



D4.6 - Exploitation and Sustainability plan - final



D4.5 - Exploitation and Sustainability Plan - update

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Reviewer(s)	GAC GROUP

Abstract

This Deliverable presents Think NEXUS *exploitation and sustainability plan – final*, which provides a final update to the strategy and activities presented on D4.5 “Exploitation and sustainability plan – update”. In this sense, this Deliverable details the final strategy, activities and tools that will be used to ensure the exploitation of the project results as well as its sustainability.

Keywords: Next Generation Internet; EU-US collaboration; exploitation; and sustainability

Revisions

Version	Submission date	Comments	Author
v0.1	05/04/2021	Table of Contents	SPI
v0.2	12/04/2021	Sections' developments	SPI
V0.3	22/04/2021	Comments provided	GAC
V1.0	28/04/2021	Integration of comments & finalisation	SPI

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Executive Summary

This document is a product of Think NEXUS (Think tank for the collaboration on NEXt generation internet between EU-US) project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation (R&I) programme under grant agreement number 825189. More precisely, this document presents Deliverable 4.5 Think NEXUS' *Exploitation and sustainability plan – final* of Work Package 4 - *Dissemination, outreach and sustainability*.

Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability plan is intended to detail how the tangible and intangible outcomes of the project can be exploited and further used after the end of the project. Thus, this document provides the final update to the strategy, actions and tools proposed in D4.4 "Exploitation and sustainability plan – draft" and "D4.5 "Exploitation and sustainability plan – update", with the aim of ensuring Think NEXUS' successful exploitation and sustainability.

Think NEXUS' final exploitation and sustainability strategy has been developed by identifying and describing the project's exploitation objects and approach, target audiences, expected impacts and exploitation results, as well as by defining a set of short, medium and long-term actions.

The management and overall implementation of exploitation and sustainability activities is led by SPI (leader of WP4 - *Dissemination, outreach and sustainability*). However, since Think NEXUS will produce results that can be exploited jointly or separately by the partners, all the partners have been involved in the planning and implementation of the project's exploitation and sustainability strategy and actions. Therefore, this document is to be used by all the project partners since it defines the final strategy and actions to ensure Think NEXUS' sustainability.

Think NEXUS project

The Internet of the future should be more open, provide better services, more intelligence, greater involvement and participation. It needs to reflect the European values. EU's Next Generation Internet initiative is a key opportunity to rethink the way the Internet works today and develop a vision involving voices from across Europe, the US, and beyond, an Internet that embodies the values Europe holds dear, such as openness, inclusivity, transparency, privacy and cooperation.

Thinking global, the NGI will be successful only if a worldwide consensus is found. To that end, collaboration between the EU and the US, both areas being strongly committed to develop the future of the Internet, to shape a sustainable landscape for NGI developments. Indeed, the NGI initiative should design specific actions for policy collaboration, shared technology development and interaction between user-communities, with other initiatives in the world where parts of the NGI infrastructure are designed and deployed; and the US are one of the main places where such activities are held.

Think NEXUS aims to reinforce EU-US collaboration, through its dedicated Think Tank, involving major stakeholders (researchers, entrepreneurs, policy makers) from both sides of the Atlantic on NGI-related topics in three Focus Areas: Science and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Policy. Its mission is to become an important and lasting entity, involving stakeholders and disseminating NGI visions in a collaborative approach for tackling NGI challenges, and benefit society at large. More specifically, Think NEXUS is expected to boost the strategic research, industrial partnerships and policy compliances among the respective communities of the NGI areas and, thus, result in substantial socio-economic benefits in both the EU and the US.

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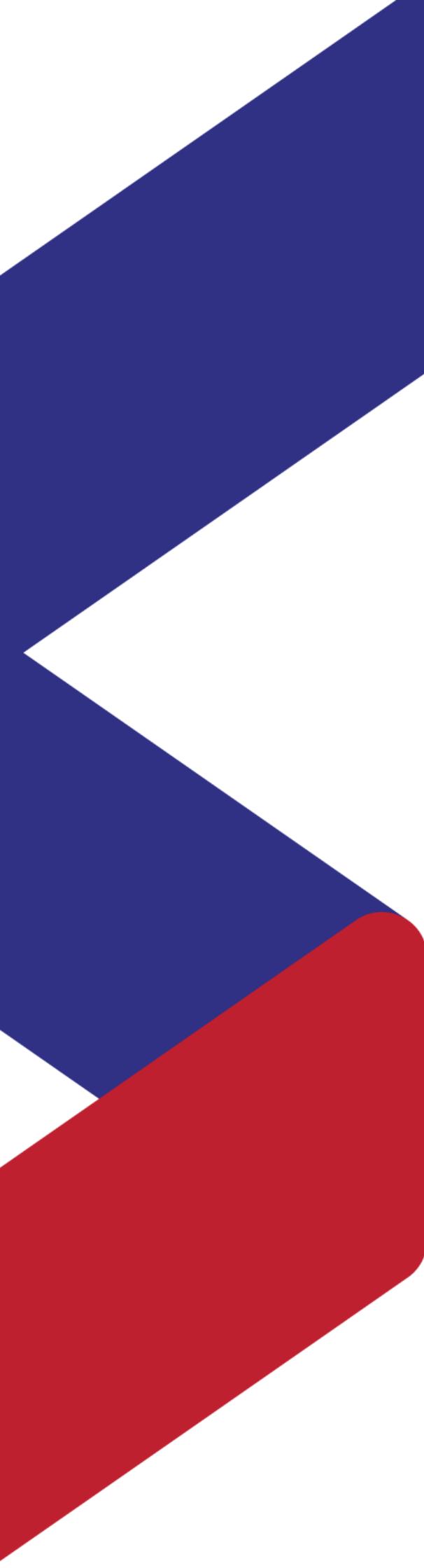
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CHAPTER 1 - Introduction & Purpose

