

Update on AfricaConnect and FEAST & Introduction to Call 9 (FP7- Infrastructures-2011-2)

8th EuroAfrica ICT Concertation Meeting

Brussels, 23 June 2010



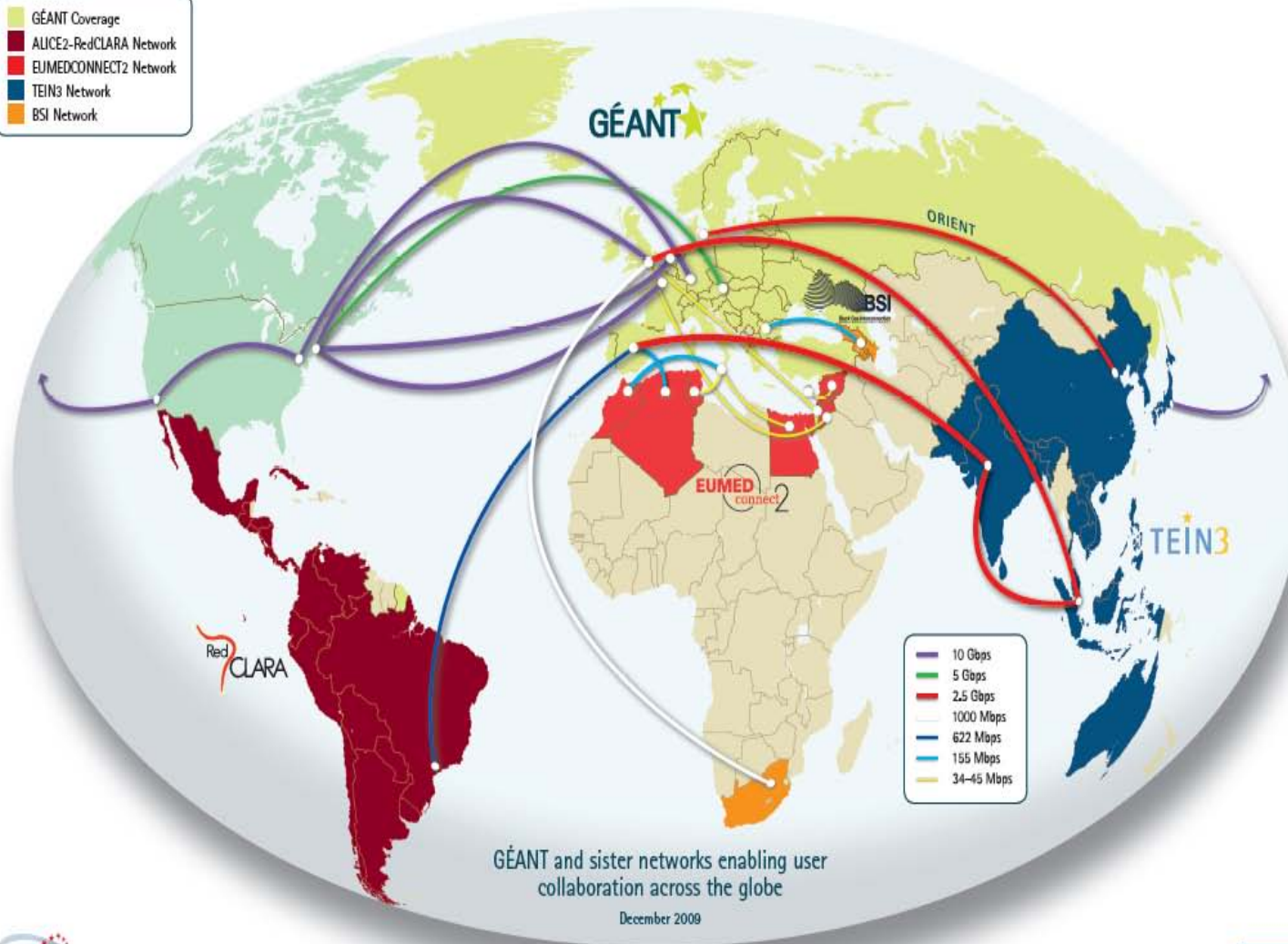
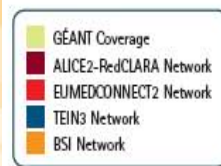
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FEAST and AfricaConnect

