06.05.08

# Milestone MN7.0.2,6: GÉANT2 - A Global Leader

**Milestone MN7.0.2,6**

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**Abstract**

This report describes the GÉANT2 Global Leader event held on 3-4 March 2008 at the Golf Hotel in Bled, Slovenia, including the purpose of the event, an outline the planning activities and a summary of the results and lessons learned.

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# 0 Executive Summary

To celebrate the achievements of GÉANT2 since its launch in 2005, an event was staged on 3-4 March 2008 at the Golf Hotel in Bled, Slovenia. A total of 133 delegates from around the world attended this event. A varied agenda was planned with keynote speakers and presenters from the political, stakeholder and user communities. Activities for the event included preparing scientific and cultural network application demonstrations, developing project and event branding, organising a worldwide videoconference, and a Gala dinner.

Initial feedback from attendees has indicated that the objectives of the event were achieved. The event was deemed to be very successful thanks to collaboration within DANTE's teams, the important contribution of ARNES who organised the local logistics, and the input from the European commission.

A report of the proceedings of the event is posted on the GÉANT2 website at www.geant2.net/global_leader.

# 1 Introduction

This deliverable is a post-event report providing a summary of the event's key objectives and the planning activities which went into organising this event. It also provides analysis of feedback received from attendees. Finally, it summarises the results and the lessons learnt.

# 2 Pre-event Organisation

## 2.1 Project Planning and Control

Planning and organisation of the event was managed in-house by DANTE's PR team. Venue management and logistics, VIP assistance and provision of connectivity to the conference and its side meetings were handled by ARNES, the Slovenian NREN.

The bulk of the event preparation, including compilation of the invitation list, drafting of the agenda, promotions, and design/branding process, was begun only in December 2007, severely limiting the amount of time available for the organisation of this event. This situation was largely due to internal resourcing issues.

## 2.2 Planning Assumptions

Attendance at the event was 'by invitation only' and delegates would have free entry to the conference, but each would be expected to pay their own travel/hotel expenses. The decision on timing and location were dictated by a desire to participate in the Research Infrastructures week being held by the Slovenian EU Presidency in the week of 3 March, providing the opportunity to showcase the achievements of the network to many of those participating in events that week.

## 2.3 Event Objectives

The key objectives for this event were:

- To celebrate the achievements of the network.
- To provide a forum to discuss achievements and future developments in European and global research networking.

- To bring together senior representatives of the networking community, opinion formers, representatives of funding bodies and users of research and education networking.
- To demonstrate the global dimension of GÉANT2 and European initiatives to develop global connectivity.
- To understand the evolving requirements of different user groups.
- To show the capabilities of the network with live demonstrations of applications that takes advantage of GÉANT2.

# 3 Conference Agenda

The drafting of the conference agenda continued to progress as the planning proceeded and, despite many alterations including some last-minute changes, a full programme was presented, featuring many senior figures from the community. The presentations were met with enthusiasm by the attending delegates. The final agenda for the event can be seen in Appendix A. The structure of the event was as follows:

- Day One – *GÉANT2 achievements and successor,* with local minister's welcome address; EU Commissioner Viviane Reding's speech; further presentations by senior personalities from the political and networking world.

- Day Two – Session I: *GÉANT2: Global/Regional Networking Perspective,* featuring presentations both from within the auditorium and from ten remote locations around the world discussing the achievements and plans for various areas around the world (Asia Pacific, Central Asia, East Europe and Latin America)

- Day Two – Session II: *Current and future uses of pan-European networking,* featuring presentations from users of the Network presenting how their projects had benefited from GÉANT2, their achievements and future requirements for research and education networking.

## 3.1 Global Perspective: Videoconferencing Presentations from across the Globe

DANTE and GÉANT2 in collaboration with GLOBAL and the ISABEL network, connected several NRENs across the world. This was intended to give the chance for other global sites to contribute directly to the event in Bled, either with full presentations, lightning presentations or just as spectators. Despite a few glitches (mostly related to satellite connections) the presentations were well received.

The table below illustrates the sites that registered to participate.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Jožef Stefan Institute** (Ljubljana) IJS. | Slovenia |
| **TUBITAK-ULAKBIM** (Ankara) TUB. | Turkey |
| **Advanced Science Technology Institute** (Quezon City) ASTI. | Philippines |
| **Malaysian Research & Education Network** MYREN. | Malaysia |
| **Institut Teknologi Bandung** ITB. | Indonesia |
| **CERNET(**Beijing) | China |
| **Red Universitaria Nacional** REUNA. | Chile |
| **CNRST** (Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique) CNRST. | Morocco |
| **CERIST - ARN** (Algiers) CERIST. | Algeria |
| **DANTE-** (Cambridge) | UK |

**Table 3.1:** Overview of videoconferencing participants across the globe

## 3.2 Demonstrations

Four demonstrations were on display at the event to illustrate the capabilities of the network (see Appendix B). These were ASTRA "lost sounds" (two demonstrations), HADES traffic measurement and End-to-end co-ordination unit.

