



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Development of the European initiative for eInfrastructures during the Greek Presidency**

A significant European initiative on eInfrastructure has been put forward during the Greek presidency, regarding the shaping of attitudes and the establishment of the necessary administrative support for the development of electronic Infrastructure (eInfrastructure) and electronic Science (eScience) in the European Research Area.

This initiative was the topic of the workshop entitled: “**Towards integrated Networking and Grids infrastructures for eScience and beyond -The EU eInfrastructures Initiative**” that took place on 12 June 2003, in Athens. The workshop was organized, under the aegis of the Greek presidency, by the General Secretariat for Research & Technology (GSRT), the Greek Research & Technology Network (GRNET), the National Documentation Centre (EKT) and the European Commission. The participants were mainly policy makers and high officials, research administrators, experts/visionaries in the area of eInfrastructure and representatives of the related business community from the Member States, the Associated States and the Western Balkan Countries.

The main objective of the workshop was to launch an open-discussion among European countries for the development of a new European policy on eInfrastructure.

The main goals involve:

- the provision of a framework for easier, faster and more cost-effective access to all researchers in Europe and to all types of information resources (networking, computing, data storage) distributed across Europe
- the promotion of implementing a better practice for such a model in the research area, in order to facilitate and accelerate the recent commercial uptake of the new paradigm

A welcome speech was given by the General Secretary for Research & Technology, Dimitris Deniozos and the Secretary for the Information Society of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Yannis Kalogirou. Policy makers and high officials of European Commission, the Chairmen of the Board of National Research & Development Networks together with experts from national initiatives on Grids and CERN participated in the discussion.

The basic goal of the 6th Framework Programme, financed with 370 million euros, is to build up electronic infrastructure for secure and divided use of computers and data storage and therefore, change dramatically the way the Internet has been being used so far. For this reason, GRIDs are considered to be the technology that will lead us towards the world wide web of the next generation.

Updated and additional information on:

<http://www.cordis.lu/greece/events120603.htm>