The European Commission RTD networking strategy

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Abstract

European Union policy has been to encourage collaboration between researchers in Member States to draw on the widest available pool of talent, so as to maintain Europe's position in advanced technology. This has created the need for advanced communication tools to support this collaboration, and so to the recognition of the requirement for computer communications networks. National research policies have recognized the same problem, so that national support infrastructures have arisen: the Commission has encouraged the development of transnational services connecting these networks by harmonisation of interfaces and through initial direct support of the necessary transmission infrastructure. In the next phase of European Union funded research, networking for research has been addressed as an item for study in its own right. Priority items include demonstrating the benefits, and proving the value of the underlying technology of, high speed networks (the 34 to 155 Mbit/s range) as support for the emerging Multi-Media services, which will in turn feed the application of technology to societal problems which is the essential challenge facing the Telematics programme. As well as enabling remote co-operation, the Telematics for Research activity aims to facilitate access to research results, to accelerate exploitation. It will act as a feeder to the whole Telematics programme, and will exploit results of other Union programmes such as the High Performance Computing and Networking initiative, and the Advanced Communication Technologies and Services programme. These initiatives have been designed to give European researchers an advanced platform from which to operate, but they have also been engineered to enable our researchers to participate in the global knowledge infrastructure.