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SEEREN access use policy

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Abstract: SEEREN D11 is the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) agreed upon for use of any infrastructure that will be provided through the SEEREN project.

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Preface

SEEREN is expected to upgrade and integrate the Internet services and infrastructure of the National Research and Education Networks of SE Europe, in an attempt to ease the "digital divide" that still separates most of the SEE countries from the rest of the continent. Moreover, the project promotes the cooperation of scientific and educational communities of EU member states with the SE European countries and provides a platform for dissemination and development of next generation Internet technologies in those states that are on course to joining the EU. The project involves the Research and Education Networks of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Hungary, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, as well as TERENA and DANTE.

The main objectives of the SEEREN project are to:

1. Establish the South-East European (SEE) infrastructure interconnecting the National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Serbia and Montenegro, Greece, Hungary and Romania (called regional NRENs);
2. Interconnect the regional NRENs to the major GÉANT Points of Presence (PoPs) in this area and thus to the Pan-European research network. The major GÉANT PoPs in the region are located in Athens, Budapest, Bucharest, Ljubljana, Zagreb and Vienna;
3. Guarantee the stable operation of the networking infrastructure and interoperability with GÉANT;
4. Serve as a guide for future upgrades, so that all regional NRENs will be able to participate in GÉANT and be part of the European "e-Science" distributed platform;
5. Ease the "digital divide" that still separates most of the SEE countries from the rest of the continent. Build awareness of IST in SE Europe non-EU countries and serve as a paradigm for bridging the digital divide in other areas. Provide a platform for cooperation of scientific and educational communities of EU Member States with Newly Associated States (NAS) and 3rd Countries.
6. Investigate additional sources of funding from the EC, from EU States national funds and international organizations that are actively involved in the SEE region, such as UNESCO, NATO, CEENet, UNDP, World Bank, USAID.

The expected key results of the project are:

1. NRENs requirements collected and analysed
2. Technical and operational requirements analysed
3. Promotional package available
4. Tenders prepared
5. Suppliers selected
6. Connectivity, equipment and network management contracts signed
7. Final SEEREN topology determined
8. Operation of the regional networking infrastructure offering to all NRENs GÉANT visibility starts
9. Stable network operation accomplished
10. SEEREN workshop proceedings ready

The SEEREN project has started its activities on December 2002 and is planned to be completed by the end of June 2004. It is led by Dr. Jorge-A. Sanchez-P. of GRNET. Five contractors (GRNET, HUNGARNET-NIIFI, RoEduNet, DANTE and TERENA) and five subcontractors (INIMA, BIHARNET, ICTDA, MARNET, AMREJ) participate in the project. The total budget is 1 297 481 Euro. The project is funded by the European Commission's Fifth Framework Programme for Research & Technological Development (IST Programme).

The Project issued the following deliverables:

D01a	SEEREN project handbook	WP1	Report	Restricted	1/1/2003
D02	SEEREN Web/FTP site	WP5	Internet site	Public	1/2/2003
	SEEREN project notebook	WP1	Working doc.	Internal	1/2/2003
D03	Market analysis and requirements for SEEREN	WP2	Report	Public	1/3/2003
D04	SEEREN training workshop	WP5	Event	Internal	1/3/2003
D05a	SEEREN project brochure	WP5	Brochure	Public	1/3/2003
	1st progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/3/2003
D06a	SEEREN project presentation	WP5	Presentation	Public	1/4/2003
D07	Contractual relationships for SEEREN	WP1	Report	Restricted	1/4/2003
	Measure of success rules	WP5	Report	Internal	1/4/2003
D08	Networking topology options and implem. approaches	WP2	Report	Restricted	1/4/2003
D09a	Call for connectivity and equipment tender	WP3	Report	Public	1/6/2003
	2nd progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/6/2003
D09b	Connectivity and equipment tender	WP3	Report	Public	1/7/2003
D09c	Connectivity and equipment suppliers responses	WP3	Report	Public	1/8/2003
D10	SEEREN topology	WP5	Report	Public	1/9/2003
D11	SEEREN use policy	WP1	Report	Public	1/10/2003

And plans to issue the following deliverables:

	3rd progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/9/2003
D13	1st period progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/9/2003
	1st period integrated cost statement	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/9/2003
	4th progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/12/2003
D12	Implementation and acceptance tests	WP4	Network	Restricted	1/1/2004
D14	SEEREN configuration and performance	WP4	Report	Public	1/2/2004
	5th progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/3/2004
D15	SEEREN workshop	WP5	Conference	Public	1/4/2004
D16	SEEREN liaison activities and future plans	WP5	Report	Public	1/6/2004
D01b	SEEREN project handbook (update)	WP1	Report	Restricted	1/6/2004
D02b	Project presentation (update)	WP5	Presentation	Public	1/6/2004
D05b	SEEREN project brochure	WP5	Report	Public	1/6/2004
	6th progress report	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/6/2004
	Assessment and evaluation of final results	WP3	Report	Internal	15/6/2004
	Final integrated cost statement	WP1	Report	Restricted	15/6/2004
D17	Final progress report	WP1	Report	Public	15/6/2004