The demonstrations were prominently displayed outside the conference hall available for all delegates to enjoy and, following the opening ceremony, a VIP tour in this exhibition area took place. Again, feedback from conference delegates was generally positive.

# 4 Invitations and Registration

## 4.1 Invitation Process

A delegate invitation list was compiled based on input from the GÉANT2 project partners and the European Commission. On 18 December an advance notice email was sent out to some 600 potential attendees. This initial invitation was followed up two days later with the formal invitation by e-mail and, during the first week of January, with a postal invitation. A further set of invitations was sent out nearer the event, bringing the total number of invitees to 750.

## 4.2 Event Website/Online Registration

An event website was set up at www.geant2.net/global_leader. This site evolved as the planning proceeded. It contained conference objectives, agenda, information on local hotels and the venue, travel requirements information as well as event specific maps. This part of the event website was managed by DANTE, in collaboration with ARNES, who provided access to all the logistic pages.

An online registration system was designed and managed by ARNES and was accessible via a direct link from the event website.

## 4.3 Registration Trend

Registration opened on 21 December. In total, 140 registrations were processed in the period 13 January - 3 March 2008. The chart below visualises the registration trend over the registration period.

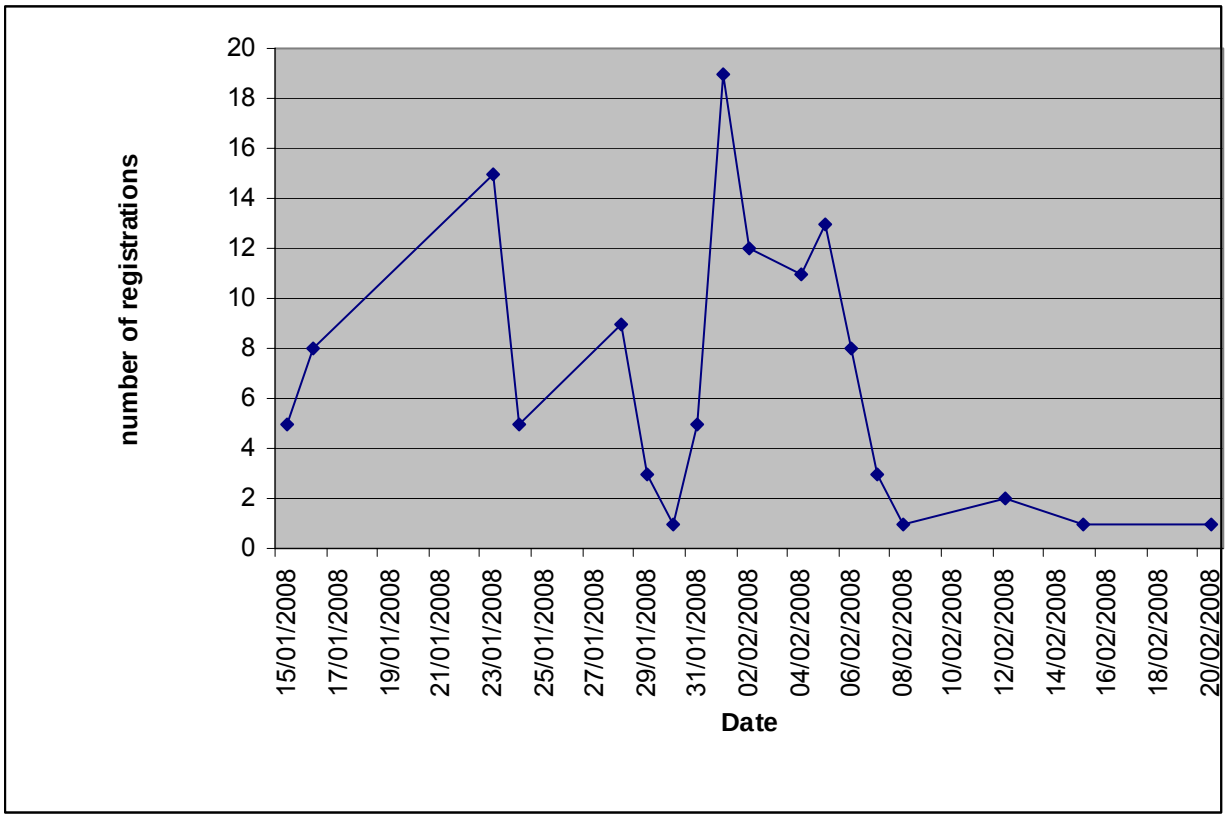


**Figure 4.1:** Trend of registrations 13 January – 3 March 2008

# 5 Delegate Attendance

140 registrations were processed. There were seven no-shows and/or cancellations, with 133 delegates from 32 countries actually attending the event. The invitees-attendees ratio was nearly 20%, which is very satisfactory for any event organised at short notice. The participants list can be seen in Appendix C.

