

DECLARA

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Editorial



Nelson Simões
President of the CLARA Board of Directors, Executive Director of RNP.

2007 marked the onset of a new stage for CLARA. A transition which is common to any well-executed initiative: to expand its impact and to achieve a wider distribution of its benefits.

The main feature of the Latin-American education and research network lies in the integration of universities and research centres by means of advanced Internet applications. However, considering its potential, it can be said that for this group of nearly 600 institutions there is still a lot to explore.

The main barriers for further exploration are still the same: the region's infrastructure capacity and quality, as well as the qualifications of the human capital that are necessary to plan and use applications.

However, CLARA's retrospective shows us that these barriers are not insurmountable. On the contrary, RedCLARA's operation since 2004 and the connection of 24 countries from Mexico to Argentina were made possible thanks to the strategic collaboration between Latin America and Europe; the support of the Information Society programmes in those countries; and the links with institutions which are customers of international networks and partners.

Its value as an instrument for cohesion and collaboration was recognised by the hemisphere's science and technology agendas, and also by the plans and projects from international organisations which promote the advance of inclusion in Latin America through a reduction of regional and global asymmetries.

The initial result of this common vision can be measured through new collaboration projects on e-Science, strongly based on information and communications technologies with European groups which came into existence as a result of the existence of RedCLARA.

Among these projects, we can highlight large scale computing through computational Grids; the EELA Project, which is led by CIEMAT (Spain); remote instrumentation initiatives; the RinGRID Project, which is led by PSNC (Poznan, Poland) and the support towards the collaboration in high-energy physics; CERN's LHC Project - as well as the areas of earth sciences, education, computing, astronomy, health in collaborations with North America and Asia Pacific.

To expand this use, CLARA is planning to make investments in a better regional infrastructure by improving capacities and incorporating new countries. This will imply the development of a new network project during the present year which enables RedCLARA to consolidate the support for higher interest groups of intra-regional and inter-regional collaboration.

It is also necessary to assist and support the efforts of our members -the national research networks-; integration with the suitable capacity and openness for the use of new applications in their universities and research centres. The big majority of national initiatives came into existence in the last three years.

It will be extremely important to provide those national networks with training opportunities to improve management and the development of advanced services strategies for their communities. To expand and update activities related to training, technical collaboration, modelling of collaboration projects and the development of effective services to support communities -thanks to the support of the Regional Public Property Programme of the Inter American Development Bank, a project with these objectives has recently been initiated.

Finally, the idea is also to plan and expand the governments' support towards the shared funding structure of the regional Latin American network as of 2008.

This implies a renewal of the investments in shared science, education and innovation infrastructure which take place in Latin American and European countries through the successful ALICE Project - Latin America Interconnected with Europe. It implies expanding the benefits of the Information Society in each country, and creating new opportunities for collaboration and for the development of Latin American intelligence.

Engineer Tulio Abel del Bono, Head of the Department for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, Argentina

“There is no knowledge demand that can do without IST”

Argentina has clearly and firmly shown its incorporation into the sphere of Advanced Networks through its connection to RedCLARA. The Argentinean Department for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, led by Tulio Abel Del Bono, has been the organisation which has encouraged the country's re-connection to the Latin American advanced network. DeCLARA wanted to find out about the importance of our networks for the Argentinean Government and about the value they see in RedCLARA and about the possibilities for collaboration with Europe in the area of Information Society Technologies (IST). We also wanted to find out about the Government's future plans in this area and thus we interviewed Del Bono. The lines below are the result of that work.

María José López Pourailly

The Bicentenary Plan, which has guaranteed access to funds until 2010, has one main objective: to reach that year investing 1% of the Argentinean Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on science, technology and innovation. Is this just a governmental effort, or are you already working together with the Industry and the Academia in order to create the necessary articulations that will help multiply that investment and promote development, technology and innovation in Argentina?

In 2003 we started out with 0,38% of the GDP invested in Science and Technology. The Estate represented 70% of that 0,38%, and the private sector represented 30%. In 2006, the Estate-private sector contribution represented 60% and 40% respectively, and we expect to achieve a 50% to 50% ratio by 2010. In 4 years the country was able to double investments in contrast with an accumulative 8% growth of GDP per year. Not only do we grow alongside that increase, we are also running past the GDP in the race.

Our responsibility is to turn this support for science and technology into a governmental policy which is assumed as a strategic issue that can contribute to the country's present and future.

In Argentina, the private sector has not been very keen on

making investments in I+D. This is due to the fact that for many years, there were only short-term policies, or policies which did not encourage the creation of value through knowledge. The ups and downs and uncertainties that have affected this sector somehow turned it into a conservative one, but since this growth came out of a serious crisis, it first concentrated on meeting the demands of traditional goods and services with consolidate capacities. However, today the private sector is investing about 0,16 of the GDP, which equals 2001's entire investment. The FONTAR projects have multiplied; the new IBD US \$280 million stage includes promotion of clusters, software, technological parks and poles, patents, environmental qualification, etc. It also includes FONOSOFT, which manages the resources established by the Software Act.

