



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

### **Breakout session 1: Geography** **Tuesday 17 September 2002, 18:00-19:30 hours**

This breakout session will try to generate the key strategic questions in the following two areas:

- how to provide equal opportunities for researchers everywhere in Europe and
- how to provide connectivity to the research and education community in other parts of the world.

#### **Equal opportunity for researchers in Europe**

- Where are the problems or lack of opportunities
  - in EU Accession States
  - in poorer EU countries
  - in remote and less-favoured regions or less developed parts of any country?
- Should we aim at equal opportunities everywhere (irrespective of costs)?
- Are the main problems in the local, national or international connectivity?
- Are there enough computers?
- Is there any lack of infrastructure (optical fibre)?
- Are high tariffs of telecommunication infrastructure linked to slower liberalisation of telecommunication markets in certain parts of Europe?
- Is there a problem of computer/networking expertise?
- Do universities see computer networking as an essential infrastructure for high-quality research and a necessary condition for better education?
- Should less-developed parts of Europe get more EC support?
- Should NRENs in richer countries directly or indirectly subsidise poorer NRENs?
- Could EU Structural Funds and European Investment Bank support be useful?

#### **Better connectivity to the research and education community in other parts of the world**

- Connectivity between Europe and US is relatively good. What about connectivity to
  - Australia, Japan, South-Korea, Russia, India, China and other Asian countries
  - South-American countries and Africa?
- Has the European research community any priorities for establishing better connectivity
  - to non-accession states in Central and Eastern Europe and those bordering the Mediterranean
  - to those countries where a lot of research is going on (Russia, India, China...?) ?
- To what extent should Europe finance connectivity to other parts of the world?
- Should Europe try to export the European model (one NREN per country, one pan-continental network and uniform connectivity) to other parts of the world?