Bella*net*

Bella*net* Services

Bella*net* provides:

- web site development for Collaborative Initiatives

- creation and animation of electronic workspaces

- access to information for collaborative planning

- advice on connectivity issues

- advice and training on Internet presence development

- consultations within groups of development stakeholders

- partnership brokering

The History of Bella*net*

In 1993/94 a group of donor organisations with interests in development, research, and capacity building met at Bellagio, Italy. They were seeking ways to improve communication for wider consultation on program planning and delivery.

The outcome was the Bella*net* Initiative, a four-year pilot project to enlist ICTs for implementing "…a global forum for sustainable development research and capacity development."

Following a Steering Committee meeting in January 1995, and a technical meeting in May, Bella*net* was launched in August, 1995.

Bella*net* and the Future

Bella*net* is both a catalyst for the appropriate use of ICTs in development, and a 'best practice' model of a 21st century knowledge-based sustainable development organisation, sharing the lessons learned from its projects and the Collaborative Initiatives with which it works.

Bella*net* Funding Members

- **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**
- **The Rockefeller Foundation**
- **The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**
- **Swedish International Development Agency (Sida/SAREC)**
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- **Netherlands Directorate General for International Co-operation (DGIS)**
- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**

Bella*net* maintains ongoing discussions with funders, programs and stakeholders with regard to participation in Bella*net* as members or through Collaborative Initiatives. Contact us to become a partner in the Bella*net* Initiative.

For more information:

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or visit our web site
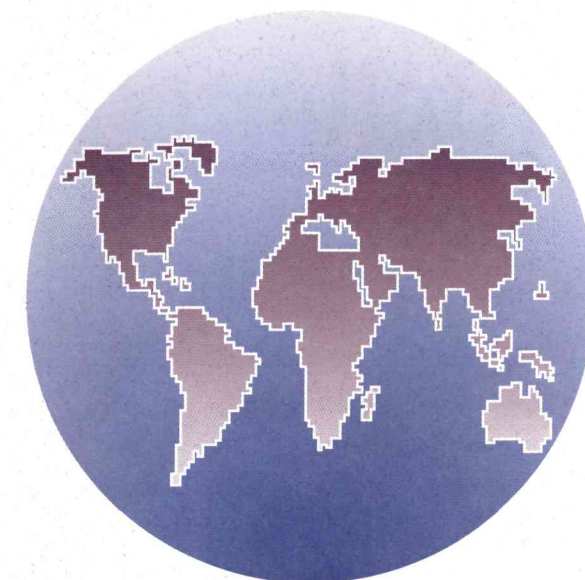http://www.bellanet.org/

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Global Development Connections

http://www.bellanet.org/
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Bella*net*

The Challenge

....to nurture the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in support of new forms of partnership and cooperation between government and non-governmental organisations, between governments and business, and between projects and communities...for sustainable development.

The Response

Bella*net*'s mission is to increase the effectiveness of development program planning and cooperation through the use of ICTs for collaboration, knowledge diffusion, transparency and stakeholder participation.

Bella*net* pursues this mission through its support for incorporating ICT-enabled electronic workspaces into the development community's institutional structures and program activities.

What is Bella*net*?

The Bella*net* Initiative is funded by a partnership of development assistance agencies committed to working together using ICTs in innovative ways to increase their relevance, effectiveness and efficiency.

The initiative is administered through a secretariat housed at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada.

The Secretariat maintains a small team of specialists who work with partner agencies through Collaborative Initiatives and Bella*net*-initiated projects. Each effort is intended as a 'best practice' use of ICTs for development. Bella*net* is not a funding agency, but it does provide ICT services where strategic intervention is required.

An International Steering Committee, drawn from Bella*net*'s funding partners, sets policy and monitors Bella*net*'s progress.

What does it do?

Bella*net* works with the development community to broaden collaboration, increase participation and transparency of action, diffuse lessons learned, and enhance accountability. It does this by promoting more effective use of information and communication technologies.

Bella*net*'s work in Collaborative Initiatives (partnerships involving development agencies and recipients working together with a specific focus) originates from requests by:

- funding partners
- other development agencies
- projects involving collaborative activities
- ICT-related initiatives

Bella*net* actively encourages proposals for collaboration.

In addition to the Collaborative Initiatives, Bella*net* Projects are initiated to address specific collaboration, planning, implementation and evaluation needs identified within the development community.

Bella*net* hosts a public web site

URL *http://www.bellanet.org/*

as a platform where development initiatives take shape, stakeholder discussion occurs and new relationships are built.

In addition to containing information on Bella*net* and its activities, the web site is used as an 'incubator space' for some Collaborative Initiatives.

Bella*net* offers advice and support to emerging collaborations, facilitates electronic discussions, and provides web site, mailing list and other ICT-related training for interns from partner organisations.

Bella*net*'s animation of and support for collaborative discussions encourages development agencies to share expertise, develop programs and projects together, and benefit from Bella*net*'s role in knowledge diffusion.

How does it work?

Bella*net* works in collaboration with donors, donor-funded initiatives, ICT capacity-building initiatives and stakeholders. Its mandate is to work in a consultative role and its approach is to support the development of distributed capacity.

Bella*net* aims to demonstrate how ICT-enhanced environments overcome the obstacles of time, space, and resource constraints, which hamper development efforts.