

DECLARA

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Editorial



Florencio Utreras,
 Executive Director
 CLARA

April 2008. Two years have gone by since we received the invitation from the European Community to present at the launch of GÉANT, held in Brussels in May 2002. In the event we were told that we would be allocated funding to create a Latin American Research and Education Network. And thus RedCLARA was created, and moreover, we created CLARA, the organisation which belongs to all Latin American Research Networks, whose Mission is to promote, develop and operate the research and education networks with the aim of supporting scientific, technological and educational development in our region.

In April 2008 CLARA has left her parents' home to live on her own. The funding projected for the ALICE project has come to an end and, for the first time since its creation, RedCLARA has to be entirely funded and run by the networks in Latin America. And this is not an easy task. We have had to make some sacrifices in order to ensure the continuity of the infrastructure and its services, but most significantly, our organisation has been able to keep a sound level in order to provide continuity

for an initiative which was originated in Europe but which is highly valued by academic networks in the region. Because of this, it is not surprising that it has attracted support among regional organisations, such as the eLAC or the Hemispheric Forum of Ministers of Science and Technology.

We know that we must grow up and become strong. It is necessary that this e-Infrastructure is able to provide services for greater scientific initiatives within the region, and between the region and other parts of the globe. However, it must also cover the needs of a vast number of researchers, academics, students and innovators in terms of access to information and collaboration tools which are necessary in the Information Society. They expect us to pave the way that will allow their real integration with the developed world with world-class quality parameters, so that they can really have the chance of contributing to the constitution of competitive societies in our globalised world.

Once more we must give thanks to the European Commission for its forward-looking initiative and financial support; to DANTE, for its efficient management committed to our development; to the European networks for their support and technical assistance; and to many people who have contributed from various organisations to the current stage of our development. We know that there have been many organisations which have trusted us, and we thank them for this. We are committed to working them in order to further the achievements obtained and we are certain that with the active involvement of national communities in this project, the work of national networks and the support of the international community we will consolidate this infrastructure as well as the networks of researchers which will thus generate newer and better opportunities for development for our region.



Farewell ALICE...

On Friday 2nd April 2008 the ALICE Project officially came to an end. And when something has been so good, there are not enough words. If this were the end of a film, we would say it was "an end with a kiss", and certainly as we see the final credits we would see behind them the protagonists smiling and walking hand in hand towards the horizon and, maybe, the sun over that horizon would be ALICE2 logo. But we are adding more words... let us have this farewell to be told, just as it happened, through the mailing list that brought us together during almost five years around this great project.

04-04-2008

Dear Friends,

As you are all aware the ALICE project terminated this week Wednesday, 2 April 2008. Peter will now be preparing the Final Financial statements that are required by the EC and I will soon be able to send you the Final Technical Report of the ALICE project. We are also still waiting for the Final Monitoring Evaluation of ALICE from the EC.

I believe that we should keep this mailing list open to be able to discuss ALICE2 developments within the community.

Thanks again for all your interest, collaboration and support. I am very happy and proud to have been part of such strong and successful collaboration between Latin America and Europe.

Always yours

Cathrin Stöver
International Relations Manager
DANTE

Cathrin

Thanks for your (and DANTE's) support and involvement to bring the project to such level of achievement

Your contribution was very valuable to all stakeholder of this initiative.

Kind regards
Dany

Dany Vandromme
Director of GIP RENATER

Cathrin,
Thanks.

Pedro Veiga
President
Executive Council
FCCN

Dear Cathrin:

It is the end of a cycle, not the end of this initiative that was so successfully carried on with your great management, DANTE's full support and the invaluable cooperation of our European NREN Partners.

Thank you very much to you all and we certainly hope to continue working with you all in ALICE2!

Thanks to you again and we hope that all your coming projects will be as successful as this one.

Best regards,

Florencio Utreras
CLARA
Executive Director

Dear Cathrin,

Thanks a lot to DANTE and specially to you, it was an excellent experience!!!

Regards.

Paola Arellano
REUNA
Executive Director

Dear Cathrin

You were one of the most important pillars of ALICE, really was a pleasure to work with you.

I hope everything can continue and i certainly hope that ALICE2 will be a success.

A personal thank you, from me and from all those who have been involved in ALICE, for your excellent work and your efforts.

Kind regards,

Víctor Castelo
CSIC

Hello,

Vielen danke Cathrin and my best wishes for the upcoming stage. We have all participated in one of the largest collaboration projects carried out in these times of individualism. Thanks to all and especially to Víctor, who was not only the driving force of the first steps, but also endowed with the sensitiveness of adding this nice visual contribution.

An embrace for you all. It has been an stupendous experience.

Carlos Frank
CRIBA

Cathrin,

Thank you and thank Dante.

Thanks Víctor for the enthusiasm with which you faced this Project.

Thanks to us all for having accomplished the dream of unity though networks.

Undoubtedly, we will continue together in new stages, consolidating what was initiated in favour of the development of our countries and our region.

Cathrin, you have been a very important pillar and we hope to continue receiving your support and company,

A hug to you all,

Ida Holz
Executive Director
RAU

Dear Cathrin and friends,

Thanks to each one of you. Finally the wacky dream of some of you is now a great and concrete reality, and I'm very happy and proud for been able to be a part of that... it has been a long way, and looking back in time it feels so good to realise that we did grow together and with a great cohesion. I've learned a lot from all of you, I've learnt what is collaboration, how to really communicate, how to build and share knowledge, and I also had the marvellous opportunity to find great lovely people that I'm proud to be able to call (and feel as) friends.

My dear Cat, the ship in the bay and Africa is waiting for your brain, confidence, support, etc, etc, etc. And don't you dare to feel sad, cause we all know that this is nothing like a goodbye...

There's another road waiting for us, so... let's walk through it again together.

María José López Pourailly
CLARA
PR Manager

Cathrin,

Thanks you for your excellent work in ALICE.

It has been a pleasure to be able to work with you during this time and i am confident that you will have great success in your new ventures.

A hug and lots of good luck,

Tomás de Miguel
Director
RedIRIS.

Dear Cathrin,

This is not the end it is just the beginning of a new era. Alice was your baby, now it is growing as our child CLARA. Thank you so much, it was due to you. We are sure that we are going to continue working together in the EU-LAC NREN cooperation's.

Regards

Ing. Jorge Berrizbeitia
 President
 National Centre for Technological Innovation
 Ministry of Popular Power for Science and Technology

Dear Cathrin,

Enjoy these, they are well deserved

Dai Davies
 DANTE
 General Manager



Dear Cathrin et al:

Certainly a major accomplishment, bringing to reality the notions of collaboration and team work.

Thanks to all.

A hug,
 Rafael "Lito" Ibarra
 Executive Director
 RAICES



Dear Cathrin

ALICE has been such an engrossing project, with virtual meetings every other week and face to face meetings twice a year, that it takes an effort to appreciate that 5 years have passed and the project is now over. It has been a hell of a ride, and we have all learned a lot about collaborating across huge distances, and even building and running networks.

I am very pleased that Dante called you out of «retirement» in Spain to have you manage this project. It has been a great pleasure to work with you, and I am glad to say that there is more such work still to do (starting tomorrow :-).

Very best wishes!,

Michael Stanton
 RNP
 Director of Innovation

Thanks to the already completed ALICE Project,

CLARA launches its new web and begins the year reviewing its history

A book on the history of the ALICE project, files and triptychs to promote RedCLARA and CLARA have come out of the press in March and are now being distributed.

