

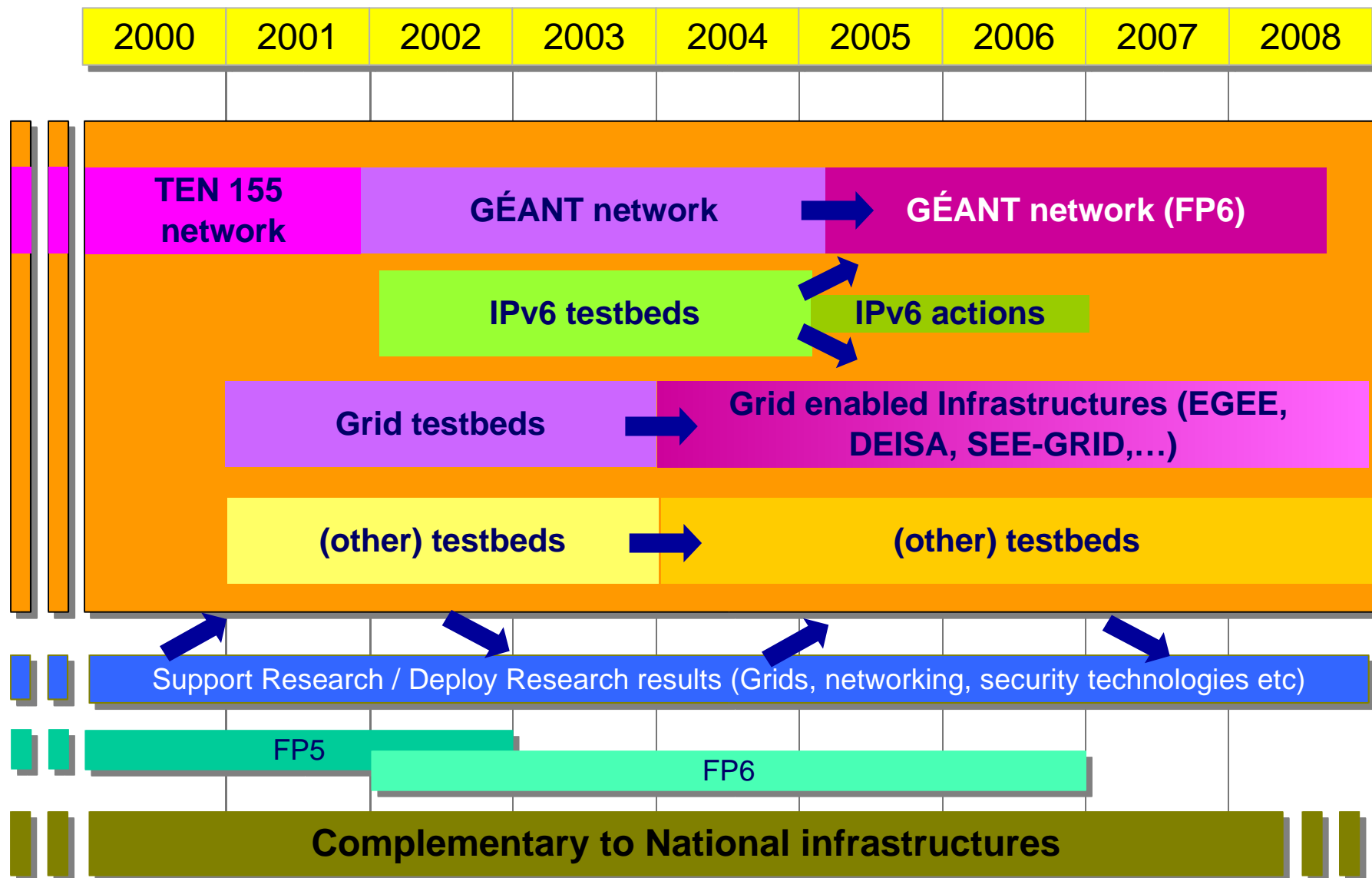
**eInfrastructure Policy Initiative meeting
The Hague, 18 November 2004**

Current and future roles of the e-IRG in building the eInfrastructure

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■ Building the European eInfrastructure - steps



■ eInfrastructure - policies at the core...

