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1. Summary

ERINA4Africa is an initiative aimed at fostering cooperation between the EU and Africa with a win-win perspective:

- Africa may benefit from the development of Research Infrastructure policies based on EU experiences and best practices, and
- the EU will have the chance to demonstrate on-the-field benefits of exploiting Research Infrastructure in key ICT areas where public funding would be relevant, namely e-Health, e-Government, and e-Learning.

Based on the results of a recent study funded by the EC (ERINA, www.erina-study.eu), this project aims to provide African and EU policy makers with a detailed analysis of exploitable scenarios of existing (and new) e-Infrastructures in Africa. The project will therefore facilitate the actors of the African e-Infrastructures ecosystems to network and share knowledge, and will foster easier communications and dissemination between the EU and Africa on an ongoing basis.

Moreover ERINA4Africa has a green core. It will be managed to monitor and reduce as much as possible any paper usage, travelling alongside the world and energy consumption in general. This collateral exercise would demonstrate the possibility to have efficient while green research. Through the website such metrics will be continuously monitored, providing concrete suggestions to reduce the impact of research projects on the environment

1.1. Project Logo

The ERINA4Africa project logo has been designed to emphasise the combination of the ERINA study “brand” and our target area, Africa.



1.2. Project Facts

Project acronym:	ERINA4Africa
Contract no.:	FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2009-5 - 246663
Project type:	Specific Support Action
Start date:	01/10/2009
Duration:	14 months
Total budget:	451.844,00 €
EC Funding:	370.000,00 €
Total effort in person-month:	50
Website:	www.erina4africa.eu

1.3. List of Beneficiaries

Brunel University	UBRUN	United Kingdom	<i>Coordinator</i>
Engineering Ingegneria Informatica	ENG	Italy	
Metaware SpA	MTW	Italy	
UbuntuNet Alliance	UbuntuNet	Netherlands	
Royal Institute of Technology	KTH	Sweden	

1.4. Brief Presentation of the Project's Partners

1.4.1. Brunel University (UBRUN)

The team that will take part in the department belongs to the Distributed Systems Research Group of the Department of Information Systems and Computing (DISC) at Brunel University. The School is an internationally recognised centre of excellence and the largest Department of its kind in the UK. Key research centres in the department are themed around information systems, people & interactivity, and information & knowledge management. Brunel is the coordinator the project and will ensure the quality of results produced. Brunel also contributes to all project activities providing distributed systems expertise, extensive experience in data collection and analysis as well as in dissemination.

1.4.2. Engineering Ingegneria Informatica s.p.a. (ENG)

Engineering Group is Italy's largest systems integration group and a leader in the provision of complete IT services and consultancy. The Distributed Computing R&D Unit consists of twenty researchers with strong links with Engineering senior consultants and production directors for technology transfer, requirements and challenges gathering. In the past this unit has executed the ERINA study (www.erina-study.eu) that recently has been used as the basis of the Communication of the EU Parliament on "ICT infrastructures for e-Science" and is the core of this project. ENG leads the analysis and supports data collection by establishing the virtual observatory and the study of patterns and best practices targeting Africa. ENG will contribute to the success of workshops and other public meetings, and also provide information and elements to dissemination activities.

1.4.3. Metaware (MTW)

Metaware creates technology and communication for business and government. Established in 2000 from a group of passionate senior ICT researchers matured in pre-competitive R&D close to international public and industrial partners. Thanks to its wide experience in the field of dissemination and communication, MTW is the task leader of the creation of the virtual observatory and the task leader of the event organisation. MTW

will also actively support the tasks leveraging on its strong relation with EU e-Infrastructures projects, EU stakeholders and international contacts gathered thanks to its wide experience in the field of e-Infrastructure.

1.4.4. UBUNTUNET Alliance (UbuntuNet)

Established and emerging NRENs (National Research and Education Networks) in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Africa came together in the latter half of 2005 to found a new regional research and education network: the UbuntuNet Alliance for Research and Education Networking. The UbuntuNet Alliance is driven by a vision of securing high bandwidth connections - gigabits instead of the current kilobits per second - at affordable prices, that connect African NRENs to each other, to other NRENs worldwide, and to the Internet generally. Ubuntunet supports the dissemination activities and the events organisation in Africa and also provides significant inputs and contacts for data collection and analysis.

1.4.5. The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)

The Royal Institute of Technology (Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan), KTH, is responsible for one-third of Sweden's capacity for engineering studies and technical research at post-secondary level. The university has over 11,000 undergraduate students, 1,500 active postgraduate students and a staff of 3,100 people. KTH is a public university, mainly funded by government grants. It was founded in 1827 and it is the largest of Sweden's universities of technology. The Telecommunication System Lab (TSLab) is one of the laboratories of the KTH School of ICT, located at the KTH campus in Kista. Thanks to its wide experience in the field of e-Infrastructures and its active involvement in the Sub-Saharan region, KTH will conduct the data collection task and is a crucial partner performing analysis activities.