The event can truly claim to have a global scope and interest, given the delegate attendance profile as shown in the table below. Not surprisingly, the largest number of delegates originated from Slovenia as host country.

| Country | Delegates | Country | Delegates |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | 1 | Jordan | 1 |
| Austria | 1 | Latvia | 1 |
| Belgium | 9 | Lithuania | 2 |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 3 | Netherlands | 6 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | Poland | 4 |
| Croatia | 5 | Portugal | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 1 | Romania | 3 |
| Denmark | 2 | Russia | 3 |
| Estonia | 2 | Slovenia | 21 |
| France | 2 | Spain | 8 |
| Germany | 7 | Switzerland | 3 |
| Greece | 5 | Tunisia | 1 |
| Hungary | 2 | Turkey | 2 |
| India | 2 | UK (inc DANTE) | 14 |
| Ireland | 1 | Ukraine | 2 |
| Italy | 6 | USA | 1 |

**Table 5.1:** Countries of origin of attendees

# 6 Conference Organisation

## 6.1 Worked Well

- Choice of venue was good; very picturesque location.
- Gala dinner.
- Information website and online registration system.
- Direct booking of accommodation.
- Teamwork within DANTE was excellent.
- Good delegate mix.
- Achieved good balance of senior representation (EC, European Parliament).
- Allotted speaking time and balance between presentations.
- Sessions and agenda topics generally covered right topics.
- Branding and conference material.
- Demonstrations were well received and prominently displayed.

## 6.2 Learning Points

- Future events would benefit from a longer planning period and clarification of expected level of visibility of the event.
- Ensure lack of date conflict with other events geared toward the same audience.
- Finalise and post agenda on the website earlier.
- Announce the event to potential attendees at least six months prior to the event.
- Short amount of time for delegates to informally network.
- Expectations between DANTE/EC/ARNES were not always clear.

# 7 Feedback Forms

Delegates were encouraged to fill in the digital feedback form posted on the web site; forty six forms were returned adding to 33% of the total delegates. Marks were given for a number of aspects of the event, on a scale of 1 – Poor; 3 – Fair; and 5 – Excellent. The results of these, and open questions, are presented below.

In terms of expectations, 43 of the 46 delegates indicated that the event had met their expectations; two felt it had only partially met their expectations and one abstained from commenting.

## 7.1 Event Organisation

Participants were asked to rate the different administrative and logistical aspects of the event and all received good scores, supporting other feedback that the event had been an enjoyable and informative experience. It was noted that the pre-event organisation and accommodation could be improved upon for future events.

