Project No.:	687961
Project acronym:	RespiceSME
Project title:	Regional, National and European Support for Photonics Innovation Clusters enhancing SMEs Innovative Potential
Instrument:	Coordination and Support Action
Programme:	ICT-27-2015: Photonics KET
Start date of project:	01.01.2016
Duration:	24 Months

Deliverable 4.5
Report on collaborations with other Photonics CSAs and policy makers

Deliverable Name	Report on collaborations with other Photonics CSAs and policy makers
Deliverable Number	D 4.5
Work Package	WP 4
Associated Task	T 4.3
Covered Period	2016-01-01 to 2017-12-31
Due Date	M 23 (November 2017)
Completion Date	M 25 (January 2018)
Submission Date	23.01.2017
Deliverable Lead Partner	Partner 1 – S2i
Deliverable Author	Tabea Link, Samantha Michaux

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Table of Content

1. Introduction

Deliverable 4.5 reflects on collaborations with other Photonics CSAs and policy makers fostered by RespiceSME during the course of the project, summarizing main activities and outcomes.

RespiceSME actively engaged with other relevant Photonics CSAs and other European projects and organisations in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas, to discuss common challenges and to validate best practices elaborated. The close cooperation of RespiceSME with other active projects funded in the framework of Horizon 2020, such as "Photonics4All", "EPRISE" or "PHABLABs 4.0" contributed to the alignment and complementarity of activities undertaken, creating synergies and boosting the communication and dissemination of project results.

RespiceSME also sought the establishment of strong links with Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and the European Photonics technology platform Photonics21. The expertise and tools provided by EEN added greatly to the RespiceSME activities targeting the encouragement of transnational and cross-sectoral cooperation between Photonics SMEs. The close cooperation with Photonics21 ensured the exchange of information and connection with the European Photonics community.

Linkage with other Photonics CSAs was facilitated through regular phone conferences, personal contacts and meetings. RespiceSME also participated in the Photonics21 annual meetings and other workshops organized by the technology platform during the course of the project.

2. Summary of phone conferences with other Photonics CSAs

During the duration of the RespiceSME project, ten phone conferences with members of other Photonics CSAs and of the Photonics21 secretariat were organized. While noticing different aspects and challenges, central to the phone conferences' discussions were always the sharing of knowledge and experiences accumulated within each project.

1st Phone Conference, 24.10.2016

List of participants:

Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary
Barbara Kehrer (BK)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretariat
Linas Eriksonas (LE)	Litek	Coordinator Laser -Go
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Notes keeper

The discussions of the first CSA projects phone conference started with a review of tasks in each project, identifying similarities and opportunities for cooperation. Furthermore, it was decided to establish an online platform to facilitate the sharing of information between partners. To better organise joined activities the partners drew up a list of actions planned in the upcoming months. The preliminary list included the co-organisation of workshops, the organisation of network trips outside of the EU within the framework of Laser-Go and the setting-up of a calendar with all CSA events. Although RespiceSME was not represented in the actual phone conference, Steinbeis 2i, coordinator of RespiceSME, followed up on the topics discussed during the conference.

Agenda of 1st Phone Conf.:

1. Which projects have similar tasks?
2. On which tasks can we cooperate (joint tasks)?
3. Platform to exchange information (now and in a longer term).
4. Minutes from Oct. 7
5. Actions

2nd Phone Conference, 18.11.2016

List of participants:

Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Barbara Kehrer (BK)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretariat
Bart van Caenegem	EC	Project Officer all CSAs
Nathalie Debaes	VUB	Coordinator PHABLABs 4.0
Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Linas Eriksonas (LE)	Litek	Coordinator Laser -Go
Samantha Michaux	Steinbeis	Coordinator RespiceSME
Aude Pélisson	Steinbeis	Coordinator Photonics4All
Ziga Valic	Optitec	Coordinator EPRISE
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping

The phone conference mainly dwelled on how to compile the common parameters and the activities of each project in a concise way, using tables and spread sheets. In this context, the conference participants also discussed the focus of cooperation and decided, among other things, on main target groups and applications to be addressed.

