

Black Sea Initiative and its Current Status

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Porta Optica Study Project

The main goal of the Porta Optica Study project is stimulation and consolidation of initiatives to ensure the successful, dark-fiber based research network deployment in the Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova), the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and the South Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia).



Black Sea Initiative

- **The aim of the BSI is interconnection of NRENs in countries of Black Sea region with fiber optic. Idea was suggested in Tbilisi, March 2006.**
- **Meetings of several NRENs were held in Istanbul, May and November 2006.**
- **NRENs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Georgia, Greece, Poland, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine expressed interest to participate in BSI.**



Black Sea Initiative

- **Memorandum of Understanding between NRENs of 12 countries and CEENet has been signed and sent to EC.**
- **The draft of the government support letter has been prepared.**
- **POS main recommendation is deployment and interconnection of DF infrastructure of NRENs in these countries.**
- **It became clear that in 2007 there is no mechanism through which EC can fund POS recommendation.**



Black Sea Initiative

- **During Istanbul meeting on November 9, 2006 two possibilities of participation in FP7 Calls were discussed:**
 - 1. INFRA-2007-1.2.3. e-Science Grid Infrastructures – all BS NRENS were encouraged to participate in existing or new Grid projects (Baltic Grid, SEE-GRID, ...).**
 - 2. INFRA-2007-3.1.3 Studies, conferences and coordination actions supporting European and/or international cooperation for e-Infrastructures. AM+AZ+GE+TR+GR+CEENET – to prepare proposal for South Caucasus NRENS connectivity to GEANT via ULAKBIM Turkey.**



Black Sea Initiative for South Caucasus

- **Meeting of representatives of ULAKBIM, GRNET, GRENA and CEENET was held on March 22, 2007 in Istanbul.**
- **The following items were discussed:**
 - **Consortium composition – representatives from AM, AZ and GE + ULAKBIM + GRNET + CEENET + DANTE. Coordinator ULAKBIM.**
 - **Project consideration – for the first stage to organize 155 Mbps shared channel from Turkey for 3 NRENs in South Caucasus.**



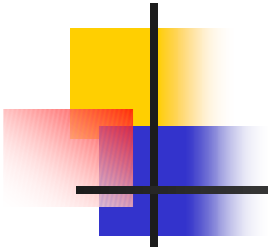
Black Sea Initiative for South Caucasus

- **Black Sea Initiative for South Caucasus has good chances for the EC support.**
- **NATO and fiber equipment vendor companies are interested in the project.**
- **Under FP7 it is possible to get 80% funding from EC, but 20% should come from participating countries.**
- **Support of National Governments of beneficiary countries is essential.**



Black Sea Initiative

- **Black Sea Initiative for South Caucasus is a step forward not only in getting connectivity to Caucasus, but as 'bridging project' to get funding for more fully implementation of POS recommendations.**
- **Black Sea Synergy – a new regional cooperation initiative is under discussion at EC.**



Thank you !

April 18, 2007, Poznan, Poland