

SEEFIRE newsletter



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SEEFIRE successfully reached its end after one year of implementation

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European Commission's FP6 SEEFIRE (South-East Europe Fibre Infrastructure for Research and Education) project has completed successfully its one-year activity.

SEEFIRE built on the results of previous IST projects (SEEREN, SERENATE and GN1) and succeeded in demonstrating that the deployment of a dark-fibre optical network is a cost-effective way to increase the capacity of the network backbone, thus to reduce the digital divide. The white paper produced at the end of the project summaries

SEEFIRE objectives with special focus on inhibitors factors for the research and education networking in SEE countries as well as the potential impact of NREN-initiated efforts for dark-fibre acquisition.

During its one-year period, SEEFIRE produced a number of studies, reports & guidelines on the deployment of optical transmission technologies, regulatory, legal, economical and strategic issues of acquiring (dark) fibre by NRENs in the region, for the development of research and education networking in South

East Europe.

SEEFIRE findings will be exploited by other European projects such as SEELIGHT, SEEREN2 & SEE-GRID2 for the development of e-infrastructures in SEE, fostering collaboration of researchers and students in a region where the development of research and education networking, as well as the information society as a whole have suffered from years of political unrest and relative isolation from the rest of the European continent.

More information on: www.seefire.org

SEEREN2 Project launched in Athens



SEEREN2, the sequel project to SEEREN (South East European Research & Education network) was officially launched in October in Athens.

The project will build on the success of SEEREN which aimed to expand the European research and education network in the South-east Europe providing GÉANT connectivity to non-GÉANT countries.

SEEREN2, coordinated by GRNET, will run until April 2008 and during this period

will work to create the next generations of the South-east European segment of GÉANT that intends to make leading-edge technologies and services available to the entire Research and Education communities and all scientific sectors without discrimination between users and sites in southeast Europe.

By its end SEEREN2 will support the Balkan countries to:

- consolidate the network (interconnecting the beneficiary NRENs to the major GÉANT2 Point Of Presence

in the area) and services into the pan-European eInfrastructure;

- join the relevant European organizations and participate in their activities;

- introduce new technologies and know-how through collaborative work, and making these technologies and knowledge available to the SEE community;

- serve as reference for further developments and future regional and European collaboration.



SEEFIRE Workshop in Bucharest Raised Awareness About Benefits Of Dark Fibre

The SEEFIRE project has held a policy workshop in Bucharest, Romania on 17 January 2006. The workshop, the second in a series of SEEFIRE events, focused on the strategic and economic benefits of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) owning and operating their own dark-fibre networks in southeast Europe.

The workshop brought together end-users, university directors, telecommunication operators as well as decision makers and political representatives.

The workshop attracted representatives from all the NRENs in southeast Europe (including Croatia, Moldova and Turkey whose NRENs are not partners in SEEFIRE), representatives of academic institutions, telecommunication operators that have strong business interests in the region, research networking organisations in Romania (RoEduNet, ICI and RNC), as well as representatives from the Romanian Ministry of Education and

Research and the Romanian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

The workshop was opened by Professor Anton Anton, State Secretary in the Ministry for Education and Research and President of the National Authority for Scientific Research in Romania. Mario Campolargo from the Directorate General Information Society and Media at the European Commission joined via videoconference and spoke about the continuing support from the European Union for the region. At the workshop, delegates heard about the role of NRENs, how the role of NRENs differs from the role of ISPs and how important it is that they are fully supported by their national stakeholders. They also learned that the status of NRENs in the South East European region needs significant improvements, especially when compared to their peers in other, more advanced countries. Improvements are needed not only in terms of bandwidth,

but also in terms of organization, funding and government support. The pan-European GÉANT2 network was presented as a new network that is largely based on dark fibre. Emphasis was put on the role that SEEFIRE will need to play in extending the GÉANT2 dark-fibre cloud in the south-east European region. FCCN, the Portuguese NREN, demonstrated how they had used EU Structural Funds to be South East Europe Fibre Infrastructure for Research and Education successful in this area. Finally, some best-practice examples of the acquisition of dark fibre in the region were presented. The programme of the workshop reflected the SEEFIRE project objectives: to promote the importance of an advanced network to support research and development in the southeast European region.

The workshop, which was attended by more than forty people, was hosted by RoEduNet and was kindly sponsored by Level 3 Communications.

“The workshop, the second in a series of SEEFIRE events, focused on the strategic & economic benefits of NRENs owning and operating their own dark-fibre networks in southeast Europe.”

Workshop for the establishment of the Albanian Research & Education Network took place in Tirana

Regional development and the networking situation in Albania were presented in a workshop organized by TERENA and GEANT2, in an attempt to promote the efforts for the establishment of the Albanian Research & Education Network. The workshop took place in Tirana on 1 December, and it was hosted by the INIMA, the Albanian Institution that represents research & education networking in the SEEREN2 project.

Albania has already obtained access to the current pan-European network for research and education, GÉANT, thanks to the SEEREN2 predecessor, the SEEREN FP5 project, which ended in December 2004. In the SEEREN2 project, two new institutions are involved: the faculty of electrical engineering and the faculty of economy, while a third one, the faculty of natural sci-

ences, is considered as candidate.

The workshop, which was attended by about 30 people representing the major universities and the Academy of Sciences of Albania, was the follow-up of an assessment of the status of research and education networking in the country, which was carried out by a team of experts in the spring of 2005. This assessment led to a report with strategic recommendations, which has been submitted to the Albanian government and other stakeholders in the country as well as to the European Commission.

The participants at the Tirana workshop agreed that it is vital for the country to establish an NREN organization that is able to represent the whole country in the international research and

education networking community, and they laid down a strategy to achieve this goal. They also emphasized the intention of all scientific institutions and universities in the country to talk to the Albanian government in order to obtain the support that is necessary to achieve the level of network service provision that will enable the country to join the European model of research and education networking.

Participants agreed that it is necessary to speak with a single voice to foster the establishment of a single organization. They also emphasized the urgency of building university networks that are interconnected through a national network, so that teachers, researchers and students will be provided with an advanced infrastructure for collaboration with their peers in Albania and abroad.



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

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GN2
SEE-GRID



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