

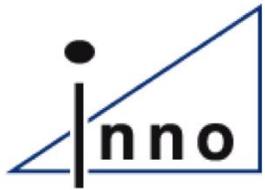


Think NEXUS: Think tank for the collaboration on
NEXt generation internet between EU-US

07 November 2019

The consortium

5 European partners



2 US partners



US Ignite



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota

- Think NEXUS is funded by the European Commission under the H2020 research program
- Think NEXUS is a Coordinated Support Action (CSA). CSAs aim at:
 - Supporting a specific ecosystem
 - Provide the EC with recommendations for future activities

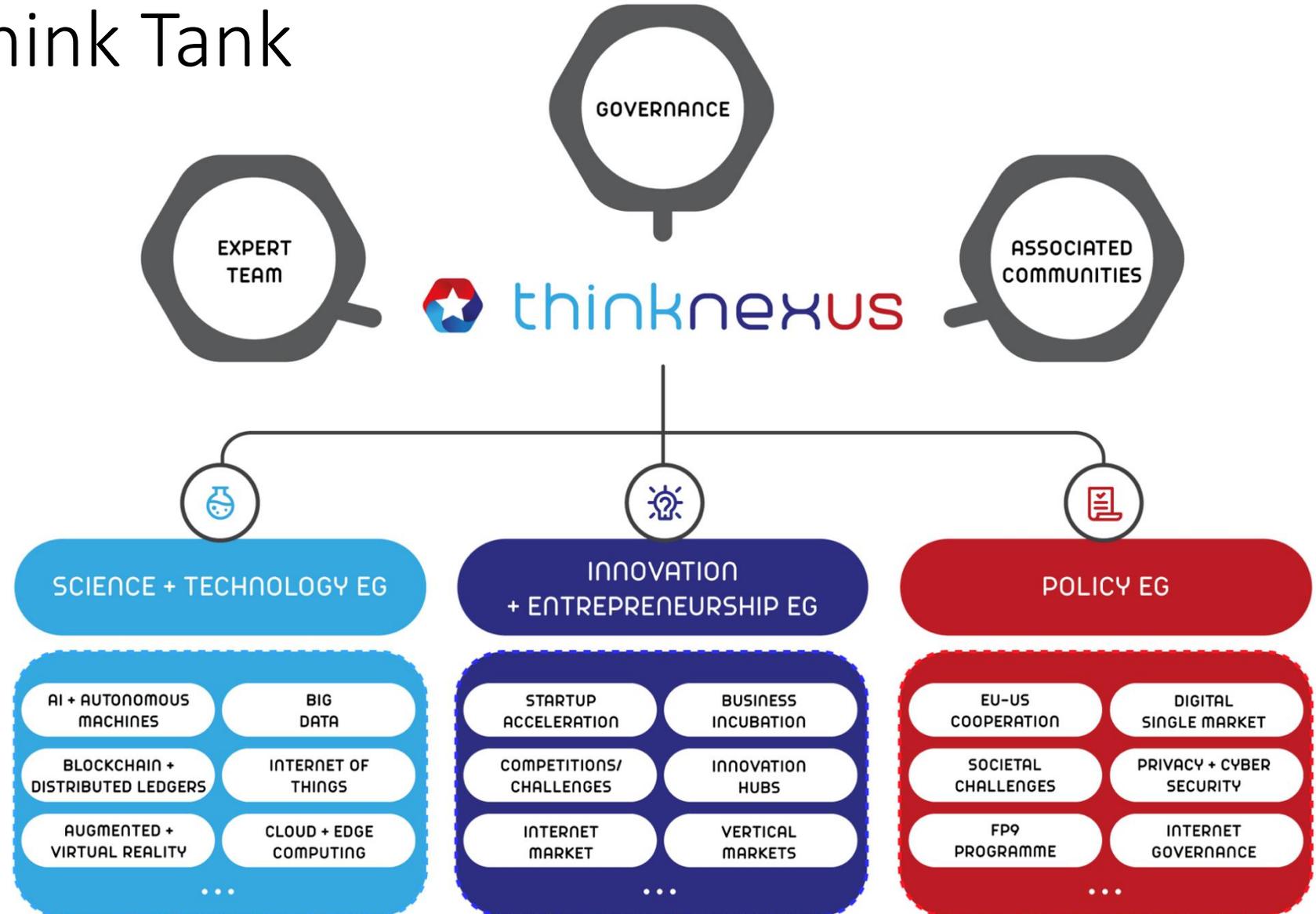
Objectives

Reinforce EU-US collaboration on NGI-related thematic in three Focus Areas: ‘Science and Technology’, ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship’ and ‘Policy’.

