



K A U N O
TECHNOLOGIJOS
UNIVERSITETAS

Usage of structural funds by LITNET organizations

Raimundas Tuminauskas (raimis@litnet.lt)

Neringa Dumalakaitė (neringa.dumalakaitė@ktu.lt)

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R&E network financing from SF in Lithuania

RAIN project

Project aim is to create a fibre-optics based broadband access in the rural areas of Lithuania.

NOT directly related with R&E networking, will only be used as a service for interconnecting schools where applicable.

Project directly matches the priorities set up in the SPD of Lithuania:

- addresses digital divide of undeveloped areas
- makes investments in areas where commercial operators have no intention to build infrastructure
- should foster development of small businesses in rural areas

Project coordinator: Institute of Mathematics and Informatics

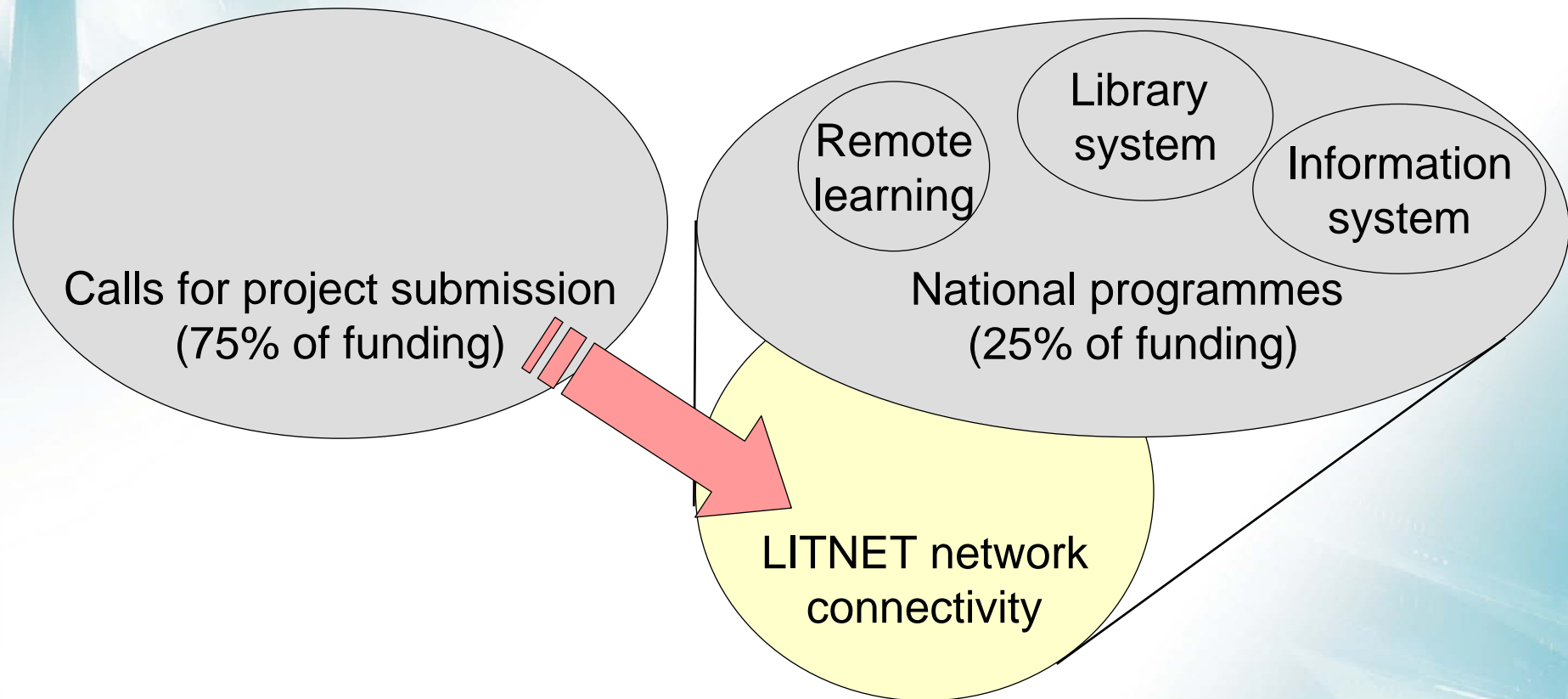
Project partners: Ministry of transportation
Ministry of education

Main difficulties / obstacles:

1. Fear of decision of local authorities (conflict of interests ?..)
2. New source of financing – unclear and unstable rules/guides.



Funding of national educational and research programmes from SF





R&E network financing from SF in Lithuania LITNET RC project

Project aim is to provide required services for local and international scientific and educational projects:

- provide required services for national programmes
- provide the Geant/Geant2 service continuity over LITNET backbone

Project directly aimed to upgrade LITNET backbone ring capabilities matching the capacities of intercity connections.

Project coordinator: Kaunas University of Technology

Relevant priority and measure of SPD:

1 Priority Development of social and economic infrastructure

5 Measure Development of the accessibility and productivity of education, science & study and social infrastructure (supplementing the measures financed by the European social fund)

Project status:

Final proposal submission to the tender is scheduled for 21 12 2005,



Directions of upgrade

Transmission

Driven by deployment of optic fibre cables

DWDM Kaunas-Vilnius Q42005

One link per year on the ring

LITNET resources

Routing

5 main nodes on the ring

Still 4-5 years until full optic fibre, have to rely on services (1GE, lambdas later)

Edge-to-edge service continuity, sometimes end-to-end

Some aggregation of customers in POP's

ERDF grant

Management

Edge-to-edge manageability a must

Moving towards the end-to-end manageability

Toolset for reporting

Service manageability



Experience getting ERDF grant

1. Current guidelines for the implementation of network-oriented projects are not directed to the R&E networks (highest possible speeds, state of art services etc.).
2. Highest monitoring requirements for the project implementation. Every project activity has to be reported extensively thus sometimes requiring more resources than the activity itself.
 - R&E oriented projects do not usually provide 100% outcome
 - Outcome of the service oriented projects is not easily measurable
3. In the countries that receive ESF funding for the first time, nobody actually knows how all the procedures will work, thus there is a tendency to “overmanage” the projects putting probably unnecessary requirements for the implementation.

This may lead to further complexity of the bureaucratic apparatus and additional requirements in those countries.



Further ideas for financing

2004 – 2006 financing period

LITGRID:

Connecting the research institutes to the data processing centres in the universities.

2007 – 2013 financing period

LITNET infrastructure:

Deployment of additional backbone rings

Interconnecting schools in the cities using optical fibre cables

Additional funding to use RAIN infrastructure for the school network in rural areas

LITNET network:

Modernization of the smaller regional centres not only to provide the bandwidth, but also predictable services



Discussion – possible questions for the EC

Easing the local administration in the scientific sectors:

results of scientific and research infrastructure are not directly measurable, and enforcement of 100% outcome discourage potential beneficiaries.

Educating local project administration in EC member states:

EC could offer more consultations for the fresh national project administrators. Sharing experience with more advanced members of community.



Action programmes for the period 2007 – 2013 years

Currently on the national level there are no discussions regarding quite close future of the funding priorities and measures.

Organizations intent to participate in the creation process of those priorities so that the current experience would not be wasted.

Some correspondence level to the EC guidelines should be preserved and controlled