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SEERA-EI Open Workshop "South-East European eInfrastructures: programming and vision" Working towards a Common Vision and Sustainable Cooperation in South East Europe

Regional vision and long term cooperation for the development of sustainable eInfrastructures in South East Europe were the main topics that were discussed at the SEERA-EI Open Workshop "South-East European eInfrastructures: programming and vision". The event was held with great success in Sofia, Bulgaria on May 12th, and brought together high-level representatives from ministries and national agencies of 10 South East European countries, amongst whom were 3 vice-Ministers and a number of Ministerial councilors and heads of executive departments.

The workshop became the platform for exchanging ideas and enabling cooperation towards the formulation of the eInfrastructures strategy for

the region. The European Commission representative, Information Society and Media Directorate-General GÉANT & eInfrastructures, as well as representatives of National Research & Education Networks and National Grid Initiatives were also present.



During the discussions, special emphasis was given on the significant impact of the joint technical activities that have taken place in the field of eInfrastructures in SEE over the past 6 years. The participants agreed on

the importance of formulating a joint vision and adopting a common regional agenda, based on shared experiences in supporting and funding eInfrastructures on the level of individual countries. By the end of the workshop, policy makers had agreed on working together towards this vision and the joint action plan of cooperation, as specified in the Distribution of Work of the SEERA-EI project.

The workshop was hosted by the Institute for Parallel Processing of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IPP-BAS), with the support of Executive Agency for Electronic Communications Network and Information Systems (EA EGNIS).

SEERA-EI and e-InfraNET signed Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding between SEERA-EI and e-InfraNET was signed on 2 July 2010, that sets a framework of collaboration between the two projects.

The goals of this collaboration are:

- information exchange regarding past & present eInfrastructure-related programmes, policies and priorities in South-East Europe and beyond
- Sharing relevant recommendations for the programme managers,

policy and strategies in eInfrastructures that the projects might produce

- Sharing the database of relevant programme managers' contacts, as well as similar data as that related to potential evaluators etc.
- Participation in each other's events, and specifically in dissemination and training activities.

HP-SEE project kick off: High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities

A new project that will pave the way towards a long-term vision of a sustainable, transparent, ubiquitous electronic infrastructure in South East Europe was launched this September. HP-SEE (High-Performance Computing Infrastructure for South East Europe's Research Communities) will link existing and upcoming HPC facilities in South East Europe in a common infrastructure, and it will provide operational solutions for it. As a complementary action, the project will establish and maintain a GÉANT link for Southern Caucasus. The initiative, which kicked off in Athens on 6th September 2010, will open the South East European HPC infrastructure to a wide range of new user communities, including those of less-resourced countries, fostering collaboration and providing advanced capabilities to researchers, with an emphasis on strategic groups in computational physics, computa-

tional chemistry and life sciences. HP-SEE receives EC support through FP7 under the "Research Infrastructures" action.



HP-SEE will support and strengthen a number of strategic Virtual Research Communities, which will bring together users across the SEE region within a common cooperative research space, enabling them to share HPC facilities, software, tools, data and results of their work. Thus, the project will directly contribute to the co-ordination of high-

quality research and ease, and enhance the access and usability of the available infrastructure.

The project brings together 14 partners from the SEE region, while more than 10 institutions have been selected to participate in the project as third parties to the consortium partners. Additionally, the involvement of scientists from the countries of the Black Sea region contributes also towards the achievement of the Black Sea Synergy Initiative aims.

With HP-SEE, regional scientists and engineers that will be provided with access to capability computers of leadership-class, will remain competitive at the European and international level, thus overcoming fragmentation in Europe.

News from partners

Fiber Link Moldova-Romania Inauguration event: Chisinau, Moldova, 20-21 May 2010

On 20th May, at the premises of the Technical University of Moldova the inauguration of the Fiber link Republic of Moldova – Romania, which is providing connection to the European academic network GEANT, took place. The event was organized by the Research & Educational Network Association of Moldova – RENAM, in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and leading universities of the country, with support of SEERA-EI project.

The European Commission FP7 Capacities and NATO Science for Peace Programmes contributed to this performance by providing grants, thanks to which modern fiber connection to GEANT, as well as communication infrastructure for e-science, e-education and e-medicine in Moldova has been established and developed.

At the event special emphasis was given on the perspectives of national & regional infrastructure development programmes forming, cooperation of policy makers, and funding bodies in promotion and

realization in Moldova and other South-East countries of new infrastructure development initiatives.

The event gathered representatives from the European Commission, the NATO Scientific Council, the European bodies TERENA, DANTE and CEENET, National Research & Education Networks, the SEERA-EI project Consortium, and policy makers from a range of states; thus all those that directly contributed to the carrying out of this event (finance, expertise, consultancy). Additionally, the event was attended by representatives of the Government, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, domestic universities - all those which invest great hopes into the future of informational society.



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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 implementing the programmes strategy and operational issues.

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.



www.seera-ei.eu

SEERA-EI and SEE-GRID-SCI projects at ECRI 2010

The SEERA-EI and SEE-GRID-SCI projects' activities were presented during the Sixth European Conference on Research Infrastructures (ECRI2010) which took place in Barcelona. The two projects had a booth at the exhibition area of the conference, and presented their objectives and workplan towards the enhancement of e- Infrastructures in South East Europe, which is an integral part of the European Strategy for the development of the European Research Area.

The objectives of the conference were:

- to foster and develop the European Research Area through European Infrastructures
- to boost the creation and implementation of the RI of the ESFRI Roadmap
- to intensify the exchange of views between the Members States in order to fully implement the ESFRI RoadMap

SEERA-EI Steering Committee and Programme Managers Meeting took place in Montenegro

The 5th SEERA-EI PSC Steering Committee and programme managers meeting took place in Montenegro on 22-24 September 2010. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro. The first part of the meeting had the form of the open workshop, where Montenegrin eInfrastructures and specific programmes

were presented in detail. Moreover, Igor Radusinovic, Deputy Minister for Science, Ministry of Education and Science, and Radule Novovic, Deputy Minister for ICT promotion, Ministry of Information Society, presented the policies and visions of their Ministries with respect to eInfrastructures.

During the meeting the partners reviewed the

project progress and work plan, with emphasis on planning of joint actions; and analysis and planning of regional cooperation thematic areas. Additionally, the partners provided up to date information about current e-Infrastructure programmes, future plans and opportunities in the region.