

## Best practices for the Use & Dissemination of Nuclear Knowledge

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**Abstract** - ACTINET aims to support the European community of actinide sciences through a process of integration of the 29 partner organizations with over 170 researchers and by pooling nuclear research facilities. A collaborative platform has been developed to combine document management facilities with collaboration features, while a public website supports communication towards the public-at-large.

### I. Sustainable nuclear knowledge sharing and researchers' networking is achieved through a web-based collaboration platform

The availability of a collaboration platform at an early stage is critical to prevent the establishment of other communication channels and any knowledge loss

We developed a powerful but cost effective solution based on the open-source application Zope/CPS. E-doc provides following features

- ✓ Collaborative work and publication spaces
- ✓ Workflow
- ✓ Members directory
- ✓ Group-based, directory-backed user and roles management
- ✓ Automatic event notification system
- ✓ Many user-level services: discussions, shared calendar, newsletters and mailing lists

The platform follows the organisational structure of the ACTINET network with its two-levels design:

1. General information on the network, management and contractual documents, news and events available for any user
2. Restricted workspaces for the Governing Board, the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee, the different Task and Working groups and their related Joint Projects

#### Lessons learned:

- Provide communication far beyond e-mail
- Prevent anarchical proliferation of document copies by a central document management system
- Duplicate the network organizational structure in the platform structure to fulfil the information management needs of the network
- Push and pull information through the platform (notification versus search engine) to quickly familiarize users with the new system
- Monitor the operation efficiency of the network both at managerial and scientific level
- Fill quickly the collaboration platform with content



### II. The public ACTINET website disseminates actinide knowledge and research results to the public-at-large, the scientific community and the national stakeholders

The public website provides general information about the network

- ✓ Presentation of ACTINET Members
- ✓ Detailed information on Pooled Facilities, Joint Projects and Theoretical User Lab
- ✓ Promotion of education and training events (summer schools, workshops...)
- ✓ ACTINET news & events announcement
- ✓ Job offers
- ✓ Making presentation materials online available

#### Lessons learned:

- Avoid large committees and long approval chains as everyone has his own very personal opinion regarding design and content
- Allow design team to focus on functionality before worrying about aesthetics
- See the public website as a never ending story and foresee the necessary resources from the beginning; its care and feeding must be someone's daily responsibility
- Fill quickly the basic structure with content
- Provide an easy WYSIWYG editor to the webmaster
- Offer fast and consistent navigation, easy to understand content



### III. Traditional communication tools actively promote the ACTINET network towards stakeholders, the scientific community and the general public

- ✓ ACTINET general poster and flyer
- ✓ ACTINET brochure on Pooled Facilities
- ✓ Brochure on actinide sciences (in preparation)

#### Lessons learned:

- Use a consistent look-and-feel for website, flyers and brochure
- Make these promotion materials available on the website to easily reach a wide audience and to support promotional efforts of the network members
- Try to keep tracking of promotional efforts (very difficult to quantify in practice!)
- Test other communication instruments such as press releases and advertisements