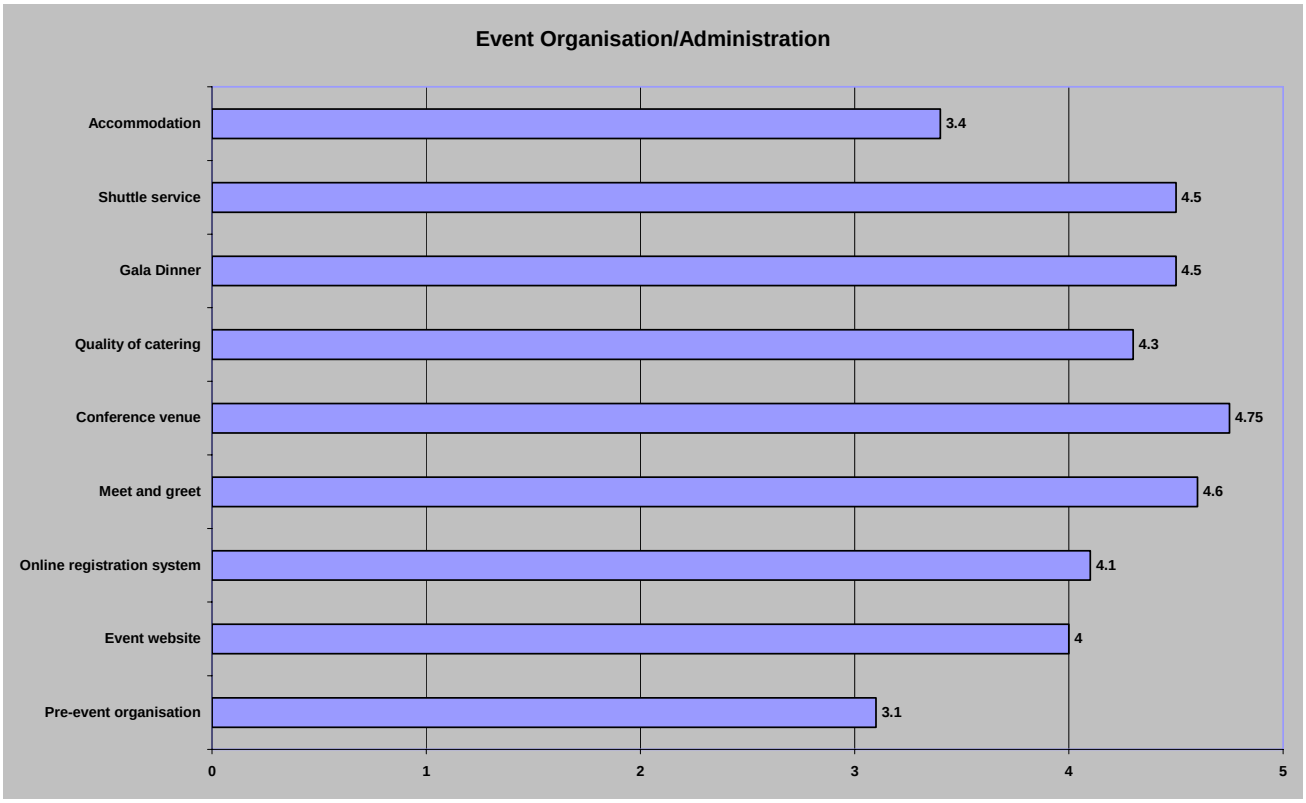


**Figure 7.1:** Feedback – event organisation

## 7.2 Evaluation of Specific Sessions

Rating for all the sessions were consistently high, with the session on current and future uses of Pan European Networking receiving the highest consideration.

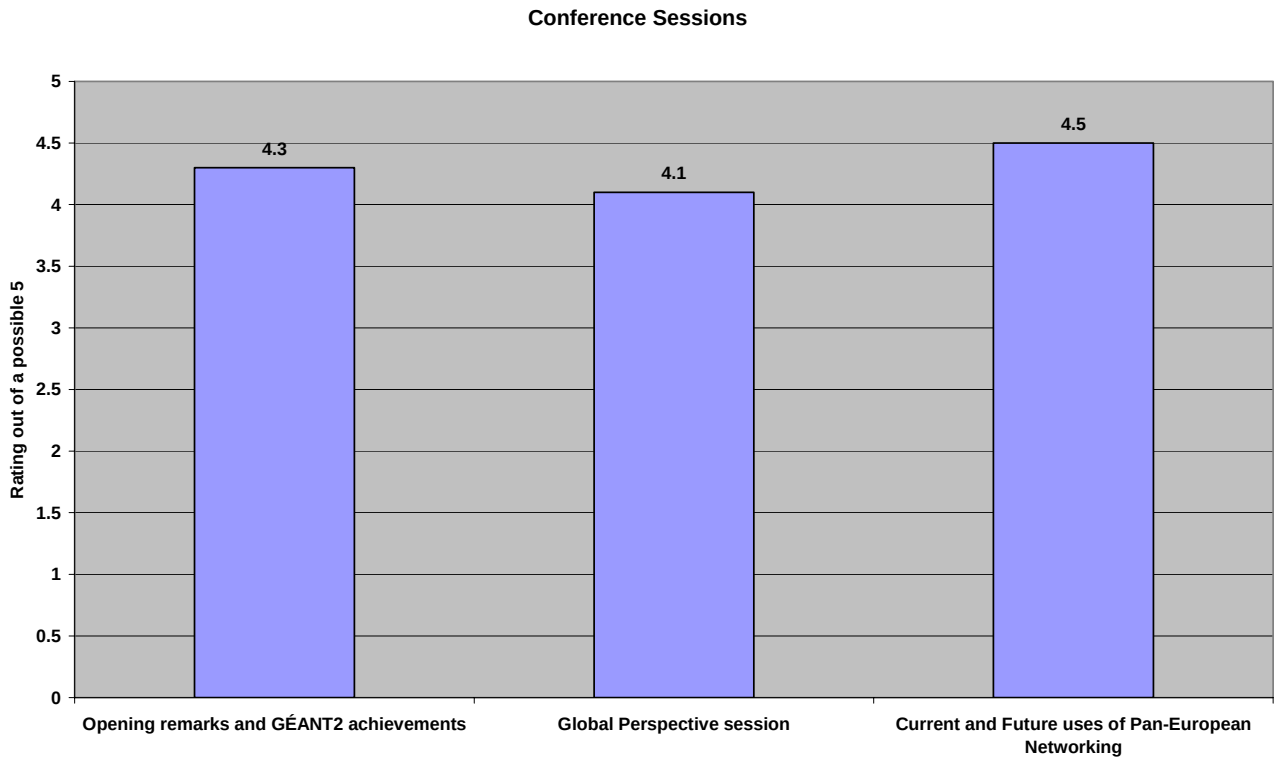


**Figure 7.2:** Feedback – specific sessions

## 7.3 Evaluation of Agenda and Event

In relation to the conference programme, most delegates commented positively. A few of the delegates felt there was insufficient time for question and answers.

