

6DISS project to deliver IPv6 message worldwide

6DISS is a new project within the European Union's 6th 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.

One of the mechanisms of information transfer is through practical training workshops, which will be organised in the Asia-Pacific region, the Caribbean, Central Asia, the Mediterranean countries, South and Central America, South-East Europe, Southern Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. Support is also given through a helpdesk service, which will answer questions and advise where additional information can be found on the latest standards, IPv6 Fora, etc. The project will additionally provide specialist training for instructors and engineers and develop e-learning material for on-line tuition. Specific interest has been identified regarding the exchange of experiences on IPv6 deployment with India and China, as these have been highlighted as countries which already have significant experience in the topic, and where mutual benefit can be obtained from sharing this knowledge.

The consortium comprises major industrial partners (Cisco and Alcatel), European National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) from France, Greece and Portugal, 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/>