María Alejandra Lantadilla Budinich

The publication of the new printed material and the renewal of the website that hosts CLARA crown the joint effort of those who have enabled the development of the ALICE project (Latin America Interconnected with Europe) and the subsequent birth of CLARA and RedCLARA. The new image and the effort to provide greater promotion and refresh the memories from the exacting work which resulted in the birth of the advance Latin American network put an end to the execution of the ALICE project which, as widely known, was co-funded by the European Commission through the @LICE Programme until March 2008.

Although it has been only four years since CLARA - Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks - has existed, the original idea was born in June 2002 at the Toledo meeting (Spain), organised by the European Commission DG IST programme, which later on resulted on the creation of the ALICE Project.

Details on how efforts were joined in order to integrate Latin American networks are given through the voices of the protagonists in each of the member countries in the book “In order to get far...you have to be close”, which compiles the history of the ALICE project, of RedCLARA and of this organisation which brings together Latin American networks, our CLARA. Together with this material, files and triptychs were also developed to communicate the objectives of CLARA, the configuration of RedCLARA and the procedures to become part of it. The full renovation of the website, which incorporates new sections and easier access to relevant information on CLARA and its RedCLARA in the usual languages (Spanish, English and Portuguese), seals the last promotion actions within the context of the ALICE Project.

Historical text

The book “In order to get far... you must be close”, written by María José López Pourailly, CLARA Communications and Public Relations Manager, is structured in three chapters which brings us closer to the history of ALICE, CLARA and RedCLARA from the human point of view, emphasising the efforts and the will of its protagonists.

After a brief introduction which talks about the big dreams, the first chapter provides an account of the beginning of the project and how it led, step by step, to the CLARA’s constitution act. The second chapter narrates the configuration of RedCLARA and the different projects which it has hosted since the beginning. The last chapter, called “In order to get far: RedCLARA”, presents the opinions of each of the different people who have been protagonists in this history.



The book, which is presented in a colour-printed edition in three languages - English, Spanish and Portuguese - will be distributed during April and May among the different CLARA member networks, commissions, agencies and programmes from the European Commission, the different advanced networks worldwide, related institutions and those people and agencies which are regarded as fundamental for the development of science, academia, technology and innovation, both in Latin America and other regions.

New website

In mid March 2008, within the context of the ALICE-CLARA meeting held in Buenos Aires, we launched CLARA's new website (<http://www.redclara.net>) ; the keys that guided the work done were the change of the graphic image and navigation map, as well as all the efforts to present the most complete information, updated news and the configuration of a space where documents, projects and files related to CLARA and RedCLARA can be easily and rapidly accessed.

The new virtual home, with identical accesses and navigations in English, Spanish and Portuguese, integrates intranets with improvements and services for users, and contributed with greater visibility for the projects and work groups which are being developed within our Network.

The website also features information on the different National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) which constitute CLARA. Furthermore, from the section devoted to the NOC (Network Operations Centre), registered members can access statistics in real time and technical reports on the functioning of RedCLARA.



Promotion through printed material

Considering that a good promotion of our Network will enable us to open up towards the world and towards new members, different materials, such as colour and quality paper files and triptychs, were elaborated. These materials give a brief account of CLARA's history and members, of the characteristics of RedCLARA and the services offered, among other highly relevant information.

If you wish to receive this material, please contact the Communications and Public Relations Management at CLARA: mjlopez@reuna.cl

A global network, the new dare of GÉANT2

2008 started well for GÉANT2... or should we rather say for the world of research, science, academia and technological development in Europe and beyond? Well it depends on one's perspective; however, ever since DANTE has been fostering global research networking by extending the reach of GÉANT2, it has been difficult to separate the advances of GÉANT2 from the advances, that success stories like those we have witnessed over the last few months, mean to the wider world.

María José López Pourailly

GÉANT2, the world's most advanced international research and education network, allows global research collaboration through EU-funded direct connections to China, Latin America, North Africa, Middle East and Asia-Pacific as well as links to other international networks in the USA and Canada, thus creating a truly global research community. And it is exactly about this global connectivity community that five pieces of news were released by DANTE and the European Commission in the first trimester of 2008; the following texts are abstracts of those news, and through them we invite you to bear these milestones in mind when analyzing with us and Helga Spitaler, Regional Marketing Officer within DANTE's International Relations team, the importance of global connectivity and the role of CLARA and the RedCLARA network within this context.

Thursday 21 February 2008: DANTE informs that the European Union has announced funding of €12 million, backed by an additional €6 million from Asian National Research Education Networks (NRENs), for the development of TEIN3, the new generation of the Trans-Eurasia Information Network (TEIN), which is set to initially link eleven countries -China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia- at speeds of up to 2.5 Gbps and run until 2011. It is envisioned that TEIN3 will enable increased co-operation between researchers in over 4,000 institutions across the region, and underpin global collaboration through links to the European GÉANT2 network.

TEIN was conceived in 2000 as an outcome of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) to improve research networking between Europe and Asia-Pacific. Through TEIN, the first Europe-Asia link dedicated for research and education was

established bilaterally between RENATER in France and KISDI in South Korea, with the installation of a connection in December 2001.

The TEIN2 network, which currently links research institutions in ten countries across South-East Asia, was launched to help bridge the digital divide and has enabled significant projects in telemedicine, disaster warning and sustainable development since its launch in 2005 (scientists in the Philippines and Germany are working together to predict typhoons, Australian doctors are able to carry out remote consultations on Vietnamese children and medical staff across the region are being trained through e-learning on the latest surgical procedures).

Apart from the Asian-Pacific partner, the NRENs that are working in collaboration with DANTE on TEIN2 and TEIN3 are RENATER (France), SURFnet (the Netherlands) and UKERNA (United Kingdom). Web site: www.tein2.net.

Link to the original news:

<http://www.dante.net/server/show/ConWebDoc.2721>

Thursday 31 January 2008: DANTE informs that a high speed network link connecting the hub in London of the African UbuntuNet Alliance network to the international research community via the GÉANT2 network has been established. The new connection enables researchers and scholars in Sub-Saharan African universities and research institutions to share information and data and to collaborate through a 1 Gbp/s link with their peers in Europe and the rest of the world.

The UbuntuNet Alliance was founded in 2005 by the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) of Kenya,

Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Africa with the aim of establishing a research and education network backbone for Sub-Saharan Africa. Membership of the Alliance now includes also the NRENs of Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and is open to all recognised African NRENs. As well as creating links between national research networks it aims to join Africa to the global research community, with this connection to GÉANT2 the first step towards this vision.

Because so many African universities and research institutions still depend on satellite links to Europe, the UbuntuNet Alliance established its first network hub in London. Initially, most member NRENs will connect to this hub from the teleports in Europe from which their VSAT connections emanate. In time, as terrestrial fibre networks in Africa evolve and as greater submarine cable connectivity between Africa and Europe is deployed, UbuntuNet will develop its envisaged “GÉANT2 of Africa” network, and will establish high-bandwidth connections to the London Hub and hence to GÉANT2 and the global research and education network.

Link to the original news:

<http://www.dante.net/server/show/ConWebDoc.2677>

Monday 11 February 2008: DANTE announces the launch of a high-speed connection link between the Ukrainian NREN, URAN and GÉANT2. The 100 Mbps connection procured by URAN will terminate in Warsaw, where it is being carried on PSNC, the Polish NREN, following an exclusive agreement with the Ukrainian NREN, URAN. A high speed dark fibre route will be provided by PSNC between the cities of Warsaw and Poznan in Poland, allowing a dedicated connection to the GÉANT2 router in Poznan to be accessed by URAN in Kiev. The new link will provide a big improvement in available bandwidth enabling a new quality of collaboration between Ukrainian and associated European academia.