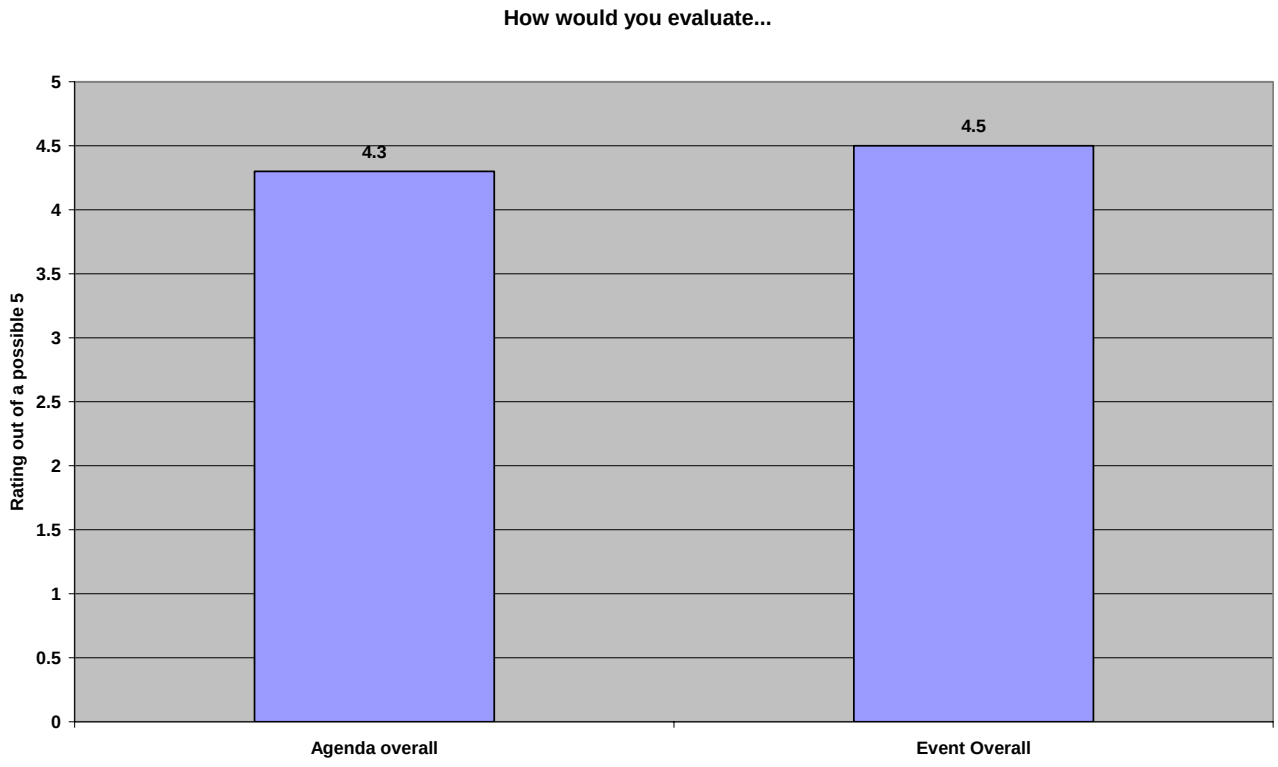


**Figure 7.3:** Feedback – agenda and event

## 7.4 Open Questions

The most frequent answers to the following questions have been listed below them.

### 7.4.1 What do you feel were the strengths of the GÉANT2 event?

- Overall a good meeting and well organised event
- Facilities and conference hall
- A good choice of speakers and topics

### 7.4.2 What will you take away from the event?

- New contacts
- Insight in future strategies
- The whole event was a great celebration of GÉANT2 achievements.

### 7.4.3 Looking back, in making your decision to attend this event, what aspects of the event appealed to you most?

- Networking with a variety of people.
- Meeting new and old friends.

# 8 Conclusions

In conclusion, a well-balanced agenda and the high quality of the planning and organisation provided the setting for a successful event enjoyed by the vast majority of those who attended. The event provided the opportunity for delegates to network with one another, and generated a significant interest in the achievements of GÉANT2 and its possible successor.

Learning points which can be carried forward for future events include the need to begin planning and organising as far in advance as possible. Future co-operation with NRENs on events of this nature will benefit from clear discussion and definition of expectations, responsibilities and deadlines.

.

