



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

Breakout session 4: Specific End-Users

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

All users from the research and education (post 16) communities across Europe are connected to their national research and education networks (NRENs) and benefit from the wide and growing range of services and content to which they provide access. Some European countries have provided access to their NREN for other, related, communities of users, such as those working in the fields of libraries, schools, and healthcare. Other countries have either created separate networks for those communities, or have not yet adopted any uniform approach. One of the objectives of the SERENATE studies is to consider this issue of possible wider access to the NRENs. We will study the requirements of the different communities - libraries, schools and healthcare institutions. We will also look at how the connection of these communities, if it were to take place, would affect the use of the NRENs.

This breakout session will look at widening access to the national research networks and delegates are encouraged to exchange views and experiences in this area. Suggested areas for discussion are:

- Can we define precisely these new user communities? Examples are schools, libraries, hospitals; are there others?
- What is the size of each community?
- What is the current state of the connection of these communities in Europe?
- What are the networking requirements, both current and future, for these communities?
- What effect would it have on the NRENs and GÉANT to widen access to the network? For example: are the services scalable?, data protection, Acceptable Use Policies, bandwidth reservation, helpdesk services, training, documentation, security implications, restricted access to content, etc.
- Identify any additional services required by each community.
- Identify the advantages and disadvantages to the existing users of widening the access to the NRENs.
- What about possible "political" issues? How quickly would any wider access run into opposition from ISPs who feel that they can fully meet the needs of these communities with their competitive offerings?
- And how should this be funded?
- Produce guidance for those communities looking to connect – is it possible, is it useful?