SNS OPS – Supporting the SNS JU Operations

D5.2: Period 1 Report on Infrastructure provision and usage

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Abstract

This deliverable summarises the activities that were undertaken by the SNS OPS project to enable the operation of the SNS JU community. It involves primarily the actions that facilitate intra project collaborations and technical support of the various collaborative tools and websites. It presents statistics and information about the scale and use of the IT services as employed for the SNS JU community

[End of abstract]

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Executive Summary

This deliverable gives an overview of the IT infrastructure and tools that are operated and maintained in order to support the SNS JU activities. It is structured into 3 main topics: a) the SNS JU webpage, b) the document repository which is used to facilitate programme-wide exchange and availability of documents, and c), an overview of other tools employed in SNS JU.

SNS OPS has taken over the SNS JU website from 6GStart CSA and maintained & developed the SNS JU IT infrastructure. The new SNS domain smart-networks.europa.eu is now being used by the SNS JU Office and the 35 SNS phase 1 and 28 SNS Call 2 projects as their reference for communications and publication activities.

The SNS JU website https://smart-networks.europa.eu currently consists of 116 active pages, 54 published posts and 65 events holding in total 8,325 files. The total size of the website is 4.8 Gigabytes. Since it was officially launched on the 1st of December 2022, the SNS JU website has collected a total number of 62,024 visitors for 105,707 unique pageviews. The web statistics are retrieved from the "Matomo Analytics – Ethical Stats. Powerful Insights." plug-in hosted on Eurescom GmbH local server. This tool and its' local implementation were selected for GDPR-reasons in line with EU Commission policy. In terms of geographic origin of web visitors, European countries are prominent which supports the aim of the initiative to facilitate and develop industrial leadership in Europe in 5G and 6G.

In terms of download of documents, the trend has evolved from an initial focus on the SNS JU job notices to a more recent focus on downloading the latest versions of the Annual Work Programmes of the SNS JU.

A document sharing web service BSCW has been setup to provide a document repository for the various bodies and working groups of the SNS JU. It also acts as a repository for deliverables and documents shared between projects. The BSCW repository currently supports 161 login accounts. However many of these are project level accounts representing multiple users, so the actual number of users is estimated in the magnitude of 20 to 30 times this number.

Other tools employed include mailing lists, audio and web conferencing tools, event registration services, a brokerage service and an eVoting tool.

As a support means for facilitating consortium building for SNS JU project proposals, a brokerage service had been created and introduced. This service allows people to submit either proposal ideas or expertise offer profiles to the Brokerage platform. The Brokerage Service is operational to support SNS JU calls since December 2022.

Over 50 mailing lists have been setup for SNS JU and NetworldEurope ETP. The number is quite dynamic and new communication groups are evolving quite frequently. Older lists are retired if not used.

The Web-conferencing tool, based on WebEx, has been used extensively in the past 12 months by the SNS JU, 6G-IA, SNS-I Steering Board, Technology Board, SNS JU Projects and Working Groups. In fact, over 600 virtual meetings, involving nearly 10,000 participants, have been hosted in the past period.

Finally to mention, all personal information collected in scope of the support activities of SNS OPS is strictly handled in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The scale and volume of the tool support infrastructure setup and operated enables this programme to operate efficiently and effectively despite the large numbers of groups, projects and participants involved, which will still further grow in the coming years.

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Abbreviations

3GPP	Third Generation Partnership Project
5G	5th Generation Wireless Systems
5G PPP	5G Public Private Partnership
6G-IA	6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association
BSCW	Basic Support for Cooperative Work
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CEPT	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
CSA	Coordination and Support Action
DIH	Digital Innovation Hub
EC	European Commission
ECCC	European Cybersecurity Competence Centre
ECSO	European Cybersecurity Organisation
ETSI	European Telecommunication Standards Institute
EuCNC	European Conference on Networks and Communications
F6G	6th generation fixed network
FSTP	Financial Support to Third Party
G5GE	Global 5G Event
GB	Governing Board
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
H2020	Horizon 2020
HE	Horizon Europe
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MWC	Mobile World Congress
PCG	3GPP Project Coordination Group
PPDR	Public Protection and Disaster Relief
PSM	Pre-Structuring Model
R&I	Research and Innovation
SB	Steering Board
SNS-I	Smart Network and Services-Initiative
SNS JU	Smart Network and Services Joint Undertaking
SNS OC TF	SNS Open Calls Task Force
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
TB	Technology Board
WG	Working Group

1   The SNS JU webpage

1.1   Creating the SNS JU webpage

Through the 4th Quarter 2022 an intense development effort was performed by the 6GStart project participants to create the SNS JU web presence.

The domain chosen was https://smart-networks.europa.eu/ which is a subdomain of the European Commission site: europa.eu/. As such, the SNS JU website had to meet a stringent set of security, conformance and quality requirements that are required for any commission domain. The detailed design of the website was prepared by 6GStart and finalised in conjunction with the SNS JU Office.

This was a very demanding phase up to the release of the website as we struggled to accommodate all requirements and demands. Now that the website is active, the maintenance and update of the information is ongoing. The full volume of this work is expected to increase in the next period as the Phase 1 SNS JU projects start producing results both individually and collectively.