- **FEAST** : Study funded by INFISO/F3 for the feasibility of AfricaConnect: interconnection of sub-saharan National Research and Education Networks (NRENS) to GEANT
- **AfricaConnect**: African Component of ACP Connect: (12 M€ EDF + 3 M€ cofinancing for “AfricaConnect”)
 - 1st meeting of Steering Committee of ACP Connect in July
- AfricaConnect is one of the 6 initiatives agreed for rapid implementation between the AU and EU Commissions
 - Implementing partner: DANTE
 - Grant in negotiation: expected to be signed shortly
- AfricaConnect was a main topic in ICT Africa 2010 (Durban)

GÉANT Global Connectivity



e-infrastructure

connect • communicate • collaborate

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AfricaConnect: Preparing the ground for the implementation 1/2

- Increase awareness in public authorities and education and research institutions managers
 - The message is "no high quality research and education are possible without a high-quality network connecting to the world"
- Improve collaboration and rationalisation of efforts
 - Increase of the level of collaboration of regional NRENs
 - Foster and integrate supporting actions in place by European NRENs
 - Harmonise policies at national and regional level



AfricaConnect:

Preparing the ground for the implementation 2/2

- Support the emerging NRENs
 - How to reduce the imbalance of technical capability and state of development of universities and research centres?
 - How to develop national research & education e-infrastructures?
- Increasing importance of applications (use of infrastructure)
 - What are the needs and potential development areas?
 - Support to cooperation and emergence of virtual research communities (intra-regional - not only towards/from GEANT)
 - Beyond "traditional" e-health/learning/government applications towards public services (e.g. civil protection, agriculture (crop and plague control), climatology, weather monitoring, etc.)



Potential of AfricaConnect

1/2

- AfricaConnect has the potential to become a real success with major impact in the region
 - Window of opportunity that cannot be missed!
- Needs a strong political will and a determined collaboration of all stakeholders:
 - Political: role of AUC in raising awareness in public authorities and institutional support
 - Stakeholders sharing a common vision and working in the same direction, with participation of other actors (e.g. AAU)
- Ambitious goals have to be balanced with resources available and readiness of NRENs



Potential of AfricaConnect

2/2

- Lessons to learn in other regional developments: RedCLARA
 - ▲ ALICE/ALICE2 programme – ACP Connect
 - ▲ CLARA organisation – Ubuntunet Alliance
 - ▲ RedCLARA network – “?” network
- Progressive evolution from development aid towards self-sustained national/regional e-Infrastructures policy
 - ▲ Sense of ownership and responsibility
 - ▲ Local development of know-how
 - ▲ Transfer of demand and competences to the private sector
 - ▲ Sustainability in the long term - National budgets
- A focused and fast action delivering tangible results
 - ▲ act as a catalyst for other NRENs and as federating factor for other initiatives to multiply impact

"Let's maintain the momentum and be practical!" ...



Introduction to Call 9 (FP7- Infrastructures-2011-2)



e-infrastructure

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Introduction to Call 9 (FP7- Infrastructures-2011-2)

Work Programme 2011: Capacities (Research infrastructures)
(expected to be approved by the end of July 2010)