1. Introduction & Purpose

This document is developed as part of the Think NEXUS (*Think tank for the collaboration on NEXt generation internet between EU- US*) project, which has received funding from the European Union's (EU) Horizon 2020 research and innovation (R&I) programme under grant agreement number 825189. The **Exploitation and sustainability plan – final** represents Deliverable 4.6 of Work Package 4 (WP) - Dissemination, outreach and sustainability.

WP4's main objective is to develop and implement outreach activities to create awareness and disseminate the project and its results, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project and its outcomes. WP4's specific objectives are:

- Define and implement outreach activities, complemented with dissemination activities, and based on a specific plan;
- Develop and animate a web platform to ensure the project's online presence, to engage and make available relevant information to stakeholders;
- Prepare and implement an international NGI EU / United States (US) symposium;
- Develop a plan for the exploitation of the project results by partners or external stakeholders; and
- Develop a plan for the long-term sustainability of the project to ensure that collaboration between the EU and US as fostered in the project continues beyond its conclusion.

Furthermore, *D4.6 Exploitation and sustainability plan – final* is a public document that details Think NEXUS' final exploitation and sustainability strategy and action plan. This strategy is focused on ensuring that the expected impact of the project impact is achieved after its lifetime.

The development of the *Exploitation and sustainability plan – update* is led by SPI (leader of WP4 - Dissemination, outreach and sustainability); however, all project partners will be involved in the exploitation activities, since the project will produce results that can be exploited jointly or separately by the partners.



CHAPTER 2 - Overall Final Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy

2. Overall Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy

Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability strategy is focused on providing the target audiences with continuous relevant information about the project's outcomes in order to maximise its impact after the project's lifetime. More precisely, Think NEXUS' final exploitation and sustainability strategy refers to the planning and implementation of activities of mainstreaming and multiplication of the project results.

Furthermore, Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability plan complements *D4.1 Dissemination and Outreach Plan* and proposes actions on how to create added value of the manifold project's activities and outputs during the project timeline and after its completion. Therefore, Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability strategy has been developed by identifying and describing the exploitable outcomes, the potential target audiences, the short, medium and long-term actions through which the project results will be exploited after its lifetime. Figure 1 presents Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability framework.

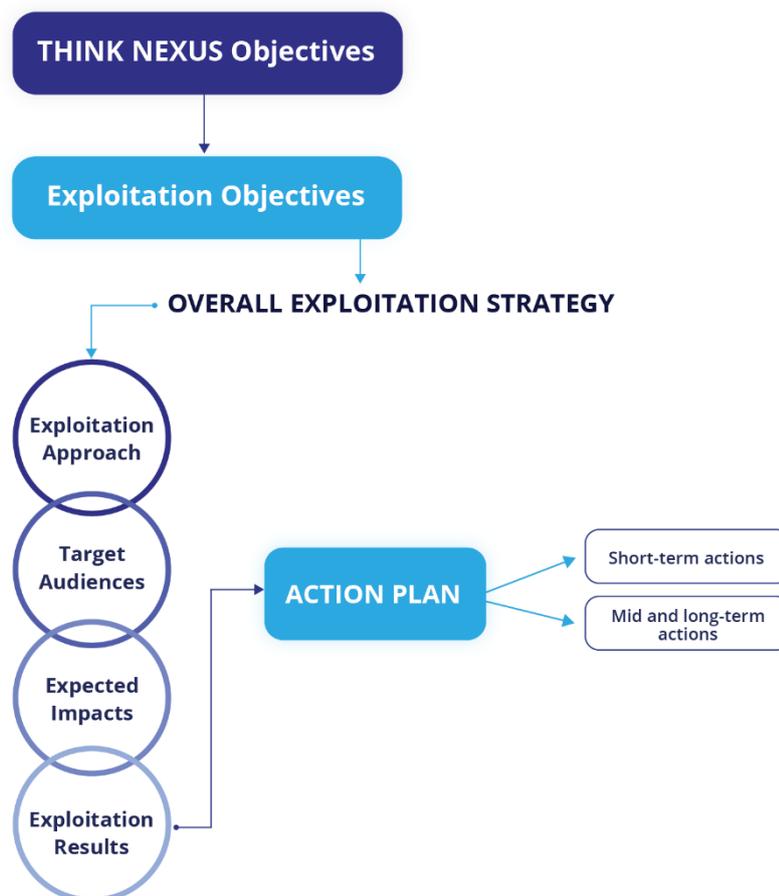


Figure 1. Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability framework

2.1. Exploitation Approach

The concept of exploitation is different from the concept of dissemination, although an effective exploitation strategy should include both dissemination and exploitation activities. In this context, it is highly important to understand the concepts of dissemination and exploitation.

