

Unleashing the potential

The recommendations in this Call to Action can be addressed within the timeframe of the DSM strategy. There is also a longer-term agenda intended to remove specific barriers in the time frame of the 2012 communication on "Unleashing the Potential of Cloud Computing in Europe", to 2020.

The recommendations take into account a baseline in terms of the capacities in the marketplace today and the expectations of the key stakeholders consulted during the PICSE project.

The Roadmap from which this Call to Action is taken will be the major lasting legacy of PICSE. It provides a landscape of cloud procurement in the European public research sector, highlights existing challenges, barriers and trends, makes relevant recommendations regarding procurement of cloud services for public research organisations in Europe and proposes actions within the pillar three of Digital Single Market which focuses on maximising the growth potential of the digital economy.



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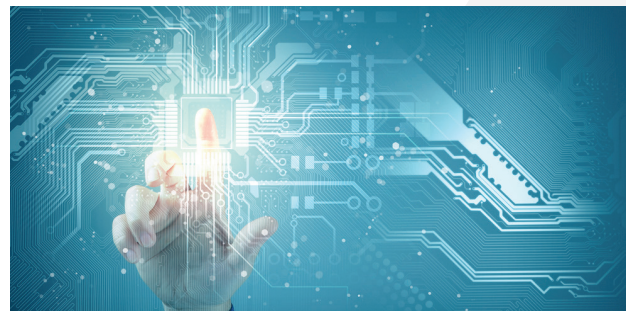
A Coordination and Support Action funded by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020.

A European Procurers' Platform capable of raising the level of understanding in issues related to the procurement of cloud services.

A unique repository of information which has supported a network of procurers with recommendations and tips related to cloud procurement and promoted the cloud services market.

A way of understanding the implications of the work going on under the EU cloud computing strategy and the Digital Single Market, with particular focus on the European Open Science Cloud.

A response to the Helix Nebula Initiative which has shown that cloud services are suitable for scientific workloads performed by public research organisations and that they are now prepared to consider procuring cloud services on a significant scale.



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From the "Roadmap for Cloud Service Procurement" for public research organisations as part of the PICSE CSA project funded under H2020 of the EC of DG Connect under grant agreement No 644014

PICSE Call to Action



While technology service options continue to evolve, organisational procurement processes and policies have remained firmly rooted in historical practices that are no longer effective.

In order for public research organisations of all sizes to take advantage of the best solutions the market has to offer nowadays, a more flexible and agile procurement process must be created and implemented.

The following recommendations constitute a 5-part "Call to Action" for 'mainstreaming' cloud-computing in the ERA in line with the European Cloud Initiative launched as part of the Digital Single Market (DSM) strategy.

Competences and organisational culture
Innovation in procurement and services
Stimulating the research cloud ecosystem
Moving towards commoditisation
Validating the benefits

Public research sector organisations, cloud services providers and policy makers are the major stakeholders in both strands of the DSM initiative: an Open Science Cloud and a Data Infrastructure. These recommendations have been formulated to deliver key outcomes for those stakeholders.

Competences and organisational culture

Recommendations for the public research sector:

1. Build internal competences on cloud procurement and share requirements & best practices
2. Adopt cloud-specific standards and identify these in procurements
3. Validate and use standard templates for tenders with standard contract templates and SLAs

Recommendations for cloud services providers:

4. Invest in the end-user facing services and in training next generation of researchers

Recommendations for policy makers:

5. Educate buyers and consumers on cloud computing

Innovation in procurement and services

Recommendations for the public research sector:

6. Review internal procurement policies and make tenders SME-friendly
7. Encourage innovation and competition

Recommendations for policy makers:

8. Establish a cloud chapter in the European Assistance For Innovation Procurement (EAFIP)

Stimulating the research cloud ecosystem

Recommendations for the public research sector:

9. Engage the industry and manage relationships with multiple suppliers
10. Adopt standards to improve the quality, security and sustainability of products and services

Recommendations for cloud services providers:

11. Engage with demand side to understand the needs of the market.
12. Create a working economy between suppliers rather than always competing

Recommendations for policy makers:

13. Create a unique European catalogue of cloud service providers and related services for science

Moving towards commoditisation

Recommendations for the public research sector:

14. Implement pay-per-use procedures

Recommendations for cloud services providers:

15. Establish transparent cloud pricing within clear and publicly available service descriptions

Recommendations for policy makers:

16. Construct a bottom-up federated cloud for commodity services

Validating the benefits

Recommendations for the public research sector:

17. Experiment in the cloud through free trials and small pilot

Recommendations for cloud services providers:

18. Offer free, standalone tests

Recommendations for policy makers:

19. Use the INFRADEV-04-2016 call to pilot a federated IaaS cloud ecosystem
20. Establish calls for joint procurement actions focused on SaaS and PaaS services.

Removing longer-term barriers

One barrier stands apart in the Digital Single Market strategy which is the urgent need for harmonisation of regulations across the Member States, especially in terms of public procurement and data protection. These are structural constraints that will inhibit cross-border procurement and information flows.

Clarification of roles and responsibilities such as data-controller and data-processor is required in order to fulfil some of our recommendations in this Call to Action and an advisory mechanism is required in order to clarify the exposure to risk that will apply until harmonisation is achieved.

Download the complete PICSE Call to Action from www.picse.eu

The PICSE Roadmap for cloud service procurement is available for feedback and additional contributions, also from www.picse.eu. Deadline to submit a contribution is 31 March 2016.