

ICT4Society: Establishing a multi-stakeholder platform/network to advance Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the ICT sector

Given the ever increasing role and importance of modern technologies, and the growing range of so far issue-specific groups and fora, The European Commission's DG CONNECT envisages establishing a Thematic Network offering specific support to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the ICT sector.

The purpose of this Thematic Network is to streamline the on-going and future discussions and dialogues with ICT stakeholders in a number of policy areas which would serve as an umbrella instrument supporting the different initiatives.

The overall objective of the network will be to encourage and enable the exchange of information, best practices and interactions amongst enterprises in the ICT sector across the EU to take a strategic approach to corporate social responsibility in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders (such as consumer groups, civil society organisations, academia, etc.), and identify the best way through which societal benefits can be delivered via the Internet and other ICT.

Characteristics of the envisaged Network

Identifying main challenges, developing solutions and monitoring tools;

Steering the discussion among stakeholders;

Organisation of stakeholder meetings and relevant events, including facilitating the participation of stakeholders who have fewer resources (e.g. civil society, NGOs);

Providing means for "remote participation";

Supporting the development of background papers/studies;

Using online discussion tools.

Expected impact

Giving greater visibility and greater recognition for steps taken by enterprises in the ICT sector to meet their social responsibility;

Developing a clearer vision of best practice in the deployment and accountability of such activities;

Encouraging all enterprises to consider such initiatives in cooperation with their stakeholders;

Providing an opportunity for enterprises and other stakeholders to identify and discuss constructively the current and future challenges to which ICT can help to respond;

Facilitating sector-wide cooperation to address challenges

Creating a hub and a focal point for an initial dialogue gathering all strands of

ICT-related self- and co-regulation across the remit of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

The feedback from stakeholders and the Commission's own assessment have shown that there is an interest and an identified need to proceed with the establishment of such a multi-stakeholder platform. The call for proposals which is launched as part of this program is open until 14 May 2013.

This initiative is under the ICT Policy Support Programme of the European Commission. You may find out more about the Programme and submitting proposals [here](#).

(Source: European Commission)

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