- **Open: end of July / Deadline: 23 November 2010 (tbc)**

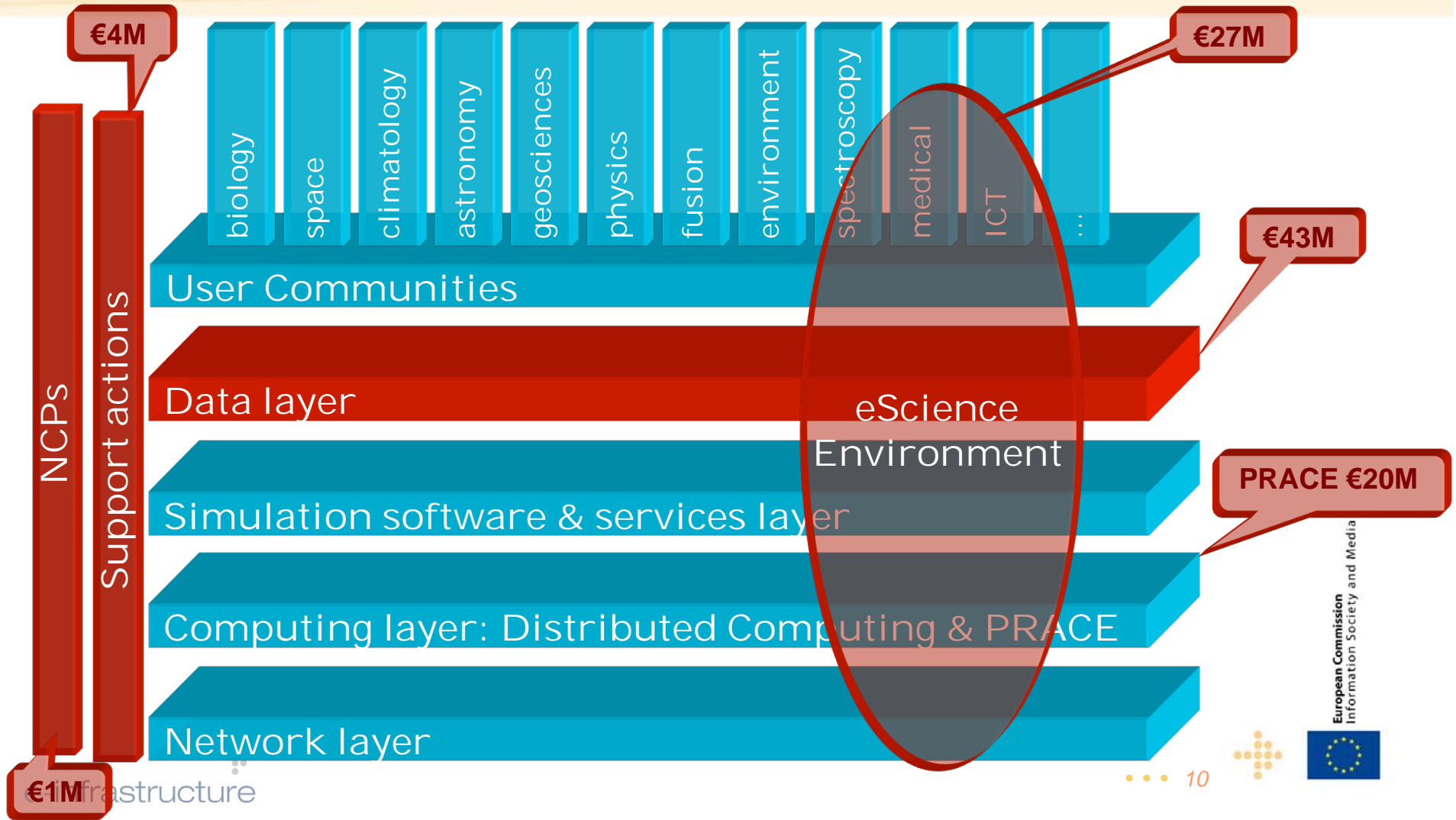
R&D: Combination of Collaborative Projects and CSA (CP-CSA)

- INFRA 2011 1.2.1: e-Science environments (27 m€)
- INFRA 2011 1.2.2: Data infrastructures for e-Science (43 m€)
- INFRA-2011-2.3.5: Second implementation phase of the European High Performance Computing (HPC) service PRACE (20 m€)

Support (Coordination and Support Actions CSA)

- INFRA-2011-3.4: Supporting to policy development, including international cooperation (4 m€)
- INFRA-2011-3.5: Trans-national cooperation among NCPs (1 m€)

Planned Call 9 (closing 23.11.10, €95m)



Contact

- Contact
INFSO-RI-CALLS@ec.europa.eu
- Further information
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/calls_en.html

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best scientific
resources

••• Harnessing
the unlimited power
of computers,
instruments and data

Building virtual
global research
communities

••• Innovating the
scientific process



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