



Innovative Actions Network
for the Information Society

IANIS⁺ is coordinated by



The European Regional
Information Society Association

IANIS⁺

CONFERENCES & POLICY SEMINARS

Terms of Reference

The IANIS⁺ work programme has duration of 22 months and comprises six main work packages or activities, one of which is Activity 4.1 – Conferences & Policy Seminars.

The **annual conferences** provide a focal point in each year for all members of the network (and other interested parties) to congregate, to exchange views, opinions and experiences, and to debate and reflect policy issues and concerns in a *collective* manner.

- IANIS⁺ will organise two *major* annual conferences (in June 2005 – already concluded - and June 2006) of a significant scale and with a broad scope – embracing policy, practice and technology development in the overall context of improved regional development, with a specific focus on information and knowledge-based society (IKBS) development as a paradigm for competitive, sustainable development and social inclusion at the regional level.
- Each event will provide regions and their key actors with the opportunity to explore in greater depth a small number of specific thematic domains (based on the work of Action Line 4.4) but according to their specific priorities and interests. At the same time, the conferences will aim to address a range of other horizontal issues (e.g. spatial balance, sustainability, innovation systems etc.) as well as providing opportunities for less formal networking. Conference agendas will draw on good practice case studies developed in Action Line 4.2.
- Each region of the consortium will be entitled to receive a grant for one nominated regional representative to attend each of the Annual Conferences up to a limit of 500 € and is strictly subject to the following conditions:
 - Eligibility for this travel and subsistence grant is subject to registration and attendance at the conference by a second representative of the member region.
 - In order to be eligible for this grant, a regional representative is required to agree to act in a specific capacity for the conference programme if requested by the Secretariat (such as speaker, parallel track chairman, facilitator, rapporteur etc.).
 - The claimant is required, in advance of submitting the claim, to have ensured that s/he is registered as an Expert in the Experts DB, has updated her/his region's Regional Profile, and has entered at least one additional regional project in the ICT Project Database.
 - The claim, up to the limit of 500 €, will be reimbursed only upon receipt of a correctly completed "IANIS+ Expense Claim Form" duly signed and accompanied by original receipts.
- A regional representative claiming the T&S grant and who is also a speaker in the conference will also be expected to submit a good practice ICT project case study as described in Action Line 4.2.

Policy seminars (8 in total) will be organised in close cooperation with Commission services to provide a platform for debate and discussion on policy issues of relevance to the regions and the Commission. Such seminars will be organised with the help of acknowledged experts in the selected domains and, where feasible, will be based on suitable prior analyses or other forms of evidence-gathering. In particular, policy seminars will be informed by ICT project case studies in the frame (where feasible) of RIAPs, and developed out of Regional Good Practice Research & Peer Reviews (Action Line 4.2) and the work of Thematic Work Groups (Action Line 4.4). Each seminar will result in a published report.

- No travel grants are foreseen for regional representatives' attendance at policy seminars. However, the IANIS+ Secretariat will try to schedule these events back-to-back with other meetings (such as work group meetings), so that a regional representative can have their T&S costs partially covered.
- Each regional representative who is invited to be a speaker at a policy seminar will be requested to provide a good practice case study as described in Action Line 4.2