



**Interlink**

Feedback from EU community

## Enriching joint work between northern and southern partners

*You have been part of an INCO project in the scope of the last European Framework Program, FP6. What was the project about? Which countries or regions were part of the project?*

The project was about household energy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Spark-Net focused on increasing knowledge resources for local, national, regional and EU policy-making and research through the creation of knowledge, and the acceleration of the application of that knowledge to economic and social development. The third countries involved were: Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda.

*How did you choose your INCO partners? Was the integration process easy?*

The coordinator, Practical Action (formerly ITDG) has been working in the field of energy for nearly 30 years, and therefore knows a large number of institutions who are currently working in the field of energy. By the time the project was formulated, there had been exchanges of ideas about a joint project, which was put in practice when the call for FP6 opened. Therefore the integration process was easy.

*What were the main benefits/drawbacks of such cooperation for your project?*

The main benefits were the joint work within northern and southern partners with different skills and knowledge. As usually the main drawbacks were basically administrative, the main difficulties being meeting the deadlines for all 12 partners.

*Would you consider working on a European INCO project again? On which topic?*

Yes! Practical Action is very interested in projects related to energy access for the poor, both policy and implementation projects.