URAN connects about 500,000 users from approximately 100 universities and scientific research institutes in 18 regions of Ukraine. The link to GÉANT2 is part of an incentive by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine called ‘Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Science’ for the development of scientific telecommunications networks.

Link to the original news:

<http://www.dante.net/server/show/ConWebDoc.2693>

29 February 2008: The European Commission (EC) issued a press release entitled: “Europe’s GÉANT, the world’s highest speed computer network, goes global”. In its two first paragraphs, the news release by the EC says:

“Europe’s GÉANT, the world’s largest multi-gigabit computer network dedicated to research and education, is linking up to similar networks world-wide to create a single global research network. In Europe, GÉANT already links researchers from Reykjavik to Vladivostok, serving around 30 million users in over 3500 universities and research centres and connecting 34 national research networks. High-speed links will now be established with regional research network infrastructures emerging in the Balkans, the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions, as well Asia, Southern Africa and Latin America. In Europe, GÉANT has enabled ground-breaking research collaboration in fields such as climate change, radio astronomy and biotechnology.

““With GÉANT’s massive data processing capacity, Europe can now bring together the best minds in the world to tackle the challenges that we all face. Europe’s financial investment in a high speed backbone network for research - around €23 million per year - benefits Europe’s competitiveness, but is also boosting collaboration between researchers on a global scale,” said Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. «By investing a further €90 million up to 2012 in the 3rd generation GÉANT, the EU is committed to staying at the forefront of the Internet’s evolution, and to making scientific collaboration seamless and straightforward.”

Link to the original news:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/354&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Monday 3 March 2008: DANTE informs that the Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) project was launched on 1 March and that it will build a regional research and education network among South Caucasus countries and link them to GÉANT2. Within the 7th Framework Programme for R&D, the European Commission provides €1.4 million funding for this project (the largest of its kind in the region) that will allow Caucasian research communities to participate effectively in joint research and educational activities with the rest of Europe.

The BSI project -coordinated by the Turkish National Research and Education Network, TÜBİTAK-ULAKBİM- will bridge the digital divide between the South Caucasian NRENs, namely GRENA (Georgia), AzRENA (Azerbaijan), NAS RA (Armenia), and Europe by establishing a high-speed backbone network in the South Caucasus region and connecting it to GÉANT2. BSI represents an invaluable opportunity to realize the objectives of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) by helping it to concentrate directions of regional scientific and technological collaboration, sharing best practices, undertaking joint projects of common interest to all member states and stipulating cooperation among the BSEC Member States and with other organizations, in particular with the EU via the advanced GÉANT2 network.

The BSI project will run during 24 months starting on March 1st, 2008. The regional network and the connection to GÉANT2 is planned to be operational later this year.

Link to the original news:

<http://www.dante.net/server/show/ConWebDoc.2732>

Helga Spitaler, Regional Marketing Officer in DANTE's International Relations Team:

No region can afford deliberately being outside the global connectivity community, without penalizing its researchers and increasing the digital divide

As Regional Marketing Officer Helga Spitaler is primarily involved with providing marketing support for regional network projects which DANTE is actively participating in, currently ALICE, EUMEDCONNECT and TEIN2. Building on an application-based approach, she helps define and implement marketing initiatives aimed at illustrating how regional backbones and their interconnection to the European GÉANT2 enable current and prospective users to participate in global collaborative research and education. And due to the main importance of that global collaborative research and education, which is actually a global connectivity community, we spoke with Helga in order to analyze it in depth in order to be prepared for the new challenges that CLARA and the whole community connected to RedCLARA will confront from now and ahead.

DANTE is obviously promoting a global connectivity network structured with GÉANT2 as the central backbone that, of course, will link all the regions in which DANTE has network projects, most of them co-financed by the European Commission. Latin America will be part of that global network. In terms of interconnection the benefits of this global network are quite obvious, but apart from the network itself, which would you identify as the main importance of this global connectivity dare?

Building regional backbones and interconnecting them with GÉANT2 breaks down geographic boundaries that separate scientific and academic communities across the world. For too long researchers, especially in the developing world, have had to work in relative isolation, but with the advent of high-capacity networks these days are finally coming to an end. Improved connectivity transforms the way researchers

work, allowing them to participate in cutting-edge projects on a truly global scale, without having to cross multiple time zones. They are able to browse through digital libraries, access geographically dispersed databases, conduct distributed computational analysis of large data sets and share remote scientific instruments. In a nutshell: more interaction, less travel.



Helga Spitaler

But one should not forget that it's not just the scientific community that benefits from these developments. Belonging to the big 'global connectivity cloud' opens new possibilities also for students thanks to innovative e-learning initiatives. In the field of medical education, for example, reliable networks make it possible to stream a live surgery event from an operating theatre, say at a university hospital in Germany, to a classroom full of trainee surgeons in Asia, Latin America or any other part of the connected world. By supporting applications of high societal impact like these, it is clear that global research networking brings social development and tangible benefits

to the wider population, rather than supporting only the scientific and academic communities.

Ultimately, extending the reach of GÉANT2 fosters the creation of pools of local and regional expertise, therefore promotes regional cohesion and fights brain drain.

Last but not least - this approach of exporting a working model to other parts of the world reflects the European Commission's strategy for an inclusive information society.

Which do you think should be the role of CLARA and of the ALICE2 project –if it is approved by EuropeAid- in the new scenario that the global connectivity network will create?

For a global idea to be successful, it needs to build on solid regional pillars. In Latin America, this pillar is the ALICE project which in itself is grounded on the foundation of the RedCLARA network and the CLARA organisation as the driving force, or, if you allow me to carry on with the image borrowed from the world of construction, the 'cement', that holds the parts together. ALICE2 will be able to build on the success of its predecessor which has enabled researchers across Latin America to become key players on the international research scene. In the context of ALICE2, connectivity in Latin America and the trans-Atlantic link to GÉANT2 are likely to see increased capacity which, in turn, will give an additional boost to LA-European collaborative research. And, drawing on the expertise of its current partners, I expect the project to stimulate further growth in national research networking, attracting new project partners and extending RedCLARA even further.

As for CLARA, it will progress towards administrative independence from DANTE. As the consortium of Latin American NRENs, it basically gives the ALICE project a face, with 'real' people behind it. NRENs participating in other regional network initiatives, such as EUMEDCONNECT in the Southern Mediterranean and TEIN2 in Asia-Pacific, are looking at CLARA as a role model in their attempt to develop funding models and organisational structures that provide long term sustainability for research networking in their part of the world.

In global terms, what would you say could be the most important things/knowledge that each regional network could give to the global network?

As mentioned in the context of ALICE, without regional backbones, global research networking would simply be impossible. For a start, there is the physical network infrastructure deployed in each region to form part of the global network. Furthermore, the creation of a regional backbone will need to take the various local peculiarities into account, be they political, geographical, economic or of regulatory nature. It is the NRENs, as representatives of the regional network, to have this invaluable local know-how as well as the understanding

of the needs of their user communities. They are also best suited to raise awareness and promote the use of advanced research networking in their part of the world and beyond.

Globalization is a concept that in economy and politics has currently the same number of adepts and detractors in the whole world. Networks are of course directly related to economy and politics; from your own point of view, why should any region bet for this networks globalization?