2. Key Objectives

The aim of ERINA4Africa is to provide African and EU policy makers with a detailed analysis of exploitable scenarios of existing (and new) e-Infrastructures in Africa. The objectives of this project are therefore:

- To create a **virtual observatory** on trends and current evolution of e-Infrastructures in Africa with the perspective of gathering concrete requirements to boost Academic and Industrial research;
- Develop a **foresight study** identifying qualitative as well as quantitative benefits in adopting African Research Infrastructures as basic building blocks for other key IST areas via the ERINA study methodology (www.erina-study.eu); and
- Provide a series of **virtual conferences and local meetings** to both promote and validate the project results.

2.1. Action Plan

During the 14 months of this project, ERINA4Africa will:

- Map the **demand side** of Africa e-Infrastructure potential to understand what projects are being run, with which technology, how it these are financed, who are the partners and what geographical scope. The project will map the services and the scientific data being used & generated.
- Map the **supply side** of African e-Infrastructure research to evaluate innovation potential of e-Infrastructures in Africa, in the areas of e-Health, e-Government and e-Learning.
- Create a **virtual observatory** of case studies and best practices related to the adoption of e-Infrastructures in the fields of e-Health, e-Government, and e-Learning. Case studies will be stored on the website and made accessible and searchable via a series of parameters.
- Drawing on the ERINA study methodology:
 - Perform **quantitative analysis** to measure the benefits of e-Infrastructure and Global Virtual Research Communities in Africa.
 - Perform **qualitative analysis** to focus on the key processes in e-Infrastructures in Africa. In particular, this will analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of their adoption.
- Design and implement an effective **communication strategy** and to deliver appropriate instruments to promote the online platform and the overall project activities and study results.
- Create a **website** to promote the Erina4Africa project and its distinct phases and supporting the virtual observatory and data collection.
- Organise three events (one workshop in Malawi, one workshop in Rwanda, and a final conference) as well as working side by side with eIAfrica and ISTAfrica.

2.2. Expected Outcomes

The major expected outcomes are reports on :

Data collection and Analysis

Supported by the virtual observatory, this document will present the supply/demand side data and a set of case studies. It will therefore contain a directory of projects and actors in Africa and data that can be analysed in order to evaluate innovation potential of e-Infrastructures in Africa.

Patterns and best practices analysis.

This report will present a selection of collaborative best practices which will be identified after the qualitative and quantitative analysis.

The ERINA4Africa Foresight Study

The foresight study will present a set of recommendations for policy makers in EU and Africa to further support the e-Infrastructures adoption especially when applied in public sector areas

3. Impact

Encouraging the pooling of resources between infrastructure operators in order to face future challenges and to foster a culture of continent-wide co-operation.

By its nature, ERINA4Africa will act as a bilateral aggregator and therefore can identify and bring together knowledge resources including Universities, Research Institutions, Industry, Policy makers, and Government agencies from different countries in Africa and Europe. ERINA4Africa seeks to assist in overcoming cultural barriers that occasionally hamper collaboration especially with emerging economies where the level of adoption of e-Infrastructures has not yet reached full maturity. By helping nurture a culture of collaboration and developing approaches for supporting efficient research networks of people, ERINA4Africa will push into the forefront technical challenges and will help outline outcomes and solutions for end users in emerging communities of practice.

Spreading good practices and encourage the use of e-Infrastructures to attain a more equitable development and distribution of knowledge.

A key objective of all planned ERINA4Africa events will be the promotion of best practices from the countries involved in order to share knowledge, encourage and inspire innovative ideas, federate approaches, spread best practices as well as stimulate cooperation. The events ultimately aim at broader synergies and facilitate collaborations. The consortium envisage the creation of a global alliance that will serve as a backbone to simplify future resource/service exchanges, tackle the issue of fragmentation of research and provide opportunities for reaching out to sibling scientific communities.

Disseminating and promoting research and development activities on e-Infrastructures.

ERINA4Africa will exploit the partners' networks within the EU and Africa to ensure a wide dissemination of knowledge and best practises. The consortium's databases, also based on previous successful projects where the partners were involved, of key e-Infrastructures players will help attract support and recruit participants. Networks to be contacted also to gather inputs for the final study include: Policy makers, Embassies, National Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Local Authorities, Ministries and National Contact Points (NCPs). Moreover, ERINA4Africa will solidify and further expand its network penetration in strategic geographic areas of Africa.

4. Appendix I – Project Roles

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Work Package Leaders

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WP2: Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis – ENG
WP3: Dissemination and Networking – MTW
WP4: Project Management - UBRUN

5. Appendix II – Project Fact Sheet