Supporting EU policies...

- ★ “corner-stone” of the European Research Area
- ★ “spear-head” of an “eEurope infrastructure” (e.g. broadband plus)
- ★ “integrator” of National Infrastructures
- ★ powerful “instrument” for International cooperation
- ★ ... cohesion, cooperation, standards, industry uptake etc...

Policy initiatives supporting the deployment of eInfrastructures...

- ★ National Research Networks (NREN) Policy committee
- ★ **eInfrastructures Reflection Group (eIRG)**
- ★ IPv6 Task Force



■ eIRG - promoting a new dimension of EU common market

- ★ Non-technical aspects including organizational policies are significant barriers in deploying resource sharing technologies (Grids...)
- ★ FP6 investment on resource sharing technologies (notably Grids...): €300m
- ★ Shared electronic infrastructures is the way forward...

eIRG: a new policy and administrative framework for the easy and cost effective shared use of ICT-resources in Europe

- ★ Important steps so far in Authentication, Authorisation...
- ★ Strong support by European States...

International character of ICT-infrastructure (Cyber-infrastructure, i-Infrastructure, eInfrastructure)...the challenge is global



■ Related efforts in Grid research

GridCoord: ERA Pilot on a co-ordinated Europe-wide initiative on Grid Research



- Situation in Europe
 - With more than 10 Grid Research programmes at MS & EU level, Europe is strong on Grid Research but fragmented
 - Weaknesses identified related to commercial exploitation of Grid research by European industry
- General Objectives
 - Overcome fragmentation and dispersion across EU to reinforce impact of national and Community research
 - Strengthen Europe's position in Grid Research and its exploitation



■ Related efforts in Grid research

GridCoord: support for building a ERA on Grid Research



- Major Activities
 - Compendium & gap analysis
 - Regular forum for funding bodies
 - Derive options and a roadmap for a long term EU vision
 - Support actions related to standardisation, maturity, ...
- Strengths
 - Requirements endorsed by 10 Member States in 2003
 - GridCoord considered an ERA pioneer in IST
 - 9 MSs represented in GridCoord
- Next Steps / Opportunities beyond GridCoord
 - Broaden industrial involvement along value chain
 - Broaden scope - include web, knowledge, SW technologies

■ Discussing the future role of the eIRG

The discussion on FP7
is currently on-going

Preliminary proposals in the context of FP7 support a key role of the eIRG

- ★ Commission's Communication of June 2004: Research Infrastructures (RI) to be strengthened through a targeted support for the construction of new infrastructures of European interest
- ★ In agreement with conclusions of informal Competition Council of July, this will require the development of a strategic roadmap for RI in Europe for the next 10 to 20 years (with regular updates)
- ★ In this context, a key role of ESFRI and the eIRG: to become one entity with four steering groups (Physical Sciences and Engineering, Biological and Medical Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and the **eIRG**) to prepare - among other activities – the above strategic roadmap

Next generation eInfrastructures to be driven more by policy/business aspects and less by systems!



■ Indicative dates for the preparation of the RI roadmaps

The discussion on FP7 is currently on-going

Consolidation of work

November 2004

First Roadmap(s)

Summer 2005

Commission draft communication

Autumn 2005

Towards a Council resolution and presentation of specific programmes

Beginning 2006



■ Next challenges and opportunities for the eIRG

- ★ Consolidate structure (in view, in particular, of the new challenges)
- ★ Intensify work, prepare for future challenges
- ★ Work in eIRG can provide a good basis for synergy among research projects and among also research funded programmes
- ★ By harmonising policies in accessing and using data/databases numerous other areas (examples: eGovernment, eHealth...) can significantly benefit - *new opportunity for the eIRG!*
- ★ Need to address more intensively international co-operation aspects (international links of eInfrastructure, international collaboration on policy initiatives...) - *the challenge is global!*

To support above objectives the Commission is making new budget available in next RI-Call (to be launched in December 2004)

[info to appear on: www.cordis.lu/ist/rn](http://www.cordis.lu/ist/rn)

