

SEEFIRE newsletter

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Southeast European countries have a strategic geographical role in connecting southeast European, Caucasian and Mediterranean countries to GÉANT.

The SEEFIRE project builds on the results of IST projects (SEEREN, SERENATE, GEANT and SEE-GRID) to produce studies on the options available for acquiring an optical fibre network infrastructure and strategies for the development of research and education networking in southeast Europe, with a specific emphasis on Western Balkan countries.

The project will ultimately provide countries in southeast Europe (SEE) with a set of useful reports and guidelines about (dark) fibre acquisition by National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), deployment of optical transmission technologies, regulatory, legal, economical and strategic issues of acquiring (dark) fibre by NRENs in the region.

SEEFIRE Technical Workshop

The project technical workshop will take place in Sofia on 14-15 July, 2005.

The workshop will focus on the practical aspects of own dark fibre deployment and it will therefore target the technological aspect related to the use of the fibre.

It will provide an opportunity for interaction between the national research institutions that are involved in the network deployment and the fibre owners in the southeast region to discuss concrete possibility of fibre acquisition from the academic community and the importance of this step to reduce the digital divide.

The material from the workshop will be made available at www.seefire.org

SEEFIRE kick-off

SEEFIRE started on March 1st 2005; the kick-off meeting took place on 8 April, at the TERENA Premises in Amsterdam, where all partners participated. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the project and its objectives as well as plan all the project activities in detail.

The SEEFIRE consortium has actively participated in the following events:

- Customer Empowered Fibre Networks workshop, 16-18 May 2005 – Prague, Czech Republic
- ROEDUNET Conference, 20-22 May 2005 - Sovata, Romania
- Hypermedia and Grid Systems Conference, 30 May- 3 June 2005 – Zagreb, Croatia
- TERENA Conference, 6-9 June 2005 – Poznan, Poland
- CARnet Internet Users Conference, 21-23 November 2005



SEEFIRE

South-East Europe Fibre Infrastructure
for Research and Education

SEEREN2 accepted for negotiations

The SEEREN2 proposal, the successor initiative to SEEREN project (South Eastern European Research and Education Network) for the creation of a regional research & education network in SEE, has been successfully evaluated.

The SEEREN project ended in December, at which point connectivity contracts were taken over by GÉANT, to ensure continued provision of connectivity in the region. As with its predecessor project, SEEREN2 will be lead by GRNET, the Greek national research & education network, and involves the active participation of eight organizations representing the NRENs of

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Romania and Serbia-Montenegro.

Of the eight NRENs, four are connected to GÉANT2 (Greece, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria); four are not, and consequently will be the main beneficiaries of SEEREN2. The consortium is complemented with the vast experience of the pan-European research and education networking bodies DANTE and TERENA.

The aim of SEEREN2 is to further the benefits achieved by SEEREN in an attempt to ease the "digital divide" that still separates most of the countries in the region

from the rest of the continent.

The existing infrastructure will be substantially enhanced in its performance, but more significantly will add a new key item to its fundamental characteristic – the consolidation of the networking and Grid infrastructures into an eInfrastructure for southeast Europe, fully integrated with the pan-European efforts (GÉANT2, EGEE, SEE-GRID etc). The ultimate goal is to consolidate the network and services into the pan-European eInfrastructure and the end-users into the European Research Area.

A tender will be announced in summer 2005.

The consortium

Project participants:

TERENA	NL
GRNET	GR
CESNET	CZ
NIIF/HUNGARNET	HU
AMREJ	CS
RoEduNet	RO
ISTF	BG
INIMA	AL
BIHARNET	BH
MARNET	MK
DANTE	UK

Key words:

Dark Fibre
Optical Transmission Technologies
Research and Education Networking
Policy and regulation

Collaboration with other EC funded projects:

GN2
SEE-GRID



SEEFIRE partners

Forthcoming events

- SEEFIRE Technical workshop, Sofia, 14-15 July 2005
- CARnet Internet Users' Conference — CUC 2005, Dubrovnik, 21-23 November 2005

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