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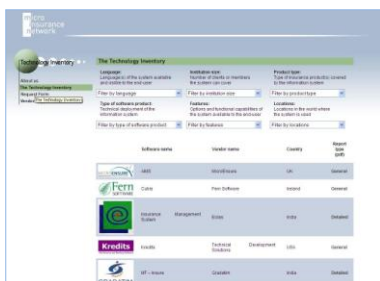
www.microinsurancenetwerk.org/Technology-Inventory

One small step for the Technology Working Group, one giant leap for microinsurance

Luxembourg – 21 May 2010: 10 years ago, CGAP launched the first reviews of a variety of software systems which can be used by MFIs in their provision of credit. Now, following in the steps of microfinance, the Microinsurance Network Technology Working Group is launching the first online microinsurance technology inventory which both centralises and reviews software systems specifically designed for microinsurance.

The objective of the microinsurance technology inventory is to provide the microinsurance community with an overview of technologies that can be used for the administration of insurance products for the low-income population. This initiative is being conducted by Berende Consulting on behalf of the Technology Working Group and is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank MIF Fomin, the Microinsurance Innovation Facility and the Microinsurance Network.

In 2009, following on from the publication of the “Technology for Microinsurance – Scoping Study”, the Technology Working Group started to approach the various technology vendors to review their systems and analyse whether their software were applicable to microinsurance. This first investigation resulted in a list of 18 appropriate software systems, all of which are freely available to download on the new website.



The website allows the user to search, filter and examine each of the available software by the product type, language, size of institution, location of provider...etc. In addition to offering a place for insurance providers to find the software that most suits their needs, the website also provides a platform for technology providers to present their products.

The launch of the website is only the beginning of this project as the Technology Working Group still has a long list of additional features and developments to put in place. These include developing the inter-activeness of the website, adding more detailed reviews, translating the website into Spanish, French and Portuguese, and finally branching out of reviewing only software systems to other technologies such as mobile phones, smart cards, point of sale terminals, RFID...etc.

This significant launch is yet more evidence that the momentum behind microinsurance is slowly but surely catching up with microcredit.

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About the Microinsurance Network Technology Working Group

The Technology Working Group focuses on technology as a means to leverage capacity for outreach, dissemination and scaling up while decreasing costs of insurance services. The areas include data collection, communications, management information systems and services to support microinsurance practitioners and trainers working with these organisations.

For more information about The Technology Inventory:

- Contact Michiel Berende (michiel@berendeconsulting.com)
- Visit www.microinsurancenetwerk.org/Technology-Inventory/index.php

About the Microinsurance Network

The Microinsurance Network is a network of donor organisations, multilateral agencies, insurance and social protection providers, policymakers and academics, all of whom are involved in microinsurance. Its mission is to promote the development and proliferation of good-value insurance products for people on low-income by providing a platform for information sharing and stakeholder coordination.

For more information about the Microinsurance Network:

- Contact Matthew Genazzini (matthew.ada@microfinance.lu)
- Visit www.microinsurancenetwerk.org

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