

Introduction to the "Birds-of-a-feather" Discussion

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10th EuroAfriCa-ICT FP7 Awareness Workshop

Organised by the EuroAfriCa-ICT Consortium & Hosted by Makerere University

Protea Hotel - Kampala, Uganda

20 & 21 October 2008



What is the birds-of-a-feather discussion?

- A key objective of the EuroAfriCa-ICT FP7 Awareness Workshop is
 - | To facilitate networking between European, Caribbean and sub-Saharan African research organisations, institutions and researchers active in the ICT field
- "Birds-of-a-Feather" discussions are small focused group discussions
 - | To allow participants to exchange information and ideas on specific ICT thematic topics of their choice
 - | To allow participants to consider possibilities or potential for future collaboration under FP7 with European organisations

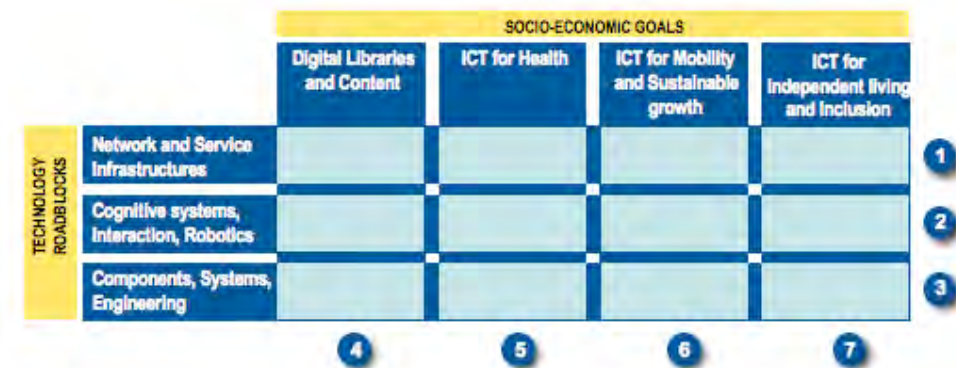


What will be your role as a participant in the discussion?

- 3 ways to participate
 - | A facilitator to
 - Encourage a relaxed and friendly atmosphere
 - Get the conversation going and guiding the process when this is necessary
 - The discussions could deal with:
What does that theme mean? What are the main research questions? What are the practical or fundamental expected outcomes? How can we best conduct that research (which institution can be of help, which similar experience in a specific country, in the world? etc.)
 - Compile contact names and details for easy follow-up in the future
 - | A member of the group discussing topic of your interest to
 - Share your knowledge about the theme and the research issues it involves
 - Inform the EuroAfriCa-ICT team who is working in this area in your country/region in the perspective to link them with European research organisation
 - | A rapporteur to
 - Be elected in each group
 - Report in a plenary session about the discussions held
 - A very important role because the quality of the presentation will result into further dissemination of the report by the EuroAfriCa-ICT team
 - Inputs of the "Birds of a feather session" to be sent after the workshop
 - | + a EuroAfriCa-ICT member to
 - Assist the facilitator to guide and stimulate participation of all involved participants

What are possible topics of discussion?

- Participants shall chose a relevant topic to their research interest based on FP7 challenges
- Participants shall also be able to suggest topics if not covered by the FP7 ICT challenges
 - | In this case however the topic must beexclusively based on ICT
- Converging themes will be put together to form groups of interest related to the following FP7 ICT Challenges:
 - Challenge 1: Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructures
 - Challenge 2: Cognitive systems, interaction, robotics
 - Challenge 3: Components, systems, engineering
 - Challenge 4: Digital libraries and content
 - Challenge 5: Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare
 - Challenge 6: ICT for mobility, environmental sustainability, and energy efficiency
 - Challenge 7: ICT for independent living and inclusion



What are the benefits of participating?

- The "*Birds-of-a-Feather Discussion*" will enable you to:
 - | Network with peers interested in your area of research
 - | Get potential ideas for FP7 research proposals in the future
 - | Exchange ideas, network and forge partnerships for collaboration in or outside of the Framework Programme
 - | Take advantage of the themes identified for your future activities & strategies at each organisation's level
 - | Learn about the European Commission's (EC) Research Funding Programme (FP7) in the ICT field
 - | Make yourself known: Introduce yourself (your organisation, your expertise, your experience) to fellow ICT stakeholders and to the EuroAfriCa-ICT team



- Workshop participants are encouraged to bring along
 - | Their business cards
 - | Any organisation brochure or poster
 - | Innovative proposal idea/s that they may want to pursue for research in the future

- Workshops participants are also encouraged to read carefully the FP7 ICT Documentation

- This will enable participants to get to know you and your organisation and more importantly assist in the identification of ICT thematic areas for future research and collaboration



Do you have any questions?

Come to us!



And register for a thematic group!