

## ERINA4Africa

### Summary:

ERINA4Africa is an initiative aimed at fostering cooperation between the EU and Africa with a win-win perspective: (1) Africa may benefit from the development of Research Infrastructure policies based on EU experiences and best practices, and (2) 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.

### Objectives:

Based on the results of a recent study funded by the EC (ERINA, [www.erina-study.eu](http://www.erina-study.eu)), this proposal aims to provide African and EU policy makers with a detailed analysis of exploitable scenarios of existing (and new) e-Infrastructures in Africa. In doing so ERINA4Africa seeks 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 methodology; and
- Provide a series of **virtual conferences and local meetings** to both promote and validate the project results.

### 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).

**Project acronym:**  
ERINA4Africa

**Contract n°:** RI-246663

**Project type:** CSA-CA

**Start date:** 01/10/2009

**Duration:** 14 months

**Total budget:**  
451.844 €

**Funding from the EC:**  
370.000 €

**Total funded effort in person-month:**  
50

**Web site:**  
[www.erina4africa.eu](http://www.erina4africa.eu)

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**Project participants:**

UBRUN	UK
ENG	IT
MTW	IT
UBUNTUNET	
	Malawi
KTH	SV

**Keywords:**  
e-Infrastructures,  
Coordination,  
eConcertation Meetings

**Collaboration with other EC funded projects:**  
GLOBAL, eAfrica,  
BELIEF-II.

ERINA4Africa will strategically impact the FP7 priorities by :

***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.