ISCN

International Software Consulting Network

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ISCN(International Software Competence Network) was formed in 1994. Its initial mission was twofold: to organise annual conferences on software process improvement and to create a consortium of software process experts capable of providing a wide range of software process services. Successful conferences were held in 1994 (ISCN 94, Dublin) and 1995 (ISCN 95, Vienna). In 1995 ISCN established a business firm functioning as a co-ordination office to co-ordinate expert teams for industry, to secure funding and to provide an organisational and management infrastructure for innovative improvement projects on behalf of its members and partners.

ISCN provides different types of membership: personal membership to be inserted into the expert pool, corporate membership to offer services through the ISCN service portfolio, and project partnership to contribute effort and re-

PICO

sources to joint projects or participate in joint EU proposals. For more information please contact:
http://www.iol.ie/~iscn/info.

At the moment ISCN covers 13 different countries, has more than 20 well known experts in the expert pool and has above 30 corporate and project partners offering above 20 different methods through ISCN's service portfolio.

THE PICO PARTNERSHIP

This project is carried out with the financial support of the Commission of the European Communities under the LEONARDO DA VINCI Programme.

The EU Leonardo project PICO is one example for a collaborative effort of ISCN experts and partners. APAC (the Austrian Product Assurance Company) is the project manager, and ISCN acts as a technical co-ordinator supporting the project communication and the work package design. Project partners are the ami user group, APS Austria, Brameur, Hibernia, Leansoft Oy, Q-Set Ltd. and South-bank University.

Additional partners contributing to a major book about process improvement are AIMware, Alcatel, CISI, CRIM Montreal, Colin Tully Ass., Festo, Italtel, K&M Technologies, Onion, Siemens, and Sztaki. PICO develops a comprehensive set of tutorials that cover process improvement from analysis to success. PICO is a modula-

rised product which does not rely on distinct methods and tools. PICO seminars will be based on learning by doing and will focus on reusable experience. PICO will also promote the tools developed in BICO „Benchmarking & ISO Combined". Together with a group of leading European companies the PICO partners are writing a major book „Better Software Practice for Business Benefit: Principles and Experience" which will be used as a reference material and information pool for the training.

THE SP96 PARTNERSHIP/ CONGRESS NEWSPAPER ON WWW

ISCN set up a strategic co-operation with a group of leading software conferences to put the strength together for forming a large European software process improvement community. This resulted in the SP96 congress for December in London in which five conferences work together in a congress style. The SP96 partners are ISCN - Practical Improvement of Software Processes and Products, SPI (Software Process Improvement), the ami User Group, ICSP (the International Conference on Software Processes), and the SPICE (Software Process Improvement and Capability Determination) workshop.

One of the projects undertaken by ISCN in 1995 was to establish an information server on the Internet. The ISCN WWW site „http://www.iol.ie/ ~iscn/info"