Well, it is true that the Internet has made billionaires and household names of a few and with its ubiquity it might indeed bear the risk of supplanting diversity. However, global research networking is basically an example of Internet technology being applied to foster synergies, scientific excellence and to improve people's lives, in short, generating knowledge and not just more wealth in the IT industry. It brings together world class researchers to respond to global challenges, whilst addressing local concerns. Being a player in the global connectivity community also implies significant economies of scale. In my view, for all those reasons no region, and actually no country within a region, can afford taking its place deliberately outside this community, without penalizing its researchers and increasing the digital divide. The recent interconnection of the Black Sea region as well as of Sub-Saharan Africa to GÉANT2 clearly validates this point.

Which are the first actions that you will carry out to help the regional networks, as RedCLARA, to make the best use of the global connectivity network?

In line with a global perspective on research networking, my 'mission' is to help develop a more coherent approach to promoting the regional networks and their usage. To do so I plan to identify applications and collaborations with a global scope and with a high societal impact which are already using or could benefit from using advanced connectivity.

To develop relevant marketing material, such as case studies, I am currently examining various EC-funded projects in the field of environment which involve collaborations with researchers outside Europe. Another ideal candidate for illustrating the extent to which R&E networks can function as a tool for development is international crop research with a number of leading institutes across Latin America, such as CIAT, CIP and CYMMIT. For the relationship building in these user communities I look forward to working with the regional NRENs.

Another objective is to work, in conjunction with the NRENs, towards an intra-regional PR and dissemination network to share best practice and combine promotion on a global level with local expertise. I am very excited that CLARA's PR team is fully behind this idea and that we can all build on their catching enthusiasm!

OGF, OGF-Europe and BEinGRID

Are looking forward to see you in Barcelona!

Stephanie Parker, OGF-Europe

The benefits of deploying grid and related technologies in a broad spectrum of IT environments continue to grow and evolve. Researchers and scientists in both academic and commercial settings are using Grids to scale their compute and data capabilities while enhancing their ability to collaborate across organizational boundaries. Commercial organizations are finding that grids are «mission critical» to enabling business agility in a shared, service-oriented and increasingly virtualized infrastructure.

These and many other uses of grid technologies will be examined in detail at the upcoming OGF23 event (<http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/>) in Barcelona, Spain on 2-6 June.

OGF23 is the first event organized by the EU-funded project OGF-Europe, which is chartered with mobilizing and integrating the EU community on grid standards and best practices. The project will use OGF23 to launch its tutorial series and its initiatives on Digital Repositories and national and international grid interoperation.

Grid case studies will be presented through the co-location of the EU-funded BEinGRID project's Industry Days event (3-5 June) at OGF23.

Results and demonstrations of over 15 different «experiments» with grids in commercial sectors will be presented.

In parallel to these commercial activities, OGF23 will feature several workshops on scientific uses of grids and other emerging technologies such as virtualization and clouds. In addition, an important part of this multi-faceted event will be the commercial exhibition where Europe-based projects and vendors will showcase their latest Grid solutions.

Last and certainly not least, participants will have a great program with a variety of sessions to choose from including:

- Keynote talks from IT and Grid thought leaders
- Demonstrations of OGF specifications in action
- Best practice sessions where today's grid deployment



solutions are identified

- Standards development working sessions
- Numerous open call sessions driven by the latest needs identified by the community

June is a busy time in Barcelona so make sure you reserve your hotel soon at:

<http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/lodging.php>.

If you are interested in exhibiting or sponsoring, visit <http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/sponsor.php>.

OGF-Europe's 1st International Event at OGF23

The launch of the European Chapter of the Open Grid Forum (OGF) and the EC-funded project, OGF-Europe (<http://www.ogfeurope.eu/>), represents a milestone in the maturity of the Grid industry in that adoption globally is dependent upon concerted outreach and adoption efforts within regions or nations. OGF-Europe is uniquely positioned to represent

OGF's global standards and best practices as well as advances in Grid technologies and usage to enterprise and research users of all types across Europe. OGF-Europe is specifically aimed at leveraging the significant EU investments, which have been made over the last decade to architect, build, and manage Grid infrastructures and applications. The project will seek to increase up-take not just in research, but also in commercial and small-medium enterprises.

At OGF23, OGF-Europe will be holding workshops, tutorials and community outreach seminars, making the week full of exciting content & useful networking. The engagement of an increasing number of EU projects leveraging Grids to deliver applications such as digital repositories is expected. One of today's major points of discussion is the growing demand for analyzing massive data. The OGF23 agenda is designed to cover these issues with the aim of enticing user communities to realize the importance of enabling interoperability between providers, which is only achievable through the development of best practices and open standards. The main outcomes and recommendations will be published in reports delivered post event.

“OGF23 is where the Grid community will come together again to discuss and learn about standards, applications, and use cases in distributed environments, be it enterprise architectures, compute and data grids, virtualization, utility clouds, or Web2.0 communities”, says Wolfgang Gentsch, Chair of the OGF23 Program Committee. “This event is especially important for Europe, where Grids are riding significant momentum, and an opportunity to showcase the technological developments taking shape in EU research and commercial settings. OGF23 is a prime opportunity to engage with an international audience at one of the largest and most

important Grid events taking place this year in Europe”, Gentsch adds.

The OGF-Europe Exhibition is an important part of this multi-faceted event. The Exhibition aims to showcase achievements by EU-based and international organizations, including projects, vendors national/international initiatives, that have developed Grids bringing value-add for business & science, in addition to projects engaged in Grid development through international partnerships focusing on interoperation & fostering broader Grid adoption. The Demos & Displays will highlight key enabling features of Grids with tangible benefits for current & future adopters.

The OGF23 Poster Gallery will illustrate Grid technology developments mainly by new EC-funded projects with particular reference to data-centric science, showing how major achievements will impact on scientific research in key areas that are important to Europe and are of global relevance. The Poster Gallery will offer an ‘eye-to-the-future’ view of the EU's investments in Grid technologies and how different user communities are able to exploit & benefit from Grid technologies, stressing concerted efforts towards standardization at an EU and global level.

For more information about OGF-Europe, please visit:

<http://www.ogfeurope.eu/>.

OGF-Europe FAQ:

<http://www.ogfeurope.eu/index.php/ogfeuropefaq>.

LACNIC IX Meeting:

An Opportunity for Internet Development in Our Region

The LACNIC IX Meeting, which will be held in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil, between 26th and 30th May 2008 at the Fiesta Bahía Hotel, and will be hosted by Brazil's NIC.br. All those interested in attending are invited to register and enjoy the various activities offered by this event, devoted to internet development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz

LACNIC is a non-profit nongovernmental organisation which brings together internet services providers and whose mission is to manage the internet numeration resources, thus contributing to creating opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in favour of the internet regional community, committed to:

- Excellence and quality in customer services
- Continuous improvement of an unbiased, participative and transparent self-regulation model.
- The adoption and promotion of the industry's technological advances and standards.
- The enhancement of the relationships with the main internet players within the region.}
- The development of regional capacities through training and the promotion of internet-related technology.



Once every year, during the last nine years, LACNIC organises meetings which focus mainly on the internet's development and stability in Latin America and the Caribbean. The target audience is quite wide, including internet service providers, regulatory bodies, academic networks, ccTLDs and NAPs operators, members from the civil society and professionals from the telecommunications industry in general.

The results of these meetings are realized in concrete actions, whether in the definition of policies for the distribution of internet resources within the region or in initiatives for regional interconnection projects, or the creation of work groups.

