

ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 2006 PRESENTED TO TERENA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The TERENA General Assembly held its 24th meeting on 21 October 2005 in Budapest. The TERENA Executive Committee's activity plan for the year 2006 was presented by TERENA President, Dorte Olesen. The plan starts with a sketch of Europe's position in the worldwide field of research and education networking.

In the past few years there has been very substantial progress in the development of research and education networking in Europe, and in many aspects Europe now has a leading position. However, even in the areas where Europe is ahead of other continents, much work still remains to be done and new challenges are arising all the time. More generally, with essentially no examples from other continents or sectors to follow, the European research networking community will itself have to formulate and agree the path that it will want to take in the coming period.

The Executive Committee highlighted a number of activities for the coming year:

- * *The large-scale Foresight Study into the expected development of research and education networking.* This study will be led by TERENA and which will start in March 2006;
- * *An expansion of TERENA's work in support of research networking organisations and activities in the "under-served" regions in and around Europe.* During 2005, this work has been limited mostly to preparatory arrangements and assessments of the needs of specific countries, but in 2006 these will be complemented by workshops, training courses and other activities that will concretely address specific problems in the countries concerned;
- * *Once again, an enlarged edition of the annual TERENA Compendium of National Research and Education Networks in Europe.* This will include further analysis of trends over time and differences between developments in various parts of Europe;
- * *Organisation of the common work of the European research and education networking community.* In the TERENA Technical Programme, TERENA task forces will to address the technical challenges of, among others, control-plane and middleware issues;
- * *Organisation of an increasing number of workshops on specific topics organised by TERENA.* Examples are the NREN-Grids workshops, the workshops on connecting schools to NRENs, the EuroCAMP workshops and the training courses for CSIRT staff;
- * *Focus of TERENA activities on the research networking community at local (campus) level.* Increasingly, applications require end-to-end service provision, and as a consequence the interaction between those responsible for research networking at international and national level and those responsible at local level needs to be intensified and built on a different footing.

TERENA Vice President Claudio Allocchio presented a number of recent activities in the TERENA Technical Programme, and discussed their progress and the relations between them. TERENA Vice President for Conferences Shirley Wood reported on the results of the TERENA Networking Conference 2005 in Poznań, Poland. The event has been rated the most successful TERENA conference ever. Also financially the result was positive. Shirley Wood went on to report on the preparations of next year's conference, which will be held in Catania, Italy. TERENA Secretariat staff members Bert van Pinxteren and John Dyer presented key findings from the TERENA Compendium 2005 and the progress of the work in assessing the needs of the research and education community in countries in "underserved" regions, respectively.

The General Assembly had an extensive discussion about possible topics to be investigated as part of the upcoming Foresight Study. Suggestions included legal issues, connecting schools, the positioning of research and education networks vis-a-vis the commercial sector, supporting Africa and other underdeveloped regions by providing basic information about research networking, campus networks and the necessary new relationship between those running networks at international and national level and those doing the same on campus, the service portfolio of NRENs, Acceptable Use Policies and whether or not to establish a new policy at European level.

The main points for decision concerned financial matters. Because of the large increase in the Gross National Income of Turkey, overtaking the GNIs of some other countries represented among the TERENA membership, the national member organisation from Turkey was promoted to a higher membership category. The General Assembly adopted the association's budget for the year 2006 and decided to increase all membership fees by approximately 1.4%, to compensate for the ongoing inflation.

The budget predicts a modest surplus of income over expenditure, although this positive expected result is mostly due to one-off windfalls caused by payments from the European Commission to cover part of the cost of projects that have been completed in earlier years. TERENA's turnover in 2006 is expected to be much higher than in previous years, largely because of the extra work involved in the Forecast Study that will be conducted between March 2006 and August 2007 as part of the GN2 project. The budget also makes additional resources available for TERENA's public relations activities.

Finally, the meeting heard updates and exchanged opinions about a number of other issues, including the start of registrations of .eu domain names, and the current political controversy between the United States government and a number of other governments about the governance of the Internet.

The meeting, which was combined with a meeting of the Policy Committee of the GN2 project on the previous day, was hosted by HUNGARNET, the Hungarian national member organisation of TERENA. The event was well attended, with more than 86% of the total number of votes being represented.

For more information about TERENA, its members and the General Assembly, please see:

<http://www.terena.nl/about/>



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