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1. Background, principles and definitions

- **SEEREN** is the acronym of the *South-Eastern European Research & Education Networking* initiative.
- The **SEEREN consortium** consist of GRNET (coordinator), HUNGARNET/NIIFI, RoEduNet, DANTE, TERENA, INIMA, BIHARNET, ICTDA, MARNET and AMREJ.
- **GEANT** is the Gigabit European Academic Network - the European backbone interconnecting the networks of the European NRENs.
- The **GEANT consortium** consists of the organizations in <http://www.dante.org/geant>.
- **SEEREN NRENs** are the NRENs (National Research and Education Networks) of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro.
- The **purpose of SEEREN** is to support interworking, teaching, learning and research within the **SEEREN NRENs**.
- The **purpose of the academic and research networks of the SEEREN NRENs and their international (GEANT) connections** is to serve the user communities of the **SEEREN NRENs** in their activities related to research and education, as well as to their management, administrative, and information oriented tasks.
- **SEEREN infrastructure** is the academic and research network operated/accessed by the **SEEREN NRENs**, together with those connections providing connectivity of the **SEEREN NRENs** to the **GEANT** network.
- **SEEREN services** are all those network services available on the basis of the **SEEREN infrastructure**.
- **SEEREN resources** are all those tangible and intangible assets, hardware equipment and software tools, as well as human workforce, involved in operating the **SEEREN infrastructure** and **SEEREN services**.
- **National networks** of the **SEEREN NRENs** are the domestic networks serving the user communities of the individual **SEEREN NRENs**.
- **International (GEANT) traffic of the SEEREN NRENs** is the traffic between the **SEEREN NRENs** and any other NRENs in Europe or any other parts of the world, flowing through GEANT.
- In view of this document, the following **SEEREN traffic categories** are taken into consideration:
 - a. **Research and Education (R&E) traffic** is any Internet traffic directly related to research and/or education, and flowing between research and education organisations.
 - b. **Commodity Traffic** is any Internet traffic directly related to research and/or education, and flowing between a research and/or education organisation and a non-research and/or education organisation.
 - c. **Commercial Traffic** is any Internet traffic not belonging to the categories of *R&E traffic* or *commodity traffic*. Any traffic is practically considered commercial traffic if it is flowing between organisations that are neither research nor education in nature.
 - d. **High Performance Research and Education (HP-R&E) traffic** is R&E traffic between/among a small subset of research and education organisations requiring high performance network services.
- **Users of the SEEREN resources** are, on one hand, those organisations belonging to the **SEEREN NRENs** and being connected to the mentioned network, and, on the other hand, those individual users accessing the network services provided by the NRENs on the basis of their infrastructure and their resources.
- **User communities** of the **SEEREN NRENs** are the communities consisting of users belonging to the research, education, and public collection sectors, and possibly some further non-profit organisations being in relation with these sectors (in the followings: research and education user communities), within the countries of the **SEEREN NRENs**.
- In view of this document, the following **SEEREN user categories** are taken into consideration as those ones being eligible to belong to a **SEEREN NREN**:
 - a. University networks,
 - b. Networks of public sector research and education organisations,
 - c. Networks of ministries and public organisations directly related to the above-mentioned institutions, e.g. the Ministries of Education, Ministries of Science, etc.

- d. Public collections, libraries, as well as research and development departments of other not-for-profit organisations.

The present *AUP (Acceptable Use Policy)* document determines what are considered acceptable and unacceptable use of the national and international academic and research network of the SEEREN NRENs.

This *AUP* is to be ***applied and taken into consideration*** by all *Users of the SEEREN resources*.

It is the ***responsibility*** of the *SEEREN NRENs* to ensure that members of their own *User communities* use *SEEREN resources* in an acceptable manner and in accordance with this *AUP*.

As far as the ***coverage*** of the involved rules and regulations are concerned, this *AUP* is to be applied in case of both national and international (GEANT) traffic.

Concerning the ***extent*** of the *AUP*, the *SEEREN NRENs* may add further rules and regulations to those contained by the present *AUP*. By this way separate AUPs of the NRENs within the SEEREN region should be developed and approved so that these separate AUPs are compatible with the conditions expressed in this *AUP (SEEREN AUP)* and any additional rules and regulations mustn't contradict those ones laid down by the present *SEEREN AUP*.