These meetings, which represent a fundamental part of its functioning as an institution, also feature the Public Forum on Policies and the Members' Annual Assembly, as well as several meetings of other organisations such as LACTLD (Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs), ISOC (Internet Society) and the forum for NAPs operators in the region. Those interested in attending will enjoy several free-choice opportunities, although some of them are exclusively for members.

LACNIC XI Activities

Training workshops and technical training on Security, Internet Traffic Exchange and IPv6 Implementation.

Although this tutorial is aimed at Service Providers, the idea is to enable those who have had no previous contact with technology to make use of it as well. The attendees will have the chance to learn about important points for the implementation of IPv6 on the networks of one ISP, such as:

numbering plan, routing plan, internal infrastructure with IPv6, security, documentation, etc.

Practical Tutorial on CSIRTs' Creation and Management

The Computer Security Incidents Response Teams (CSIRTs) are service organizations in charge of receiving, analysing and respond to security incident reports. Although this kind of organisations has existed for more than twenty years, the interest in the benefits they might bring has grown considerably in our region.

Tutorial: Interconnection schemata and strategies for ISPs

The aim of this tutorial is to provide providers and companies in the region with elements for decision-making in terms of connectivity. The audience includes every person involved in purchasing international and national capacity (co-responsible, peering coordinators, sales or marketing area), technicians and network engineers, among others.

Forum on Regional Interconnection, NAPLA 2008

Those who attended the Forum will be able to get together with the operators of points of traffic exchange and their users in order to foster the creation of a peering agreement, to receive updates on the different NAP in the region (traffic statistics, number of members, ongoing projects), to promote NAP-related technological advances, and to discuss regional interconnection in the Latin America and the Caribbean area.

The invitation to this seventh version of NAPLA is extended mainly to NAP/IXP operators, current or prospective members of these (ISP, content providers or end users), international carriers and professionals in the telecommunications industry and other related industries. The event is fully open.

Third Network Security Event

Through a series of presentations, discussions and debates, this event will aim at defining the main challenges in terms of network security worldwide, and particularly within the region. It also seeks to clarify the relevance of CERT in areas of network security, the roles that Internet Service Providers must play in security issues, the type of intra-regional coordination that there should be and the characteristics that this should have, etc. This meeting is completely open to all those who are interested.

Sixth IPv6 Latin American Forum- FLIP-6

The aim of the IPv6 Latin American Forum is to promote and foster the adoption of the IPv6 Protocol in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, as well as the exchange of experiences gathered during the implementation of IPv6-based services and applications in our region. The meeting is completely open. The audience of the forum is diverse and comprises professionals from the academic and commercial sectors, university networks, Internet Service Providers, NAP operators, ccTLD and professionals from the telecommunications industry in general.

LAC IPv6 Task Force Meeting

The IPv6 Latin American Forum is organised to promote and foster the adoption of the IPv6 Protocol in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the exchange of experience gathered during the implementation of IPv6-based services and applications in our region. The meeting is completely open.

LACNIC Members Annual Assembly

The members' assembly is the highest LACNIC body. According to its statutes, this meeting must be held at least once a year. Although the meeting is exclusively aimed at LACNIC members, these sessions are held with an open doors policy, and therefore every person participating in LACNIC IX is welcomed to attend. The above is in line with the LACNIC policy of transparency in all its actions and functions.

LACNIC Public Forum on Policies

It is precisely the Public Forum on Policies where Internet numbering resources allocation criteria for the region are discussed. It features the presentation of reports on activities of the internet registry system at both regional and global levels, and discussions on technical themes of importance for the regional community. The Forum is open to all audiences.

LACTLD Members Meeting

LACTLD is a non-profit organisation which aims to bring together ccTLD administrators in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among its objectives, it seeks to jointly coordinate policies as well as strategies for the development of domain names at a regional level, to promote the development of ccTLDs in the region, to foster cooperation and the

exchange of experiences among its members and to establish collaboration links with similar organisations in other regions of the globe.

Internet Society (ISOC) Regional Event - INET Latin America

This event is organised by the ISOC Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. It will feature discussions on relevant aspects for our region in relation to the future of the internet, the role of cooperation among the different players in our community, as well as specific themes related to the issues that affect Latin America and the Caribbean.

Details:

Those who wish further information on LACNIC IX and its programme, as well as accommodation and general information, can visit the event's website:

<http://www.lacnic.net/sp/eventos/lacnicxi/>

Registration to attend LACNIC IX is already open at:

<http://www.lacnic.net/sp/eventos/lacnicxi/registrarse.html>

Those interested in sponsoring the meeting should contact the organisers via email at:

meeting@lacnic.net



Attention to all researchers in Latin America and Europe:

ALFA III Programme Call for Proposals already launched

The programme for cooperation between Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) from the European Union and Latin America, ALFA III, is inviting to submit proposals until 16 June 2008.

María Paz Mirosevic

As a way of contributing towards the overall development of the region's economic and social sectors, and towards a more balanced and equitable global development of the Latin American society in particular, the ALFA III Programme is inviting higher education institutions (HEI) networks, and other relevant institutions in the cooperation sector, to submit proposals for grants within the context of the higher education cooperation programme for Latin America.

The third phase of ALFA also intends to help improve the quality and access to Higher Education in Latin America (LA), as well as to contribute to the integration process within this region, favouring the advances towards the creation of a common ground in Higher Education and thus strengthen its synergies with the European Union (EU) system. This is the programme's first call, starting on 13 March and lasting until 16 June 2008. Then there will be two more calls until 2013, where €85 million are expected to be granted.

The actions include joint projects between European and Latin American institutions and the implementation of structural measures regarding the reform of Higher Education systems in Latin America.

The programme is divided into three different components (lots), which complement each other, to be developed in parallel. Each component responds to its own priority sector or themes, and will be executed through the different actions or projects carried out by the institutions networks selected, namely:

Lot 1: Joint Projects: these aim to encourage exchanges of experience between the institutions taking part in the action and its implementation in the Latin American member

institutions. They will encompass one or more of the following sectors or themes:

- Institutional and academic management
- Social Cohesion

Only Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) established in EU or LA countries that are acknowledged as such by the relevant authorities in the respective countries can participate.

Duration: between 24 and 36 months.

Lot 2: Structural Projects: these will focus on discussing and designing mechanisms to promote the modernisation, reform and harmonisation of higher education systems at regional level in Latin America. They will encompass one or more of the following sectors or themes:

- Modernisation of higher education systems in LA
- Social Cohesion

Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) established in EU or LA countries that are acknowledged as such by the relevant authorities in the respective countries and other entities can participate.

Duration: between 24 and 36 months.

Lot 3: Accompanying Measures: the actions will aim at creating synergies between the projects encompassed by components I and II which may be selected during their call for proposals. They must also ensure the collection, centralisation and dissemination of the results and best practices of these projects. They will encompass one or more of the following sectors or themes:

- Coherence/links/synergy between components I and II
- Best practice, exchange of experience
- Regional visibility/awareness of the programme

Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) established in EU or LA countries that are acknowledged as such by the relevant authorities in the respective countries and other entities can participate.

Duration: 48 months.

The global indicative amount assigned to the 1st Call for Proposals amounts to € 19.340.000. EC contribution can amount to a minimum of 50% and to a maximum of 80% of action's total eligible costs.

Countries invited to participate are: European Union member states and the following 18 Latin American countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

To access the frequently asked questions section of the ALFA III website, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/alfa/index_es.htm

To access the call for proposals, visit the web:

<http://www.redclara.net/news/doc/alfa3.pdf>

To apply for the ALFA III Programme, visit the Web:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/alfa/apply_es.htm

About the ALFA Programme

The ALFA programme began in 1994 and sought to reinforce co-operation in the field of Higher Education. The programme co-finances projects aimed at improving the capacity of individuals and institutions (universities and other relevant organisations) to promote academic exchanges between the two regions.

