

Research Networking in Europe and in Hungary

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Abstract

At the end of the first complete year after Hungary joining the EU, the contribution provides yet an "internal view" about how much some important features of NIIF/Hungarnet's organisational structure, background conditions, and state of development are comparable to the similar properties of the NRENs in the other EU member countries, and more generally, of the other Consortium members co-operating within the GEANT-related projects, and of some further TERENA national members. The comparative analysis covers the organisational aspects, the financial and funding issues, the properties of the NREN membership in the related countries, the parameters of the national research networks, the characteristics of the network traffic and the spectrum of network applications, as well as the development trends and plans of the NRENs. The role of the international co-operation and EU-supported multilateral projects will receive an elevated emphasis in the presentation, especially with respect to the GN1 and GN2 projects devoted to the development and operation of the GEANT network. Some other EU FP5 and FP6 projects will also be briefly dealt with. Similar emphasis will also be put on characterising the activities of the international organisations being the most important contributors to the success story of European research networking (TERENA, the NREN-PC, DANTE, ENPG, etc.) Finally, as perhaps the most important element of a medium-range foresight in European research networking, the preparations for the 7th Research and Technological Development Programme (FP7) of the EU will be investigated, in the hope that the most up-to-date information at the date of the Conference will be at least as promising as the final outcome of the exciting 2002 debates had been when the FP6 preparations had been concluded with really pleasing figures, and had established an optimistic perspective with regard to the recently launched, but at that time still just roughly outlined, GN2 project.