Dissemination is the public disclosure of the results by any appropriate means (other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results), including scientific publications in any medium.

Exploitation is the use of results in further research activities other than those covered by the action concerned, or in developing, creating and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, or in standardisation activities¹.

Even though exploitation and dissemination are different concepts, an exploitation strategy includes the development of dissemination activities. Therefore, while dissemination is related to making the results of the project visible, the exploitation is responsible for guaranteeing the use of the project results in other activities during and after its implementation.

In this context, Think NEXUS' final exploitation and sustainability strategy is focused on exploiting the project outcomes so they can be used in multiple contexts and situations by relevant stakeholders, who will take advantage of these results to further promote EU-US collaboration on NGI-related areas. **Thus, the main aim of Think NEXUS' final exploitation and sustainability strategy is to ensure that the project results reach the relevant stakeholders so that the knowledge that is generated by the project has a long term impact on EU-US collaboration and certainly beyond the project lifetime.**

In order to achieve its exploitation goal, Think NEXUS has developed a set of actions to ensure effective exploitation of the results after the completion of the project. These tools and activities will allow the project target audiences to benefit from the knowledge generated during the project lifetime, which can lead to the development of further EU-US cooperation activities on NGI-related areas. Therefore, the main objectives of Think NEXUS' Exploitation and Sustainability Plan are:

- Ensure the sustainability of the project results after its completion;
- Coordinate all levels and types of exploitation of the knowledge produced during the project lifetime;
- Encourage the target stakeholders to provide inputs regarding the project outcomes and results;
- Connect with other relevant networks and organisations to share exploitation ambitions;
- Provide recommendations and guidelines for the continuous use of the project's results after the end of the project; and

¹ European Commission, Dissemination and Exploitation in Horizon 2020, https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/events/2017-03-01/8_result-dissemination-exploitation.pdf

- Guarantee that the project developments are communicated to the target stakeholders often through the project dissemination activities.

2.2. Target Audiences

The exploitation target audiences are entities or individuals that can benefit from Think NEXUS' tangible and intangible results. Therefore, in order to ensure the sustainability of the project, as well as an effective exploitation of the results achieved, Think NEXUS has selected the following target audiences (Table 1).

Table 1. Think NEXUS Target Audiences

Target Audiences	Profile
EU and US policy makers	EU and US policy makers related with NGI decision-making have been involved in Think NEXUS to guarantee that policy cooperation between the EU and US on NGI is promoted.
Research funding agencies	EU and US funding agencies that support projects related with NGI-related areas. Think NEXUS will mainly focus its efforts in the EC and the National Science Foundation (NSF).
EU and US STI experts/structures on NGI-related fields	Research and innovation institutions, incubators and other STI actors related with ICT, and especially NGI, are involved on Think NEXUS activities.
EU and US associations, networks and public and private partnerships (PPPs)	Representatives of associations, PPPs and research and innovation networks focused on NGI-related topics have been involved in the project (including standardisation and regulatory focused ones). EU/US cooperation networks such as ENRICH USA / ENRICH Global. Connect with relevant EU/US cooperation intermediaries such as cluster organisations.
End users	Think NEXUS aims to engage EU and US end users in the project activities in order to increase awareness on NGI technological and scientific progress.
Media Groups	EU and US media groups and communicators will be engaged in order to provide a wider coverage of Think NEXUS and its activities.

The identification of the exploitation target audiences allows for an easier transfer of the project outcomes, as well as the definition of more focused common and individual exploitation tools and activities. In this context, the defined exploitation tools and activities take into account the profile, needs and expectations of the abovementioned target audiences in order to guarantee that Think NEXUS tangible and intangible results are exploited and, therefore, the project guarantees its sustainability after its completion.

Therefore, to connect with the target audiences detailed on **Erreur ! Source du renvoi introuvable.**, Think NEXUS has developed exploitation and sustainability strategies in line with target audiences' profiles and type of project results.

2.3. Expected Impacts

Think NEXUS is expected to generate different types of impacts, which are a result of the project's tasks. More precisely, the project is foreseen to provide relevant stakeholders with highly relevant knowledge about EU-US cooperation on NGI-related topics.