Operational objectives

- Objective 1: **Support the NGI development across Europe and facilitate EU/US cooperation**
- Objective 2: **Setup and operate a think do-tank** to study and foster EU/US collaboration, provide recommendations and prepare a legal structure (non-profit organisation) to operate the think-tank after the project’s lifetime
- Objective 3: **Be the intersection between EC NGI related initiatives and US Tomorrow’s Internet related initiatives**, i.e. Think NEXUS will create a bridge between EU and US NGI ecosystems
- Objective 4: **Support RIA NGI projects in their cooperation with US counterparts** — create synergies between EU and US projects

ThinkNEXUS Think Tank



1st ThinkNEXUS Workshop

- 10 July 2019, Washington



Policy Expert Group Meeting:

- *Identify main policy-related challenges internet will have to face in the next 5 to 10 years – both in the EU and US.*
- The main challenges and suggestions identified:
 - **NGI cooperation support schemes:** as the EU and US innovation support schemes are intrinsically different, joint or coordinated funding schemes are needed to allow EU-US collaboration.
 - **US and EU standardization bodies' collaboration across NGI technologies:** as NGI initiatives explore new fields of applications, new standards are needed and in order to foster fast-tracking of standards – benefiting both in the international competition, EU and US standardization bodies should set cooperation mechanisms.
 - **Developing a common language on Artificial Intelligence:** as AI will generate a new field of ruling for policy makers, EU-US cooperation on AI taxonomy could allow to better tie EU and US developments and mutual understanding, thus fostering this technology's growth.
 - **Building cooperation upon shared values:** as in both the EU and the US, NGI will affect a wide range of parameters linked to citizens' rights which are important for their respective democracies, they could build transatlantic collaboration to face these similar and growing challenges.

Science & Technology Expert Group Meeting:

- Identify the challenges for US and EU regarding the key technologies related to NGI
- Main challenges identified:
 - S&T policies need to be synchronized with technology developments as in many cases policies are considered obsolete.
 - There seems to be a communication/coordination bottleneck between policy makers from both the US and the EU and funding agencies which needs to be addressed.
 - Current networks are struggling to support NGI related research experiments as they are commercial focused and need to be significantly updated.
 - Joint Experimentation Testbeds & Networks are needed while the engaging with big players to offer infrastructure for research is vital.

Science & Technology Expert Group Meeting:

- In order to tackle these challenges, the Expert Group members made the following key suggestions:
 - Build a Formal Collaboration Mechanism between the EU and the US to get great results.
 - Engage with Standardisation bodies, Industrial Stakeholder Groups and User representatives Groups.
 - Synchronize policies with technologies.
 - Key application areas should be: Connected Healthcare, Global Challenges and Disaster Relief.
 - Build a joint branding, introduce NCI terminology in the US funding environment.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Expert Group:

- Identify main strengths and weaknesses of both EU and US economic ecosystems as well as key opportunities that will empower a stronger joint Transatlantic collaboration
- The following main differences in the EU and the US ecosystems were highlighted:
 - **Concept of innovation** & role of private and public sectors
 - **Role of public administrations**
 - **Future of work** & interpretation of achievements (EU: social impact of innovation versus US efficiency and cost reduction).
 - **Single Market:** while the US works as a unified market removing key differences between online and offline worlds, the EU lags behind and barriers still exist.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Expert Group:

- Cultural gaps regarding the following aspects:
 - **Semantics:** some terminologies are misaligned, different vocabulary is used and some relevant US-born concepts are not yet mature enough in the EU (e.g. “unicorns”).
 - **Communication:** US partners tend to be more straightforward and keep more active exchange after an initial meeting while Europeans are slower movers, with a tendency to longer messages and meetings.
 - **Entrepreneurship in universities:** the exploitation of knowledge from research to market in the form of spin-offs and new start-ups is something that is gaining traction more and more in the EU, while it is a mature practice in the US.
 - **Culture of failure:** the EU has a cautious attitude towards entrepreneurship due to the high potential for failure whereas in the US, failure is celebrated, notably in Silicon Valley (“fail often, fail fast”)

Expected outcomes

- **A high-level analysis of STI NGI landscape, industrial drivers, societal need and policy gaps** for NGI for all stakeholders in the EU and the US;
- **An updated / extended NGI mapping** gathering info on NGI stakeholders in the EU and in the US as well as an online platform permitting to find the relevant stakeholders, programmes and events on a single app;
- **A think tank organisation fostering ideas and capitalising upon contributions from NGI stakeholders** within and beyond the working groups developments;
- **A white paper over internet governance schemes** to foster NGI co-developments;
- **A framework for Research and Innovation collaboration between both sides of the Atlantic**, in collaboration with existing initiatives;
- **Recommendations for exclusive EU-US collaboration in the form of opportunity reports, policy briefs and webinars;**
- **Recommendations on key needs for dialogues on regulations;**
- **A platform for European NGI stakeholders**, innovators, contact points, projects and users' for reaching out to US counterparts.