The first phase, ALFA I, with an EC contribution of € 31m, ran until 1999 and involved 1064 institutions operating 846 micro-projects.

The second phase, ALFA II, (2000-2006) with a total of 10 selection rounds represented an EC contribution of €54.6m distributed to 225 approved projects held by 770 institutions organised in networks with an average of 9 institutions from LA and EU.



Astronomers, be prepare to celebrate the access to data:

EVALSO lift off



Fact 1: World-class experimental facilities are often placed in remote sites which makes the exploitation of these facilities socially and economically difficult. Fact 2: The top world-class observational facilities, the unquestionable bigger input for the astronomers, are placed in VERY remote sites with VERY difficult (and not for say expensive) accesses. Formula: Fact 1 + Fact 2 = A problem for the astronomers who are far from the observatories. A good solution for Europe and Latin America: EVALSO = Enabling Virtual Access to Latin-american Southern Observatories.

María José López Pourailly

The first day of January 2008 was not only the beginning of this year, it was also the beginning of EVALSO, a project that has the strategic objective of “make possible the strict integration in the ever-growing instrumental grid emerging worldwide of the world-class facilities created in Chile by the European Astronomical Community”. EVALSO will be running during 36 months, thanks to the funding of the 7th Framework Programme - Capacities.

The most simple terms to explain what will EVALSO do since started until the last day of December of 2010, are published in the project’s website that was launched in March 5th:

“EVALSO aims to create a physical infrastructure (and the tools to exploit it) to efficiently connect the ESO Paranal and the Cerro Armazones Observatories to Europe.

“The infrastructure will use the international infrastructures created in the last years with the EC support (RedCLARA, GEANT) to provide European Research a competitive edge having faster access to the collected data and use the facilities in an ever more efficient way”.

According to the actual and future needs, this infrastructure must be solid and long-term lasting and of course it must allow an unlimited increase in capacity. The proposal of the consortium that runs EVALSO, which is integrated by nine institutions - Università di Trieste, European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, Consortium GARR, Nederlandse Onderzoekschool voor Astronomie, INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste, Queen Mary University of

London, Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas, Red Universitaria Nacional and Astronomisches Institut Ruhr-Universität Bochum-, consists in installing an optic fibre facility running from the Observatories at Cerro Paranal and Cerro Armazones (both located in the Atacama Desert in the North of Chile), to Antofagasta, the closest city where REUNA, the National Research and Education Network (NREN) of Chile, has a Point of Presence (PoP). From that REUNA’s PoP, EVALSO will make use REUNA’s network (G-REUNA) and its long term agreements with local operators to jointly upgrade that network, so that upgradable bandwidth capacity maybe available from Antofagasta to Santiago (Chile’s capital city) where there’s access not only to the International Research Network, through G-REUNA and RedCLARA, but also to Commodity Internet and other telecommunications facilities.

The expert voice

In order to better understand EVALSO we held a videoconference with Fernando Liello, the Project Coordinator (Università di Trieste). The result was a very nice and friendly interview, which not only explains in depth and in simple terms why is EVALSO so important for the astronomers, Europe and Latin America, but also gives a very human reason for continuing working in the development of the advanced networks.

In Astronomy research the world is clearly moving to the development of Virtual Observatories (VO) to better access and use the enormous amount of data. EVALSO will develop a physical infrastructure (and the tools to exploit it) to

efficiently connect the ESO Paranal to Europe. Could this infrastructure serve or facilitate the future establishment of a VO of ESO in Chile?

Well, EVALSO itself not. But EVALSO as a support in time for the astronomical community, the astronomical research and the support to the REUNA and the RedCLARA networks, as an indirect support to REUNA and RedCLARA, yes. So EVALSO itself not, but as a facility or as a mean to publicize what can the astronomers do over the network, for sure yes. Virtual Observatories are essentially a technique to access to astronomical databases, which are essentially but not only located in Europe and North America and they require of access by a network. As a consequence, to make REUNA more available and RedCLARA of a higher capacity will result in a better access for the astronomers to those databases and in time that could lead them or could help them to create a Virtual Observatory in Chile.

So, In time this infrastructure that EVALSO will create could help to foster the creation of a Chilean VO?

As an indirect result, yes, it could, in time.

Which would you say are going to be the most important milestones of EVALSO?

The fact that large international facilities are going to be installed in Chile, of which Paranal is only a prototype -is not the only example-, and that they are going to be connected to the advanced networks, overpass the currently isolation. So, this is the milestone: Paranal will become a sort of standard for new installations regarding the connections established, the kind of services, and the support for science. Now, strictly speaking for EVALSO, I think that the milestone will be the creation of the infrastructure and immediately after that the testing of new techniques to exploit astronomical facilities in remote that are going to be used in Europe but will can also be used in Chile by the astronomical community that will access to laboratories without traveling to Paranal or to Cerro Armazones or to other places were the have observation facilities.

In this context, which would you say is the major importance of the EVALSO project?

To show that we are not in a time were it is needed to move the people to the facility, to travel to those places were the observational facilities are placed, but that it is the

time to connect those facilities to the global networks in such a way so the researchers can use the facilities from were they are settled, thanks to the connections, and also to allow those who are in other countries to access to the data for their researches. So it is not only the use of the Paranal facilities from Europe, but it is also the use of the data acquire at the Paranal Observatory that stay in Europe by means of the network, by people that is placed in Chile.



Fernando Liello.

Now, let me challenge you a little more. If you had to “sell” this project to someone...

I did.

I know you did and I know you do that... but, “sell” it to our readers. Why do we need EVALSO, give me a “golden phrase”.

We need EVALSO because we can’t sustain the costs of people traveling for four days to do a one week of work so far from home.

Ok, quite fair. In a broader scenario, not only restricted to Astronomy, apart from the benefits for the European astronomers and for the astronomers based in Chile that work in Paranal, and also having in mind your experience in the AUGER project. Which would you say are the benefits that these kind of projects can bring to Latin America?

We have to show and we need to realise that to build large scale facilities far from home implies to make these facilities accessible in an easy way and usable in an economic way not only in economic terms but also in terms of social costs. To have people traveling in a regular basis is expensive and complex in terms of the other work that that people must do, of course from time to time you need to move them to

the places, but not every time. We have to keep in mind that the facilities in Latin America are not easy to reach. So, to make these facilities accessible to people that cannot travel due to social or economic reasons will help to extend research. In consequence these facilities will help to stretch the distances between Latin America and Europe for the scientific communities, so the Europeans can benefit from the Latin-Americans and vice versa. For example, the fact that people from Brazil is working in the CERN's particles physics accelerator through the network, is a good example, in another scientific area, of what we are doing through EVALSO and AUGER Access.

You have a great experience in advanced networks, you worked in the creation of GÉANT. Now, bearing in mind your experience, which would you identify as the real importance of the advanced networks?

I would say that is the access to the facilities that cannot be accessible through the connection of the commercial providers, cause the access through them is not economically reasonable or either it is not viable for them to provide that kind of access to those facilities. Advanced networks give people chances to better exploit the facilities and better conduct their researches. And of course you cannot think about not working through the networks cause of the costs of moving people to the different countries is excessively expensive. The access to facilities that you can get from the connection to networks as RedCLARA, REUNA, or through the connections that are going to be established by means of those networks in EVALSO, it is the best in terms of costs and research development.

