

News from TERENA 106

6LINK project to support European Union's IPv6 cluster

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The kick-off meeting of the 6LINK Project took place today in Madrid. 6LINK will provide support for the IPv6 cluster in the Information Society Technologies (IST) programme of the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Union. The 6LINK Project started officially on 1 March 2002 and will run for a period of three years. British Telecom is the co-ordinating partner of 6LINK, and the other project partners are Telscom Consulting (Switzerland), T-Nova (Germany), the University of Southampton (UK), Consulintel (Spain), University College London (UK), Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (Spain), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain), Motorola, DANTE and TERENA. The total cost of the project is estimated at a little over one million euro, and the European Commission will fund the costs fully for the project partners from EU member states.

The 6LINK Project unites IPv6 projects across the IST programme and beyond. It will identify IST projects that have an interest in IPv6 and will bring representatives from those projects together in a series of workshops, to be held every four months throughout the lifetime of the 6LINK Project. These workshops will serve to foster a common view of the status of IPv6 development and deployment in Europe and elsewhere, and will identify the most important issues for IPv6 deployment in Europe. The project will promote shared understanding amongst all participants, and disseminate this work to as wide an audience as possible. Dissemination tools will include an annual publication of reports compiled by members of the 6LINK consortium. In addition, the 6LINK Project will establish an IPv6 resource centre, which will serve as a repository for the output of 6LINK and will also provide an important source of up-to-date and detailed information about IPv6-enabled applications and IPv6 standards.

The 6LINK Project has three objectives: consensus building, dissemination and exploitation. The European Commission is co-funding a number of IPv6-related IST projects, and there are other bodies, for example Eurescom, that foster IPv6-related work. The first objective of 6LINK is to bring representatives of these projects together to identify common experiences and to share knowledge and understanding of the state-of-the-art of IPv6 development and deployment in Europe. Building upon the consensus and understanding generated by these activities, 6LINK addresses its second objective, dissemination, by promulgating agreements and analyses arrived at by the partners. The third objective, exploitation, is pursued by providing support to participants that are developing inputs to standard bodies, and by presenting the submissions of 6LINK participants at standards meetings. 6LINK's overall goal is to bring focus and clarity to the development and deployment of IPv6 in Europe, with the aim of accelerating its widespread adoption as the internetworking protocol of choice, and thereby giving European industry and society an important advantage in the global Information Society.

More information on the 6LINK Project will be published at its website: <http://www.6link.org/>

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