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**G7**

I N F O R M A T I O N S O C I E T Y

# PILOT PROJECTS **PROGRESS REPORT**

Released on the Occasion  
of the G7 Summit  
15-17 June 1995  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



Remarks  
by  
Vice President Al Gore  
to  
G-7 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
Brussels, Belgium  
2/25/95

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My friend, James Burke, the historian, tells a compelling tale about the last information revolution and the changes it wrought.

Over five hundred years ago, not far from here in Germany, a goldsmith who had bungled a sure-fire money-making venture by getting a crucial date wrong, was looking for a way to mollify his business partners. He decided to use his goldsmithing skills to mold what became known as movable type and to use the type in his new printing press to print the one book he knew would sell -- the Bible.

In this case, the Gutenberg Bible.

Now, inventions rarely spring full-blown from one brain, totally without precedent. Gutenberg's invention is no exception.

After all, movable metal type had been invented in Korea two hundred years earlier. But conditions conspired to keep that first movable typeface from spreading. Confucianism prohibited the commercialization of books and the Korean royal presses would print only classical Chinese literature, not the more popular Korean literature.

By Gutenberg's time, there were better conditions: better paper, better metals and eyeglasses. And Europeans were ready for a cheaper way to copy books than using scribes who charged for one copy what a printing press would charge for a thousand.



The result: not only books, but enlightenment; the scientific revolution; the Age of Reason and the political revolution symbolized by the document I am sworn to uphold some 200 years after its drafting: the Constitution of the United States.

All from a goldsmith's mistake.

What lesson can we draw from Gutenberg? Let me name two.

First, our view of the future is constrained by the circumstances we find ourselves in at the moment. Yes, Gutenberg had a great idea. But we credit him with influencing our culture because the circumstances were right.

Second: change is incredibly hard to handle, manage and predict -- or, as the physicist Neils Bohr once said, "Prediction is very difficult, especially when you are talking about the future."

We gather here today to chart a path to the future. It is a path that will take us from our shared vision to a new reality. Just as human beings once dreamed of steam ships, railroads, autobahns and interstates we now dream of the global information infrastructure that can lead to a global information society.

But our dream today is not fundamentally about technology. Technology is a means to an end. Our dream is about communication...a tool we use to educate, to heal, to empower and to liberate.

Communication is the vessel for information. Information, in turn, is the raw material of knowledge, and knowledge, sometimes -- if we're lucky -- ferments into wisdom. And of course, in all of our countries it is by now a cliché to note that the information revolution we have so recently entered will ultimately transform our concepts of both communication and information.

The changes wrought by Gutenberg are our common heritage. The changes we are here to discuss will become our common legacy.

Today I would like to outline some principles the Administration of Bill Clinton believes ought to determine the kind of legacy we leave -- and how we as nations, as societies, and as individuals can, in the words of Ghandi, "strive to become the change we wish to see."

### **The Vision of the GII**

Last year in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I attended the first World Telecommunication Development Conference to present the United States' vision of a Global Information Infrastructure that will allow us to share information, to connect and to communicate as a global community.

Such a GII can promote robust and sustainable economic progress, strengthen democracies, facilitate better solutions to global environmental challenges, improve health care and -- ultimately -- create a greater sense of shared stewardship of our small planet.

The Buenos Aires Conference adopted a set of basic principles we believe are the building blocks of the GII.

Private investment.

Competition.

Open access.

Universal service.

Flexible regulations.



These principles have been central to the discussions about the GII in bilateral, multilateral and regional forums, most recently at the APEC meeting last week in Vancouver, but also at the Summit of Americas meeting in Miami last December and in memoranda of understanding between the United States and both Russia and Ukraine.

They will be central here in Brussels, at this meeting, proposed by President Clinton, graciously hosted by the European Union featuring the formal participation of more than forty representatives of the private sector and the informal participation of hundreds more.

The very act of holding this conference -- under the leadership of President Santer and former President Jacques Delors -- the impressive array of applications being developed and the unprecedented participation by the private sector this morning are a signal to the world that the G-7 nations are committed to leading the development of a GII by their example in word and deed.

Indeed, moving forward aggressively on a GII is the best way to deal with concerns highlighted during the G-7 jobs summit in Detroit last year. At that conference we confronted the central dilemma facing every government: how do we make sure our economies provide enough jobs?

The initial OECD jobs study outlined the connection between jobs and what we do here. Those nations best able to adopt the new technologies for a knowledge-based economy have been the best at creating jobs.

The fact is, that government policies based on faulty assumptions that try to block change or protect the status quo have themselves become job destroyers. This time we have a chance to get it right. We can open markets to create job opportunities. We can use education and training

to enable more workers to adapt to the new workplace.

The liberating effects of these new technologies have been clear around the world. Satellite stations brought medical advice to those tending to the suffering in Rwanda. Radio and TV broadcasts in South Africa promoted the role of voting in a democracy. Wireless technologies are allowing emerging nations to leapfrog the expensive stages of wiring a communication network -- for example, in Thailand, where the ratio of cellular telephone users to the population is twice that of the U.S.

The effects are also visible in education. One of the biggest handicaps for those who want to learn has been distance. In Washington, the Library of Congress is a wonderful place. But how can it be a tool for -- let's say -- a schoolgirl from my hometown in Carthage, Tennessee, hundreds of miles away.

Now, distance education is helping citizens overcome geographic difficulties.

In Japan, over 100 institutions are linked by computer and satellite with some 150,000 currently enrolled.

In India, there are five open universities and more than 35 distance learning programs in conventional universities, and

In Canada, the Knowledge Network delivers courses to adult students living on islands in British Columbia.

In France, the newly-discovered cave paintings in Ardeche, almost impossible to reach in real life, are accessible on the Internet to scholars, teachers, and -- most important -- children.

The Clinton Administration is committed to the goal of connecting every classroom, every library, every hospital and every clinic to the national and global information infrastructures by the

end of this decade.

We must provide our teachers and our students with the same level of communications technology that shipping clerks, construction workers and government officials use every day.

The active participation of hundreds of companies and business leaders here this weekend demonstrates that information technology is a critical element of economic policy. But there are great obstacles.

How do we begin the hard work of turning the obstacles before us into opportunities?

First, by focusing squarely on those who will drive the demand for information products and services: the users.