Expected Impacts	How Think NEXUS will address the impact
<p>Enhanced EU – US cooperation in NGI, including policy cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1.2 and 1.3 - Think NEXUS aims to contribute to the enhancement of EU-US cooperation in NGI-related topics by implementing a number of activities and developing tools that build on successful past initiatives and provide the foundation for continuous future cooperation. This will be facilitated by the establishment of the Think NEXUS think tank, which is foreseen to support linking EU and US NGI related communities and develop recommendations to enable cooperation. • Task 2.1 - Think NEXUS will also provide an analysis of the current EU-US NGI landscape, identifying relevant policies, regulations and programmes in these areas. Moreover, the project will develop an overview of key industry programmes, priorities, networks and projects. This collection of information will provide Think NEXUS with a valuable framework to improve the expected cooperation, allowing stakeholders from both regions to work within a common direction. • Task 2.2 - To maximise the information collected, Think NEXUS will establish and operate three Thematic Working Groups focusing on the areas of: (i) Science and Technology, (ii) Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and (iii) Policy. These working groups include EU and US experts that will cooperate closely during the project lifetime. They will convene in project events, including the Thematic Workshops. One Thematic Workshop will be organised in the context of the NGI Forum 2021. • Task 2.3 - Think NEXUS will investigate future trends on NGI and prepare a roadmap to facilitate collaboration between the EU and US. • Task 3.1, Task 3.2, and Task 3.3 - Think NEXUS will target community builders in order to identify, leverage and create links

	<p>with different target groups and initiatives between the EU and US with the aim of reinforcing joint cooperation. This will be possible through an agile stakeholder management approach (Task 3.1) and work on the EU (Task 3.2) and US (Task 3.3) ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP4 - The organisation of webinars and the international symposium will bring together stakeholders from different regions to discuss cooperation opportunities around topics related to NGI
<p>Reinforced collaboration and increased synergies between the NGI and the Tomorrow's Internet programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1.2 - Think NEXUS will act at a bridge for facilitating exchanges (Task 1.2) between both EU NGI and Tomorrow's Internet programme stakeholders by providing them with up-to-date content and a forum for exchanges with their prime targets. • Task 3.2 and Task 3.3 - To reinforce collaboration between NGI and Tomorrow's Internet programmes, Think NEXUS will focus on strengthening the links within the NGI ecosystem in Europe (Task 3.2). It will also engage and explore opportunities with the US ecosystem (Task 3.3). In both scenarios, the project will explore the areas of Science and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Policy; and coordinate with and contribute to other ongoing initiatives in these ecosystems. In doing so, Think NEXUS will be positioned to identify key collaboration areas and opportunities for synergies that can be explored within the framework of project events (workshops, symposium – WP2/WP4) and the development of project outputs (e.g. Future Trends and Collaboration Roadmap).
<p>Developing interoperable solutions and joint demonstrators, contributions to standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP2 and WP4 - Think NEXUS will act as a facilitator in the definition of potential interoperable solutions and joint demonstrators. This will be possible by the involvement of various stakeholders (starting with the project experts) from the EU and US. Discussions on solutions and demonstrators will be held within the framework of the workshops (WP2) and webinars (WP4).

provides an overview about Think NEXUS' expected impacts and how the project plans to achieve these impacts through its tasks and WPs.

Table 2. Think NEXUS' Expected Impacts

Expected Impacts	How Think NEXUS will address the impact
<p>Enhanced EU – US cooperation in NGI, including policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1.2 and 1.3 - Think NEXUS aims to contribute to the enhancement of EU-US cooperation in NGI-related topics by implementing a number of activities and developing tools that

<p>cooperation</p>	<p>build on successful past initiatives and provide the foundation for continuous future cooperation.</p> <p>This will be facilitated by the establishment of the Think NEXUS think tank, which is foreseen to support linking EU and US NGI related communities and develop recommendations to enable cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 2.1 - Think NEXUS will also provide an analysis of the current EU-US NGI landscape, identifying relevant policies, regulations and programmes in these areas. Moreover, the project will develop an overview of key industry programmes, priorities, networks and projects. This collection of information will provide Think NEXUS with a valuable framework to improve the expected cooperation, allowing stakeholders from both regions to work within a common direction. • Task 2.2 - To maximise the information collected, Think NEXUS will establish and operate three Thematic Working Groups focusing on the areas of: (i) Science and Technology, (ii) Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and (iii) Policy. These working groups include EU and US experts that will cooperate closely during the project lifetime. They will convene in project events, including the Thematic Workshops. One Thematic Workshop will be organised in the context of the NGI Forum 2021. • Task 2.3 - Think NEXUS will investigate future trends on NGI and prepare a roadmap to facilitate collaboration between the EU and US. • Task 3.1, Task 3.2, and Task 3.3 - Think NEXUS will target community builders in order to identify, leverage and create links with different target groups and initiatives between the EU and US with the aim of reinforcing joint cooperation. This will be possible through an agile stakeholder management approach (Task 3.1) and work on the EU (Task 3.2) and US (Task 3.3) ecosystems. • WP4 - The organisation of webinars and the international symposium will bring together stakeholders from different regions to discuss cooperation opportunities around topics related to NGI
<p>Reinforced collaboration and increased synergies between the NGI and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task 1.2 - Think NEXUS will act at a bridge for facilitating exchanges (Task 1.2) between both EU NGI and Tomorrow's Internet programme stakeholders by providing them with up-to-date content and a forum for exchanges with their prime targets. • Task 3.2 and Task 3.3 - To reinforce collaboration between NGI and Tomorrow's Internet programmes, Think NEXUS will focus