So, basically this is an economic reason.

No, it is also a social reason. To move people from their countries and homes, from their universities or laboratories, means that for some days or even for a long term, they cannot teach, they cannot be with their families, etc. But when you have the access to remote facilities, you can teach at the university, speak with the students, you can do your research thanks to the facilities in Paranal and also show your students the results of the work you are remote carrying in Paranal, and at the end of the day you can go home and be with your family. So, there are social, scientific, educative, personal and of course economic benefits.

For further information about EVALSO, please visit:
<http://www.evalso.eu/>

April 20th - 23rd, Spain

EELA-2 was kicked off in the ancient city of Trujillo

EELA-2 started on April 1st 2008 and was officially launched during its Kick-off Meeting (KoM) that was held between April 20th to 23rd at the Meliá Trujillo Boutique Hotel in Trujillo, the old Spanish city where CETA-CIEMAT is located.

María José López Pourailly

Funded by the 7th Framework Programme - Capacities of the European Commission, the EELA-2 Project (E-science grid facility for Europe and Latin America) aims to build a high capacity, production-quality, scalable Grid Facility providing round-the-clock worldwide access to distributed computing, storage and network resources needed by the wide spectrum of applications from European - Latin American scientific collaborations, with special focus on providing a complete set of versatile services fulfilling application requirements and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the e-Infrastructure beyond the term of the project.

Such an ambitious project would not be possible without the prior existence of a consolidated e-Infrastructure, set up with the early intention to build a sustainable Grid platform. This was the objective of the EELA project that is providing its users with a stable, well supported Grid Infrastructure based on 16 Resource Centres (RCs) summing up to over 730 CPU cores and 60 Terabytes of storage space, thus proving that the deployment of an EU-LA e-Infrastructure was not only viable but is also responding to a real need of a significant part of the Scientific Community.

The EELA-2 vision is two-fold:

- Consolidate and expand the current EELAE-Infrastructure built on the research networks GÉANT2/European NRENs (National research and Education Networks) and RedCLARA/LA NRENs, to become an e-Infrastructure Facility, providing a full set of enhanced services to all types of applications from multiple scientific areas of European and Latin American scientific communities;
- Ascertain the conditions of the durability of the e-Infrastructure, beyond the project duration.

In two years, the very skilled and highly motivated people from Europe and Latin-America that are working in EELA-2 will be devoted to the following objectives: expand the current EELA e-Infrastructure, collaborate with related projects, support current and new grid applications, collaborate with RedCLARA and LA NRENs, support e-Science and/or National Grid initiatives (NGIs), and build the required support for the e-Infrastructure.

The great collaborative experience and the outcomes of the previous EELA project (ranked as “good to excellent”, the highest valuation possible, by the European Commission), set the basis for the success of EELA-2 and at the same time compel all the EELA-2 members and partner institutions to give their best effort in order to achieve the proposed goals, which in the long term will serve to reduce the digital divide between the European and the Latin-American countries.

The EELA-2 KoM

The scope of the meeting was worked out to include all the relevant matters that needed to be discussed at the start of the project, i.e.:

- Constitution of the Consortium Board and installation of the Project Management;
- Tutorial on Administrative & Financial procedures;
- Presentation of Scientific Institutions, Resources and Applications by EELA-2 Members;
- Presentation of the EELA-2 Network, Service and Joint Research Activities by the Activity Managers.

The meeting was also expected to be an opportunity of utmost importance to:

- Know each other and the EELA-2 scientific environment, from the very beginning of the project;
- Exchange views of and interests in using the EELA-2 e-Infrastructure;
- Express common concern to ensure a long-term sustainability of the EELA-2 e-Infrastructure, i.e. of the longevity of Europe-Latin America e-Science.

EELA-2 members

A total of 53 institutions participate in EELA-2 with 16 partners as coordinators of JRUs:

CIEMAT (Spain), CUBAENERGIA (Cuba), CLARA (Latin America), UCC-CMRC (Ireland), HLP (France), CNRS (France), INFN (Italy), LINTI - UNLP (Argentina), REUNA (Chile), SENAMHI (Peru), ULA (Venezuela), UNIANDES (Colombia), UNAM (Mexico), UPORTO (Portugal), UFRJ (Brazil) and UTPL (Ecuador).

Representing the following 37 institutions in the countries mentioned:

Argentina: ILFP, LSC / UBA. Brazil: CEFET-RJ, UNILASALLE, FIOCRUZ, INCOR/USP, IME, LNCC, ON, RNP, SPRACE, UnB, UFCG, UFF, UFJF, UPMackenzie. Chile: CEAZA, FCV, UDEC, UFRO, UTFSM, UVALPO. Colombia: UIS. France: IPGP. Peru: CIP, PUCP, USMP. Portugal: UAVR, UMINHO. Spain: CESGA, RED.ES, MAAT, UC, UCM, UEX, GRyCAP - UPV. Venezuela: USB.

Useful links:

EELA-2 Portal:

<http://www.eu-eela.eu>

EELA-2 Wiki:

<http://wiki.eu-eela.eu>

For more information about the previous EELA Project, please visit:

<http://www.eu-eela.eu/first-phase>

1,000 genomes Project:

The Scientific Adventure of Analysing the Human Map

The project intends to elaborate a catalogue of variants found with a frequency of at least 1% among the human population.

María Paz Mirosevic

The 1,000 Genomes Project was defined as an initiative that will examine the human genome with a level of detail greater than in any former study, beginning to be developed in late January this year. This idea is supported by the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton (England), the Genome Institute in Beijing (China), the Shenzhen (BGI Shenzhen) in China and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), which is part of the National Institute for Health (NIH) in the United States (<http://www.nih.gov/>).

The initiative is being developed by a group of scientists in an international consortium, who will be devoted to lay foundations in cutting-edge sequencing technologies, bioinformatics and population's genomics in order to create a high resolution "map" of the variations of our DNA which affect our health. This way, it is expected that they will achieve the miracle of processing, over the next three years, a lot more genetic information that the one humanity has known over the last 25 years.

The project's data will be freely available for the scientific community on the internet, through the European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI) -<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/>- which is part of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), and the US National Centre for Information on Biotechnology, which is part of the National Institutes for Health in that country.

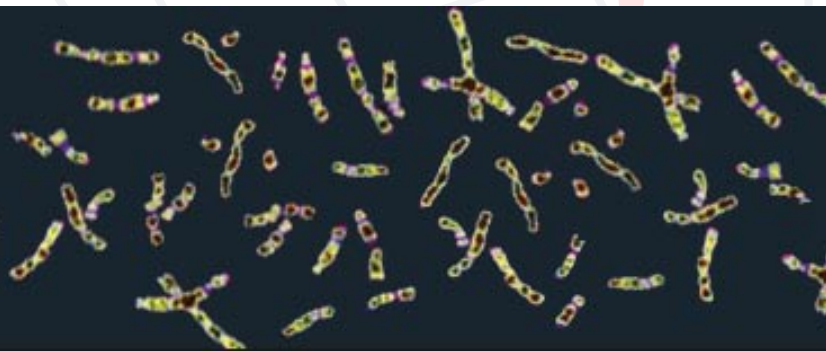
What will the 1,000 Genomes Projects study?

This project will analyse the different unique letters in the DNA, as well as structural variants in which entire sections of the genome have been restructured, deleted or duplicated. In former studies, certain genetic variants have been associated to a series of common illnesses, such as diabetes, coronary conditions, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, intestine inflammation conditions, molecular degeneration and eye illnesses associated with aging.

