

## 6DISS strengthens its collaboration with AfriNIC and AfNOG

6DISS is a well-established project within the European Union's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. Its goal is to be a key enabler of the global introduction of the new version of the Internet Protocol (IPv6) and to remove barriers to IPv6 deployment. It has also the specific purpose to exchange knowledge, experiences and results from previous European projects that have worked on the development and deployment of IPv6. IPv6 is becoming increasingly recognised as essential, not only for solving the shortage of IP addresses in many countries, but also for better supporting emerging applications with requirements for mobility, and security.

6DISS has a particular commitment to supporting IPv6 deployment in Africa. Two workshops have been held recently on the subject; for organisations in Southern Africa and the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition to these workshops, 6DISS has started to support technical hands-on training sessions for IPv6 at the meetings of AfriNIC<sup>1</sup> which operates the African Regional Internet Registry. These meetings for ISPs and networking professionals are generally held in conjunction with AfNOG<sup>2</sup> (the Africa Network Operators Group), which is a forum for the exchange of technical information, and discussion of implementation issues that require community cooperation among network service providers. These practical training sessions align perfectly with the working methodology of AfriNIC and AfNOG, and are proving to be very popular. Topics addressed include how to enable IPv6 on clients and servers, router configuration, transition from - and co-existence with - IPv4, LAN interconnection using software-based routers and tunnels, management tools, IPv6 services and applications.

The first support by 6DISS at an IPv6 training session was given at AfriNIC-3 in Cairo (11-14 December 2005), in close collaboration with the company Consulintel<sup>3</sup> and the AfriNIC CEO Adie Akplogan. This excellent co-operation will be continued with a similar training event at the AfriNIC-4/AfNOG meeting in Nairobi (7-18 May 2006).

The programme for the IPv6 training at AfriNIC-4 can be found at: [http://www.afrinic.net/meeting/afrinic-4/event.htm#AfriNIC\\_IPv6\\_Training](http://www.afrinic.net/meeting/afrinic-4/event.htm#AfriNIC_IPv6_Training). A useful primer for this training is the 6DISS e-learning course, which can be accessed via the project's Website.

The 6DISS consortium comprises major industrial partners (Cisco and Alcatel), European NRENS from France, Greece, Portugal and Hungary, Universities that are deploying IPv6 on their campuses (University of Southampton and University College London), the Trans European Research and Education Networking Association (TERENA), and Martel (co-ordinator). The project partners have already been involved in building a large-scale pan-European broadband IPv6 testbed for NRENS, national school networks, and in the development of the associated new network services, management tools and applications. Many of the partners are also active in defining IPv6 specifications through the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

The total investment in the project is approximately €1million, which is co-funded by the European Commission and the partners.

Further information is available from the 6DISS website at <http://www.6diss.org/>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.afrinic.net](http://www.afrinic.net)

<sup>2</sup> [www.afnog.org](http://www.afnog.org)

<sup>3</sup> [www.consulintel.es](http://www.consulintel.es)