3.1   Publishable summary

Summary description of project context and objectives

Summary: CEENGINE project aims at enforcing ad stimulating Central and Eastern European Networking Association (CEENet) activities related to the creation, incubation and development of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in Central, Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia. With CEENGINE support it is expected that the Association engages more intensively and aggressively in supporting, developing NRENS in the areas which are both complementary to and enabling towards GÉANT3.

Objectives: CEENGINE relies heavily on the unmatched experience, expertise and competence of CEENet in CEE, Caucasus and Central Asia, and aims to fulfill the following objectives:

NREN technology training in Porta Optica Study project

− coordination of activities between e-Infrastructures initiatives in the region;

− raising awareness and technical know-how necessary for integration with GÉANT, including dark-fiber, cross-border connections;

− fostering international cooperation and extension of GÉANT towards the East;

− intensification of dissemination of e-Infrastructure program and related projects (GÉANT, BSI, CAREN, various GRID and HPC initiatives) in the region.
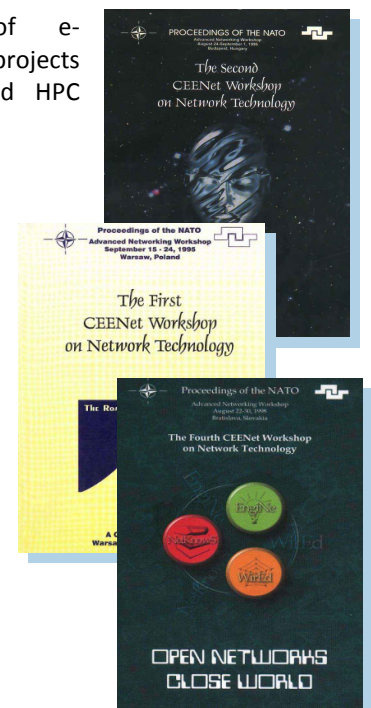
Action plan: CEENGINE will achieve its goals by:

− organization of several workshops for NRENS and network users (technology, policy/management, user communities and services);

− revision and updating of data about user communities,

− improvement of competences by international collaboration;

− preparation of the informational sources such as portal, newsletters, and various promo materials, assisted by PR team;

− co-organization and participation in at least nine different dissemination events;

− stimulation of a few joint proposals for collaborative projects in the field of e-infrastructures with wide participation of ICPC partners;

− strengthening of the cooperation with GÉANT.

CEENGINE will also produce a study termed as "CEENet GO (Global Outreach) concept" that would reflect the interests and the activities of CEENet relative to its extension to other geographical areas through innovative types of partnerships and memberships in the future.

Cover pages of recent CEENet publications

Coordination and/or support activities: There are three coordination/support activities that constitute the core of the CEENGINE operations: support for NRENs users, support for NRENs development and finally, coordination of research and development activities.

User communities: the user communities targeted by CEENGINE include all current and future users of NRENS in Central, South and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. There are different types of users, from universities,

research institutes to individual research infrastructures such as radio-telescopes or measurement sites. In some of the countries the users can also be primary and secondary education as well as government, NGOs, etc. It is quite important objective of CEENGINE to support users in their way to participating in international research projects co-funded by EU.

International aspects: CEENGINE will directly support CEENet (an international association of NRENs) and its members in their way towards GÉANT and stronger collaboration with other international partners. The works of CEENGINE will complement numerous EU projects (GÉANT, BSI, CAREN, TEIN3, EUMEDCONNECT2, FEAST, SEE-GRID, SEE-GRID-SCI) aiming at creation or upgrade of the international research infrastructures. CEENet has been also a co-initiator of several of those projects. The research infrastructures in CEENGINE region have also been supported by NATO, which is also one of the organizations that CEENGINE considers as important partners.

Description of the work performed since the beginning of the project and the main results achieved so far

While the project is still in its inception phase (1st quarter of the 3-years-long project), a decent progress has been recorded in all work packages:

- WP1 – most of the activities in the first quarter was devoted to proper setup of project execution environment. This involved the following:
  - creating management procedures governing the daily project operations
  - recruiting and contracting project personnel (WP Leaders and Financial Assistant)
  - drafting action plan for the next 6 months of operations

- WP2 – the team of collaborators has been established and the analysis of NRENs users has started

- WP3 – a draft questionnaire has been designed and is currently consulted with other WPs, before it will be implemented into polling Web-engine and sent to NRENs for an early feedback on their infrastructure. Objective NREN benchmarking tool & metrics are under evaluation.

- WP4 – CEEGNINE has initiated and maintains the contacts/supports the following research teams:
  - **Telemedicine:** contacts have been set up with SE Asian telemediciners, joint CEENet & Simon Fraser University paper has been written and accepted for presentation at TEIN/APAN/APRICOT conference in February 2011, Hong Kong. Also the cooperation has been established with Israeli researchers for the study of information propagation through social networks and dissemination activities, as a part of greater project to study remote post trauma treatment of natural disasters' victims.
  - **Digital libraries:** a concept note for Eastern Partnership Program activities related to digitization of regional cooperation resources has been drafted by CEENGINE and is currently under evaluation. If accepted, CEENGINE will support organization of its members into a consortium able to participate in relevant project.
  - **Security:** CEENGINE personnel evaluated the possibility of organizing the consortium able to participate in Home Affairs, CIPS-type security project. Due to short deadlines this activity has been postponed.
  - **Multimedia:** due to CEENet members demand, CEENGINE has investigated the possibility of financing the project on Educational Multimedia. The concept of the project prepared by CEENet members has been consulted with FP7 personnel.

- WP5 – this workpackage co-organizes (with other projects) earlier than expected, NREN Policy Workshop – initially scheduled within second year of the project, has been shifted to April 2011 to exploit the

synergy with similar activities of GÉANT3 and HP-SEE. There were several (virtual) meetings of joint Organizing Committee.

- WP6 – this activity managed to achieve its all objectives for the period, namely procured a server, mailing lists, website, project promotional materials (leaflet, logo)