

Amsterdam, 28 October 2005

## TERENA HOLDS SECOND WORKSHOP ON CONNECTING SCHOOLS TO NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKS

The second TERENA workshop on connecting schools was organised by TERENA and UKERNA\*, hosted by UKERNA, and sponsored by UKERNA and Becta\*\*. The workshop was held in London at the Royal United Services Institute over two days, 24 and 25 October 2005.

About forty participants attended the workshop, about the same number as the first TERENA workshop on connecting schools. This time the group was concentrated primarily on representatives from National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) that are already involved in the business of connecting primary and secondary schools to their networks. The subjects of security and videoconferencing proved to be of greatest interest to the participants.

Participants were asked about their primary expectations from this workshop and the ongoing activities of the group. The majority said that they need support and arguments to defend their position with government. They would also like to collaborate with other NRENs in developing services for schools.

A parallel session on technical issues was chaired by Rob Symberlist of UKERNA. In this session, participants tried to identify success factors and problems they have faced in connecting schools to Internet and providing them with value-added services.

Another parallel session dealt with management, funding and political issues. It was chaired by TERENA's President, Dorte Olesen and reported by Marco Bonać of ARNES, Slovenia. A commitment was made by several experienced NRENs to prepare white papers, clearly setting out the pros and cons of connecting schools. These will be available to NRENs to assist them in preparing arguments for negotiating with their local authorities and funding bodies.

Another area of future collaboration was proposed by Rob Symberlist. He will coordinate plans to set up a structure that will enable videoconferencing between schools in different countries.

Baiba Kaškina and Valentino Cavalli of TERENA organised the programme and provided support for the workshop. A TERENA Briefing with a detailed report on the workshop can be found at:

<http://www.terena.nl/news/briefings/second-schools1605.pdf>

The agenda from the workshop with the full list of speakers and presentations can be found at:

<http://www.terena.nl/schools/workshop-2/>

\*UKERNA operates JANET, the national research and education network of the United Kingdom - <http://www.ukerna.ac.uk/>

\*\*Becta is the British Educational Communications Agency - <http://www.becta.org.uk/>

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