

## NEWS FROM TERENA (158)

### New TERENA Task Force on Voice, Video and Collaboration



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The TERENA Technical Committee has adopted the Terms of Reference of a new Task Force that will investigate the suitability of voice, video and collaboration technologies for implementation in research and education networks in Europe. TF-VVC, the Task Force on Voice, Video and Collaboration, has been established for a period of two years from 1 September 2004 and will be chaired by Egon Verharen of SURFnet (the Netherlands).

The Task Force will promote the ongoing development and testing of currently available collaboration technologies and services, and will define, develop and test new video, voice and collaboration services, which can subsequently be introduced by national research and education networking organisations and/or be supported by the European research networking backbone infrastructure GÉANT2. The Task Force will build on the work done by the earlier TERENA Task Forces TF-Stream and TF-Netcast, and in TERENA's IP Telephony Cookbook project.

The Terms of Reference of the new Task Force mention twelve activity areas:

- The Task Force will provide a collection of best-practice documents, overviews and guidelines related to the provision of voice, video and data collaboration services.
- TF-VVC will support the development, testing and rollout of Content Delivery Network software.
- In the area of Content Access Portals, the Task Force will collaborate with other initiatives worldwide in order to gather information about existing content and to investigate other CAP related questions. An example is the co-ordination with the Internet2 Research Channel Global Initiative.
- TF-VVC will promote existing materials about the metadata published by TF-Netcast and will encourage the discussions about models and metadata.
- The Task Force will promote the Announcements Portal that was developed by TF-Netcast; it will investigate its possible extension to an Academic Netcasting Channel.
- The Task Force will actively contribute to discussions on international dial and numbering plans for videoconferencing and Voice-over-IP (independent of protocol), and will make recommendations on how to set up interconnected systems.
- Information on how different collaborative multimedia technologies can be integrated will be collected and made available to the Task Force participants.
- Workshops will be organised about high-end/quality systems.
- In relation to usability and the improvement of user interfaces, the Task Force will promote the discussion about user needs, collect these needs and contact equipment vendors to ask for the required improvements.
- TF-VVC will collaborate with the TERENA Task Forces TF-EMC2 and TF-Mobility to investigate the middleware requirements for access to video resources.
- As regards the deployment of IP telephony, the Task Force will produce, among others, a survey of existing IP telephony deployments, and recommendations on how to connect different nodes.
- Finally, TF-VVC will publish recommendations on how to measure end-to-end performance of real-time conferencing applications.

More information on TF-VVC can be found at:

<http://www.terena.nl/tech/task-forces/tf-vvc/>

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