The website structure has been designed to be expandable to easily integrate future phases SNS JU projects.
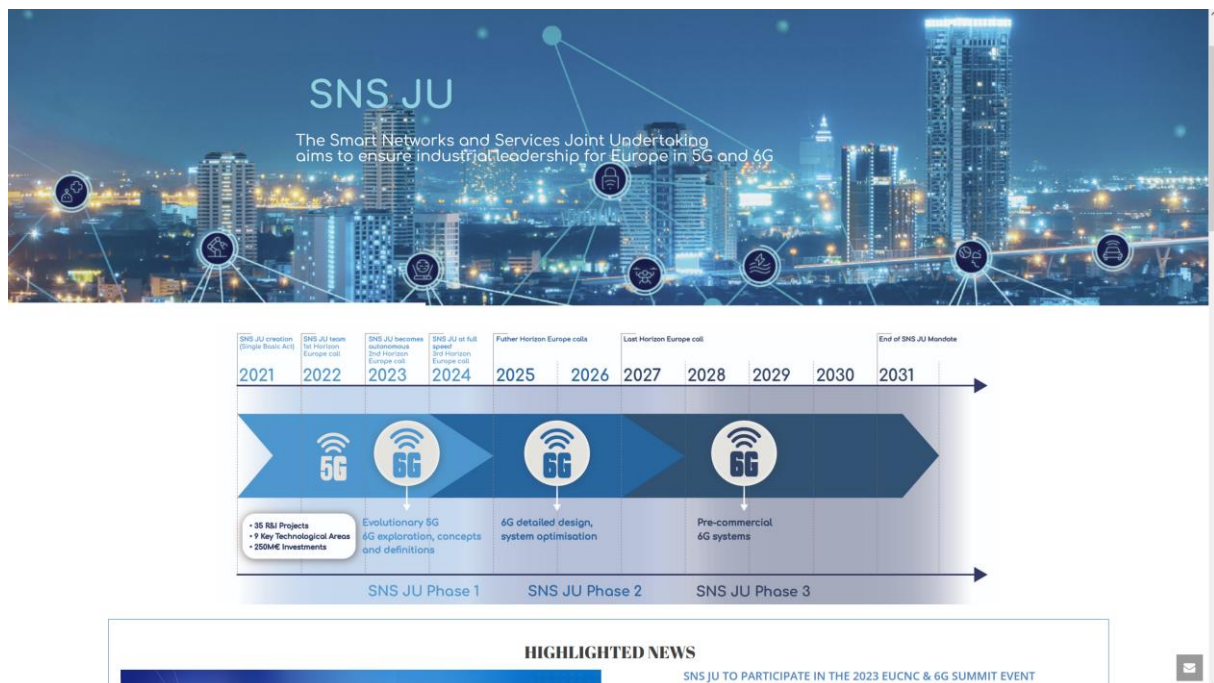

Figure 1: Screenshot of the SNS-JU web presence

1.2   Structure of the SNS JU website

The SNS JU website is hosted by Eurescom in Germany and is operated under the EU GDPR regulations. The website is created in WordPress and many bespoke plug-ins and/or scripts are used to achieve the desired functionality.

The *website* currently consists of 116 active pages, 54 published posts and 65 events for 8,325 files. The total size of the website is around 4.8 Gigabytes.

The key website statistics, illustrated in the following charts, are retrieved from the "Matomo Analytics – Ethical Stats. Powerful Insights." plug-in hosted on Eurescom GmbH local server. This tool and its' local implementation were selected for GDPR-reasons in line with EU Commission policy. Its use avoids a dependency on US tools (such as Google Analytics).

Bots or other machine visitors are generally not counted in the statistics, but only human visitors. This is because, by default, Matomo tracks only visitors with Javascript enabled. Most bots however do not

execute JavaScript, although some more advanced bots can now do that.

Details on the meaning of the various "user" terms (New, Returning, Unique) can be found at https://glossary.matomo.org/.

1.3   Traffic report period 01/1/2023 - 31/12/2023

The tables and charts below show the statistics for the SNS JU web smart-networks.europa.eu for the period from the launch date 1 December 2022 – 11 January 2024.

After its first full year of running, the SNS JU website has fulfilled its role as a central information hub for the SNS JU initiative as planned. However, the website was originally planned as the project support structure but it has evolved to be the SNS JU Office website as well. There are occasionally conflicting requirements between these roles - particularly on the prioritisation and placement of news which needs to be optimised over the next period and discussed between SNS OPS and the SNS JU Office.

SNS OPS, which hosts and operates the website, regularly updates the website on behalf of the SNS Office with the Call information, funding opportunities, organized events, publications and procurements. The project news and results are also published.

As the SNS JU grows in the next period, the challenge will be to support the growth – from 35 (Call 1) to 63 (Call 2) projects supported – and even above that when Call 3 projects will have started in 2025 – in a way that keeps the useful information available and accessible.

Since it was officially launched on the 1st of December 2022, the SNS JU website has collected a total number of 62,024 visitors for 105,707 unique page views and an average visit time of 2 min and 42 sec. Figure 2 shows detailed parameters of the web visits.