Agenda of 2nd Phone Conf.:

1. Review of Summary document and overview tables
2. Actions

3rd Phone Conference, 20.12.2016

List of participants:

Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Barbara Kehrer (BK)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretariat
Nathalie Debaes (ND)	VUB	Coordinator PHABLABs 4.0
Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Samantha Michaux (SM)	Steinbeis	Coordinator RespiceSME
Aude Pélisson (AP)	Steinbeis	Coordinator Photonics4All
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping

During the 3rd phone conference the discussions on the summary document were continued, examining in more detail the possibility of jointly organising a workshop at an upcoming event, e.g. at a laser/photonics trade fair. Moreover, the project coordinator presented Photonics4All, a CSA project to be finalised end of the year. This stirred a general discussion on how to disseminate project results and to ensure their use in other contexts, once a project has ended.

Agenda of 3rd Phone Conf.:

1. Review of the actions list.
2. Comments about the summary document.
3. Discussion about the possible organisation of joint workshops.

4th Phone Conference, 17.02.2017

List of participants:

Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Barbara Kehrer (BK)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretariat
Nathalie Debaes (ND)	VUB	Coordinator PHABLABs 4.0
Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Samantha Michaux (SM)	Steinbeis	Coordinator RespiceSME

Aude Pélisson (AP)	Steinbeis	Coordinator Photonics4All
Linas Eriksonas (LE)	Litek	Coordinator Laser-Go
Cecilia Pinto (CP)	Optitec	Coordinator EPRISE
Ziga Valic (ZV)	Optitec	Resp. Europe/International
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping

The first CSA phone conference in 2017 and the 4th in total started with the sharing of news in the project, announcing activities and events planned in 2017. Also on the agenda were the previously discussed summary document, the update of the CSA calendar and possible opportunities for collaboration on workshops/events in 2017. In this context Pics4All and RespiceSME announced to consider a joint activity. Furthermore, a first draft of a poster, to be used for the joint communication of photonics CSAs, was presented during the phone call.

Agenda of 4th Phone Conf.:

1. The news from the projects.
2. Summary document: possible distribution
3. Calendarium: update.
4. Possible collaborations for workshops/events.
5. First version of Photonics CSA Poster: comments, poster or roll-up, how to finalize, production distribution.
6. Possible leaflet to complement the poster.
7. Revision of action list.

5th Phone Conference, 24.03.2017

List of participants:

Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Nathalie Debaes (ND)	VUB	Coordinator PHABLABs 4.0
Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Linas Eriksonas (LE)	Litek	Coordinator Laser-Go
Cecilia Pinto (CP)	Optitec	Coordinator EPRISE
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping

Discussions on communication materials, intended to increase the visibility of all CSA projects in the field of Photonics, were continued during the 5th phone conference, leading to the decision of

producing a leaflet in addition to the poster. Concerning the summary document, which lists the activities of each project, it was brought to attention that two figures showing the different forms of SME support offered by the projects have been included in the document. The consortium members Petra Bindig and Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz represented RespiceSME in this meeting from PhotonicSweden. Concerning the collaboration between EuroPho21 and RespiceSME, they announced that Sergio Saez from SECPhO (R-SME) will make a presentation in a workshop on Photonics4Automotive organised by Santiago Royo from UPC (Fotonica21, EuroPho21) in Barcelona in May.

Agenda of 5th Phone Conf.:

1. News from the projects.
2. The poster. Possible leaflet to complement the poster.
3. Figure to summarize the SME supports.
4. Possible collaborations for workshops/events. Calendarium to be updated.
5. Revision of action list.

6th Phone Conference, 21.04.2017

Since the 6th phone conference of CSA coordinators took place just one month after the last conference call, its main focus was on the review of the first draft of the leaflet.

7th Phone Conference, 09.06.2017

List of participants:

Nathalie Debaes (ND)	VUB	Coordinator PHABLABs 4.0
Samantha Michaux (SM)	Steinbeis	Coordinator RespiceSME
Melanie Ungemach (MU)	Steinbeis	Replacing Aude for Photonics4all
Cecilia Pinto (CP)	Optitec	Coordinator EPRISE
Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping

During the 7th phone conference news about upcoming activities and events in each CSA project were shared and opportunities for alignment of actions and support through other CSAs were discussed. PHABLABs 4.0 coordinator Nathalie Debaes agreed to present the project during the RespiceSME workshop “Aligning education with innovation” at Laser World of Photonics in Munich.

