



NETWORKING SESSION



e-IRG Workshop

4-5 October 2006

Keilaniemi, Finland

Networking Session

Chair: Lajos Balint

Co-Chair: Victor Castelo

Goal:

Research in ERA to be best served & inspired by RN

3 basic groups of issues investigated:

Group A: RN Operation

- State of the Art, Service Provision, User Support

Group B: RN Governance

- Organisational Structure, Policy Goals, Funding

Group C: RN Development

- Global Role, Uniform Coverage, Collaboration

Referred background:

e-IRG achievements:

- Networking section of the e-IRG White Paper - Austrian edition
- e-IRG recommendations tabled at the 4 October e-IRG Meeting
- Networking section of the e-IRG Roadmap

Related activities:

- related activities of TERENA, the NREN Consortium, DANTE ...

ESFRI Roadmap for European Research Infrastructure:

- central role of networking to support research recognised
- European and national infrastructures are to be integrated
- GRID-like Pan-European infrastructure for all user communities

K.Ullmann The Future of Research Networking in Europe

(Plenary presentation at the e-IRG Open Workshop, 4-5.10.2006)

EARNEST: studying research networking and the next RN generation

Basic groups of issues investigated:

Group A: RN Operation

- State of the Art, Service Provision, User Support

- A1 Research Networks: what, why, how
 - the European perspective
- A2 Permanent service provision
 - objectives, conditions, realities
- A3 Planning, building, operating, and using the RN
 - joint roles of developers-providers-users
- A4 User demands and provision of service
 - coincidence or discrepancies
- A5 Informing, training, educating, teaching
 - real users vs. potential users

Basic groups of issues investigated:

Group B: RN Governance

- Organisational Structure, Policy Goals, Funding

- B1 Governing the RN – responsibilities and duties of the providers and the users

- B2 The hierarchical governance model of the European NRENs
 - extension towards applications

- B3 Funding structure, funding level
 - importance, role, influence

Basic groups of issues investigated:

Group C: RN Development

- Global Role, Uniform Coverage, Collaboration

- C1 Leading edge position in global sense
 - complexity needs a differentiated approach
- C2 Handling the digital divide
 - widening coverage and narrowing gaps
- C3 Co-operation opportunities in evaluating development trends and preparing development plans

Summary: Conclusions

- **overlapping of activities (e-IRG, EARNEST, ...) requires co-operation**
(coverage to be agreed)
- **integrating the efforts (e-IRG, TERENA, ...) increases efficiency**
(efforts to be joined)
- **matching approaches results in clear / unambiguous messages**
(approaches of providers / users to be harmonised)
- **balanced view of needs allows harmony in provision / usage**
(balanced view to be attained)
- **proven organisational / governance structure of RN widely extendable**
(extension to entire e-Infrastructure theoretically possible)
- **lack of appropriate funding causes losing impetus**
(annual FP7 funds to be considerably elevated)
- **sustainability is a common key goal**
(sustainable operation & sustainable funding)

Summary: Suggested Next Steps (others may follow):

- e-IRG – TERENA – DANTE co-operation
**to survey demand / supply in network service
(user / provider forecasts to allow realistic balancing)**
- E-IRG – TERENA – NREN PC- ENPG co-operation
**to survey funding needs in view of European and global goals
(necessity / availability of European and national funds to be investigated)**
- E-IRG – TERENA – NREN PC- ENPG co-operation
**to survey operational / financial sustainability
(conditions of complex sustainability to be analysed, corollaries to be derived)**

Main message:

Research Networks

- are of excellent state in 2006
- are the result of 20 years intense efforts
- are managed by the scientific community
- are operated by NRENs (totally different from „normal” CSPs)
- are directly driven by the specific and advanced user's needs
- are characterised by a proven, well working governance structure
- have to keep the high standard
- need continuous development
- should fulfil the growing needs of scientific users
- need collaboration with most advanced user(s) (groups)
- should continuously aim at next generation technologies
- should step by step develop the next generation solutions
- need considerable financial support
- should be funded both nationally and on the European level

Leading edge RN to be maintained, extended,
improved!