the Enterprise SOA showcase

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

The scenario includes several (legacy) systems. The order management process starts with an order submitted by a customer (the system supports end users, resellers and stores). Incomplete and erroneous orders are cleaned (e.g. a non-existent postal code is given). The shipment system tracks order shipments and special cases like partial delivery, order cancellation and order claims. After the order is closed further processes such as invoicing or after sales customer care may be initiated. Those additional processes are out of scope for the Q-ImPrESS showcase. SLA@SOI adds shop and store functionality. While the Q-ImPrESS showcase is originally focused on resellers and online shopping through one central storehouse, the SLA@SOI showcase handles sales within physical stores and related shop and store management tasks (e.g. inventory control). Also SLA@SOI includes payment (credit card, cash).

For the showcases in both projects the technology stack is not yet completely settled. However, it is already clear that both will be Java-based. The Q-ImPrESS showcase will use a Java-based Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) integrating services using various communication protocols such as SOAP, JMS or file-based communication. As the Q-ImPrESS project addresses evolving systems, the integration of the SLA@SOI showcase can provide plenty of realistic evolution scenarios. Because the two showcases do not necessarily use the same protocols and technologies an additional important aspect for quality prediction / analysis is interoperability between the two systems (e.g. an industry merger may require to combine independent and differently implemented service oriented architectures into a single SOA).

2.3 Events Calendar


The table below presents a summary timeline of the already scheduled collaboration events. The table also points out the relevance of each event for the Q-ImPrESS project in the context of the SSAI&E inter-project collaboration.

Date	Event Description	Relevant CWG
25-26 June 2008	SOA Consortium meeting in Ottawa, Canada	Contributions to standards
3-5 September 2008	CBSE track at Euromicro SEAA conference	Joint dissemination
5 September 2008	Panel on SOA and quality at Euromicro SEAA conference	Joint dissemination
16 September 2008	ARAMIS workshop at ASE conference	Joint dissemination
22-23 September 2008	Collaboration event in Brussels	All CWGs
14 October 2008	CWG work meeting in Karlsruhe	QoS & SLA
15 October 2008	Panel on extra-functional contracts versus service level agreements at CompArch	Joint dissemination

The table above is only a preliminary list of events, which have already been confirmed and scheduled accordingly, but the list of events is expected to grow considerably until the end of the project.

2.4 Integration with Dissemination and Exploitation Goals

One of the key issues when elaborating the current collaboration plan was to align the collaboration priorities with the dissemination and exploitation goals of the Q-ImPrESS project. Such an alignment is not only beneficial but also necessary in order to ensure a

	D8.7: Collaboration Plan	
	Version: 1.0	Last change: 26.08.2008

successful inter-project collaboration.

The Q-ImPrESS project will benefit from its involvement in the different collaboration working groups in terms of exchanging information during CWG work meetings, establishing contacts with other people interested in the same topics, exploiting collaboration opportunities even beyond the scope of the research project and gaining support in promoting the ideas and results of the project.

Research in general is successful only if there is a use for its results and this fact is very well understood in the Q-ImPrESS project. As a result, the project consortium will not just wait for potential users to come forth, but will actively seek out potential beneficiaries of the project results. The already established collaboration working groups are an excellent means to easily reach a larger audience and efficiently disseminate information about the project within these groups but also to the outside world by creating a larger impact. Of strategic importance here are the many joint dissemination activities planned and the connection to the main SOA related standardization bodies.

Joint dissemination will be synchronized with the three phases of the Q-ImPrESS dissemination strategy described in the project deliverable “D8.5: Plan for the Use and Dissemination of Foreground”.

3 Conclusions

This document defines the general framework for SSAI&E inter-project collaboration of the Q-ImPrESS project. It identifies four areas of collaboration: collaboration working group on QoS and SLA, collaboration working group on Contributions to Standards, joint dissemination activities and a direct cooperation with the SLA@SOI project on a joint reference case-study. Furthermore, the document presents the strategy to link these areas and describes the planned collaboration activities, including a preliminary calendar of the events scheduled for the first project year. It also discusses briefly the relation between this collaboration plan and the strategic exploitation and dissemination plans of the project.