User demands for more and better content, broader and better information conduits and easier access to information will define the marketplace.

Competition to serve the users will speed up innovation and cost-effective deployment of new technologies. Private investment in diverse technologies will mean new sources of capital and expertise for rich and poor nations alike.

Computer networks using flexible and inexpensive communications systems have created whole new market segments that are among the fastest growing in the telecommunications world. Small and medium sized enterprises from both poor and rich countries are becoming more effective competitors in world markets by tapping the same information capabilities as the largest multi-national firms and creating global markets overnight without the cost of globally-deployed sales forces.

In the United States, our spectrum auctions have speeded up the licensing of personal communication services and are leading to the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the



next several years -- one indication that communication is a source of economic change and growth, not just the result of it.

### **From Vision to Reality**

As we try to achieve our vision of a GII we must address some hard questions.

The GII will not be created in one place at one time by any one group. It will be the product of cooperation among governments, industry and citizens on a global scale.

How do countries with widely varying needs, cultures, and technologies cooperate?

First, by acknowledging that one result of our cooperation should be open access to markets for all providers and users of creative content and information products, equipment and services.

For the competitors in the 21st century global economy, there is no substitute for being there in the marketplace. There is no substitute for providing the users we represent the greatest variety of products, information and services for the least cost.

Second, building the GII is going to require robust competition. And you cannot create robust competition by excluding competitors, whether those competitors are at home or abroad.

It is vigorous competition -- which means global competition -- that creates jobs.

And so I say on behalf of President Clinton, let the message of this conference be clear: we support competition in open markets that allows any company to provide any service to any customer.

What concrete actions must we take to realize that goal?

First, let us drop our barriers to foreign investment together. For some time the U.S. has had limited restrictions on foreign investment in certain telecommunication services. Our intent is to facilitate foreign investment in telecommunications services in the United States for companies of all countries who have liberalized their own markets. But we also recognize that the information society demands more than a piecemeal approach.

The governments represented here and others have an historic opportunity to open telecommunications markets around the world in the negotiations within the General Agreement on Trade in Services. The deadline for these negotiations is April 1996.

Let us resolve to meet this deadline to remove our investment barriers together.

Second, let's develop and enforce effective intellectual property rights for the GII. If our content providers are not protected, there will not be content to fill the networks and give value to services.

Third, all nations should participate in the development of open, private-sector, voluntary consensus standards through the existing international organizations, such as the International Telecommunication Union, the International Standards Organization and the Internet Society. The creation of truly global networks will require a high degree of interconnection and interoperability.

Governments are not the best arbiters of technology, and government intervention risks encouraging adoption of standards that are either ultimately inferior or inappropriate to demands of the market.

Our vision of an information society is one in which the most valuable resource -- information -- is also the most abundant.

My hope is that the open exchange of ideas of all sorts and the greatest access possible for all citizens to the varied means of communication will stimulate creativity.

Global communication is not about conformity. Some fear that in losing the distance between ourselves and others we lose our distinctions as well. But communication is about bridging the differences between nations and people, not erasing them.

It is about protecting and enlarging freedom of expression for all our citizens and giving individual citizens the power to create the information they need and want from the abundant flow of data they encounter moment to moment.

Communication is the beginning of community. Whether it is through language, art, custom, or political philosophy, people and nations identify themselves through communication of experience and values. A global information network will create new communities and strengthen existing ones by enriching the ways in which we do and can communicate.

Ideas should not be checked at the border. We have much to learn from each other and we should follow practices and policies that incorporate -- not exclude -- the greatest diversity of opinions and expressions. We all gain from the exchange of cultural viewpoints and experiences that occurs when open minds engage each other.

At the same time, users of the GII want -- and will demand -- privacy. When you ask Americans about information technology, it is their biggest concern. We must protect the privacy of personal data and communications.

Governments and industry need to work together to develop new technologies, new standards, and new policies that will provide the necessary security and privacy protection.

Of course, in order to protect privacy and financial transactions and enforce intellectual



property rights, the GII must be secure and reliable. The OECD should continue its leadership in the area of computer security.

Fortunately, technology and human imagination keep providing us with new opportunities to enhance our communication capabilities. Take, for example, non-geostationary satellites. They hold remarkable potential, especially for remote or thinly-populated regions. These advanced technologies can provide everything from basic telephone calls to remote medical diagnosis. Like the Internet, they have the potential to knit together millions of people in different locations and situations -- and do it economically.

Every one of the lower orbit satellites -- and, in addition, the intermediate-orbit Inmarsat P affiliate -- is multinational, and each satellite consortium welcomes and actively seeks out the participation by both developed and developing countries. Of course, each nation retains the power to determine whether the LEOs may serve it. But countries that license these international satellite consortia help their business communities become more competitive in the global economy and provide their citizens beneficial satellite services.

Our purpose in meeting here together is to advance our common goal of a Global Information Infrastructure that will bring to all countries the benefits of a Global Information Society.

Our challenge today is to create the commercial, technical, legal and social conditions that will establish the foundation for the GII.

As we work across our common boundaries and oceans to build a GII we cannot think only of today's debates about wireless or satellites; we must perform our work in the service of a global vision that can be realized in every community and village in the world.

I began by talking about Gutenberg, whose voyage of discovery has influenced the lives of every person on this planet.

His was not an easy voyage. There were skeptics and enemies; when his financial backer took twelve Bibles to Paris the book dealers took him to court, arguing that so many identical books could only be the work of the devil.

His work challenged his society to change.

And they learned what we cannot ignore: that we cannot choose to delay or deny the future; we must make ready for it.

There is no better way to prepare for the future than to make the best of the present.

That is why a shared vision is so necessary. We have now a great opportunity to see the world in a new light and to re-think the way it operates and the way in which we should operate within it.

I have outlined today the concrete steps we must take to embark on this new voyage of discovery. Empowered by the moveable type of the next millennium we can send caravans loaded with the wealth of human knowledge and creativity along trails of light that lead to every home and village. I thank you for your devotion to this vision and look forward to our journey together.