# Appendix A Conference Agenda

**Monday 3 March 2008**

## GÉANT2 Achievements and Successor

*Master of Ceremonies: Tomaz Kalin*

14:00 Welcome and Introduction
Mojca Kucler Dolinar – Slovenian Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology

14:10 Opening Ceremony
Viviane Reding – Commissioner for Information Society and Media,European Commission

14:20 Welcome from ARNES
Marko Bonac – Director ARNES, Slovenian NREN

14:30 eInfrastructures Landscape
Mário Campolargo – Acting Director of Emerging Technologies and Infrastructures, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission

15:00 GÉANT2 Achievements
Hans Döbbeling – General Manager DANTE

15:30 Lessons learned in GÉANT2
Ivan Maric – Director on DANTE's Board and Deputy Director of University Computing Centre – SRCE, University of Zagreb

15:50 Coffee Break

16:20 EARNEST study findings
Dorte Olesen – Director General UNI-C and President of TERENA

16:50 What should come after GÉANT2?
Vasilis Maglaris – Chairman, NREN Policy Committee

17:30 Close

19:30 Cocktail reception and Gala Dinner

**Tuesday 4 March 2008 - morning**

## Global/Regional Networking Perspective

*Master of Ceremonies: Juan Quemada*

09:00 Opening Remarks

09:10 Research Networking in Slovenia
Marko Bonac – Director ARNES, Slovenian NREN and Borut Paul Kersevan – Professor Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

09:35 TEIN2 Achievements and Plans – Asia
David West – TEIN2 Project Manager, DANTE and Denis Villorente – Director – ASTI Advanced Science and Technology Institute – Location: Philippines

10:00 SEEREN Achievements and Plans – South East Europe
Yannis Mitsos – GRNET Research and Education Network

10:20 Coffee Break

10:45 EUMEDCONNECT Achievements and Plans – Mediterranean
Yousef Torman – Executive Director JUNet, Jordanian Universities Network

11:05 ALICE Achievements and Plans – Latin America
Florencio Utreras – Executive Director of CLARA, the Latin American Cooperation of Research Networks

11:25 New Programmes
Central Asia – Boris Japarov – Director General KazRENA Kazakh Research and Educational Networking Association and Black Sea Initiative – Serkan Orcan –Turkish Academic Network and Information Center

11:45 Lightning presentations: Invited from the Globe

12:05 Future Global Networking Requirements/Perspectives – Panel Discussion (videoconferencing):all of the above

12:30 Lunch

**Tuesday 4 March 2008 - afternoon**

## Current and future uses of pan-European networking

*Master of Ceremonies: Tomaz Kalin*

13:30 Welcome address
Dany Vandromme – Director of RENATER

13:40 Research Infrastructures' Future Networking Requirements
Hervé Pero – Head of Research Infrastructure Unit, Directorate-General for Research, European Commission

14:00 CERN/LHC Networking Achievements & Future Requirements
David G. Foster – Head ofC ommunications and Networking – CERN

14:20 Coffee Break

14:50 EBI Perspective – Large Scale Informatics for biology
Graham Cameron – Associate Director EMBL-EBI

15:10 Radio-astronomy, a telescope larger than Europe
Huib Jan van Langevelde – Director JIVE

15:30 DEISA
Ralph Niederberger – DEISA Network Team Leader

16:00 Earth Science: Virtual Private Networks
Luigi Fusco – Senior Advisor for Earth Observation Applications – European Space Agency

16:30 The importance of Research Networking to research and education and
Closing Remarks
Antti Peltomäki – Deputy Director General, Information Society and Media Directorate General, European Commission

17:00 Close

# Appendix B Summary of Demonstrations

## B.1 ASTRA

ASTRA (Ancient instruments Sound/Timbre Reconstruction Application) brings history to life. It takes archaeological findings of extinct musical instruments and lets us play them again. Using archaeological data as input (for example fragments from excavations, written descriptions, pictures on ancient urns); a complex digital audio rendering technique models the sound of the instrument. This physical modelling synthesis creates a virtual model of the instrument and reproduces its sound by simulating its behaviour as a mechanical system.

The physical modelling sound synthesis technique aims in fact to use a set of equations and algorithms that describe the physical materials used in the ancient instruments to generate the physical source of the sound. In other words, the basic idea is to recreate a model of the musical instrument and produce the sound by simulating its behaviour as a mechanical system. For example, to model the sound of a drum, a formula for how striking the drumhead injects energy into a two dimensional membrane would be created. Then, the properties of the membrane (mass density, stiffness, and so on), its coupling with the resonance of the cylindrical body of the drum, and the conditions at its boundaries (a rigid termination to the drum's body) would describe its movement over time and how it would sound.

Similar modelling can be carried out in instruments such as a violin, through replicating the slip-stick behaviour of the bow against the string, the width of the bow, the resonance and damping behaviour of the strings, the transfer of string vibrations through the bridge, and finally, the resonance of the soundboard in response to those vibrations.