Agenda of 7th Phone Conf.:

1. Minutes of Telco 5 and 6.
2. News from the projects.
3. Collaboration between CSA projects on workshops/events/regions.
4. Brochure: status and time plan.
5. Next meeting(s)

8th Phone Conference, 25.09.2017

List of participants:

Markus Wilkens (MW)	VDI	Photonics21 Secretary and coordinator EuroPho21
Katarzyna Lawniczuk (KL)	TU/e	Coordinator PICs4All
Samantha Michaux (SM)	Steinbeis	Coordinator RespiceSME
Melanie Ungemach (MU)	Steinbeis	Replacing Aude for Photonics4all
Linas Eriksonas (LE)	Litek	Coordinator Laser-Go
Cecilia Pinto (CP)	Optitec	Coordinator EPRISE
Lydia Sanmarti (from point 4 in the agenda)	ICFO	Executive Officer of the ECOP Secretariat (European Centres for Outreach in Photonics).
Pierre-Yves Fonjallaz (PYF)	PhotonicSweden	Leading and note keeping
Petra Bindig (PB)	PhotonicSweden	Leading the meeting

Main points on the agenda of the 8th Phone conference were the finalisation of the brochure, future outreach activities in 2018 and the status of collaboration between CSA projects on workshops/events and regional activities. As both Photonics21 and RespiceSME will launch a video contest for students, start-ups and SMEs, the coordinators agreed to collaborate on this topic and exchange ideas and experiences.

Agenda of 8th Phone Conf.:

1. Minutes of Telco 7.
2. News from the projects.
3. Brochure: status, setting a deadline. (you will be able to see the latest draft just before the meeting on Monday)
4. Discussion about outreach activities: International Day of Light (May 16) and issue related to making available all outreach (and other) material.
5. Collaboration between CSA projects on workshops/events/regions.
6. Next meeting(s)

At the 9th Phone Conference none of the RespiceSME representatives could attend.

10th Phone Conference, 12.12.2017

The 10th Phone Conference concentrated on the new and final version of the brochure. There were no other points discussed, the brochure being an important joint task and outcome of the CSAs coordination group. The index of the brochure and the pages on RespiceSME are provided in the annex. A description of the main content and idea of the brochure is included in the section below.

3. Brochure on CSA projects: Photonics PPP services to European SMEs

A major outcome of the cooperation between RespiceSME and other Photonics CSAs has been the drafting of a brochure on "Photonics PPP services to European SMEs". The idea was to provide a comprehensive overview on services for SMEs and other stakeholders developed within Photonics CSAs. In addition to the online communication on services undertaken by each project, a brochure deemed to be a suitable medium to increase the dissemination of the projects' outcomes.

The brochure ergo captures the RespiceSME tools for cluster managers, highlighting how these tools can enhance their support for SMEs of their cluster. A summary of all tools developed by RespiceSME for stimulating the innovation potential of SMEs, e.g. the Innovation Audit Questionnaire, the Value Chain Analysis or the RespiceSME methodology for accessing RTO infrastructures, is given in the brochure. The section on RespiceSME also includes details on the project consortium and the project website for further information.

4. Participation to Photonics21 meetings

The meetings of Photonics 21 were a great opportunity for RespiceSME to connect with other CSA Photonics projects and stakeholders of the industry, sharing about the project activities. Samantha Michaux, coordinator of RespiceSME from Steinbeis 2i, thus attended several meetings organised by Photonics21 throughout the duration of the project.

On behalf of the RespiceSME consortium, Samantha Michaux participated in the Photonics21 annual meetings in 2016 and 2017. At the Photonics21 annual meeting in March 2016 the project RespiceSME was introduced and presented to other CSA project coordinators within one of the work group sessions. This yielded in fruitful exchanges and stirred conversation on possible collaborations. The discussions also provided new input for the dissemination of project activities within RespiceSME. In March 2017, the Photonics community gathered again for the annual meeting of Photonics21, which was again an excellent opportunity to present and promote the RespiceSME activities in 2017.

In June 2016 RespiceSME also had joined the expert workshop on "Innovation hubs" organized by Photonics21. As the project's main thrust was to stimulate innovation in Photoncis SMEs and as Photonics clusters, which in a way also serve as hubs for innovation for their members, made up a large part of the RespiceSME consortium, this topic was of particular interest for RespiceSME. Therefore, the idea of establishing "Digital Innovation hubs with Photonics competencies", discussed during the meeting, provided valuable impetus for the project's activities, and where they might lead to for the partners involved.