## **G-7 PILOT PROJECTS**

**Thomas Kalil  
National Economic Council  
tkalil@arpa.mil  
Feb. 16th, 1995**



## **U.S. OBJECTIVES FOR PILOT PROJECTS**

- . Use information and communications technology to solve global problems**
- . Help create markets for new goods and services**
- . Identify and resolve barriers to GII and its applications**
- . Build political momentum for liberalization, competition**
- . Demonstrate compelling applications that capture the public imagination**

## **GUIDELINES**

- . Build on existing national initiatives**
- . Create partnerships between government, industry, academia, non-profit sector**
- . Not limited to G-7**
- . No new bureaucracy**

## **LIST OF PROJECTS**

- 1. Global Inventory**
- 2. Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks**
- 3. Cross-Cultural Training and Education**
- 4. Electronic Libraries**
- 5. Electronic Museums and Galleries**



## **LIST OF PROJECTS**

- 6. Environment and Natural Resources Management**
- 7. Global Emergency Management**
- 8. Global Healthcare applications**
- 9. Government On-line**
- 10. Global Marketplace for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**
- 11. Maritime Information Systems**

## **NEXT STEPS**

- 1. Further refinement of projects**
- 2. Continued discussion with private sector, academia**
- 3. Identification of participants**
- 4. Report to Halifax in June 1995**
- 5. Implementation in late 1995, early 1996**

**For more information, stay tuned to <http://iitf.doc.gov>**

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# **G7 Information Society Conference**

*Theme Paper*

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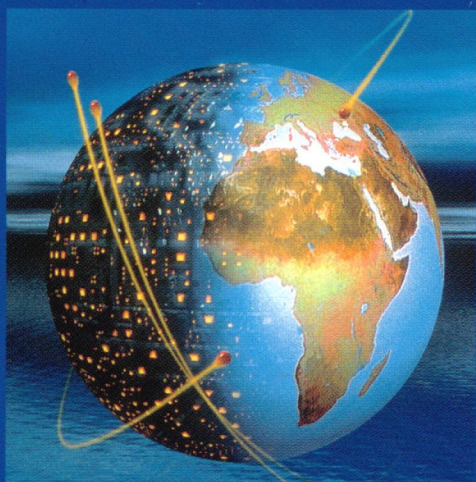
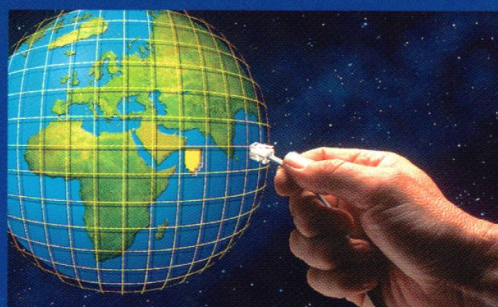
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# Towards a Global Information Society



Final report on the G 8 Global  
Information Society pilot projects





Attendees for the meeting of National Coordinators  
in Norwich on 24-25 September 1998

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Dear Colleague

#### NATIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER

As promised, you will find in this dossier for the meeting of National Coordinators on 25 September:

- the draft agenda;
- draft minutes and a list of action points from the March meeting; and
- discussion papers for this meeting.

There is also a list of attendees for the meeting. I would be grateful if you could check to ensure that I have recorded your national delegation correctly. If you have not yet replied to my letter of 1 July, please let me know who will be at the meeting and the dinner on 24 September, and who will want to travel from the Maids Head Hotel to the meeting room on the morning of 25 September.

You should have received a dossier from the Central Computer & Telecommunications Agency under cover of a letter from its Chief Executive Bob Assirati. This gives information about travel to Norwich, hotels, restaurants and things to do in the town and surrounds. Miss Dena Kalsey at CCTA can help you with local information - she is on +44 (0)1603 704528, e-mail [dkalsey@ccta.gov.uk](mailto:dkalsey@ccta.gov.uk).

Of course, if you have any comments or questions about the meeting, please let me know. Over the period of the meeting you will be able to contact me on my mobile 'phone, or by e-mail through [113615.3271@compuserve.com](mailto:113615.3271@compuserve.com) (my main address will not forward mail automatically).

I look forward to seeing you on 24 September.

Yours sincerely

**Martin Boyle**

**UK National Coordinator, G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects**

Internet: [martin.boyle@ciid.dti.gov.uk](mailto:martin.boyle@ciid.dti.gov.uk)

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**dti**

Department of Trade and Industry



**G-8 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS**

**Meeting of National Coordinators, Norwich, 24-25 September**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**24 September,**

**19.30 for 20.00**

Brasted's Restaurant, 8-10 St Andrews Hill, Norwich NR2 1AD (01603 625949)

Dinner, initial discussion on the principles of evaluation

**25 September**

**09.00 - 15.30**

Central Computer & Telecommunications Agency,  
Rosebery Court, St Andrews Business Park, Norwich NR7 0HS (01603 704528)

1. Welcome by Bob Assirati, Chief Executive, CCTA
2. Apologies, approval of agenda, housekeeping points
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting, matters arising  
**G-8/GIS/1998/1 Minutes**  
**G-8/GIS/1998/1 Action Points**
4. Chairman's Introduction
5. Publishing the Interim Report      **"Towards a Global Information society"** (to follow)
6. Background to the Evaluation      **G-8/GIS/1998/2/ Paper 1**
7. Evaluation Guidelines      **G-8/GIS/1998/2/ Paper 2**
8. Format for Project Evaluation Plans      **G-8/GIS/1998/2/ Paper 3**
9. Format for Project Reports      **G-8/GIS/1998/2/ Paper 4**
10. Timing for the Evaluation      **G-8/GIS/1998/2/ Paper 5**
11. Preparation of dossier for Project Coordinators      **Free discussion**
12. Any other business

UK National Coordinator  
1 September 1998

## Attendance List

### Confirmed Attendance:

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Canada</b>              | Keith Chang              |
| <b>European Commission</b> | Jörg Wenzel              |
|                            | Patrice Husson           |
| <b>Germany</b>             | Rolf Hochreiter          |
|                            | Ralf Franke              |
| <b>Italy</b>               | Adriano Santacesaria     |
| <b>Japan</b>               | Kazuhiro Tabuchi         |
| <b>Russian Federation</b>  | Alexandre V Volokitin    |
|                            | Yuri Fontanov            |
| <b>United Kingdom</b>      | Martin Boyle (Chairman)  |
|                            | Paul Bird                |
|                            | Norman Blake (Secretary) |

### Attendance not yet confirmed:

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| <b>France</b> | Emmanuel Gabla |
| <b>USA</b>    | Tom Kalil      |

