European Commission

CLOUDING SMEs

(Project abstract) The CloudingSMEs support action is a joint effort of SME Associations, SMEs and clouding computing experts, which will act as a catalyst for the accelerated and successful adoption of cloud computing by European SMEs. The project will undertake a comprehensive approach to cloud computing by SMEs, which will consider the needs of both the supply side (i.e. innovative ICT SMEs with expertise on cloud computing) and the demand side (i.e. use of the cloud by SMEs). The project will specify a vision for the optimal adoption and use of cloud computing within SME communities, along with a set of road maps to accomplish this vision.

AT A GLANCE

Project title
CloudingSMEs.

Project reference:
609604

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Partners
EUROCLOUD (DE)
PIN SME (BE)
BITMI (DE)
PROMIS@Service (LU)
EBS (GR)
CLOUDZONE (DE)
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Duration
24 months

Total cost
€ 841.528

Programme
FP7 ICT *Call 10*

Website
www.cloudingsmes.eu

Motivation

CloudingSMEs is driven by the need to lower the barriers associated with the adoption of cloud based solutions by SMEs, while it also considers the need to facilitate SME providers of cloud solutions to sustain and strengthen their positions in the very competitive cloud computing market. Specifically, the main ideas that led the Consortium to come up with this Support Action (SA) can be classified in the following categories:

- The unsatisfactory adoption rates of cloud computing technologies within SME communities, despite relevant benefits.
- The fact that SMEs need practical support in their cloud computing related decisions and initiatives.
- The potential of cloud computing technologies to boost competitiveness and growth of SMEs and the need to unveil and boost this potential.
- The lack of market solutions focused on micro SME needs.
- The need for consolidating SME requirements as a means of achieving/boosting interoperability, harmonization and economies of scale.

Concept

The main goal of the CloudingSMEs Support Action is to act as a catalyst for the accelerated and more successful adoption of cloud computing by European SMEs, while at the same facilitating ICT SMEs in the development, deployment and promotion of their cloud computing solutions. Therefore, the project takes a comprehensive approach to the use of cloud computing by SMEs, which considers both the supply side (i.e. results and endeavours of ICT SMEs with expertise on cloud computing) and the demand side (i.e. the adoption and use of cloud computing technologies by SMEs). As part of this holistic approach, the project will specify a vision associated with the optimal adoption and use of cloud computing within SME communities, together with a set of road maps to accomplish this vision. Along with the production of the road maps, the project will focus on short, medium and longer-term activities, which shall be undertaken by the SME communities, cloud computing communities and policy makers towards a smooth and successful migration to the vision.

Objective

The objectives of CloudingSMEs are the following:
o To mobilise and coordinate an SME-centric team of all stakeholders from SME communities and cloud computing communities , aiming at identifying, analysing and suggesting solutions regarding the key factors that inhibit the penetration of cloud computing within SMEs;
o To unify and consolidate the requirements of SMEs regarding cloud deployment, towards documenting a common voice for SMEs in Europe;
o To develop, document and promote a set of road maps for pursuing the identified vision (by 2020 and beyond);
o To create a toolbox for SMEs, comprising a wide range of tools and techniques that can assist SMEs in their cloud related activities such as selection of cloud vendor/provider, conduction of techno-economic analysis, assessment of data protection issues, successful confrontation of legal/contractual issues, negotiation of SLAs and more;
o To enrich the toolbox with best practices associated with the adoption, deployment and use of cloud-computing, notably best practices derived on the basis of other SMEs experiences;
o To work out a number of policy guidelines, in terms of technical, technological, socioeconomic and legal issues associated with the development of cloud computing and its deployment by SMEs;
o To raise awareness about cloud computing within SME communities, in view of providing complete information about cloud computing in an easy way that is fully understood by SMEs.

The project's results will be offered to European SMEs through a single access point and in a multilingual and SME-friendly way.