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Report on the progress of the reform of the Organization (White Paper)

Annex 3

UNWTO Knowledge Network

In the context of one of the largest economic recessions in the last decades, tourism is facing enormous strategic and short-term challenges. In this framework, the Knowledge Network believes that institutions, organizations and companies related to tourism play a central part in finding innovative solutions to develop successful answers to these strategic challenges as well as competitive and sustainable operations.

The *UNWTO Knowledge Network* is a Community of Knowledge in scientific, technological and procedural matters related to tourism. It supports the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), its Member States, and tourism stakeholders at large, fostering innovation and knowledge management programmes and projects.

The UNWTO Knowledge Network was launched in September 2010, following months of planning and exchanges with public and private sector leaders. It continues and expands the mission of the former UNWTO Education and Science Council, which initiated its programmes in 1999. The Knowledge Network contributes to both the theory and practice of tourism policy and governance by engaging in matters of sectoral competitiveness and global development objectives as defined by the United Nations and other international institutions of governance.

The Network currently counts 122 institutions worldwide, actively contributing to the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge in all matters concerning tourism analysis, policy, governance and operations. 62% of the members represent institutions in the category of universities, training centres, educational organizations, etc. while the remaining 38% belong to other type of knowledge management institutions (research centres, private companies, science and technological parks, professional associations, etc.).

The UNWTO Knowledge Network organized the 2011 UNWTO Ulysses Prize & Awards Ceremony and the UNWTO Knowledge Network Algarve Forum: *Tourism and Science: Bridging Theory and Practice*, sponsored by the Government of Portugal, the Algarve Region, the University of Algarve and the UNWTO Knowledge Network. It took place at Vilamoura in Portugal on 1-3 June 2011 with the presence of 309 representatives of institutions from 39 countries.

For more information:

<http://media.unwto.org/en/press-release/2011-06-09/unwto-algarve-forum-sets-consensus-tourism-strategies> and
<http://media.unwto.org/en/press-release/2011-05-09/unwto-announces-2011-ulysses-prize-and-awards-winners>