G8 INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS -  
NATIONAL COORDINATORS' MEETING  
British Embassy, Brussels, Belgium - 17 March 1998

Those present:

**National Coordinators**

Martin Boyle, UK (Chair)  
Keith Chang, Canada  
Jörg Wenzel, European Commission (part-time)  
Patrice Husson, European Commission (for Jörg Wenzel) and GIP  
Edouard Guillermoz, France (for Emmanuel Gabla)  
Rolf Hochreiter, Germany  
Giulio Tonini, Italy  
Kazuhiro Tabuchi, Japan  
Larry Enomoto, USA (for Tom Kalil)  
Alexandre Nikolaev, Russian Federation (Observer)

**Project Coordinators**

Reinier van Kleij - GIP  
Volker Reible - GIBN  
Manabu Kanaya - GIBN  
Walter Kugemann - Tel\*Lingua  
Ken Inglis - ENRM  
Jean-Claude Healy - Healthcare  
Ruth Kerry - GOL  
Rosalie Zobel - SMEs  
Ronald Vopel - MARIS  
C Andropoulos - MARIS

**Other Participants**

Sumio Kozawa, Japan Mission  
Colin Helmer, US Mission  
Michèle de Roulet, Switzerland (Observer)  
Adrian Vetsch, Switzerland (Observer)

**Secretary**

Keith Gunner, UK

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**Item 0. Welcome**

1. Welcoming those present, Mr Boyle apologised for putting a substantive item on the agenda before the formal introduction. This was to allow Professor Kugemann to present a report on Tel\*Lingua before he had to leave.

2. Before this presentation, however, Mr Wenzel wished to make two points -

(a) he was concerned over delay in tabling the minutes of the Washington meeting. The NCs should follow agreed procedures.



(b) the conclusions of the Washington meeting should be implemented quickly. NCs were late in issuing reports of successes. Today's' discussions should centre on the content of the Summit report, especially regarding involvement of the developing countries, not simply the richer ones. A convincing "action plan" could be supported by the Commission.

#### **Item 4. Report on Tel\*Lingua**

3. Professor Kugemann confirmed that progress had not been great since Washington. The area of action was split between departments; there were continuing arguments over allocation of work and other problems such as copyright. Structures in associated countries were continually changing, but there had been good progress in at least 5 countries. The problem was establishing a solid structure to enable work to be carried forward. National entities had a role to play in allowing synergy across national languages and transparency over actions. Suitable tools were available, but there remained difficulties over international transfers.

4. As to its future, the project needed a long term coordinating perspective (ie an operating network); the G7 seemed best suited to deliver the label for the project. It could be self financing, but labelling was still undecided.

#### **Item 1. Welcome, Adoption of Agenda, Introductions**

5. There were apologies from National Coordinators Emmanuel Gabla (represented by Edouard Guillermoz), Kazuhide Ishikawa (Kazuhiro Tabuchi), Tom Kalil (Larry Enomoto); and from Project Coordinators Michèle Baron and Dominique Coq. Giulio Tonini would deal with Project 5 (Museums and Galleries). As the meeting was running late, the Chairman proposed to proceed without a formal *tour de table*.

#### **Item 2 Washington Meeting - Issues arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

6. Mr Enomoto apologised for late delivery of the minutes of the Washington meeting. The future of G7 projects after 1999 was raised. NCs needed clear guidance from above on actions. The matter of a new institutional framework and financing arrangements could be addressed in the main report to Ministers. The present projects must be seen as pilot projects aimed at encouraging implementation (eg public/private partnerships). New awareness actions to secure new partners should be considered.

7. The Russian Federation had not yet nominated a representative, but the Chairman welcomed Mr Nikolaev as observer. The latter said the Russian Government had confirmed their interest in the work, and wished success to all projects. He expected the federal Government to nominate the official National Coordinator shortly, and agreed to be the contact point until then.



8. NCs asked whether references should be to G7 still, or to G8. The Chairman said that advice from the UK Foreign Office was that the term G-8 should be used unless there were clear reasons why this would be inappropriate. Mr Helmer observed that the Denver Summit had adopted G8.

9. The Chairman considered it important to keep contact lists up to date. Most had been revised, but those for France and Canada were outstanding.

10. Mr Husson introduced discussion on the establishment of a Commission web site. The Commission had opened a web page with details of the GIP. The European Commission, France and the US were now listed. It was generally agreed that a recognisable EU official web site with good hot links to relevant project pages was sensible. The main points of minutes of meetings could be available, with password protection for the full version for the use of officials. "G8" should be used, with an explanation that work started as "G7".

### **Item 3 The G8 Information Society Projects - a Strategic Overview: the Overall Objectives of the Programme: Orientation.**

11. The Chairman introduced this item with a slide showing G7 objectives. It was important that everyone was clear and agreed about what we were trying to achieve from the pilot projects and whether the objectives were measurable. It was noted that these objectives were officially on record. During discussion it was suggested that a 12th project could be tasked with measuring the objectives. Evaluation should be undertaken on both qualitative and quantitative bases. Projects should be mapped against objectives, identifying obstacles, and linked to operational progress.

12. It was necessary to close the gap between the Brussels Ministerial objectives and the operational position of the pilots. Ministers wanted to demonstrate the potential and to accelerate applications. An independent evaluation would be sensible - but there was insufficient time before the Birmingham Summit.

13. There was brief consideration of the possibility of using any Ministerial Information Society meeting in the next year or two as a vehicle for bringing forward progress. OECD was one possibility, but membership was not the same, nor were ministers the same as those for G8.

14. The Chairman suggested an action plan for work on evaluation of projects would need to be drawn up and that this could be done by the UK Chair working with Mr Hochreiter (the next Chair). Evaluation should try to avoid imposing excessive burdens on the projects.

15. Mr Guillermoz suggested that whilst the objectives of the pilot projects were right, in principle many should be stopped as "boring" or expensive. Mr Hochreiter was not so pessimistic. Each project was different; and even negative results would guide the representatives on future actions



#### **Item 4 Presentation of Pilot Projects**

16. The Chairman invited each Project Coordinator to give a brief report, concentrating on objectives and deliverables; progress achieved; success stories (with the interim report to the Birmingham Summit in mind); and conclusions (completion, or handing on to a successor). Reports had been circulated in advance, or were available at the meeting, on all projects except Gemini. These reports contain essential information on the above aspects. Main points arising during discussion were as follows.