Visits Overview

62,024 visits ⬆ +563,754.5%

2 min 42s average visit duration

57% visits have bounced (left the website after one page)

2.4 actions (page views, downloads, outlinks and internal site searches) per visit

283 max actions in one visit ⬆ +843.3%

130,484 pageviews, 105,707 unique pageviews ⬆ +213,808.2%

626 total searches on your website, 393 unique keywords ⬆ +100%

9,813 downloads, 8,719 unique downloads ⬆ +981,200%

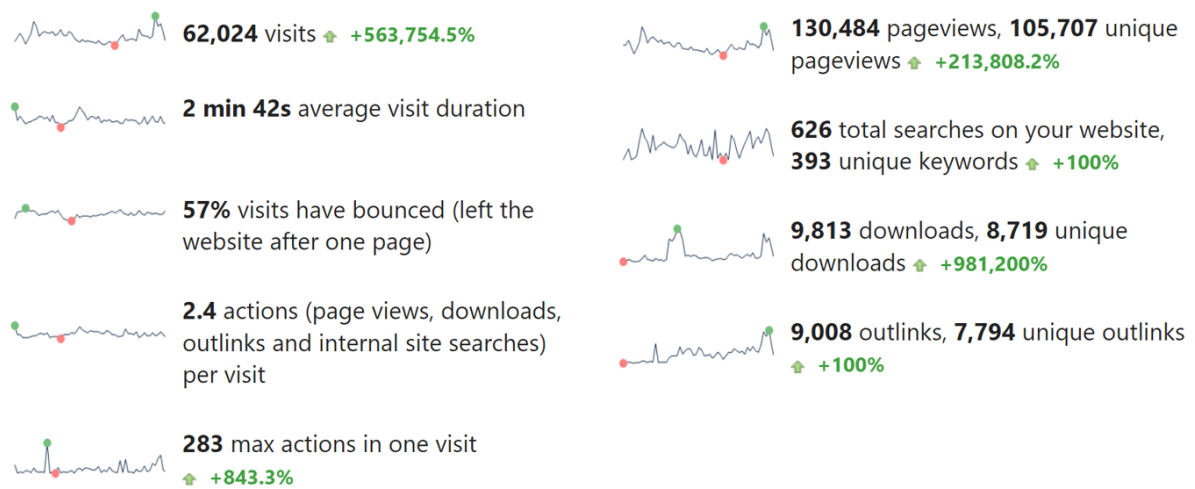9,008 outlinks, 7,794 unique outlinks ⬆ +100%

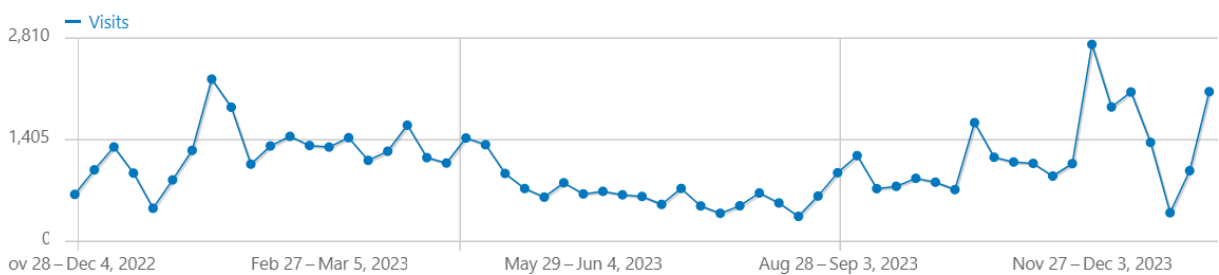*Figure 2: SNS JU statistics overview (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)*

Figure 3: SNS JU visits overview (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

The usage of the site is in line with experience and expectations with peaks corresponding to when information about forthcoming calls is published and lower traffic periods corresponding to the holiday periods.

1.4   Top 25 countries accessing smart-networks.europa.eu

In the top 25 locations visiting the SNS JU portal, European countries are prominent which supports the aim of the initiative to facilitate and develop industrial leadership in Europe in 5G and 6G networks and services.

COUNTRY	▼ VISITS
Germany	6,268
Spain	6,180
Belgium	4,848
Greece	4,448
France	4,032
Italy	3,716
Luxembourg	3,527
United Kingdom	3,121
United States	2,852
Turkey	2,230
Finland	1,931
Taiwan	1,903
Sweden	1,526
Netherlands	1,302
Portugal	1,296
Ireland	996
Switzerland	963
Japan	791
Poland	785
Austria	680
India	655
Romania	617
Norway	593
Denmark	527
Hungary	478

Figure 4: SNS JU visits by country (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