We have also put forward our CREAR-CYT programme and a private programme called FinanTIC, because it is highly important to rely on an active risk capital market.

We are also joining together the group of CyT organisations (Science and Technology), which were historically affected by a high degree of fragmentation. We are making a joint effort to be able to build a true National Innovation System and this is shown through the science and technology policies which have been put forward by GACTEC, the National

Science and Technology Cabinet. Having access to advanced networks is a great strength for the resulting integration of knowledge institutions and in this sense the Argentinean NREN represents a fundamental tool.

From the point of view of production, what plan has Argentina drawn up in order to benefit from science and technology innovations?

The motto that guides our work is “knowledge to serve the common good” and this is the synthesis of the project that the President of the Republic and the Ministry of Education entrusted us to carry out when we took over our posts. This is why from the very beginning we have tried to direct the huge capacity of our researchers and technicians towards our country’s problems. We cover the productive demands of different sectors, and this is translated into projects which receive funding. At the same time, we have a highly federal perspective in order to try to balance the regional asymmetries. The Bicentenary Plan obtains the areas of knowledge on which to put the emphasis, particularly on the role of information society technologies, which was predictable anyway. For that very reason, a month ago the President of the Republic signed the governmental decree that creates the Manuel Sadosky Foundation, which will encourage applied research on IST with the participation of representatives from the ministries of Education and Economy, the entrepreneurial chambers CESSI and CICOMRA, national universities, science and technology organisations, as well as private universities and companies, NGOs and distinguished people working in the sector. The Foundation will support the development of software, electronics and communications in the industry; it will help develop centres of excellence and it will establish links with the productive sector, focusing on competitiveness. Minister Daniel Filmus stated that this Foundation will draw up the guidelines for the whole CTI sector and will be a benchmark with international visibility as it moves from a productive scheme with a focus on implementation to a scheme that focuses on production.

What is the role of the connection of Argentina to RedCLARA within the context of the Bicentenary Plan?

The Bicentenary Plan sums up the results of a study that shows what we have to do with CTI for the development of the country. All the problem-opportunity areas relate to IST.

Therefore, the access of institutions to advanced connectivity resources with updated protocols, which were inaccessible from mass networks and even from sophisticated commercial corporate networks, is a way of meeting some of the demands of the complex and vast spectrum which requires our decisions and which understands the aforementioned plan.



How relevant are RedCLARA and Advanced Networks for your government? What immediate and future benefits do you think the country could obtain from this connection, for instance, in the areas of Information Society Technologies in collaboration with Europe?

In the first place, the certainty that we will provide access to the same resources that are available for researchers and technicians from European countries and, at the same time, the expectation that the network will be managed in such a way that it will move into new versions that arise from the evolution of technological generations, as opposed to obsolete technology efforts or those that are no longer novel in the countries where they were developed. All of this could imply that in terms of information society technologies, our benefit will be equal to that of Europe and that development will be guaranteed.

From your point of view, how relevant is the participation of your country and of other Latin American countries in European IST projects? What is the importance of joining together with Europe, in terms of research?

@LIS, as well as other European IST collaboration channels are fundamental for our countries. Actually, last December we opened a Link Office at the SeCyT (Department of Science and Technology) for the collaboration with the EU. SeCyT is an institution with intense collaboration activity, particularly with Europe. In this sense, rather than common interests we need to have common history and culture, and this is what joins us with Europe. When you share a common history and culture it is easier to build common futures.

Argentina is one of the Latin American countries that have participated, together with Brazil and Mexico, in the activities of several Research Framework Programmes. The Argentinean participation goes back to 1986. Since that date to this day, more than 222 scientific collaboration projects with Argentinean participation have received funding which amounts in total to around 222 million Euros.

Likewise, European integration is an icon for the regionalisation represented by MERCOSUR. One of our lines of action in the southern common market is represented by the EU-MERCOSUR projects. Furthermore, there is bilateral collaboration with Spain, Italy, Germany, etc. But apart from the country-to-country lines and beyond the actions of the Framework Programmes, the following projects stand out among the wide and diverse collaboration between the European Union and Argentina in the scientific and technological sectors:

1. A regional MERCOSUR project in the area of Biotechnology which is being executed by SeCyT Argentina.
2. The scientific and technological collaboration programme @LIS, extended until 2008, to bridge the divides and to contribute to the use of information and communication technologies in Latin American science. This programme has created RedCLARA, which today joins us together, the first Latin American education and research network that interconnects different national research networks in Latin America and that in turn gets connected to GÉANT, the pan European research network.

What do you think should be the next steps for the Argentinean national research and education network (NREN) within the global scene of Advance Networks?

IST infrastructure is essential for our researchers to participate in the world development of knowledge. Computing tools have always been priority in research and for the fulfilment of the social demands that are related to it. Argentina has three scientific Nobel prizes and in some degree the three of them have relied on sequentiation, systematization and information tools. This is multiplied today because numerous teams are doing research, there are distance collaborations and large provisions are required. There is no knowledge demand that can do without IST.