17. **GIP (Global Inventory Project)** (Patrice Husson). A project to link distributed national and international inventories of activities relevant to promotion and development of understanding of the Information Society. The contract was on target for completion in July 1998, with information on a web site linked to information on other sites and available in 7 languages, including Spanish and Portuguese. An impressive number of projects was indexed by the GIP. Discussion suggested that all would be likely to be in favour of work continuing at the end of the term of the contract, and that the project management should look at options for this.

18. **Healthcare Applications Project** (Jean-Claude Healy). The Healthcare Applications Project aimed at facilitating agreement on and development of telematics tools for improving quality and cost efficiency of health services in general and healthcare in particular. There were 9 sub projects. A booklet was available, "The G7, Healthcare and the Information Society", which the Chairman noted was a potentially effective tool for dissemination of activity. All NCs were convinced of interest in these G7 actions. Following the Birmingham Summit global leadership would fall to the UK (the Chairman apologised for the absence of Michael Brown from the Department of Health). A London meeting would be organised in November 1998, and a demonstration in Sydney in February-March 1999.

19. **GIBN (Global Interoperability for Broadband Networks)** (Keith Chang). A project in two phases, the first, being implemented, demonstrated the potential of broadband applications, the second promoting interconnection of high speed broadband networks in G7 countries and connection to other networks. GIBN had contributed to bringing together research networks and the carriers' experimental networks. Future work will need to look at implementation: cost sharing and increasing the number of connection points. The project needs to extend beyond G7 countries, and is drawing up an action plan for bringing in developing countries, perhaps by harnessing public-private partnerships.

20. **Electronic Libraries** (Kazuhiro Tabuchi). The objective of the project is to constitute from existing programmes the large, distributed virtual collection of human knowledge, make it available to the public via networks and to advance international cooperation towards the establishment of global electronic library systems. The position was as reflected in the progress



report, there having been no meeting nor much movement since Washington. However, the project was running well and expected to pass to the private sector for implementation. It was proposed that a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), not a binding agreement between governments, but an agreement between national libraries covering possible areas of cooperation, would be drafted for signature by all partners in August 1998. The important role of standards in this area should not be overlooked. The meeting considered this was an interesting project that had been stimulated by the G7 label (which could be removed upon implementation), and was a possible model for other projects.

21. **Museums and Galleries** (Giulio Tonini). Report circulated. Four working groups had been set up, which had enabled identification of actions in other countries. Details were available from brochures or web sites endorsed by the project. Closer cooperation with Global Inter-operability for Broadband Networks would be useful.

22. **ENRM** (Ken Inglis). It was considered that the project had achieved its objectives and was viewed as a "success story" (for Birmingham). New countries had been drawn in, as well as private sector companies. The newsletter should be a model for bringing developments to public notice.

23. **Gemini**. No representative was present and no report had been submitted. Keith Chang, supported by Larry Enomoto, promised a report in time for Birmingham.

24. **GoL (Government on Line)** (Ruth Kerry). There had been 8 meetings to date and 21 countries were involved. All deliverables were on the web site. Deliverables included a joint study (with ICA) on government use of the Internet; information sharing and re-use; kiosk use by governments; forms on the web. Activities planned included a Year 2000 conference (which the Chairman observed would feature at Birmingham as a 'problem').

25. Efforts were aimed at governments. The G7 label gave status to the project, and there were doubts it could continue if this label were removed. Consideration had been given to continuation under COMNET, OECD or APEC, but these bodies had different constitutions. There was no obvious organisation to take the project over. OECD was thought to be the most likely alternative, but it tended to be project driven and no helpful response had come from initial contacts. The Chairman noted that all options for handing on the project had to be examined.

26. **SMEs** (Rosalie Zobel). Rosalie Zobel outlined the background to the project and the three theme areas (business information, led by Japan; business requirements, led by the EC; and international test bodies, led by the US (National Institute of Statistics)). A final meeting would be necessary to decide what work might be continued elsewhere, and where (eg, the developing world). It was noted that copyright issues were common to

several projects, and that public procurement could benefit from greater international co-operation.

27. **Maritime Information Society (MARIS)** (Ronald Vopel). Objectives of the project were laid out at the web site which had been established, and a European regional network had been set up with four partner regions. There had been a lot of interest outside the G7 (eg, the Mediterranean, Latin America, Asia). The next big event would be Expo '98 at Lisbon.

#### **Item 5 Inter-Project Coordination**

28. It was agreed (with apologies to Ruth Kerry and Patrice Husson) to omit this item as such and concentrate on Item 6.

#### **Item 6 The Interim Report**

29. During initial discussion of this item, Mr Guillermoz (France) said Coordinators needed to know what to say to their national authorities regarding the continuance of some projects. He did not see benefits in all the projects, although he conceded that, for budgetary reasons, France was reducing its participation in certain actions and limit its expenditure on projects. The Chairman suggested that non-involvement was not itself a reason for closing projects down. Mr Hochreiter (Germany) did not recall it being agreed at Washington that Coordinators would recommend closing projects except where their work had finished. It was conceivable that some might require a little longer to complete, or need to be set incentives to do so. Germany would see difficulty in recommending the closure of projects to Ministers. Italy did not consider this an appropriate time to consider such matters. Mr Tabuchi (Japan) pointed out that many projects had more than G7 participants and could choose the most appropriate form of cooperation for membership. There was no response when the Chairman asked whether Project Leaders considered their projects should be shut down!

30. The Chairman invited the meeting to consider his tentative "discussion paper" which suggested in summary options for the interim report and its format. The following is a summary of the wide ranging discussion that followed and reflects the summary of agreed action points subsequently circulated by the Chairman

#### **31. Interim Report.**

(a) A drafting group, responsible for preparing the report, should be set up (all National Coordinators would be invited to comment). Agreed that this group would comprise Messrs Hochreiter, Wenzel, Enomoto and Boyle.

(b) Sherpas should be contacted about tabling the interim report at the Birmingham Summit



(c) Proposals for a statement for the Summit communiqué should be drafted. This needed to be very short.