As far as the content of such separate AUPs are concerned, they may refer to, or include, this *SEEREN AUP*. If any part of this *SEEREN AUP* is included in such a separate AUP of an NREN, that must be done by ensuring that there is no misrepresentation of the intent of this *SEEREN AUP*.

2. Acceptable use

Using the national networks of the *SEEREN NRENs* and generating *international (GEANT) traffic* by the *SEEREN NRENs* so that that usage and traffic are serving the purpose of the academic and research networks of the *SEEREN NRENs* is fully accepted by this *AUP*.

Any user of the *SEEREN resources* may use the *SEEREN infrastructure* and *SEEREN services* for the purpose of generating *R&E traffic* and *HP-R&E traffic* with other users within the *SEEREN user community*, and with organisations attached to networks that are reachable via networking agreements operated by *SEEREN*.

The use of the *SEEREN infrastructure* for generating *commodity traffic* is also acceptable, provided that:

- a. such traffic is approved by the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium*,
- b. provisions for such commodity traffic are duly made by the *SEEREN Consortium* and the related *SEEREN NRENs*,
- c. such traffic is agreed by the related user communities outside the *SEEREN Consortium*, especially by the *GEANT Consortium*.

The above basic principles about *commodity traffic* indirectly involve the fact that using the national networks of the *SEEREN NRENs* and generating *international (GEANT) traffic* by the *SEEREN NRENs* for private purposes (e.g. by generating private e-mail traffic) is also accepted. However, this acceptance also assumes that this kind of usage doesn't fall into the category of *commercial traffic*.

Within the above limitations, the usage of the national networks of the *SEEREN NRENs*, as well as the generation of *international (GEANT) traffic* by the *SEEREN NRENs* are accepted for any applications but for those prohibited by Section 3 "Unacceptable use" of this document.

Those users accessing any other network through the *SEEREN infrastructure* by exploiting the services of such other service provider, should also take into consideration the *AUP* of those accessed networks.

Subject to the following paragraphs, *SEEREN resources* may be used for any legally acceptable and correct activity that is in furtherance of the purpose of *SEEREN* and of the aims and policies of the *SEEREN user communities*.

3. Unacceptable use

It is not permitted to practice business over the *SEEREN infrastructure*. This applies to all *SEEREN NRENs* and includes selling products, services or bandwidth and advertising

It is not permitted to use the *SEEREN infrastructure* for *commercial traffic*, ie. to transfer data whose both the originator and the receiver are commercial institutions or non-eligible networks or their foreign counterparts.

The *SEEREN infrastructure* mustn't be used for any of the following:

- Activities being in contradiction with the law of the country of the related *SEEREN NREN*, including, among others, the following types of activities: hurting the personal rights of anybody else; activities aiming at collecting forbidden income; hurting intellectual rights; consciously illegal distribution of software.
- Transit traffic between users not belonging to the *SEEREN user community*;
- Activities contradicting the rules and regulations of any national, foreign or international networks being connected to the *SEEREN infrastructure*, provided that these activities do affect these networks;
- Forwarding services of the *SEEREN infrastructure* towards users outside the *SEEREN user community*;
- Direct commercial activities for profit making, including any kinds of advertising material either to other users, or to organisations connected to *SEEREN infrastructure* or any *SEEREN NRENs*;
- Any activity hurting or disturbing anybody else, e.g. hurting the religious, ethnic, political or any other kinds of beliefs, characteristics, opinions, feelings, etc. of any other users of the *SEEREN infrastructure*;
- Disturbing or obstructing, without any established reason, and in more than a minor extent, the work of any other users (e.g. spamming);
- Extensive utilisation of *SEEREN resources* for private purposes;
- The creation or transmission (other than for properly supervised and lawful research purposes) of any offensive, obscene or indecent images, data or other material, or any data capable of being resolved into obscene or indecent images or material;
- The creation or transmission of material that is designed or likely to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety;
- The creation or transmission of defamatory material;
- The transmission of material such that this infringes the copyright of another person;
- Deliberate unauthorised access to facilities or services accessible via the *SEEREN infrastructure*.

Deliberate activities with any of the following characteristics are also prohibited:

- Activities disturbing or threatening normal operation of the *SEEREN infrastructure*;
- Wasting staff effort or networked resources, including time on end systems accessible via the *SEEREN infrastructure* and the effort of staff involved in the support of those systems;
- Illegal accessing and/or illegal exploitation of *SEEREN resources* or any information accessible through the network;
- Dissemination of any information or software being dangerous to the safety and security of the *SEEREN infrastructure*;
- Any activity towards illegal alteration, damage or destroying *SEEREN resources* or any information accessible through the *SEEREN infrastructure*;

- Corrupting or destroying other users' data;
- Violating the privacy of other users;
- Disrupting the work of other users;
- Any activity utilising the network so that it causes extensive traffic burden to the infrastructure, without any well established reason to such an extensive traffic level;
- Using the *SEEREN infrastructure* in a way that denies service to other users (for example, deliberate or reckless overloading of access links or of switching equipment);
- Continuing to use an item of networking software or hardware after the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* have requested that use cease because it is causing disruption to the correct functioning of the *SEEREN infrastructure*;
- Other misuse of the *SEEREN infrastructure* or networked resources, such as the introduction of "viruses".

