Part A1: Content	
Proposal Acronym	**GrACE**
Proposal Title	**Grid related courses & conferences in African Countries and E-learning**
Duration in months	30
Call (part) identifier	FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2009-1
Topic code(s) most relevant to your proposal	
Free Keywords	
Abstract	Europe is heavily investing to create a continental e-Infrastructure based on Grid technology in order to turn the vision of a European Research Area (ERA) into reality. Nowadays, e-Science and e-Infrastructures are considered key enablers of the progress and sustainable development of a country and are concrete means to address the problems of the "digital divide" and the "brain drain" which are endemic in large parts of the world.

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In the context of its 6th and 7th Framework Programmes, EC has already co-funded several projects to stimulate and foster e-Science and Grids well outside its borders and in several parts of the world such as Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean. However, the adoption of the *"Grid paradigm"* and the effective usage of e-Infrastructures require a capillary activity of knowledge dissemination and training to help scientists to make use of distributed computing capabilities for/in their scientific applications.

The strategic aims of the GrACE project are to:

- Reinforce the impact of e-Infrastructures in scientific research defining and delivering stimulating programme of training events and e-learning courses in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Broaden the engagement of sub-Saharan African researchers in e-Science activities and across disciplines such as Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences;
- Assess the status and outline the plans for the definition of a roadmap for an African e-Infrastructure.

These ambitious goals translate into the following specific actions:

- Spreading the knowledge about the *"Grid Paradigm"* to all potential users: both system administrators and application developers through an extensive training programme;
- Fostering the establishment of scientific collaborations among the countries involved in the project;
- Define the policies for the creation of an Authorisation & Authentication infrastructure as well as a Regional Grid Operation Centre and discuss them with stakeholders and decision makers.