Newsletter

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SEERA-EI Questionnaire for Systematic Data Collection & Analysis on eInfrastructure Initiatives in SEE

SEERA-EI has formulated a questionnaire as a first step towards systematic data collection and analysis regarding the programmes which encompass eInfrastructure funding actions in South East Europe.

The questionnaire is divided in two parts: the first targeted at assessing the state of the art of actual eInfrastructure in the region and their funding modalities, while the second part is targeted at data collection on actual programmes and actions. Additionally, an initial set of metrics that are to be used for national programmes analysis and assessment has been defined. The questionnaire was provided in an electronic format and it is hosted on: http://www.survey.amres.ac.rs, with 3 distinct parts - networking-related issues, computing-related issues, and programme management.

The data collected about the programmes concerns funding details, objectives, structure of the programme and operational performance, methodology and management approach, effectiveness, outputs and deliverables, dissemination, international co-operation, evaluation and monitoring, problems encountered, and recommendations for the future— especially regarding international cooperation and to set a join call.

Qualitative metrics include criterions established for each type of data to comparatively analyse the programmes.

The questionnaire was filled in for more than 30 relevant programmes. Comparative analysis of answers according to established metrics has started.

The SEERA-EI questionnaire constitutes an integral element of the project's communication platform that aims to enhance collaboration and coordination of national eInfrastructure policies and initiatives.

Programme Managers Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Within the framework of the SEERA-EI project, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between all the programme manager implementation partners, the National Grid Initiative coordinators in South East Europe, on long-term cooperation in the region in the fields of Grid and High Performance Computing. The MoU was also signed by representatives of South Caucasus NGIs.

The MoU was recognised officially by Greek General Secretariat for Research and Technology. The MoU coordinator is GRNET.

SEERA-EI PSC and Programme Managers' Networking Meetings Establish Human Network in South East Europe

With three successful Programme managers' networking meetings, the project has established an open forum for information exchange among national-level programme managers in South East Europe, regarding national programmes in eInfrastructures. These were collocated with Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings.

The PSC meetings' objectives were to review the project progress and plan future activities in detail, to ensure project success. The related face-to-face programme managers' networking meetings have been crucial for establishing a human network in the region and enhancing information flow, together with the use of digital communication tools that have been set up within the framework of SEERA-EI. The goal of these meetings is to enable coordination of national programmes in eInfrastructures, and to set the framework for a common regional agenda.

During the Programme Managers' Networking meetings, programme managers have presented their national eInfrastructure programmes, recognizing the importance of inclusion of eInfrastructure in national development strategy.

SEERA-EI Establishes Communication Platform for eInfrastructure Programme Managers in South East Europe

In order to enhance communication among national-level programme managers in South East Europe, SEERA-EI has established a platform for information exchange on eInfrastructure initiatives.

The platform consists of two core means of communication: digital and face-to-face. The digital communication tools include project mailing lists, project private and public website, and specifically the dynamic communication tools including wiki, online forum, and survey tool, which form the basis for interactive communication and content management. The simplicity of the tools is the core advantage, allowing easy and dynamic access and editing of information.

The face-to-face programme managers' networking meetings are held collocated with project steering committee meetings, and are supported by the tools including calendar and agenda tools.

SEERA-EI has successfully carried out three face-to-face networking meetings in Athens, Bucharest and Belgrade, that will be followed by seven more meetings, hosted in each country of the SEERA-EI consortium.

News from partners

SEERA-EI Project was Presented at ITSN-2010 International Conference

SEERA-EI was presented during the International Conference on Information Technologies, Systems and Networks (ITSN-2010) which took place on 25 – 26 February 2010 in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

Speakers from RENAM Association presented four reports related to e-infrastructure development in Moldova, as well as technical and administrative aspects of the SEERA-EI Project. At the opening session the General Director of RENAM, Prof. Andrei Andries made a brief introduction to the importance of e-infrastructure national sustainability policy support by governmental programs, and outlined the project objectives. The leading specialist of RENAM presented a roadmap of e-infrastructure and grid computing development in Europe and in Moldova, including aspects of EGI activities, different aspects of security manage-

ment in grid and HPC environments. The presentations had a significant impact on national policy-makers, and generated high interest of the Conference auditorium.

The ITSN-2010 was organized by the Free International University of Moldova, in cooperation with: the Ministry of Information Technologies & Communications, the Ministry of Education, the Centre of Special Telecommunications of Moldova, the International Commission for Optics, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the Technical University of Moldova, the State University of Moldova, the University of Sussex (UK), the Optical Society SPIE-Moldova, and RENAM Association.

"Policies for the Sector of Electronic Communications" in the Republic of Albania

On February 16th, 2010 the Albanian Minister of State Genc Pollo presented in a public event the document "policies for the sector of electronic communications".

This policy paper sets out the government's mid-term strategy for the development of networks and services for electronic communications in the Republic of Albania.

The paper reviews the present situation in the Albanian electronic communications market. It considers the political context, the institutional arrangements created by the present law and possible future trends. It considers the need to adapt Albania's arrangements in response to convergence between broadcasting and private communications. It sets out the government's vision of the future electronic communications sector in the context of related national plans and it sets out objectives for certain important subjects where action is needed or where guidance for state institutions would be helpful.

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About SEERA-EI

SEERA-EI will provide an open forum for national-level programme owners in order to enable the coordination of national programmes in the field of electronic infrastructures. The initiative brings together 19 partners from 10 countries in the South-East European region and will set the framework for the adoption of a common regional agenda for eInfrastructure. **SEERA-EI receives EC support through FP7 under the "Research Infrastructures" action.**

The project will gather and exchange information regarding current e- Infrastructure programmes, and a state-of-the-art analysis will be carried out. Through the analysis, a set of best practices and guidelines for national eInfrastructure programmes will be produced, and areas for joint regional activities will be identified, ranging from short-term soft actions, mid-term policy level actions, to preparatory activities for long-term actions.

SEERA-EI is coordinated by the Greek Research & Technology Network (GRNET) and the partnership consists of 10 programme owners – Ministries and Research councils involved in national funding of electronic infrastructures, and 9 "operational" partners, typically operating the infrastructures in the respective countries and implementing the programmes strategy.

SEERA-EI will ensure local commitment and a harmonized approach towards national-level initiatives in electronic infrastructures. The initiative will pave the way towards common regional vision, strategy and sustainable cooperation, which will give the region a common voice on European and international stage and strengthen the ERA as a whole, enabling collaborative high-quality research across a spectrum of scientific fields.