

SEE-GRID Infrastructure for Regional eScience

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In the past 6 years, a number of targeted initiatives, funded by the European Commission via its information society and RTD programmes and Greek infrastructure development actions, have articulated a successful regional development approach in South East Europe that can be used as a role model for other international developments.

The SEEREN (South-East European Research and Education Networking initiative) project, through its two phases, established the SEE segment of the pan-European GÉANT network and successfully connected the research and scientific communities in the region. Currently, the SEE-LIGHT project is working towards establishing a dark-fiber backbone that will interconnect most national Research and Education networks in the region.

On the distributed computing and storage provisioning i.e. Grid plane, the SEE-GRID (South-East European GRID e-Infrastructure Development) project, similarly through its two phases, has established a strong human network in the area of scientific computing and has set up a powerful regional Grid infrastructure, and attracted a number of applications from diverse fields from countries throughout the South-East Europe. The current SEE-GRID-SCI project, ending in April 2010, empowers the regional user communities from fields of meteorology, seismology and environmental protection in common use and sharing of the regional e-Infrastructure.

Current technical initiatives in formulation are focusing on a set of coordinated actions in the area of HPC and application fields making use of HPC initiatives.

Finally, the current SEERA-EI project brings together policy makers – programme managers from 10 countries in the region. The project aims to establish a communication platform between programme managers, pave the way towards common e-Infrastructure strategy and vision, and implement concrete actions for common funding of electronic infrastructures on the regional level.

The regional vision of establishing an e-Infrastructure compatible with European developments, and empowering the scientists in the region in

equal participation in the use of pan-European infrastructures, is materializing through the above initiatives. This model has a number of concrete operational and organizational guidelines which can be adapted to help e-Infrastructure deployments in other world regions.