



ESIS II : A projet at the Service of the Euro-Mediterranean Information Society

ESIS

By 1997, the European Commission instructed the Information Society Promotion Office (ISPO) to launch a European inventory project called ESISII (European Survey for Information Society) which is aiming at :

- Setting up an inventory of projects and gather European data related to the Information Society promotion activities, as well as :
- Controlling and analysing the progress of the telecommunications sector and the Information Society alike and to present a mapping of the main actors, in both private and public sectors, that offer services, applications and infrastructures for the development of the Information society.
- All these elements are supposed to draw up great opportunities for all the actors such as, to foster partnership with a better information and knowledge transfer and a better perception of the Information Society.

What is the Information Society Project Definition used for ESIS Inventory ?

"information Society projects use data processing and telecommunications technologies to support innovative methods of communication between members of society for a wide range of purposes (e.g. education and training, healthcare and social care, culture, administration, industry and commerce, research and development, etc.)."

Projects of this type will generally be interactive (two-way communication between users and systems or among users) and involve remote access (with users and systems able to communicate over a distance). Projects may have a social dimension or will possibly serve as a model for other organisations and businesses.

From ESIS to ESIS II

After the great success of ESIS project which targeted exclusively the European Union member states and thanks to its performances, the project has witnessed a greater extension all over Europe (central and Eastern) to cover all the Mediterranean area.

As a matter of fact, during the 3rd European Forum on the information Society that was held on October 9th & 10th, 1997 in Brussels, it has been decided to "Fund the extension of the European Survey on the Information Society to CEECs and, in particular, to identify and analyse regional disparities in terms of basic telecommunications services, information infrastructures and applications". This extension has also been fostered at the Euro-Med Net 98 Conference that took place in Cyprus in March 1998, thus including the Mediterranean countries. This phase of enlargement is called ESIS II. It has started in March 1999 it includes 25 countries and will last until 2001.



Central and Eastern Europe

1. Albania
2. Bosnia
3. Bulgaria
4. Czech Rep
5. Estonia
6. Former Yugoslav Rep of Macedonia
7. Hungary
8. Latvia
9. Lithuania
10. Poland
11. Romania
12. Slovakia
13. Slovenia

Mediterranean Area

1. Algeria
2. Cyprus
3. Egypt
4. Israel
5. Jordan
6. Libanon
7. Malta
8. Morocco
9. Palestine
10. Syria
11. Tunisia
12. Turkey

Algeria as a Partner of the Project ESIS II

In Each of these countries the European Commission has selected , through a call for tender, contractors or focal points that will conduct, with a financial support from the Commission, the implementation of the project in their countries.

CERIST (Research Centre on scientific and technical Information) has responded to the call for tender and has been selected to undertake the project ESIS II for Algeria.

The missions of the focal points are various:

- Set up an inventory of the projects along side a « who's who » concerning the Information Society in order to percieve the on going projects and the up coming ones.
- Elaborate synthesis perodically about the other aspects of the Information Society such as, the regulatory developments, key persons and organizations as well as the promotional activities and actions.

These indicators are of uttermost importance, because once they

complete the inventory's data the result will certainly be a better evaluation of the conditions of the Information Society.

- The promotion of ESIS II at the National level through information and communication actions like the publication of articles and brochures, conferences and information days, or a specialized web site, etc.

The Inventory and the Database ESIS II

From a practical point of view, the setting up of the inventory ESIS II is supported by the dissemination of a questionnaire supplied by ISPO to the focal points in order to be distributed to the potentially concerned parts. The questionnaire holds headings to identify the respondents and the local projects (the projects' objectives, partners, themes, geographical scope, the used technologies, the estimated cost, etc.).

All the data collected through the questionnaires will feed a local database. This sub-base will contribute with the other countries' databases to regularly fill out a central database of ESIS II intended to inform the large public. The central database is available on the Internet at the following URL address <http://www.ispo.cec.be/esis>

A Call for participation

No need to say that a tremendous progress is to be done for the development of the Information Society, especially for those countries where they have just been acquainted with it. To be successful such projects need the cooperation of all the concerned parts, in

particular, to respond plainly to the questionnaire.

Within the phase of collecting information held by CERIST, the main problem deals with the feedback. In fact, the number of responses, compared with the number of the sent questionnaires, is very low. This may be explained by the fact that in our society there are some dissuasive psychological barriers for information exchange owing to a "lack of a communication culture".

The addressees of the questionnaire and the concerned parts who wish to participate, are urged to supply the needed information within the framework of this project which will set up a clear board about the Information Society in Algeria.

ESIS II is nothing more than a means of development, communication, cooperation and partnership between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbourhood in order to build up a better future for the next generations.

For further information and to get the questionnaire the contact is : Cerist (focal point Esis II)

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Article based on the ISPO documents.

Sources :

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- *The permanent inventory of IS projects, associated organizations and persons contacts / Commission européenne.- mars 1999*
- *European survey of information society - ESIS questionnaire / ISPO*
- *ESIS II :Press Release n°1 / European Commission .-Brusselles : EC, June 1999*
- *Web site : <http://www.ispo.cec.be/esis>*