<p>the Tomorrow's Internet programmes</p>	<p>on strengthening the links within the NGI ecosystem in Europe (Task 3.2). It will also engage and explore opportunities with the US ecosystem (Task 3.3). In both scenarios, the project will explore the areas of Science and Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Policy; and coordinate with and contribute to other ongoing initiatives in these ecosystems. In doing so, Think NEXUS will be positioned to identify key collaboration areas and opportunities for synergies that can be explored within the framework of project events (workshops, symposium – WP2/WP4) and the development of project outputs (e.g. Future Trends and Collaboration Roadmap).</p>
<p>Developing interoperable solutions and joint demonstrators, contributions to standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP2 and WP4 - Think NEXUS will act as a facilitator in the definition of potential interoperable solutions and joint demonstrators. This will be possible by the involvement of various stakeholders (starting with the project experts) from the EU and US. Discussions on solutions and demonstrators will be held within the framework of the workshops (WP2) and webinars (WP4).

2.4. Exploitable Results

Think NEXUS have generated **five** main exploitable results. The exploitable results produced by Think NEXUS address the specific needs of the target audiences and represent a competitive advantage over the existing knowledge on EU-US collaboration on NGI-related fields.

2.4.1. Think Tank (established cluster/ association)

The innovativeness of the NGI initiative lies notably in its focus on values, encompassing technological, innovation and policy considerations at its core. In this context, the project's Think Tank aims to stimulate dialogue amongst experts and stakeholders. The emphasis lies on “dialogue” rather than “discussion” in order to establish a meaningful and meaning-creating exchange of perceptions and opinions on relevant NGI topics.

In this context, in order to maximise the information collected, Think NEXUS established three Expert Groups involving EU and US experts that have been working closely during the project lifetime, namely:

- Science and Technology Expert Group;
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expert Group; and
- Policy Expert Group.

The concept of the dialogues within each of the Expert Groups has been using a “sprint-type” of dialogue by which specific subtopics have been selected. The “sprint-dialogue” ensures a proper

focus, while keeping synchronisation with the other Expert Groups and with the series of workshops / webinars and activities that have been organised during the project lifetime.

Figure 2 provides an overview of Think NEXUS' structure, including the main subtopics identified for each of the Expert Groups.

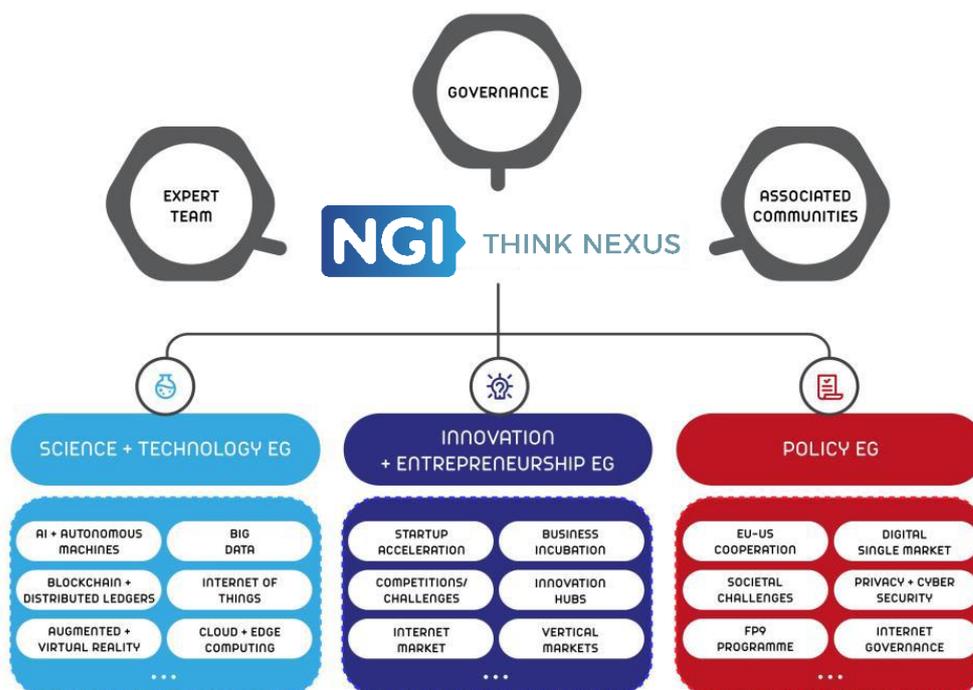


Figure 2. Think NEXUS Structure

In addition, the activities of the Think Tank are relevant to all the target groups identified on 2.2 Target Audiences and can be maximised through a wide range of activities and tools. Thus, considering the importance of Think NEXUS' Think Tank, this is considered to be a highly important exploitable result. In this sense, the activities of the Think Tank are expected to continue after the end of the project through the implementation of sustainability actions, which are detailed in chapter 3. Action Plan.