4. Compliance

It is the responsibility of the *SEEREN NRENs* to take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in this *AUP*, and to ensure that unacceptable use of the *SEEREN infrastructure* and resources does not occur.

The managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* intend to avoid any such activities that may cause harm or damage to the *SEEREN infrastructure* and/or the *SEEREN users*, and to minimise the consequences of such harmful actions. Moreover, the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* intend to prevent accessing by non-authenticated users those information that are communicated or accessible through the network. However, the management bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* can't take liability with respect to any eventual such harm or damage due to the lack of satisfactory technical means. Thus the *SEEREN users* should store and/or transmit information through the network by taking into consideration the limited security available.

In case of violation of the *AUP*, the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* have the right, after proper formal warning, to suspend the connection of the offending network, until the latter conforms to the rules.

Conscious, intentional and/or major violation of the *AUP* regulations shall be sanctioned by temporary or final disqualification of the related user(s) that means exclusion from the *SEEREN infrastructure*. In case of minor violation or in case of unconsciousness, the related user is to be warned and informed about the *AUP* rules and regulations. If after such a warning a repeated violation follows, this should be considered an intentional or malicious violation.

In case of any suspicion of violations to the *AUP* regulations, if necessary, the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* should turn, through the *SEEREN NRENs*, to the involved user organisation, by asking them to investigate the issue and to take any necessary action. In investigating the eventual problems, the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* and the management organisations of the related *NRENs* shall co-operate.

Where violation of these conditions is illegal, or results in loss or damage to the *SEEREN resources* or the resources of a *SEEREN NREN* or any other users outside the *SEEREN user communities*, the matter may be referred for legal action. If necessary, the managing bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* may initiate such legal actions.

In case of any doubts or debates, the *SEEREN Consortium* and its managing bodies should advise on the related aspects as and where necessary.

5. Suggestions and recommendations

It is recommended that each *SEEREN NREN* being connected to the *SEEREN infrastructure* and each user organisation being connected to a *SEEREN NREN* is preparing their own *AUP*, in harmony with the present *SEEREN AUP*. The *NREN AUPs* and the local *AUPs* may contain parts of this *AUP* or may even contain the full text of it, but those parts coming from the *SEEREN AUP* should be clearly identifiable.

It's advisable that the *NREN AUPs* and the local *AUPs* contain, among others, the following elements, if they apply:

1. Special rules, regulations and constraints stemming from the characteristics, especially bandwidth, of the local network.
2. The way of controlling how the rules are taken into consideration. Names of those persons being responsible for the specific tasks belonging to the *AUP* matters.
3. Description of those procedures and sanctions resulting from violating the *AUP* rules. Actions to be taken in case of major operational problems of the network, offences to the network, or other dangerous situations.
4. Rights of the users, eg. to
 - access an account (depending on technical possibilities);
 - keep a private home-page (depending on available resources);
 - guarantees of privacy on behalf of the network operators;
 - possibilities of asking for help against spamming;
 - get information from the network operators about eventual technical problems (system maintenance, loss of e-mails, etc.);
 - information about the ways of getting informed about the basic knowledge of how to access network services, etc.
5. Duties of the users, e.g. regular alteration of their passwords, providing information about the unnecessary accounts, prohibition of transferring the accounts, duty of getting informed about the "netiquette" and the local *AUP*, etc.

Accessing secure data of the users is allowed only in case of technical or security reasons. However, even in such cases the access is restricted to the minimum necessary level and there is an immediate duty of informing the related user(s) about such an unavoidable accessing. The only persons having such a right are the staff of the network management unit of the *NREN/organisation*. However, the information collected by such an extraordinary action, should be kept closed to the public. The only exception is when the above secret data are forwarded to those authorised persons being involved into the investigation of suspicions about violating the *AUP*.

6. Closing remarks

This document can be accessed through the Internet by visiting the www server of SEEREN at <http://www.seeren.org>

This *AUP* is to be regularly reviewed and to be updated in accordance with any eventual changes in the *SEEREN infrastructure* and *SEEREN resources*.

This *AUP* and its future amended texts are to be approved by the management bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium*.

This *AUP* in its current form has been agreed by the management bodies of the *SEEREN Consortium* and the directors of the SEEREN NRENs.