(d) The report should include a statement that the G8 Global Information Society Pilots are open to, and seek to involve, non-G8 countries and serve to support the goal of international consensus

(e) The report should also identify clearly what the recommendations to leaders are. The meeting agreed to refer back to the original objectives agreed at the Brussels Conference. Pilot projects should identify how their projects contribute to meeting these goals.

(f) The report should include summary reports from each of the pilot projects as annexes. These should follow a common format, based on that used for reporting to the meeting. Project leaders should coordinate and submit reports. National Coordinators will ensure that the agreed outline format is received by Project Coordinators and that reports are submitted on time.

(g) The report should probably be around 4 pages, with individual project reports in an annex.

31. Inter-Project Coordination. It was agreed there was scope for improving the coordination and exchange of information between projects, in particular on issues such as copyright management, broadband infrastructure, electronic commerce, etc. Project Coordinators should identify work that might be of interest to other groups. The Commission and the UK will investigate infrastructure support for information exchange to support this coordination.

32. Final report. It was agreed that the final report should contain an evaluation of the work of the initiative. Preparation would need to start as soon as possible. National Coordinators would meet over the summer to plan for this final stage.

33. It was agreed that it would be sensible to aim for some limited additional publicity - perhaps a Web page - but there was no conclusion about who would fund this

**Items 7 (Other promotional activities), 8 (AOB), 9 (Meetings during 1998) & 10 (Closure of meeting).**

34. Minutes. Minutes of the meeting should be issued as soon as possible.

35. Item 7 was omitted and there were no other items of business. The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking participants for an interesting and lively discussion and apologised for having to curtail the discussion. Nevertheless, the review of projects, while long, had been a vital step to



ensure that the interim report could be prepared. He would prepare an initial draft which he would develop with the drafting group for approval through National Coordinators. It would be important to have well focused reports from Project Coordinators quickly to allow him to do this.

36. It was agreed that a further meeting of NCs should take place during the summer to plan the final phase of the work - the project evaluation - and consider the shape of the Final Report.

DTI, London, June 1998

## G-8 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

Meeting of National and Project Coordinators, British Embassy, Brussels, 17 March

### Summary of Action Points

#### Interim Report

- a) Sherpas should be contacted about tabling the interim report at the Birmingham Summit.  
**Action: National Coordinators to liaise with national Sherpas**
- b) Draft proposals for a statement for the Summit communiqué. **Action: Martin Boyle**
- c) Establish a drafting group, responsible for preparing the report. (All National Coordinators will be invited to comment.)  
**Action: Martin Boyle for first draft**  
**Drafting Group: Rolf Hochreiter, Jörg Wenzel, Larry Enomoto, Martin Boyle**
- d) The report should include a statement that the G-8 Global Information Society Pilots are open to, and seek to involve, non-G-8 countries and serve to support the goal of international consensus.  
**Action: Drafting Group**
- e) The report should also identify clearly what the recommendations to leaders are. The meeting agreed to refer back to the original objectives agreed at the Brussels Conference. Pilot Projects should identify how their projects contribute to meeting these goals.  
**Action: Project Coordinators**
- f) The report should include summary reports from each of the pilot projects as annexes. These should follow a common format, based on that used for reporting to the meeting.  
**Action: Martin Boyle to circulate the revised format (attached)**
- g) Project leaders to coordinate and submit reports. **Action: Project Coordinators (by 1 April)**
- h) National Coordinators will ensure that the attached outline format is received by Project Coordinators, and that reports are submitted on time.  
**Action: National Coordinators**

#### Inter-Project Coordination

It was agreed that there was scope for improving the coordination and exchange of information between projects, in particular on issues such as copyright management, broadband infrastructure, electronic commerce etc. Project Coordinators should identify work that might be of interest to other groups.

**Action: Project Coordinators**

The Commission and the UK will investigate infrastructure support for information exchange to support this coordination.

**Action: Patrice Husson & Martin Boyle**

#### Final Report

It was agreed that the final report should contain an evaluation of the work of the initiative. Preparation will need to start as soon as possible. National Coordinators will meet over the summer to identify plan this final stage.

**Action: Martin Boyle to convene**

#### Minutes

Minutes of the meeting to be issued as soon as possible.

**Action: Martin Boyle, Keith Gunner**



## G-8 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

### Background to the Evaluation

#### Introduction

1. The G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects are due to end in 1999. National Coordinators will need to report to the Cologne Summit (18 - 20 June 1999) on how the remit defined by the Brussels meeting of Information Society Ministers has been met. While the final report will be prepared during the German Chair, the evaluation will need to be started now.
2. This paper, jointly prepared by the German and UK National Coordinators, outlines the basic principles of evaluation and proposes a framework for the work. Separate papers propose: guidelines for the evaluation (Paper 2); a format for the project evaluation plan (Paper 3) and report (Paper 4); and a timetable for the preparation of the final report (Paper 5).

#### Principles of Evaluation

3. The assessment process should usually be defined when a programme is being set up. This allows monitoring mechanisms to be put in place, with indicators of success and failure directly based on the original rationale for the programme. However, for the Global Information Society Pilot Projects, this was not done (although individual projects may have put such a framework in place), and the evaluation process will need to be devised on the basis of what is available, looking back on the history of the initiative.
4. An evaluation of an action (programme or project) should look at achievements (what has been achieved and, for on-going activities, what will be achieved by the end of the work) in the light of the initial reasons (rationale) for the work. The rationale is the “**why?**” for the programme, and it should be possible to relate the objectives (the “**what?**”) of the full programme and of the individual pilots back to this. Where a pilot has established sub-projects, it would be appropriate to apply the same process - matching the objectives of the sub-project to the objectives and then the rationale of the pilot and the programme as a whole - to build up a complete picture of how activities are contributing to the work.
5. At the level of the project (and the sub-project), the achievement of objectives is through meeting certain “deliverables” or targets – the “**how?**” for the project. Generally speaking, these should be quantifiable and measurable and should relate to a tangible action – a formal agreement or a mechanism for pooling knowledge, rather than a number of meetings. These are the success criteria and should be clearly identified. They should relate to the programme objectives.
6. Targets should be associated with a way of measuring their achievement. This could be directly from the results of the pilot (the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding, for example), or data that is already available to the project (as in the number of hits on a Web-site). In some cases, data may need to be collected specially for the assessment (for example, by a survey among the target user group).
7. The evaluation should then look at how well the targets are being met, not just in terms of what has been achieved, but also the constraints and limitations to achieving the required results. As these are pilot projects, understanding why certain things could not be achieved is, in itself, quite a valuable result.
8. As the pilots’ aims include stimulating cooperation and mobilising existing resources, it will be necessary to try to distinguish the additional achievements of the pilot project from



what would have been achieved anyway. This will be particularly important to assess where a “torch-bearer” or “champion” (an organisation that has taken up the remit of the pilot as one of its own priorities) has agreed to commit effort to a particular aspect of the work – is what was achieved a result of the pilot? In this case, it may be necessary to look back to the original targets or objectives of the torch-bearer to see how its remit has evolved in response to the Global Information Society Pilot Projects.