However, if we look at the global map of where the SNS JU website has been accessed from, we can see that the other regions of the world have been keeping an eye on the work of the SNS JU over the last year.
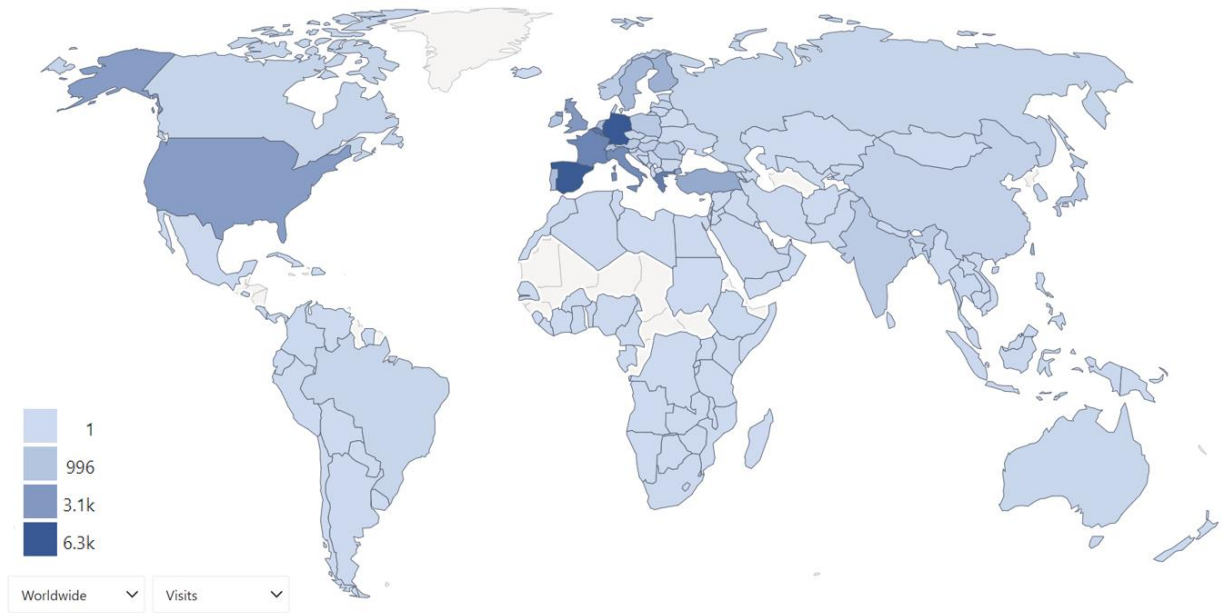
Figure 5: Countries that have visited the SNS JU website (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

1.5   Top 15 page titles accessed by visitors to the SNS JU website

The most visited page in the SNS JU website is obviously the Homepage with 23,804 pageviews followed by pages information on SNS JU current vacancies pages. Over time the popularity of pages has switched to its current focus on Call-related pages as well as FAQ and project information pages. This shift in emphasis is in line with the progression of the SNS JU and the build-up of the activities.

PAGE TITLE	PAGEVIEWS	▼ UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS	BOUNCE RATE	AVG. TIME ON PAGE	EXIT RATE	AVG. PAGE LOAD TIME
HOME - SNS JU	23,804	19,111	42%	00:01:05	51%	6.88s
Current Vacancies - SNS JU	6,688	6,054	55%	00:00:46	87%	4.17s
Current Call for Proposals - SNS JU	6,908	5,575	49%	00:01:13	57%	3.46s
SNS Phase 1 - SNS JU	4,687	3,688	46%	00:01:09	41%	5.36s
Stream B - Research for revolutionary technology advancement tow...	4,381	3,470	77%	00:01:40	73%	5.51s
Missions & Objectives - SNS JU	3,454	2,920	58%	00:01:31	47%	3.44s
Our Team - SNS JU	3,030	2,671	70%	00:01:11	53%	4.1s
FAQ Call 2 – Frequently Asked Questions - SNS JU	2,977	2,465	74%	00:01:32	76%	4.41s
SNS Call For Proposals 2023 - Information Day - SNS JU	3,152	2,463	72%	00:01:45	81%	3.28s
6G research gets a 130 million EUR EU funding boost in Europe - S...	2,842	2,449	79%	00:01:07	85%	8.93s
Open Calls from SNS Projects - SNS JU	2,587	2,009	64%	00:02:00	69%	6.49s
Project Portfolio - SNS JU	2,371	1,796	33%	00:00:51	20%	2.89s
SNS JU adopts its R&I Work Programme 2024 to advance European...	1,988	1,788	63%	00:00:53	62%	3.18s
SNS-R&I-WP-2024-Briefing-Session - SNS JU	2,014	1,690	61%	00:01:33	83%	3.68s
SNS Phase 2 - SNS JU	1,996	1,589	46%	00:00:50	26%	3.06s

Figure 6: SNS JU top 15 most visited pages (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

1.6 Highlights of web traffic (top downloads)

The downloads seem to follow the same path, the website collected a total of 8,556 unique downloads from the documents hosted directly on the SNS JU website,

The trend has evolved from an initial focus on the SNS JU job notices to a more recent focus on downloading the latest versions of the Annual Work Programmes of the SNS JU.

