

IANIS⁺

THEMATIC WORK GROUPS

Benefits & Opportunities for Associate Member Regions of the NMS

Regional IS and knowledge-based society development almost invariably covers a range of ICT domains – such as eBusiness, eGovernment, eLearning, eHealth etc. In many cases, there is also concern with transversal themes such as (broadband) infrastructure development, or project partnership and financing arrangements, or development of IS indicators and benchmarking. The majority of ICT projects making up the RIAPs fall into these ICT domains.

IANIS⁺ will establish 6 thematic work groups, one per ICT domain, with each member region proposing/nominating a regional expert to each of the domains and work groups. Thus, whilst, other activities of the IANIS⁺ network (e.g. conferences) will focus on a range of ICT issues (policy, programmes, applications, services etc in a range of ICT domains), the six thematic work groups will focus their attention and efforts on a single ICT domain. In doing so, they will address policy issues, technology developments, and good practice case study projects that relate to their domain.

In this way, IANIS⁺ offers regions an almost unique opportunity to belong to and to participate in six differing Europe-wide inter-regional networks, one each per domain chosen. Regional experts, nominated by their region, will be expected to participate actively in the work of the work group contributing to the on-line forum, with information about projects, offering opinions and evidence regarding relevant regional, national and EU policies, as well as contributing to the potential for inter-regional collaboration through joint project developments.

- The six ICT themes for the work groups will be chosen by the IANIS Steering Committee, taking into account the distribution of ICT projects in the RIAPs and the interest (current and future) of regions regarding such domains¹.
- Member regions will be invited to take responsibility for thematic work groups by nomination of, and support, for a work group chairperson. The Secretariat will organise a Call for Expressions of Interest for this purpose. Each region may select, and nominate an expert as chairperson for a maximum of two work groups. The Steering Committee, in appointing the chairpersons and their regions to take responsibility for the work groups, will ensure that any one region is responsible for no more than one work group.

¹ At its meeting of 20th July in Brussels, the Steering Committee discussed the choice of thematic work groups and agreed the following: (1) 1. eGovernment (including eDemocracy); (2) eLearning; (3) Infrastructure (including eInclusion & Accessibility); (4) eContent (including Culture & Identity) (5) eHealth and (6) eBusiness

- On behalf of the Steering Committee, and following the determination of the 6 work groups themes, the Secretariat will invite member regions to express their interest in taking responsibility for one or two work groups and to request nominations for the chairperson of such groups. Nominees must be acknowledged domain experts and their nominations must be accompanied by a full CV including completion of their details in the Experts database (at www.ianis.net).
- Each work group will schedule one face-to-face meeting/workshop per year (or other period decided by the Steering Committee) for each of which a travel and subsistence allowance for nominated and approved regional experts will be available, to a maximum of €600 per meeting. Payment of the travel and subsistence grant is subject to full attendance at the event, contributions to off-line working between meetings, the submission of one ICT Project Case Study Report and the usual submission of travel ticket counterfoils and receipts and accompanying claim form. Submission of a case study report and submission of the information about the project (reported in the case study) in the online ICT Data Base will be only required for the first participation in a WG meeting. For 2nd or 3rd participation, only full attendance and original receipts will be required.
- Where funds permit, work group chairpersons will be encouraged to schedule additional meetings/workshops of the work group.
- At the end of the first year (or other such period as the Steering Group decides), each thematic work group is required to submit a Guide to Good Practice on ICT Projects associated with its domain. All members of the work group are expected to contribute to this but it is the responsibility of the work group chairperson to coordinate the effort and to act as editor with the assistance of the Secretariat. At the end of the second period (or end of programme), each work group is expected to prepare a further Guide to Good Practice or a significant update of the original. In both cases, ICT Good Practice Case Study Reports are required to form annexes, thereby ensuring access to good practice for all members of the network, and others beyond.
- As stated above, work group chairpersons will be selected by the Steering Committee on the basis of applications and nominations from regions - with regards to the commitment from the region and the reputation and domain competence of the nominee. Chairpersons will be paid an honorarium (equivalent to €3,000 per annum) based on an initial 'contact/agreement' for one year (or shorter period as agreed as agreed). In addition, chairpersons will receive a small budget (about €1,000 per annum) for other minor expenses. Such minor expenses must be fully accounted for with the submission of all receipts.
- Chairpersons are appointed for a specific term (one year or less) in the first instance and may be replaced, or their contract not renewed, if performance of the work group is considered unsatisfactory by the Steering Committee. The chairpersons are expected to animate and coordinate the work of the group and to monitor the contribution of its members.
- A small budget, managed by the Secretariat, is available to cover or contribute to the costs of workshop venues, refreshments, speaker's fees and speaker's travel and subsistence, as well as the costs of attendance of a member of the Secretariat.

- Subject to the progress of the work groups, and in the light of the expressed views and changing interests of member regions, the Steering Committee may, at the end of the first period/year, terminate one/some work groups and replace it/them with alternatives.