Although physical modelling is not a new concept in acoustics and synthesis, having been implemented using wave equations created by Hiller and Ruiz in 1971, its practical use has only just become feasible. Physical modelling is a very computing-intensive technique, as the complex models of the musical instruments are solved by integrating numerical coupled differential equations. For example, to correctly reproduce a sound lasting for 30 seconds takes more than four hours of CPU time. This computing power has only just become readily available by using GRID computing environments (large-scale distributed computation) like GILDA (https://gilda.ct.infn.it), the GRID INFN Laboratory for Dissemination Activities and EUMEDGRID (an EU-funded project to bring GRID technologies to the Mediterranean area).

The benefits of this system are far-reaching. ASTRA not only makes it possible to recreate instruments that previously would have been either too expensive or too difficult to manufacture by hand, it also allows any model and its associated data to be accessed by other parties. This means that the research data can be

shared around the world, making it a truly international project of immense value to working archaeologists and historians.

## B.2 HADES

The Hades Active Delay Evaluation System is developed by DFN to monitor the health of internet work paths.

By measuring traffic between multiple points in a network, it generates data that can be viewed using the Hades Visualisation Tool to detect re-routing, congestion and link degradation. Hades can also be integrated with the GÉANT2 perfSONAR MDM (Multi-Domain Monitoring) service to generate end-to-end Hades measurements within a multi-domain environment and allow users to view output data from the perfSONAR UI.

## B.3 End-to End Co-ordination Unit

Because academic and scientific research increasingly operates on an ever more global scale, GÉANT2 and its National Research and Education Network (NREN) partners now provide dedicated End- To-End (E2E) circuits between distributed research centres on both a continental and inter-continental basis. This creates Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) which are used to support the large amounts of data generated by some research projects.

Co-ordinating the monitoring of such dedicated circuits creates new challenges since each section of a particular E2E circuit may lie in a different NREN, and each of those NRENs are likely to have their own approaches to Network Operation Centre (NOC) monitoring, troubleshooting equipment, and liaising with various circuit providers.

To meet these challenges, GÉANT2 has created the End-to-End Co-ordination Unit (E2ECU) to monitor these E2E circuits. The E2ECU provides academics with advanced networking support to enhance their research capabilities, acting as the front-line help and action desk for multi-national research project circuits. Special monitoring servers installed by GÉANT2 as well as by many NRENs collect information from local equipment in the path of the E2E circuits. These servers fit into the performance Service Oriented Network monitoring Architecture (perfSONAR) framework (developed within another GÉANT2 research activity). They are then queried by other monitoring tools feeding vital networking information back to engineers at the E2ECU. The E2ECU enables the NREN and GÉANT2 NOCs to streamline the processes of implementing, troubleshooting and maintaining their networks, thereby providing researchers with a stable network for crucial data transfers.

The creation of the E2ECU is a response to the need for advanced networking facilities to support multinational research and its role in co-ordinating the various NRENs involved ensures that a transparent service is delivered to the end users.