DOWNLOAD URL	▼ UNIQUE DOWNLOADS	DOWNLOADS
⊟ smart-networks.europa.eu	8,556	9,611
/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns_ri_wp_2023-24.pdf	1,456	1,635
/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/sns_ca_fgiv_2023_01_vn_project_officer_call_coordinator.pdf	1,050	1,114
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/sns-ri-work-programme-2024.pdf	985	1,136
/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/sns_ca_fgiv_2023_01_vn_projectofficer_call_coordinator2.pdf	800	859
/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/sns_ca_fgiv_2023_01_application_form_projectofficer_call_coordinator2.docx	399	449
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/sns-ju-annual-work-programme-2024.pdf	346	404
/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns-work-programme-2023.pdf	207	249
/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/snsriworkprogramme20212022_ckvqrabs7gkb08dhgl6wh73cwqa_82061-6.pdf	165	171
/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/sns-journal-2023-web-1.pdf	163	181
/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns_ri_wp_2023-24-1.pdf	113	161
/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/snsjuprogramme_communicationguidelines_v1.7.pdf	76	88

Figure 7: SNS JU top 10 most downloads (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

If we look at the downloads from Dec-2022 to Jan-2024 we can see that the downloads in this period are predominately the Work Programme Documents and presentations form workshops. This shows how the attention focus of the SNS JU community has moved to the technical aspects and the contents of future calls.

DOWNLOAD URL	▼ UNIQUE DOWNLOADS
⊟ smart-networks.europa.eu	98.8% 1,706
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/sns-ri-work-programme-2024.pdf	46.1% 795
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/sns-ju-annual-work-programme-2024.pdf	13.8% 238
/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns_ri_wp_2023-24.pdf	3.7% 64
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/1cwilcock.pdf	3.7% 63
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/4pfournogerakis.pdf	3.5% 60
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2adiaz-pines.pdf	3.4% 59
/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/3akaloxylos.pdf	2.7% 47
/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/sns-journal-2023-web-1.pdf	2.3% 39
/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/3akaloxylos.pdf	2.3% 39

Figure 8: SNS JU top 10 most downloads (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

1.7   Top 25 outlinks

All clicks on URLs linked on the SNS JU website that are not pointing to the same domain, i.e. pointing to domains other than smart-networks.europa.eu, are being tracked and counted as "outlinks". Figure 9: Top 25 outlinks shows the list of outlinks that were clicked by visitors on the SNS JU website – and by that leaving the SNS website – and how often this occurred in the period from Dec-2022 to Jan-2024.

Outlinks

CLICKED OUTLINK	▼ UNIQUE CLICKS	CLICKS
⊞ ec.europa.eu	770	836
⊞ www.linkedin.com	481	728
⊞ sns-brokerage.eu	366	394
⊞ 6g-ia.eu	274	317
⊞ fidal-he.eu	273	311
⊞ outlook.office.com	262	283
⊞ 6g-sandbox.eu	258	311
⊞ www.youtube.com	232	292
⊞ imagineb5g.eu	230	278
⊞ 6g-bricks.eu	225	260
⊞ youtu.be	208	240
⊞ www.google.com	199	200
⊞ twitter.com	180	223
⊞ www.eucnc.eu	174	193
⊞ target-x.fundingbox.com	154	167
⊞ www.6g-xr.eu	150	167
⊞ cordis.europa.eu	139	157
⊞ target-x.eu	136	163
⊞ webcal:	111	144
⊞ deterministic6g.eu	105	119
⊞ digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu	102	113
⊞ trialsnet.eu	101	114
⊞ eur-lex.europa.eu	86	103
⊞ terrameta-project.eu	75	88
⊞ outlook.live.com	73	75

Figure 9: Top 25 outlinks (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

The below figure gives further details on outlinks directing towards ec.europa.eu, showing to which specific pages at ec.europa.eu they link, and how many clicks were made to each of the listed ones, from December 2022 to January 2024. This shows that the SNS JU web is also an important portal to various information – mostly related to tenders and funding – on the EC webpage.

Outlinks

CLICKED OUTLINK	▼ UNIQUE CLICKS	CLICKS
⊟ ec.europa.eu	770	836
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=sns;ma...	216	230
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=sns;ma...	137	145
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search?keywords=SNS&callIdentifier=HORIZON-JU-...	76	80
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home	74	84
↗ /eusurvey/runner/RegistrationIAFADIH	61	69
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=sns;ma...	55	60
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=sns;ma...	42	44
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search?keywords=SNS&programmePart=&callIdentif...	33	37
↗ /info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en	18	19
↗ /inea/en/connecting-europe-facility	14	17
↗ /info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en	8	9
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq;type=0,1;categories=;tenders=;programme=null;keyword=;fr...	6	6
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-ju-sns-2023-stream-d-01-01;callCod...	4	4
↗ /information_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=2158	4	5
↗ /information_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=2163	4	6
↗ /commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_6327	3	4
↗ /research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/other/event230202.htm	3	4
↗ /info/cookies_en	2	2
↗ /info/news/commission-welcomes-approval-10-european-partnerships-accelerate-green-and-digital-transition-2021-nov-19...	2	2
↗ /eusurvey/runner/230202-coordinators-day-registration	1	1
↗ /eusurvey/runner/FIDALOCWebinar2	1	1
↗ /info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq;keyword=UK's participation in Horizon Europe	1	1
↗ /info/legal-notice_en	1	2
↗ /information_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=2157	1	1
↗ /information_society/newsroom/cf/dae/document.cfm?doc_id=2159	1	1

Figure 10: Outlinks to ec.europa.eu (01/12/2022 to 11/01/2024)

2   Programme document repository

A document sharing web service "Basic Support for Cooperative Work" (BSCW) has been set up to provide a document repository for the various bodies and working groups of the SNS JU. It also acts as a repository for deliverables and documents shared between projects.

