**PRESS RELEASE**

**BILAT USA 4.0 explored DSI/Civic Tech**

**By:** INTRASOFT S.A.

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**4th International Conference on Internet Science Thessaloniki, Greece**

On November 22nd, 2017, BILAT USA 4.0 joined the 4th International Conference on Internet Science with two targeted workshops. The two workshops were introduced during the agenda of the main conference.

The first workshop was "Digital Social Innovation/Civic Tech, a topic EU- USA collaboration in research" set the ground of discussion among policy makers and researchers. Despina Anastasopoulos from INTRASOFT S.A., as a partner of BILAT USA4.0, opened the discussion by presenting the results of the project and how DSI emerged as a topic to be further explored as a topic of common interest for EU and US. In addition, the new funding opportunities under H2020, as well as, the 4 ways for US Researchers to participate in H2020 were also presented. This raised the interest of the participants, since questions followed and more information was provided.

Dr. Ursula Holtgrewe from the Center of the Social Innovation, discussed about Digital Social Innovation and its societal context in Europe and in the US. She also presented the Civic Tech term, coming from the US side, where the common needs are being addressed by these two terms. Last but not least, Dr. Holtgrewe presented the SIC project, A Community Support Action, that is, SUPPORT networking, community building, knowledge gathering and sharing, tool development around 12 networks – a network of Networks- about DSI, Collaborative and sharing economy, cities and regional development, public sector innovation and funding (www.siceurope.eu).

Mrs. Sharon Paley, Deputy Director at Johns Hopkins University Center for Government Excellence, after presenting their organization, she gave a thorough presentation about how, presented her organization and how they work. She provided examples of two cities, one in Europe and one in the USA, that they worked on in order to transform the cities. In both cases, they succeeded by analyzing and managing public data. Through these two examples, the audience had the opportunity to understand that there are similarities and common needs and approaches. She also highlighted though the need of the establishment of a common policy to boost data management across these two continents. This subject was very

interesting for the audience, since numerous questions were raised on the details of implementing these two cases, and how did they work with the European city.

Mrs. Stavroula Maglavera, University of Thessaly, presented the DSI Manifesto, what is important and the new call that exists on EU – US collaboration on Next Generation Internet ICT-31-2018.

Prof. Jonathan Cave, Regulatory Policy Committee – University of Warwick, introduced the Picasso project. He referred to the US-EU 'points of scientific contact', the scope for joint or complementary research based on scientific differences or ways data are being produced, collected and used. In addition, he also discussed about monetizing data and how this is approached in the EU & USA.

Mr. Daniele Rizzi, from the EC, Directorate – General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology – Unit of Data policy, discussed about the general framework of Data policies framework and more emphasis was put on the potential of data, regarding the societal benefits and the economic growth. During all the presentations, a lot of questions were raised that resulted into a fruitful discussion, were the future of DSI/Civic Tech as a an area of common interest was explored.


During the "BILATUSA 4.0 - EU-US and Academia-Industry Cooperation in DSI / Civic Tech workshop", Mr. Babis Ipektsidis, from INTRASOFT S.A., introduced BILAT USA 4.0 and also provided the context of the workshop by presenting the EU and USA support schemes, as well as the current available funding opportunities. He also presented, the NearUS project, as an opportunity for researchers to participate to the open calls of the project.

Dr. A. M. Zynga, Prof. at Provadis Germany; and CEO, NineSigma North America Inc., discussed about the barriers & opportunities in Academia/ Industry collaboration as a aview from the US. This topic triggered the discussion among the audience since there were many issues raised regarding the approach that these two continents follow for the Academia/ Industry collaboration.

Dr. Latif Ladid, President of IPv6 Forum- University of Luxembourg, presented how IPv6 protocol was established and was adopted by countries around the globe, as well as it future in the new internet. This triggered the discussion on the tools used to approach countries to adopt it.

Mr. Nikolaos Tsoniotis, Product Innovation Manager at CERTH, presented "Secure and Trusted blockchain services for Interoperable eHealth Services", this presentation, opened up a new dialogue among the participants about the future of blockchain in Academia – Industry collaboration.

These two workshops attracted 35 people and BILAT USA 4.0 was introduced to over than 80 people during the conference.
We would like to highlight that during the conference, participants were interested to learn more about BILAT USA 4.0 and how could they collaborate with the USA.


## *About BILAT-USA 4.0*

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