Arena, a form of co-operation at the Department of Information Technology

The role of an arena
An arena brings together researchers with shared interests but without being an administrative unit. Within its field of activities, an arena should:

- promote research which crosses over division boundaries.
- serve as a catalyst in creating research constellations thus contributing to a dynamic research environment.
- enable collective efforts to launch new lines of research of common interest.
- help to identify constellations which may seek funding for major projects.

Initiation
Researchers from a number of departments decide upon the name and subject area for the arena and list possible fields of activity and interested parties. This information is given to the Head of Research for a decision.

Activity reports
The arena is to appear as a project on the department research website. Any activity is to be reported regularly. Shared department funds will provide continuous support for seminars. The activities to be carried out are to be of interest over division boundaries and are also to be widely advertised throughout the department. A contact person is to be specified.

If, after a year, the arena is still vigorous, it may be assigned further funding for such matters as coordinating seminars and writing funding applications. Funds may also be allocated for, e.g. time-limited recruitment within the arena’s field of activities or SPARC (Scientific Projects to Accelerate Research and Collaboration). Proposals for further funding are to be closely linked to the relevant divisions and the professors responsible for the research. Each one will be discussed by the PAP group, who will make a strategic assessment.

Development/termination
The Head of Research is to annually review of the status of the arena. If the activities of the arena have become so extensive that they now constitute a research programme or research centre, then the arena concept no longer applies. Another possibility is that activities decrease or cease (so that, for example, the website is no longer updated). In such cases, the arena will be terminated.