The SNS JU BSCW repository currently supports 161 login accounts, many of which are project level accounts being used by multiple users, i.e. by all project participants.

The SNS JU BSCW repository is operational since September 2023 and has 5,712 documents stored in 1,363 folders with a total size of 36 Gigabytes.

The SNS JU BSCW repository supports co-editing documents in real time. This was achieved by integration of the ONLYOFFICE Docs service into BSCW.
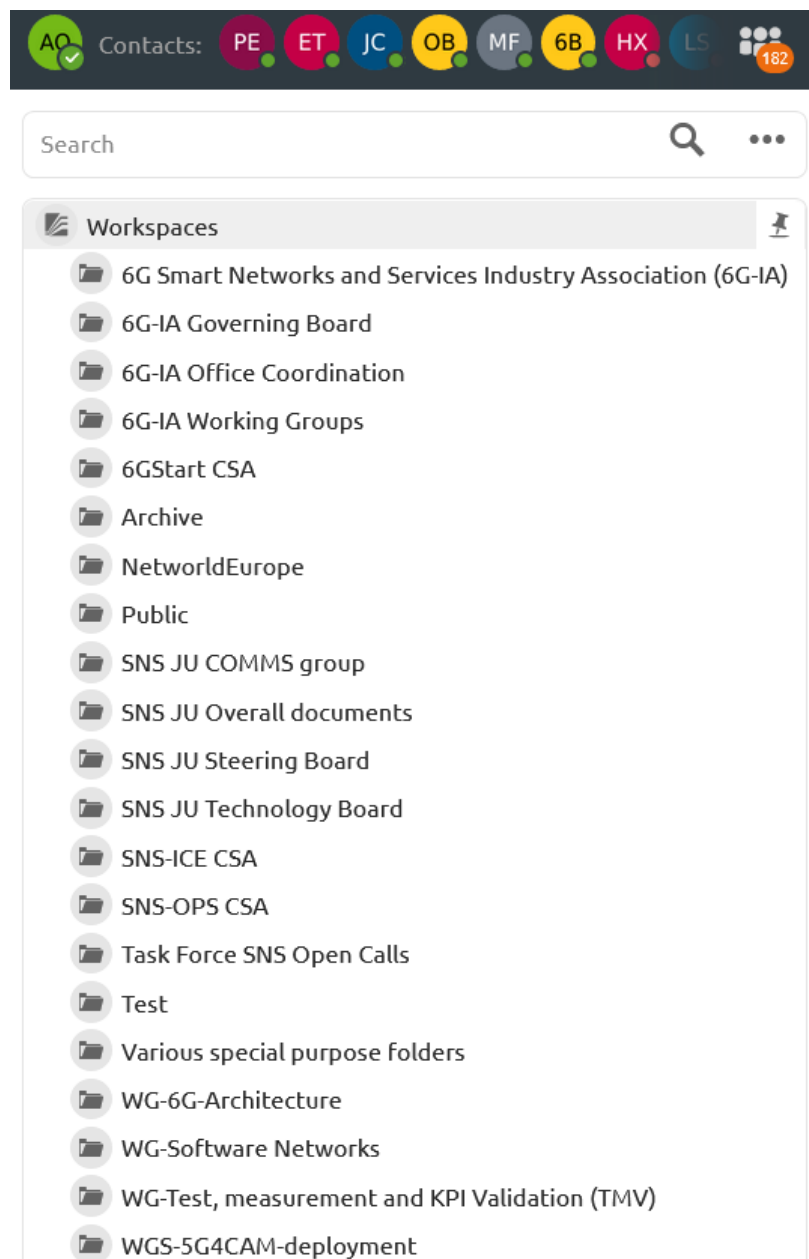

Figure 11: BSCW directory structure

3   Other tools

3.1   Brokerage service

As a support means for facilitating consortium building for SNS JU project proposals, a brokerage service had been created and introduced. This service allows people to submit either proposal ideas or expertise offer profiles to the Brokerage platform. Each submission is published after approval by the brokerage platform moderator team from the SNS OPS CSA. Proposal ideas may be posted without publishing the idea owner's identity if they only wish to be contacted via the Brokerage platform.

The platform offers search and contact request forms which allows idea proposers to find matching partners for a project consortium and companies to find interesting proposal ideas to cooperate in.

The Brokerage Service[2] is operational to support SNS JU calls since December 2022.

Submit a proposal/ idea

1. For Idea owners or proposal leaders: To post your project ideas so prospective partners can ask to join with you.

The key information needed if you want to announce your idea or proposal is: what you want to do, exactly which call of the work programme you plan to address, which SNS goals will you contribute to, and what competences or participants (SMEs, academics, industry, etc.,) do you need. You may do this as the potential coordinator of a proposal or you may do it with your idea just to find like-minded people to form a consortium. Proposal or Idea owners may keep their identity private and any interests in your proposal/idea will be forwarded to you.

Submit your expertise

2. For offers of Expertise: (participants looking for projects) To post your profile and indicate your interests so prospective partners can find you.