9. The final stage of the analysis – to compare the actual results with the original aims and objectives of the pilot project, and then of the initiative as a whole – is likely to present some difficulties at the project level. An important (and, for some of the projects, a time-consuming) first stage has been to define the scope of the action, identifying where the G-8 initiative could make a significant difference to the development of the information society. This iterative approach to selecting achievable targets makes the process of comparing plans and results an inappropriate measure of success.

10. A practical approach could be to assess the contribution of each of the achievements to the main objectives of the Global Information Society Pilot Projects initiative and of the pilot itself, considering how together the pilots address the original rationale for the programme. That might require a more detailed assessment of the constraints on, and barriers to, the development of the global information society. It could offer a measure of the overall success of the programme as a whole, but, in certain circumstances, may need to be backed by an analysis of the situation before the projects were set up, which may be a more difficult task.

## **Conclusions**

11. National Coordinators are invited to:

- discuss the principles for the evaluation of the Global Information Society Pilot Projects; and
- agree the general process for the evaluation of the programme.

German & UK National Coordinators  
G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects  
25 August 1998

## G-8 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

### Evaluation Guidelines

#### Introduction

The evaluation should assess how the Pilot Projects address the original rationale for the programme, and the contribution of each of the individual projects to meeting the objectives of the programme.

This paper seeks to identify the key parameters for the programme evaluation and to establish guidelines for the work.

#### The Principles

When Information Society Ministers identified the work of the Pilot Projects, they defined a series of **principles** for the action. These can be divided into two separate headings: some are directly the underpinning reasons for the initiative - the rationale for the work; while the remainder set the framework for selection and implementation of the pilots.

##### The Rationale

The principles guiding the selection and implementation of the theme projects identified by Information Society Ministers at their Brussels meeting in 1995 included statements that they should:

1. have clear added-value for the development of the Information Society by:
  - a. increasing the effectiveness of information exchange;
  - b. launching common actions;
  - c. initiating cooperation at a global level;
2. give meaning and content to the concept of *Information Society* for the citizen, taking into account cultural and linguistic diversity; and
3. stimulate cooperation among the different players: industry, academia, administrations, public authorities.

These are not given directly in the form of a rationale, and an interpretation is given below. The reformulation tries to relate the selection principles to a clear statement of a problem or issue which the work of the Pilot Projects will seek to remedy.

- Limited information exchange (between the different players in the application chain, between different countries, between different types of organisation ...) is a barrier to the development of the information society (1.a.).
- Comparison of experiences (pooling knowledge) will help accelerate the implementation of successful applications (learning from others) (1.a.).
- Working together (common actions) will help overcome barriers to the development of the information society (1.b. & 3).
- International cooperation will help to drive the implementation of global information society applications (1.c.).



- The development of the information society will be aided by giving meaning and content to the concept for the citizen (2.).

### **Framework for the Action**

The remaining principles are all guiding rules for the implementation of the projects, rather than explaining why the work is needed or what it tries to achieve. These are the framework for the activities of the Pilot Projects, and specify that they should:

1. avoid the creation of new bureaucracy or institutions;
2. have, as a general rule, any expense covered by existing programmes;
3. have included open access as an integral part of its design; and
4. be open to G-7 countries as well as public and private organisations, including international organisations and standardisation bodies.

### **Objectives**

The Information Society Ministers established as the overall aims of the initiative the demonstration of the potential of the Information Society and the stimulation of its deployment.

The key objectives of the projects were to:

- support the goal of international consensus on common principles governing the need of access to networks and applications and their interoperability;
- establish the groundwork for productive forms of cooperation among G-8 partners in order to create a critical mass to address this global issue;
- create an opportunity for information exchange leading towards the further development of the information society;
- identify and select projects of an exemplary nature having tangible and clearly understandable social, economic and cultural benefits which will demonstrate to the public the potential of the information society;
- identify obstacles related to the implementation of practical applications serving the creation of a global information society; and
- help to create markets for new products and services where appropriate.

Ministers also agreed themes for pilot projects, with a general statement of the work of the individual projects. Subsequently, project teams have identified specific tasks to fulfil their remit, based on an assessment of what was feasible within the resources available to them.

### **The Process**

Project Coordinators should identify the objectives for their projects, and relate these to the programme's rationale and objectives. These will then need to be couched in terms of deliverables (which should be output, not input, measures, and which, together, show the value of the action). This should include methods for measuring the achievements.



## The Assessment

The first part of the assessment of the Global Information Society Pilot Projects is to evaluate the individual pilot projects. The results of this work will then be fed into the overall review of the programme.

It is proposed that, within the general guidelines outlined above, the project teams should be responsible for evaluating the work of their project. This is the first part of the evaluation, and involves two steps:

- defining the framework for the evaluation and drawing up an evaluation plan for each project. These should be completed by the end of October 1998, but any received in time for the meeting of National Coordinators on 25 September will be considered at that meeting and used to help steer the discussions on the overall evaluation strategy. The suggested format for the evaluation plan is given in paper 3; and
- the evaluation against this plan, leading to a report to National Coordinators by 1 February 1999. The suggested format for the project reports is given in paper 4.

## The Report

Project Coordinators are responsible for submitting an evaluation report on their project. These will form the basis for the preparation of the final report to the Cologne Summit. These reports could also be used as publicity material as part of the information dissemination activities of the individual projects or of the programme as a whole. At the least, this information should be available through the relevant Web-sites.