The project intends to elaborate a catalogue of variants found with a frequency of at least 1% among the human population. To this end, it will be necessary to sequence the genomes of at least one thousand people belonging to a wide range of ethnic groups from Nigeria, Japan, China (and also Chinese residents in Dallas, USA), citizens from Utah with European ancestors, Kenyans from two different ethnic groups, inhabitants of the Italian Tuscany, Gujarati Indians in Houston, inhabitants of Los Angeles with Mexican ancestors and also US citizens with African roots in their families, among others. They will all remain anonymous and no medical information on them will be annotated. A work group made up of experts will examine the project's ethical, legal and social implications.

It is estimated that the costs of 1,000 Genomes will be around US\$ 30-50 million (between €20,5 and 34,2 million). By using traditional sequencing methods, the costs would

1000 Genomes
A Deep Catalog of Human Genetic Variation



have been around US\$500 million (€343 million), but scientists intend to keep costs at a minimum level by using cutting-edge methods in a more efficient and profitable way.

The Project's stages

1,000 Genomes comprises two stages. The first one will last one year and will feature the development of three pilot projects which will enable scientists to decide where to begin to build their map of the genetic differences in the most efficient possible way, taking advantage of the technological advances available.

In the first trial only the genomes from two families made up of three individuals each will be analysed: two parents, one child. In the second step, 180 participants will be included and finally, a third one will assess the regions which encode around 1,000 genes in some more individuals.

Only in the second stage of the project (lasting two years) the complete genome from the 1,000 individuals will be analysed, at a pace never seen before. Concretely, the aim is to obtain data from 8,000 million bases a day, which is the equivalent of analyzing the genome of two people every day. It is expected that in three years they will be able to generate 60 times more information than the one which has been deposited in public ADN bases over the last 25 years.

Ultimately, by 2010 this project will lay the foundations for the future use of personal genome in medicine, where the people's genomes will be routinely sequenced in order to find out about risks for their health and their probable response to different medicines.

To have further information, check
<http://www.1000genomes.org>.

To access the 1,000 Genomes press release, visit:
<http://www.1000genomes.org/files/1000Genomes-NewsRelease.pdf>.

October 27 – 31, 2008 - Aguascalientes, Mexico

Third Latin American Learning Objects Conference

The Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA) invites the Latin American and International Community to participate in the 3rd Latin American Learning Objects and Technologies for Learning Improvement (LACLO 2008), to be held on October 27 – 31 in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

M. Alejandra Lantadilla B.

In its third version, the theme of the event will be not just learning objects technologies, but all of which are used to facilitate a better and higher learning. There is also an interest in the formation of knowledge networks through collaborative multidisciplinary projects, which is why the call will be also addressed to academics, educationalists, technical specialists, education specialists and interested public.

Proposals of work to be presented can be written in Spanish, Portuguese or English, and need to describe projects finished or in progress, present an analysis of the learning objects technology or explain an approach within the workshop's subject matter.

The article format has to be as per the format described in the section "Authors Guide" on the Conference Website (<http://www.laclo.org/laclo2008>).

Submission of articles can be done until June 1 2008.

Subject Matters

With the aim to promote an integrative view of the issues surrounding learning objects (OAs), subject matters are considered in relation to processes of generation, design, production, management and use of them. The subjects

listed below are suggested by the event's organization, but they don't exclude other related subjects:

- Learning Objects
- Instructional Design
- Tool Integration
- Web 2.0 in Education
- m-Learning
- Semantics Web in Education

Key dates

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Author Registration: September 15, 2008.

Early Participant Registration: September 15, 2008.

Normal Participant Registration: October 20, 2008.

Conference: October 27 - 31, 2008.

More information:

<http://www.laclo.org/laclo2008>

A G E N D A

M A Y

IFIP Networking Conference 2008

5th to 9th May in Singapore

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sce/networking2008/>**II Distance Learning Days**

5th to 9th May. Distance modality

<http://campus.salvador.edu.ar/pad/>**5th International Joint Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering 2008**

7th to 9th May at the Felix River Kwai Resort Hotel, in the city of Kanchanaburi, Thailand

<http://www.jcsse.org>**Second Iberian Grid Infrastructure Conference**

12th to 14th May at the University of Porto, Portugal

<http://www.ibergrid.eu/2008/index.html>**IST-Africa Conference and Exhibition 2008**

14th to 16th May in Windhoek, Namibia

<http://www.ist-africa.org/Conference2008/default.asp?page=priorities>**8th International Workshop on Resiliency in High Performance Computing**

18th to 22nd May in Lyon, France

<http://xcr.cenit.latech.edu/resilience2008/>**TERENA Networking Conference 2008**

19th to 22nd May in Bruges, Belgium

<http://tnc2008.terena.org/>**Workshop on Modern computer tools for the biosciences**

19th to 22nd May in Lyon, France

<http://gbio-pbil.ibcp.fr/modernbio/Bienvenue.html>**EUROBOT Conference 2008**

21st to 25th May in Heidelberg, Germany

<http://www.eurobot-deutschland.de/index.php?id=27>**LACNIC XI Meeting**

26th to 30th May in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil

<http://www.lacnic.net/sp/eventos/lacnicxi/index.html>**9th RNP Workshop**

26th to 27th May in Río de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.rnp.br/wrnp/2008/>**2nd Colloquium on Research and Innovation in the Teaching of Science**

28th to 30th May in Bogotá, Colombia

<http://regweb.ucatolica.edu.co/publicaciones/investigaciones/CIIEC/index.htm>

J U N E

Workshop on the Role of Mobile Technologies in Fostering Social Development

2nd to 3rd June in Sao Paulo, Brazil

http://www.w3.org/2008/02/MS4D_WS/**23rd Open Grid Forum - OGF23**

2nd to 6th June in Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.ogf.org/OGF23/>**International Showcase on Higher Education, Science and Technology for Development**

4th to 6th June in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

http://www.iesalc.unesco.org.ve/noticias/Convoca_Muestra.pdf**21th IEEE International Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems**

17th to 19th June at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland

<http://cbms2008.it.jyu.fi/>**7th International Symposium on High-Performance Distributed Computing**

23rd to 27th June in Boston, USA

<http://www.hpdc.org/>**Workshop on Bioinformatics> Challenges to Computer Science**

23rd to 25th June in Krakow, Poland

<http://bioinformatics.unicz.it/iccs2008/>

6th International Congress on Computing in Optimisation and Software

25th to 27th June at the Autonomous University of Morelos State (México), in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos.

<http://www.uaem.mx/cicos/>

EISTA 2008

29th June to 2nd July in Orlando, Florida

<http://www.socioinfocyber.org/eista2008>

Seventh Hispanic American Conference on Systems, Cybernetics and Informatics: CISCI 2008

29th June to 2nd July in Orlando, USA

<http://www.infocibernetica.org/ciscic2008/website/default.asp?vc=2>

J U L Y**2nd International Congress on IP Telecommunications**

10th to 12th July at the Hilton Colón Hotel in Quito, Ecuador

[http://www.redclara.net/news/doc/convocatoria_CITIC\[1\].doc](http://www.redclara.net/news/doc/convocatoria_CITIC[1].doc)

Symposium International on Pervasive Grid, PerGrid-08

16th to 18th July in Sao Paulo, Brazil

<http://nets-www.lboro.ac.uk/lin/PGrid08/>

IADIS International Conference on e-Learning 2008

22nd to 25th July in Amsterdam, Netherlands

<http://www.elearning-conf.org/>