2.4.2. Think NEXUS Final Recommendations

The activities of the Think Tank will generate a set of recommendations, which will be of high value to policy makers and STI experts/ structures. Thus, towards the end of the project lifetime, the recommendations originating from the Think Tank, as well as the Thematic Workshops, will be communicated to the different bodies. These include the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) through and beyond the Project Officer, as well as other bodies such as the Industry, Research, Technology (ITRE) committee of the European Parliament. Think NEXUS can also provide the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA) with information that is complementary to their ongoing and future projects in the area of NGI.

In this context, Think NEXUS Final Recommendations represents an important exploitable result, which can have a deep impact on EU-US cooperation on NGI-related topics during and after the project lifetime.

2.4.3. Think NEXUS's NGI book

The book "ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration" will be release on November 2020 (Figure 3). The book provides a clearly readable overview of selected ICT and policy topics. It compares and contrasts the policy approaches taken by the EU and the US in a variety of areas.



Figure 3. Book "ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration"

The book "ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration", edited by a Director of GAC (Think Nexus project coordinator) includes a chapter on "The Next Generation Internet Initiative", which was developed by Think NEXUS partners, namely:

- Fabrice Clari – GAC Group
- Glenn Ricart – USIgnite
- Hubert Santer – GAC Group
- José Gonzalez – AUSTRALO
- Nikos Sarris – ATC
- Peter Van Daele – IMEC
- Vasilis Papanikolaou – ATC
- Wouter Tavenier – IMEC

The book is part of a Wiley / IEEE Press series on "Technology Management, Innovation, and Leadership", edited by another Think NEXUS partner, Tariq Samad of the University of Minnesota.

This chapter focuses on topics relevant to foster EU-US cooperation on NGI related topics. Moreover, this chapter includes the outcomes from the Think NEXUS US Workshop 2019, which was held in July 2019 in Washington DC, US. The Figure 4 presents the index of the “The Next Generation Internet Initiative”.

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Figure 4. Index of the chapter “The Next Generation Internet Initiative” of the Book “ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration”

Considering the importance of the information presented to the majority of the project target audiences, this chapter is expected to have an important impact in paving the way for future EU-US cooperation on NGI topics. Therefore, this chapter is also a very important exploitable result of Think NEXUS’.

2.4.4. Future Trends & Collaboration Roadmap

The Future Trends & Collaboration Roadmap report will take into account recent evolutions in NGI and input from all other Work Packages in order to outline opportunities for collaboration, especially for the industrial and policy sectors. A preliminary version of the report will be discussed with the project experts during the 3rd Thematic Workshop.

Three different thematic reports will be created – one for each WG. The integrated Future Trends & Collaboration Roadmap will be submitted at the end of the project and will summarise the findings of the three reports in a harmonised way and identify opportunities for ICT policy and ICT research & innovation collaborations for European and US academia and industry in precompetitive and non-competitive research. It will also summarise needs for policy contributions in the domains.

In this context, the Future Trends & Collaboration Roadmap will be a key document for EU-US cooperation on NGI related topics. Its content will be capitalised during but mainly after the project lifetime as a way to promote cooperation between EU and US academia and industry players.

2.4.5. NGI Policies, regulations, programmes and networks in EU and US

The document “NGI Policies, regulations, programmes and networks in EU and US” includes an overview of the policy frameworks on both sides of the Atlantic that are compliant with the NGI needs in terms of policies and regulations. Thus, this document maps:

- The EU main policies;
- The main US federal stakeholders on NGI related topics
- The US clusters & innovation hubs
- The main common EU/US concerns for NGI applications and services.

This document provides a very important understanding towards the different US and the EU visions and approaches regarding privacy, data protection and the technology industry. This information is highly valuable for STI experts/ structures, associations and networks, and end users, which aim to develop cooperation activities with counterparts from the other side of the Atlantic.

In this context, the “NGI Policies, regulations, programmes and networks in EU and US” is an important document that has been promoted during the project lifetime and will continue to be valuable to the abovementioned target audiences after the end of the project.

2.4.6. Think NEXUS’ website

The project website (<https://thinknexus.ngi.eu/>) is an important repository of information since it includes:

- News about the project activities;
- Project deliverables;
- Promotional materials;
- Newsletters;
- Policy Briefs;
- White Papers; and
- Project videos.

In this context, the documents/resources made available in Think NEXUS’ website are relevant for all the project target audiences. Thus, the project website has been and will continue to be a valuable resource after Think NEXUS’ lifetime. The website will be kept live for at least 3 years after the end of the project lifetime.

