

Introduction

Since the first edition of the Compendium in 2001, it has grown into a sought-after and authoritative source of reference for all those who take an interest in the development of research and education networking. The information contained in the Compendium has continued to grow in variety and dependability, even though caution in interpreting the data remains essential.

This year's edition is the first that is part of the GN2 (GÉANT2) project and that has benefited from the input from activity leaders in that project. This year, the Compendium has been expanded with a new chapter on Services, with additional tables in Appendix 1 and with a glossary in Appendix 2. For a number of key areas, an attempt has been made for the first time to aggregate data for groups of NRENs and to look at and partially explain multi-year trends. These aggregations and explanations are given in 'overview' sections on Users/Clients, Network and Traffic. Throughout the Compendium, such analytical or explanatory text has been highlighted. Some of the trends have again been summarised in the "Summary of key findings" below.

The production of the 2005 edition was overseen by a Review Panel composed of the following people:

Lajos Bálint (Hungary), Marko Bonač (Slovenia), Peter Kaufmann (Germany), Urs Eppenberger (Switzerland), Sabine Jaume-Rajaonia (France) and Mike Norris (Ireland). Inputs were also received from a number of Activity Leaders in the GN2 project, from the the TERENA Technical Staff and from the TERENA Secretary General.

Collecting data of this type typically requires the involvement of a number of people from each NREN, as well as careful checking by NREN staff. TERENA wishes to express its gratitude to all those in the NRENs who contributed to the gathering, submitting, clarifying and double-checking of the data contained in this publication.

The Compendium consists of two parts: the basic information as submitted by the individual NRENs (available on the web at <http://www.terena.nl/compendium>) and this publication.

Most tables and graphs first show the EU and EFTA countries and then other countries. In some cases, it was thought to be helpful to present slightly smaller groups of countries, in the following way:

- * the EU-15 and EFTA countries;
- * the new EU member states (that joined on 1 May 2004);
- * those countries that are not part of the EU or EFTA but whose NRENs participate in the GN2 project;
- * other countries.

A full list of the countries in each category is given below. In each category, the data is usually presented in alphabetical order by the English-language name of each country. An alphabetical list of NRENs included in the Compendium is in Appendix 2.

It is hoped that this fifth edition of the Compendium will prove to be at least as valuable as the previous ones. Feedback is again invited and will be key to the future development of the Compendium!

Bert van Pinxteren
TERENA Chief Administrative Officer

In a number of places in this document, reference is made to the SERENATE studies. The SERENATE project was an Accompanying Measure in the Information Society Technologies programme of the Fifth Framework Programme and was supported as such by the European Union. The summary report, 'Networks for Knowledge and Innovation', ISBN 90-77559-01-9 is available from the TERENA Secretariat and on the web, at <http://www.serenate.org/publications/d21-serenate.pdf>

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Find a list of these countries below:

EU-15: European Union countries before 1 May 2004	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom
EFTA countries	Iceland, Norway, Switzerland
New member states: the countries that joined the European Union on the 1st of June 2004	Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
Non-EU/EFTA GN2 partner countries: countries that participate in the GN2 project but that are outside of the EU and the EFTA	Croatia, Bulgaria, Israel, Russia, Romania, Turkey
Other countries	see the map and table in section 1.0 for a full overview of the countries that are included in the Compendium