The following meeting organized by Photonics21, held in October 2016, brought together all CSA project coordinators. This allowed for an intense exchange of results obtained and challenges encountered within the projects so far, leading to the identification of opportunities for joint activities.

On the whole, the participation of RespiceSME to the Photonics21 meetings enhanced the connection of RespiceSME with other Photonics CSAs and added greatly to the visibility of the project within the larger European Photonics community. Besides attending the meetings, RespiceSME also used the Photonics21 online platform for publishing news about the project, which as well increased awareness of the project and its activities among Photonics stakeholders.

5. Conclusions

The connections established with other Photonics CSAs and stakeholders of the Photonics community proved to be very valuable for the RespiceSME project. Concerning the organisation of events, e.g. the recruitment of speakers for the RespiceSME workshop at Laser World of Photonics in Munich, or the dissemination of projects results online and offline, the collaboration with the Photonics21 secretariat, the coordinators of other CSAs and with the Enterprise Europe Network were of great importance to the success of the project.

With regard to the future implementation of European Photonics projects, the RespiceSME consortium therefore highly recommends to make use of the resources of the Photonics network established by Photonics21 and other initiatives.

Annex

A. Index of brochure presenting Photonics CSAs and description of RespiceSME services

Photonics PPP services to European SMEs

Contents

RespiceSME

Acronym: **RespiceSME**
Project Title: RespiceSME – A European project to strengthen Europe's photonics sector by enabling SMEs to enhance and increase their innovation potential
Duration: January 1, 2016 to December 31 2017.
Website: http://www.respice-sme.eu/

List of partners:

Short Name:	Participant Organisation Name:	Country
S2i	STEINBEIS 2I GMBH	Germany
OV	OPTICSVALLEY	France
FORTH	FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS	Greece
OND	OPTECNET DEUTSCHLAND EV	Germany
EaPS	Economic Association PhotonicSweden	Sweden
PhAu	PHOTONICS AUSTRIA	Austria
SECPhO	Southern European Cluster in Photonics & Optics Association	Spain
NUI Gal	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY	Ireland
LITEK	Lithuanian Laser & Engineering Technologies cluster	Lithuania
KTN	KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK LIMITED	United Kingdom

Key Actions

The RespiceSME project's goal is to strengthen the European photonics sector by enhancing the innovative capacity of Europe's photonics Small and Medium Enterprises, clusters and national platforms.

RespiceSME pursues a **three dimensional approach** to promote photonics innovation. In the **first dimension**, the RespiceSME priority is on **enabling SMEs to evaluate and enhance their own innovation potential** by developing instruments and strategies tailored to the SME's needs.

In the **second dimension**, RespiceSME focuses on the potential of photonics as key enabling technology to leverage non-photonic sectors such as Environment/ Energy, Transport, and Manufacturing. RespiceSME project partners thus **help high-tech photonics SMEs to explore new business opportunities** in these sectors by analysing different value chains.

The **third dimension** of actions in RespiceSME concentrates on strengthening the competitiveness of the European photonics sector, the major aim being to create a bridge over the 'Valley of Death' for

SMEs. The approach applied by RespiceSME is to **enhance the innovation support delivered by research, academic education, regional policies and public and private financial instruments.**

Results

All tools developed in the project are integrated in a **comprehensive toolbox for cluster managers** to support their work with SMEs:

RespiceSME developed an **Innovation Audit Questionnaire** to evaluate the innovation potential of photonics SMEs and helps them to develop a sustainable innovation strategy and define recommendations which lead to an action plan for strengthening their innovation capacity. RespiceSME also helps exploit photonics innovation capacity by **analysing different value chains** valuable for photonics SMEs and optimises **the value of inter-sectoral applications of photonics** by promoting better understanding and exploitation of interdisciplinary value chains and sector roadmaps. To support the implementation of the innovation strategy developed, the SMEs need an **access to relevant enablers** such as **RTOs, financial instruments & regional policies** (RIS3). A methodology to support SMEs in **accessing RTO infrastructures and financial instruments** has been elaborated to allow the development of new projects/products/services/business models. At a political level, the partners carried out an analysis of the RIS3 process to show how far regional policy is involved in supporting the innovation potential of SMEs.