



**Living Labs, Innovation and Communities -  
COFISA workshop on Living Lab development  
11.6.2008**

COFISA, in collaboration with the Meraka Institute invites you to a workshop on Living Labs and open, user-centric innovation. The purpose of the workshop is to review motivation for developing Living Labs in the South African context, go through key concepts and experiences from the European Living Lab community, present ideas for Living Lab development in South Africa and craft a collaboration agenda for a network of Living Lab practitioners. The details of the workshop are as follows:

Date:	Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2008
Time:	8.30 – 15.30 (a lunch will be served at 12.30)
Venue:	The Innovation Hub, Pretoria

The COFISA Programme promotes Living Laboratories as key mechanisms for creating sustainable, user-centric innovation environments in South Africa, both in rural and urban environments. Living Labs are typically based on open innovation practices and involve researchers, companies, users and different support organizations in joint R&D activities in real-life contexts. This event is a continuation of a process started at a workshop at the Meraka Institute on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

We would also appreciate if you could distribute this invitation to people or organizations that you think would be interested parties in developing Living Labs. Confirmation of participation is kindly requested by Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June to Aki Enkenberg at [aki.enkenberg@fcg.fi](mailto:aki.enkenberg@fcg.fi), 0828896981

## The Programme

8.30 Morning coffee

9.00 –10.00 Living labs, innovation and communities

Aki Enkenberg, *COFISA Programme*

Patrizia Hongisto, *Senior Research Fellow, Center for Knowledge and Innovation Research, Helsinki School of Economics*

10.00 –10.15 Break

10.15 –12.30 Ideas, proposals and projects: South African Living Lab activities

Presentations by South African organizations

12.30 –13.30 Lunch

13.30 –15.30 Building an agenda for a collaborative Living Lab network

*The Cooperation Framework on Innovation Systems between Finland and South Africa (COFISA) is a programme that has been developed jointly by the Governments of South Africa (through the Department of Science and Technology) and Finland (through the Embassy of Finland in Pretoria). Its objective is to enhance effectiveness of the South African National System of Innovation, contributing to economic growth and poverty alleviation. In particular, COFISA aims to build structures and competences that accelerate innovation system development at the provincial level.*