National Coordinators, led by the German Chair, will be responsible for the report to the Summit. The final form of this report has still to be agreed by National Coordinators (and to a large extent will depend on the nature of the input from the projects), but it will need to be concise, possibly not more than about six pages long. However, it will need to give an overview of the work of the Global Information Society Pilot Projects and the general achievements of the programme, highlighting the lessons learnt, with recommendations for the future. It could include highlights from the work of the projects and could have short summaries of the achievements of the individual projects as an annex.

The important point is to show clearly how the Summit mandate has been addressed and that the report has been based on a credible assessment of the activities in the framework of the Global Information Society Pilot Projects.

Fuller reports on projects or the programme as a whole could be prepared for more general information purposes.

## Example

The Global Inter-operability for Broadband Networks project:

- has the objective: to facilitate the establishment of international links between networks and testbeds.
- It is working through applications projects in: telemedicine, quality control, multimedia teleservices, virtual classrooms, collaboration and visualisation,
- which contribute to the success factors of establishing international links, implementation of projects, raising global awareness.

- The criteria for measuring success against these factors needs to be defined for the applications projects.
- Data then needs to be collected to demonstrate how effectively the project has met the criteria, and
- the resulting analysis should form the basis for the report to National Coordinators. The report should try to
- relate the work to the objectives, and draw conclusions about the lessons learnt from the work.

### **Conclusions**

In the light of the discussion on the paper on the Background to the Evaluation (G-8/GIS/1998/2 Paper 1), National Coordinators are invited to:

- agree guidelines for the Project Coordinators on the evaluation process.

German & UK National Coordinators  
G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects  
1 September 1998



## GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

### Evaluation Plan

The Evaluation Plan should be submitted to National Coordinators by **end October**. It should contain the following information:

#### Purpose of the work

- What is the reason for this project? (Why are we doing this work?)

This should relate back to the rationale for the initiative as a whole (which is included in the “principles” for the programme) or to the “objectives”, both defined by Information Society Ministers at their meeting in 1995.

#### Objectives for the Pilot Project

- What was the objective for the Pilot Project as set by the meeting of Information Society Ministers?
- What additional terms of reference did the project team set for the project (or sub-project)?

These should relate back to the purpose of the work and include objectives for involving the global information society (non-G-8 countries, industry, academia, administrations, public authorities, international organisations, standards making bodies etc), pulling in existing (national and international) programmes and initiatives. The advantages of the cooperation to meeting the objectives of the work – ie why it is appropriate to be working in the framework of international cooperation - should be explained.

#### Deliverables

- What will the project achieve?

This should be related to the objectives and should clearly indicate the rôle of the pilot project (or sub-project) in achieving the results. The deliverables should have some tangible value (an international agreement, a framework for exchanging ideas or information, but NOT a meeting).

#### Evaluation

- How will the project be evaluated. (Where appropriate, this will need to be done at both the pilot project and sub-project level, with success criteria related back to the objectives of the pilot project and of the programme as a whole.)
  - ↳ what constitutes “success”?
  - ↳ how will this be measured?
  - ↳ which aspects of the project have been considered?
  - ↳ how will data be collected?
  - ↳ what is the timetable for the work?

#### Reporting

How will the results be presented?



## GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS

### Project Reports

The project reports should be submitted by **1 February**, allowing some time for discussion and finalising the individual reports before the deadline for papers for the Cologne Summit. It is expected that individual reports will be no more than about four pages in length, in a form suitable for inclusion as annexes to the main report. They should be informative, and refer to achievements (output measures) in the framework of the remit for the initiative. Projects could publish their own end reports.

### **Purpose of the work, Objectives for the Pilot Project, Deliverables, Evaluation**

- This needs to set the context for the report. Essentially, it draws on the information provided in the project evaluation plan.

### **Assessment of Achievements**

- What was required?
- What was achieved? How far has the project gone in meeting its targets (the “deliverables”)? How have achievements been assessed?)
- What were the major barriers or problems, and how were they overcome?
- What could not be done and why? What hindered the work of the pilot? And what helped?
- What extra work needs to be done? How will any extra work be done? Who are the “torch-bearers” taking the work forward after the completion of the pilots?

### **Conclusions**

The conclusions should be presented in the form:

- How effective was the work? Could more have been achieved in different circumstances? Or with different resources or partners?
- What lessons can be learnt from the process?
- Recommendations, including proposals for further work outside the G-8 framework.

The evaluation methodology, showing success criteria and the methods of data collection, should be included in an annex.

### **Final Report**

National Coordinators will prepare the final report for the Cologne Summit (18 - 20 June 1999) drawing heavily on the evaluations of individual projects. Both National and Project Coordinators will consider how to present the reports of individual projects and of the initiative to improve awareness of the results of the work among the target audiences.

German & UK National Coordinators  
G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects  
1 September 1998

## **G-8 GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY PILOT PROJECTS**

### **Timing for the Evaluation**

In order to prepare the evaluation report for the G-8 Cologne Summit, it is important to put arrangements in hand now. It is suggested that the timetable for the evaluation should be:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Meeting of National Coordinators to agree evaluation process.                                                                                                                                   | <b>25 September 1998</b>             |
| • Project Coordinators submit evaluation plans (outline in Paper 3) by:                                                                                                                           | <b>end October 1998</b>              |
| • National Coordinators discuss evaluation plans with Project Coordinators as necessary (drafts received in time will be considered at the National Coordinators meeting on 25 September) during: | <b>November 1998</b>                 |
| • Project Evaluations carried out by Project Coordinators in the period:                                                                                                                          | <b>September 1998 - January 1999</b> |
| • Project reports (based on outline in Paper 4) available to National Coordinators by:                                                                                                            | <b>1 February 1999</b>               |
| • National Coordinators meeting (with Project Coordinators) in:                                                                                                                                   | <b>February 1999</b>                 |
| • National Coordinators meeting (without Project Coordinators) to discuss report draft in:                                                                                                        | <b>April 1999</b>                    |
| • National Coordinators meeting (without Project Coordinators) to finalise report draft (if necessary) in:                                                                                        | <b>early May 1999</b>                |
| • Final draft of report for Sherpas.                                                                                                                                                              | <b>10 May 1999</b>                   |
| • Papers to Ministers.                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>7 June 1999</b>                   |
| • Cologne Summit.                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>18 June 1999</b>                  |

### **Recommendation**

National Coordinators are invited

- to agree a timetable for the evaluation process.

German & UK National Coordinators  
G-8 Global Information Society Pilot Projects  
25 August 1998