



SERENATE Initial Workshop, La Hulpe, 17-18 September 2002

Breakout session 3: Research User Needs

Tuesday 17 September 2002, 18:00-19:30 hours

A major element of the SERENATE studies has to be an assessment of the future needs of end-users in the European Research and Education communities and the perceived priorities in introducing network facilities. This will be done via a questionnaire sent to recipients active in a wide range of fields, by discussions and through a subsequent workshop of end-users.

During the current Initial Workshop it is hoped to identify particular issues that should be addressed. This would determine the details of the questionnaires and subsequent discussions. For example:

- How should one balance preferential support of research that challenges network and other technical developments against a more democratic service?
- How should educational needs be weighed against research needs?
- What are the realistic potentials of exploiting very advanced network facilities in the different countries of Europe and in different subject disciplines?
- Which current research is being limited by the present networks?
- Who in Europe is considering the use of network speeds an order of magnitude or two orders of magnitude faster than we have today – and to do what?
- What effect will these increases in network speed and capacity have on the way we currently conduct research and other activities?
- Are there completely new research disciplines that could be created by such developments?

It would be important to identify any aspects of the use of networking that might cause concern in relation to privacy or confidentiality, proof of authenticity of data or communications, or security of data and resources against accident or attack.

The end-user view on economic issues should also be addressed. Currently, in most European public institutions there is no charging for networking resources at the point of use by the individual research worker or group. Can such an approach be maintained? Should it be?