Here you can share your profile and competence for all to consider. The key information needed here is what sort of organisation you are (SMEs, academics, industry, etc.,), if you are a member of the 6G IA and can contribute to the IKOP assessment and what expertise you can offer. You should also say specifically which aspects of the call you want to address. (the form allows multiple key words and target areas to be chosen by re-selecting in the drop down lists multiple times). In principle such an offer must include your contact email so you may be contacted. This contact will be made public. PLEASE NOTE: your should avoid multiple postings for individual organisations as these may not be accepted and do not improve your visibility in the search function.

Browse proposals/ideas

3. Link to browse Submitted Proposal Ideas To browse or search project ideas to see if there are any you would like to offer your participation to.

Key information about ideas and proposals are shared here: what they want to do, exactly which call of the work programme they plan to address, which SNS goals they will contribute to, and what competencies or participants (SMEs, academics, industry, etc.,) do the proposer(s) need. Proposal or Idea owners may keep their identity private and any interest in their proposal/idea will be forwarded to them.

Browse profiles

4. Link to browse Submitted Expertise Offerings To browse or search up loaded profiles to find the competence you need in your proposal(s)

Here you can look for profiles and competencies you may be interested in your project idea. The key information needed is provided and if the interesting profile you are looking is a member of the 6G IA your can their IKOP assessment and what expertise they can offer. You will be able to see which aspects of the call they want to address. (selected through multiple keywords and target areas chosen by re-selecting in the drop-down lists multiple times). In principle, their email address is shared so they can be contacted.

Figure 12: Brokerage Service webpage, part "How does it work?"

3.2   Mailing lists

Over 50 mailing lists have been set up for SNS JU and NetworldEurope ETP. The number is quite dynamic and new communication groups are evolving quite frequently. Older lists are retired if not used so the number of lists does also reflect some churn.

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[2] https://sns-brokerage.eu/

The SNS JU mail list server has distributed 1.3 million emails with a traffic size of more than 268 GB

Everyone interested in receiving regular news from SNS JU can subscribe to SNS JU Newsletters, using the subscription form on the SNS JU web page. After confirming the link in the confirmation email (i.e. double opt-in) the email address is automatically added to the newsletter mailing lists newsletter@sns-ju.eu. The same forms can also be used for unsubscribing. Currently a total of 3,533 email addresses are subscribed to these lists.

Figure 13:Example content of a SNS Newsletter email

3.3   Audio and web conferences

The Web-conferencing tool, based on WebEx, has been used extensively in the past 12 months by the SNS JU, 6G-IA, SNS-I Steering Board, Technology Board, SNS JU Projects and Working Groups. In fact, over 600 virtual meetings, involving nearly 10,000 participants have been hosted in the past period so far.

Figure 14:WebEx booking console

3.4   Event registration services

Online registration facilities have been used for a number of workshops and information days. They consist of a web-based form which gathers information into a database and automatically sends an acknowledgement to the registrant.

The database information is then used to prepare participant lists and send updated information to the participants.

Similar forms have also been used to enable the community to submit feedback in public consultations e.g. on Whitepapers or to the draft Work Programmes definition. In these cases, an online form captures the information and it is stored in a database. Then the key information is exported to a spreadsheet which the editors of the document under consultation use to produce the next version of the document.

Figure 15:Example for an event announcement with registration service

3.5   eVoting tool

This tool enables decisions and elections to be held electronically using a secured system where the access and voting rights are controlled.

In the reporting period, the tool has been successfully used for of decision making and voting in the NetworldEurope ETP. This includes e.g. the election of the Vice-Chairs of the NetworldEurope Steering Board, given that physical meetings of the NetworldEurope SB to perform a secret election could not be organised.

The tool has also been used by the NetworldEurope working groups. In this period, the Chair- and Vice-Chair of the NetworldEurope Expert Group have been elected using the eVoting tool.

The tool has also been available for electing the Chair and Vice Chair of the SNS-I SB and TB. However, given that only one single candidate had been proposed for each of the positions it has not become necessary to organise elections and therefore the tool has not been used for these groups in 2023.