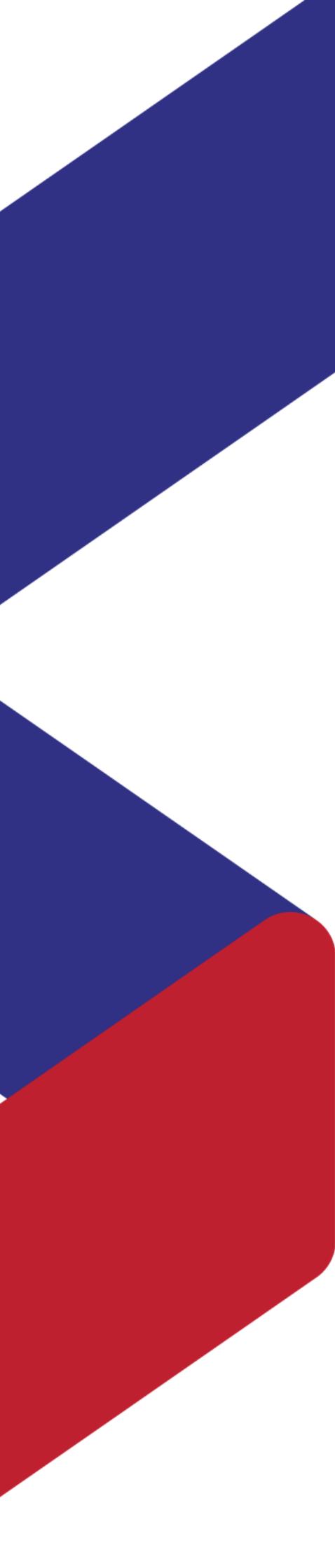
Home > Repository > Publications

Publications

All information about the Think NEXUS Publications can be consulted and downloaded on this page.

- Policy Brief 1 - Surveillance and Analytics in the Deep Web
- White Paper 1: Artificial Intelligence - Comparison of US's and EU's approaches
- Policy Brief 2 - Blockchain for Health
- Policy Brief 3 - Social Media for Natural Hazards: a fertile field for collaboration between EU and US in Science and Technology
- Policy Brief 4 - Innovative Vertical Solutions Enabled by Next Generation Networks
- White Paper 2: A Path for EU-US Cooperation in 5G/6G
- White Paper 3: Empowering Women in Tech
- White Paper 4: Advanced Wireless Networking - Glenn Ricart

Figure 5. "Publications" section of Think NEXUS' website



CHAPTER 3 – Action Plan

3. Action Plan

Think NEXUS will produce results that can be exploited by all the partners within different timeframes. Therefore, Think NEXUS' Action Plan includes short, medium and long-term actions.

The short-term actions are the ones that have already been initiated and will continue to be developed during and after the project lifetime. Moreover, the mid and long-term actions include actions that have not yet been implemented but that are key to ensure the success of Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability. Each of the actions described below are linked to one or more exploitable result.

3.1. Short-term actions

3.1.1. Maintain a network of key experts involved in the NGI community

Think NEXUS will maintain its network of EU and US experts, which has and will continue to contribute to fruitful dialogues and activities on EU-US cooperation on NGI-related topics. Therefore, the members of Think NEXUS' network will be encouraged to continue to be involved in the NGI community, specially through the involvement in Think NEXUS' sister projects – NGI EXPLORERS and NGI ATLANTIC.

The involvement of Think NEXUS' experts in other NGI projects will bring added-value to the NGI community since these are highly knowledgeable experts on EU-US cooperation on NGI-related topics.

Furthermore, through their continuous involvement in the NGI community, Think NEXUS' experts will be able to promote Think NEXUS' publications and final outcomes to a wider network of stakeholders. In this sense, Think NEXUS' main results will continue to be of use to the NGI community after the project lifetime.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS' lifetime:

- Liaise with NGI EXPLORERS and NGI ATLANTIC to ensure the continuous involvement of Think NEXUS' network of experts in the NGI community.
- Inform Think NEXUS' network of experts about the existing opportunities within NGI EXPLORERS, NGI ATLANTIC, as well as the broad NGI network.
- Organise a joint workshop with NGI EXPLORERS and NGI ATLANTIC in the context of the NGI Forum 2021. The event is planned to be held on 18-19 may 2021.

This action is related with all the exploitation results detailed on 2.4. Exploitable Results

3.1.2. Continue to be involved in the NGI community

Think NEXUS has developed synergies and implemented joint activities with other initiatives and H2020 projects, mainly with NGI projects. Throughout Think NEXUS' lifetime, the project partners have been very active in identifying synergies with NGI EXPLORERS and NGI ATLANTIC and in disseminating the activities of other NGI projects.

In this context, after the project lifetime, Think NEXUS's partners will continue to be part of the NGI community as partners and members of the advisory board of other NGI projects, as well as participants in upcoming NGI activities.

Through this continuous involvement in the NGI community, Think NEXUS' partners will be able to present and disseminate the project's main outcomes to the NGI community after the project lifetime; and therefore, ensuring that Think NEXUS' results are used in other NGI activities.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS' lifetime:

Liaise with the NGI Outreach Office to ensure that Think NEXUS' partners continue to be informed about the upcoming activities of the other NGI projects.

