

DANTE on the Road...

IST 2004 – Participate in your Future

The IST 2004 event took place at the Netherlands Congress Centre in The Hague between 15th and 17th November. It brought together policy makers, Sixth Framework Programme project leaders and ICT researchers to discuss the big issues facing information society technologies.

One strong theme of the conference was international collaboration between the EU and countries such as China, India and Russia. GÉANT already connects Russia, and the ongoing TERN2 project will provide connectivity between GÉANT2 and China. The relationship between the EU and Latin America was also explored, highlighted by the success of the ALICE project to create the RedCLARA research and education network for Latin America. The first connection between South Africa and GÉANT was also formally announced by Mr Mosabudi Maqena, the South African Minister for Science and Technology.

Complementing the conference was an exhibition of current research projects, where tomorrow's technology is in development. It was in this context that DANTE participated, highlighting GÉANT2 and its enabling role in scientific and academic research.

GÉANT2 jointly exhibited with the DEISA, EGEE, SEE-GRID and DILIGENT projects. The projects exhibited together to demonstrate to the research community, the power of their combined efforts for academic research.

GÉANT2 is placing increasing emphasis on demonstrating the applications of the network. DANTE would be very keen to hear from anyone interested in highlighting their applications in the form of a demonstration. Please contact us via the Media Centre of the GÉANT2 website, www.geant2.net



ALICE

ALICE project launches RedCLARA network

The ALICE project has achieved a great deal in a relatively short period of time. ALICE has created the RedCLARA network, linking together researchers in the countries of Latin America for the first time, and has implemented a link between RedCLARA and GÉANT to support collaboration between researchers in Latin America and Europe. These are important achievements which are already providing benefits to researchers and the wider society in Latin America.

Credit: André Coelho/RNP



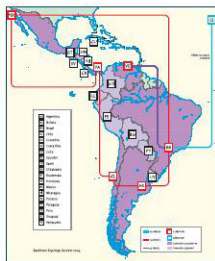
Nelson Simões speaking at the launch event.

To celebrate these achievements, an ALICE launch event for the RedCLARA network took place on 23 November 2004, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It took place as part of the 3rd Latin America and the Caribbean – European Union Ministerial Forum on the Information Society: An Alliance for Social Cohesion through Digital Inclusion.

The objective of the Forum was to strengthen cooperation between Europe and the Latin American and Caribbean region, focusing particularly on information and communication technologies as tools for social cohesion.

The launch of the ALICE project was one of the highlights of the event. The results of the ALICE project are a concrete example of how communications technology can directly improve the quality of life for citizens, and helps reduce the differential between the living standards experienced by citizens in different parts of Latin America.

The launch event was opened by Fabio Colasanti, Director-General of DG Information Society of the European Commission. Mr Colasanti spoke of the boost given to the



Latin American region by RedCLARA and its connection to GÉANT. These benefits include:

- Its profound effect on the opportunities available to the region's researchers.
- Its contribution to developing and retaining a pool of academic talent in Latin America.
- The resulting ability to attract new research facilities.
- The stimulation of spin-off activities such as commercial start-ups and knowledge transfer throughout society.

Presentations were given by Dai Davies, of DANTE, and by Nelson Simões, from CLARA. Dai highlighted the achievements ALICE has produced in such a short space of time. ALICE has achieved in only two years in Latin America, the technical organisation in research networking that took over ten years to achieve in Europe. Nelson noted that RedCLARA has benefits for all levels of science and society, from small local projects, to large-scale collaboration on regional themes. Especially important will be the research on matters of particular Latin American interest, including the El-Niño effect and the loss of biodiversity in the Amazon.

A copy of the presentation given by Dai Davies can be found on the ALICE website, www.dante.net/alice. Here you will also find the new ALICE brochure.

The launch was further supported by a joint ALICE-CLARA-DANTE-RNP exhibition stand at which demonstrations were operated showing the capabilities of the network. DANTE would like to extend particular thanks to everyone at RNP, the Brazilian NREN, for all their help and hospitality. The success of the event was very much a result of all their efforts.

ALICE supports e-health applications in Latin America.

In each issue of *The Works of DANTE*, we look at a different network application, which demonstrates the potential impact of research networking. This issue focuses on a project utilising RedCLARA, the pan-Latin American network created as part of the ALICE project.

The T@lmed project, currently operating in Brazil and Colombia, brings e-health services to rural locations, allowing medical specialists to remotely diagnose conditions and prescribe treatments to patients. If there are any doubts regarding a diagnosis, referral can be made from the rural clinic to a metropolitan hospital, for further analysis. It can even be sent internationally to Europe, using the transatlantic link to the GÉANT network.



The benefits of the T@lmed project for patients are obvious – it saves lives. Yet there are other ways in which the project is helping. The local doctor is empowered and can treat patients with greater confidence, and the hospital specialist can reach a far greater number of patients without ever leaving their hospital. There are also advantages in the increased collaboration between specialists and local doctors, with the dissemination of the very latest clinical techniques and diagnostics. The project uses specialist equipment and software developed by Medcom at the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany, and the Brazilian national research network, RNP.

A video of the ALICE project, with further details on T@lmed, is available in the ALICE newsworld. To view it, visit www.dante.net/alice. A case study is also available to download.