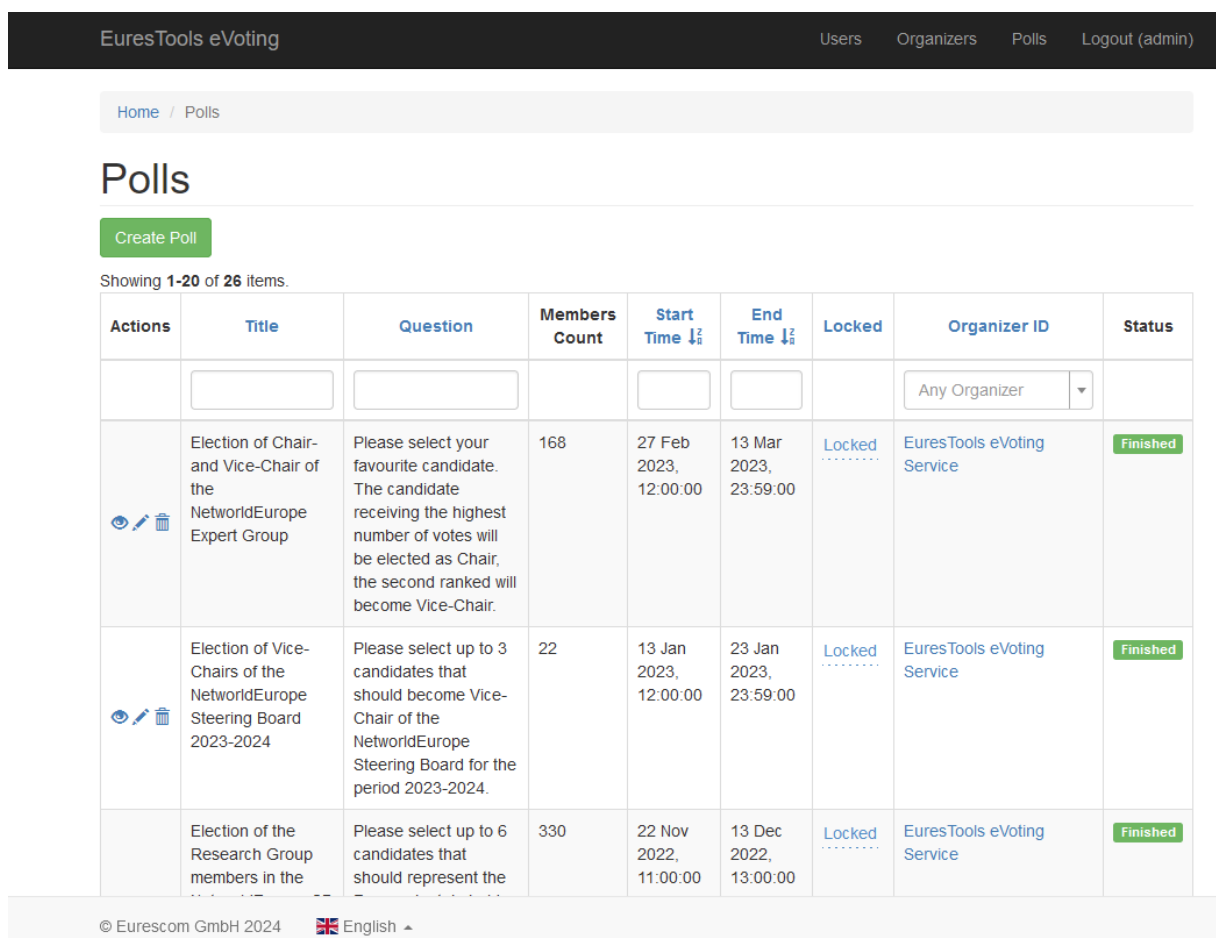A full list of the tool usage in the period is given in below figure:

Figure 16: E-voting tool usage in 2023

4   GDPR compliance

All personal information collected in scope of the support activities of SNS OPS is strictly handled in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Details on the data handling policy are available on the SNS JU web at https://smart-networks.europa.eu/data-protection-declaration/

Figure 17:Data protection declaration on SNS web

To explain how privacy is ensured, it should be noted first of all that every visitor's IP address is stored in the web server system log files which is a legal obligation. These log files are however automatically deleted after 2 weeks. The plug-in that is used in the SNS JU web for generating the statistics is called Matomo, as described in section 1.2. If a user first visits the SNS JU web site the user can accept or not a cookie which gives the option to "opt-out" of being tracked by Matomo. A user can change this preference anytime on the DPD page on the SNS web; this option was added for the visitors. By default, IP anonymisation is enabled in Matomo. This means, Matomo stores in the database each new visitor IP address (ipv4 or ipv6 format) with the last components removed to protect users' privacy.

5   Conclusions and outlook

The SNS Support action SNS OPS started in January 2023 and has taken over the support for the SNS JU domain from the peer 6GStart CSA during 2023. 6GStart has still continued to aid some developments of the SNS services during 2023 although the major support has been provided by SNS OPS.

In 2023, the first set of SNS JU projects has started which required significant support and management activities for the SB, the TB and the working groups that had been established or migrated from 5G PPP. The SNS JU programme infrastructure, as described in this Deliverable, is capable and suitable for the 2023 participation levels in all activities for this number of projects and individual interests to be accommodated.

SNS OPS has ensured that the programme infrastructure has been setup and tailored to the needs of the SNS programme, and kept it running smoothly to ensure all projects involved can actively contribute to the joint activities of the SNS JU. As anticipated, the level of travel in the 2023 period did not return to the pre-COVID levels and the number of virtual meetings to be hosted and supported were high.

The SNS OPS project will maintain the SNS JU portal with major news updates and the corresponding SNS JU communication mailing lists through 2024 and into 2025 when SNS OPS will be completed.

The great experience gained by SNS OPS partners from their activities in 5G-PPP over the years was leveraged to ensure that the 6G SNS domain and the support infrastructure operate as efficient and accessible as possible, providing a great user experience for both internal users and external visitors.

In January 2024 the second set of SNS projects (Call 2) has started, the various Working Groups have taken up momentum, and other joint activities have started. These will cause an increase in the level of support and volume of IT support services and infrastructure provision. With the basis that had been laid in 2023 SNS OPS is well prepared to handle and manage all demands in a highly efficient and effective manner.