This action is related with all the exploitation results detailed on 2.4. Exploitable Results

3.1.3. Promote the book "ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration"

As previously mentioned, the chapter "The Next Generation Internet Initiative" included in the Book "ICT Policy, Research, and Innovation: Perspectives and Prospects for EU - US Collaboration" represents a highly valuable exploitable result to all Think NEXUS' target actions. Therefore, the book promotional actions are very important to ensure that the information included in the chapter developed by the project partners reaches a wide range of target audiences.

In this context, Think NEXUS' partners will continue to support all the book promotional actions developed by the book editors, even after the end of the project lifetime. Thus, Think NEXUS' partners will use its own institutional online channels and networks of contacts to promote the book. Think NEXUS' partners will also liaise with the NGI Outreach Office in order to ensure that the book is promoted through the NGI channels after the project lifetime.

These continuous promotional actions will contribute to the success of the book and, consequently, ensure that the content developed by Think NEXUS partners reaches the target audience after the project lifetime.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS' lifetime:

- Liaise with the NGI Outreach Office to guarantee that the book is promoted through the NGI channels.
- Define a strategy to use the partners' institutional channels to continue to promote the book after the project's lifetime.

This action is related with all the exploitation result "Think NEXUS's NGI book"

3.1.4. Promote and support the existing online tools

Think NEXUS has created a set of online tools, including:

- Project website (<https://thinknexus.ngi.eu/>);
- Twitter account (https://twitter.com/ThinkNEXUS_NGI); and
- LinkedIn group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8764633/>).

As previously mentioned, these online tools are highly valuable to promote the project activities and outcomes. These tools will contribute to the sustainability of the project since they will remain active after the project lifetime and, therefore, the members of the target audiences will continue to have access to the information presented there. The interaction between the project experts will also remain possible through Think NEXUS' LinkedIn group, which will continue to be a tool for discussion.

Moreover, Think NEXUS' publications will remain available in the project website. In this sense, these documents will remain to be of use to the NGI community and the wider audience after the project lifetime.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS' lifetime:

- Inform Think NEXUS' network of experts that the project online tools will remain active after the project lifetime.

This action is related with all the exploitation results detailed on 2.4. Exploitable Results

3.2. Mid and long-term actions

3.2.1. Join ENRICH GLOBAL as a thematic working group

The objective of ENRICH GLOBAL (www.enrich-global.eu/) is to contribute to the development of scientific, technological and innovation excellence of the European Union and Associated Countries, and reinforce European innovation, competitiveness and internationalisation.

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Therefore, ENRICH GLOBAL will be an “umbrella” for thematic working groups, which will promote exchanges between the members of this initiative. Moreover, ENRICH GLOBAL aims to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and good practices, as well as promote collaboration between its members.

In this context, ENRICH GLOBAL represents a highly relevant initiative for the sustainability of the Think Tank. Therefore, the project Think Tank can continue its activities as a thematic working group under ENRICH GLOBAL. By joining ENRICH GLOBAL, the members of the Think Tank will also have the opportunity to explore cooperation opportunities with ENRICH in the USA, which will also be a member of this initiative.

The founding members of ENRICH GLOBAL include for example Think NEXUS partners GAC Group and SPI and other NGI exploitation network actors such as Civitta. This is expected to greatly facilitate Think NEXUS’ integration in the ENRICH GLOBAL network and support sustainability actions.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS’ lifetime:

- Agree with the GAC about the requirements for Think NEXUS to join ENRICH GLOBAL as a thematic working group

This action is related with the exploitable result “Think Tank (established cluster/ association)”

3.2.2. Contribute to the design of Horizon Europe

As previously detailed, Think NEXUS Final Recommendations will be delivered to relevant European bodies, such as DG CONNECT. In this sense, the outcomes of the Final Recommendations are expected to have an impact on the design of a specific Horizon Europe Work Programme especially those pertaining to EU/US cooperation.

This contribution will allow Think NEXUS’ results to endure through the Horizon Europe programme.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS’ lifetime:

- Submit Think NEXUS Final Recommendations to the European Commission.

This action is related with the exploitable result “Think NEXUS Final Recommendations”

3.2.3. Explore further cooperation opportunities

Think NEXUS's partnership will remain in contact in order to explore further cooperation opportunities under the EU framework programmes, such as the recently launched Horizon Europe programme.

Main actions to be implemented until the end of Think NEXUS' lifetime:

- Agree to work together in order to identify future cooperation opportunities.

This action is related with all the exploitation results detailed on 2.4. Exploitable Results

CHAPTER 4 – Final Remarks

4. Final Remarks

D4.6. *Exploitation and sustainability plan – final* presents the version of Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability strategy and action plan, which aims to ensure the successful exploitation of the project results after the project lifetime. Therefore, this document details the strategy that will be implemented, as well as the short, medium and long-term actions that will be put in place in order to guarantee that the exploitation and sustainability objectives are achieved.

Think NEXUS' exploitation and sustainability strategy is focused on the current NGI panorama, as well as on the particularities of the knowledge that will be generated, which is foreseen to be of great value to EU-US cooperation on NGI-related topics.



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