

# IST-AFRICA PROJECT

EXPERIENCES GAINED BY  
COMNET-IT (COMMONWEALTH  
NETWORK OF IT FOR  
DEVELOPMENT)

# FP6 CONTRACT

- Lead agency: IIMC Ltd(Ireland)
- Lead partner: COMNET-IT (Malta)
- Other Partners : S&T agencies for South africa, Mozambique and Tanzania
- Deliverables :
  - 35 workshops in sub-saharan africa dealing with ict for development policy, sectoral application and e-government;
  - development of materials
  - an annual regional conference (S/Africa and Mozambique)
  - comparative research on ICT4D
  - development of a Portal
    - .....a two year activity valued at around 500 K euros

# FP7 CONTRACT

- Broadened collaboration; added S&T agencies for Uganda, Botswana and Lesotho, WITS university (S/Africa), Min. of Education (Namibia)
  - Objectives:
    - Promote research cooperation under FP& ICT programme
    - Promote inclusion of african partners in future proposals....(through)....local fp7 workshops, support for agencies in identifying areas and potential partnerships, brokerage activities, portal and conferences, etc.
    - Delivery metrics : 14 workshops ,40 delegates each  
functional partnerships between 40 EU and african universities/research agencies;  
freely-available training materials  
3-400 delegates per annual conference  
extend focus from sub-saharan to pan-african
- exposure to FP7
- ist-africa portal
- a number of registered organisational profiles on the

# (fp7 contract.....ctd)

- Intended to address FP7 Challenges, i.e.,
- 1: Networks and services infrastructure
- 4: digital libraries and content
- 5: healthcare
- 6: mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency
- 7: independent living and inclusion
- Contract value around 900K euros; 124 person-months

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# WHY MALTA?

- Historically well-positioned to facilitate networking in an increasingly-important EU focus-area (african development)
- Strong political and institutional relations by virtue of long-standing comonwealth collaboration and north-african dialogue
- Language strengths and cultural affinities
- A perception of positive credentials
- Size is not an issue

# LESSONS LEARNT

- It's a long learning curve-don't aim to lead from the start
- Meticulous record-keeping and micro management
- Observe and uphold the FP7 objectives to the letter; “extra deliverables” will not redeem you
- Invest in travelling; the Internet is no substitute; ultimately, your first contract or two may be viewed as a marketing venture, leading to exposures, new networks and real opportunities

# contacts

- Ist-africa consortium [www.ist-africa.org](http://www.ist-africa.org)
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(the views expressed are the presenter's personal opinion)