

NEWS FROM TERENA (140)



Final Report of the SERENATE studies published

31 December 2003

Today, the Summary Report of the SERENATE studies was published by TERENA. The report, titled "Networks for Knowledge and Innovation – A strategic study of European research and education networking", was written by David Williams, Marko Bonač, Ian Butterworth, Dai Davies, Sabine Jaume-Rajaonia, Tony Mayer, Knud Erik Skouby and Karel Vietsch.

SERENATE (Study into European Research and Education Networking As Targeted by eEurope) was a series of strategic studies into the future of research and education networking in Europe. The SERENATE project had the aim to contribute to the development of policies by the European Commission, national governments and funding bodies, the management of universities and research institutes, and national research and education networking organisations, by looking into the technical, organisational and financial aspects of the development of research networking in the next 5-10 years, as well as the regulatory environment and the market conditions. The project was funded by the European Union with an amount of nearly 960,000 euro.

The main conclusions in the Summary Report come under the following headings:

- Research and education networks are an important asset and a significant source of innovation.
- The current organisational model of research networking in Europe is expected to be a key to success for at least the next 5-10 years.
- Optical networking is coming and everyone can and should participate.
- Very demanding applications are coming and need careful attention.
- There is a digital divide inside the European research and education community.
- The campus is often the weakest link in the network chain.
- Users need end-to-end quality, a compatible European Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure, and value-added services.
- Inclusiveness of the user community of a National Research and Education Network can only be determined nationally, but obvious economies of scale exist in smaller countries.
- There is a crucial role for the European Union.

The SERENATE Summary Report has been published on the Web at

[http:// www.serenate.org/publications/d21-serenate.pdf](http://www.serenate.org/publications/d21-serenate.pdf)

Printed copies may be obtained from the TERENA Secretariat, as long as stocks last.

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