# Appendix C Delegate List

| Last name | First name | Organization |
|---|---|---|
| Andries | Andrei | Institute of Applied Physics |
| Anzic | Tina | Josef Stefan Institute |
| Aramberri | Jesús M. | i2BASK Academic Network |
| Bakonyi | Peter | HUNGARNET Associatin |
| Balint | Lajos | NIIF-Hungarnet |
| Ben Ghezala | Henda Hajjami | Centre de Calcul el Khawarizmi |
| Biktimirov | Marat | Joint Supercomputer Center (JSCC) |
| Binczewski | Artur | PSNC |
| Bonac | Marko | ARNES |
| Bos | Erik-Jan | SURFnet |
| Božeglav | Domen | ARNES |
| Brstilo | Željko | SARNET |
| Brunner | Thomas | SWITCH |
| Bruyere | Pierre | BELNET |
| Buscemi | Gioachino | ESA |
| Cameron | Graham | EMBL-EBI |
| Campolargo | Mario | European Commission |
| Carril | Abel | UPM |
| Casar | Aleš | University of Maribor, Computer Centre |
| Castelo | Víctor | Ministry of Education and Science |
| Cebuc | Emil Ioan | RoEduNet |
| Chevers | John | DANTE |
| Ciulli | Nicola | Nextworks s.r.l. |
| Cortes | Monica | UPM |
| Cowles | Elena | DANTE |
| de Miguel | Tomás P. | Red.es |
| Dimec | Mihael | ARNES |
| Dobbeling | Hans | DANTE |
| Dolenc | Tomi | ARNES |
| Dombrougov | Mikhail | URAN |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Dorel | Jean-Luc | European Commission |
| du Toit | Daan | South African Department of Science and Technology |
| Dyer | John | TERENA |
| Enrico | Michael | DANTE |
| Fabianek | Bernhard | European Commission |
| Figuerola | Sergi | i2CAT Foundation |
| Flogie | Andrej | MVZT |
| Foster | David | CERN |
| Frasheri | Neki | Polytechnic University of Tirana |
| Gabrijelčič | Dušan | Jozef Stefan Institute |
| Gruntorad | Jan | CESNET |
| Gurtu | Atul | Tata Inst of Fundamental Research |
| Hoeft | Bruno | Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) |
| Hofer | Margit | Zentrum für Soziale Inovation |
| Hughes | Henry | European Commission |
| Izhvanov | Yury | Ministry of Education and Science of the Russion federation |
| Jagodic | Anton | Univerza v Ljubljani |
| Jansen | Wim | European Commission |
| Jauk | Avgust | ARNES |
| Jerman Blažič | Borka | Jozef Stefan Institute |
| Kalin | Tomaz | DANTE |
| Karapandzic | Milos | DANTE |
| Kaskina | Baiba | SigmaNet |
| Kauts | Marek-Andres | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |
| Kepski | Piotr | Ministry of Science and Higher Education |
| Kersevan | Borut | Institute Jozef Stefan |
| Kirstein | Peter | University College London |
| Klančnik | Tomaž | Jozef Stefan Institute |
| Klobučar | Tomaž | Jozef Stefan Institute |
| Koblitz | Werner | BMWF / Aconet |
| Konidaris | Spyros | European Commission |
| Koning | Ilse | Ministry of Education, Culture and Science |
| Kostov | Spass | BREN |
| Kraav | Mihkel | EENet |
| Lampert | Dietmar | Zentrum für Soziale Inovation |
| Langbein | Melae | New Zealand Ministry of Research, Science and T. |
| Le Guigner | Jean-Paul | CRU |
| Lechev | Boyko | BREN |
| Llurba | Rossend | NCF |
| Lombardo | Tiziana | Metaware |
| Maglaris | Vasilis | GRNET |
| Marić | Ivan | University Computing Centre - SRCE, University of Zagreb |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Martindale | Helen | DANTE |
| Masoni | Alberto | Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare |
| Mitsos | Yannis | GRNET |
| Niederberger | Ralph | Forschungszentrum Jülich |
| Norris | Mike | HEAnet |
| Olesen | Dorte Marianne | UNI-C |
| Orcan | Serkan | ULAKBIM |
| Pajntar | Radovan | MVZT |
| Paragi | Zsolt | JIVE/EXPReS |
| Pečnik Ternovšek | Mojca | MVZT |
| Peltomaki | Antti | European Commission |
| Pero | Hervé | European Commission |
| Prnjat | Ognjan | GRNET |
| Quemada | Juan | UPM |
| Reinwand | Jochen | University of Erlangen |
| Robertson | Dale | DANTE |
| Roca | Ana | CARNet |
| Rodwell | Toby | DANTE |
| Rusu | Octavian | RoEduNet |
| Salihbegovic | Adnan | Faculty of Electrical Engineering |
| Sarac | Cem | ULAKBIM |
| Sataki | Katrina | SigmaNet |
| Savić | Mihajlo | SARNET |
| Schwarz | Dragan | Ministry of Science, Education and Sports |
| Scott | Matthew | DANTE |
| Sharp | Jeremy | JANET(UK) |
| Shkarupin | Vyacheslav | URAN Association |
| Simeonidou | Dimitra | University of Essex |
| Singh | Dipak | ERNET India |
| Skvarc | Goran | Croatian Academic and Research Network - CARNet |
| Solano | Alfredo | UPM |
| Sostaric | Davor | Ministry of Hiher Education, Science and Technology |
| Starzak | Stanislaw | Technical University of Lodz |
| Sterle | Peter | ARNES |
| Stroinski | Maciej | PSNC |
| Sudholt | Wibke | University of Zurich / SwiNG |
| Sverenyák | Helmut | CESNET |
| Telksnys | Laimutis | Institute of Mathematics and Informatics |
| Thompson | Kevin | U.S. National Science Foundation |
| Torman | Yousef | Jordanian Universities Network |
| Tryfon | Chiotis | GRNET |
| Turk | Marjan | MVZT |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Valente | Enzo | GARR |
| van Langevelde | Huib | JIVE |
| Vandromme | Dany | RENATER |
| Veiga | Pedro | FCCN |
| Vicinanza | Domenico | DANTE |
| Villemoes | Peter | NORDUnet |
| Vreca | Maja | ARNES |
| Wilhelm | Martin | |
| Zebec | Branko | IZUM |
| Zeisel | Herbert | DLR e.V. |
| Zhizhchenko | Alexei | Russian Academy of Sciences |
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