But additionally, in other areas our countries first entered networks in such a peripheral way that nodes that were geographically close had to communicate through links from universities abroad. For Argentinean Science and Technology institutions, we are interested in having a NREN with intense and frequently active internal, regional and external links. Within the Advanced Networks scene, this would be the technological image of a strong National Innovation System, integrated and connected within its region and with the world.

The establishment of a direct relationship with governments and ministries of science and technologies in Latin American countries, in terms of the importance that should be given to the Latin American Advanced Network, has been difficult. Apparently, we have not been effective in transmitting and showing the present and future benefits of this network for each of the countries connected to RedCLARA. From your position and considering your experience, why should a Latin American country bet on this network?

Well, Latin American countries have had problems with fragmentation, scattered policies and with the impossibility of benefiting from common resources. The efforts required by harmony of regional relations within MERCOSUR give you an idea of the certain possibility as well as of the difficulty of having common policies. Likewise, the educational institutions that receive the benefits are not sufficiently communicated with governments or do not explicitly show the projects with joint solutions. A Latin American country that has or wants to have integrating links within the CTI sector

and in collaboration with SNI from other Latin American countries, increasingly exercising its capacity to carry out important projects with institutions from its own region and with Europe and the rest of the world, should emphatically bet on this network.

The European Commission has extended the duration of the ALICE Project, which gives birth to our RedCLARA, until 2008. Undoubtedly, this is a promising sign, not only for the continuity of RedCLARA in terms of sustainability but also in political terms. How should Latin American governments and national networks respond to this sign?

Certainly, that sign promotes the use of the investments made by the organisations that benefit from it in order to satisfy the governments and the networks that participate in the effort of this initiative.

Do you think the continuity of RedCLARA in time is necessary? What will the Argentinean government do, through your ministry, to ensure such continuity? What is the government's commitment towards this network and how do you wish this commitment to be expressed to the European Commission?

Our commitment to the Science, Technology and Innovation System comprises all the means for its enhancement and development towards the objectives we have set out for ourselves. At the same time, it is a pleasure to continue with the intense and traditional collaboration with the European Commission. IST give us plenty of satisfactions. We have a very active sector of software development and a thong of computer-based industrial and agricultural applications. Undoubtedly, the collaboration represented by the ALICE Project and RedCLARA is a promising aspect to strengthen academic institutions.



6 March 2007

Global FP7 Information Day achieved its goals

The event was held through a videoconference in three regions throughout the world, making use of the Isabel platform. This initiative was a good opportunity not only to provide information about the future calls, but also to join together projects at a world level

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Global Information Day was organised by the European Commission and was held on 6 March in three different regions: Asia-Mediterranean, Latin America and the USA and Canada. The event was planned as part of the launch of the first calls for proposals, under the e-Infrastructures topic of the 'Capacities' Specific Programme.

Global Information Day was held through a videoconference, using the Isabel platform. It was also broadcast live on the Internet in all the participating regions, so that those who could not attend had the chance of getting firsthand information on the contents of the activity. The event's main goal was to bring together the international scientific and academic communities in order to provide as much information as possible on the calls for proposals for the FP7, and therefore enhance regional participation in future projects.

Videoconferences were held in three different times zones; first in Asia and the Mediterranean region, then in Latin America and finally in the USA and Canada.

The institutions that wanted to take part in the Global Information Day made presentations that gave a brief description of the projects that are being developed. Before this, each region obtained information on the basic guidelines of the FP7 calls for proposals:

The Call in May

Call Deadline: May 2nd.

Total funds: €15M.

Contacts: Wim Jansen, Carlos Morais, Bernhard Fabianek, Jean Luc Dorel

Email: INFSO-RI-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

Web site: <http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn>



Later Call (to be confirm): will come out in April, May. Budget €27M, for specific INCO aspect (Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities).

Abbreviations:

Collaborative projects: CP.

Coordination and Support Activities: CSA.

Combination of CP and CSA: CCPCSA.

Integrated Infrastructure Initiative: I3.

I3 Requirements:

- Joint Research Activity.
- Human Networking Activity (Dissemination, etc).
- Service Activity, Transnational Access.
- Consortium Management Activities.

The Grant Agreement will have several annexes:

- Annex 1 is the description of work.
- Consortium Agreement is mandatory for CCPCSA. Three distinct institutions of 3 EU Members States is minimum requirement.

- The EC will carry out a verification of existence, legal status and financial capacity of all consortium members.
- There will be a legal validation of all beneficiaries.
- An automatic ex-ante financial viability check will be carried out for all coordinators and participants in all projects requiring funding >500K Euro.
- Third country partners will have to justify their participation in terms of enhanced contribution to the project. Only those third countries on the INCO list will be able to receive funding.

Projects presented at the Latin America session

Wien, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)

- Project: “LAC-ACCES Connecting High-Quality Research between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean Countries”. Its aim is to link research, science and technology institutions from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ecuador, ESPOL, Higher Polytechnic School of the Coast

- Project: “Project for the Development of Pedagogical Models to facilitate learning”.
- Project: “Implementation of Free Educational Software”. Its aim is to develop open source educational software packages in order to provide learning objects for universities, colleges and schools and also to connect the open source system with contents repositories.
- Project: “Development of Grid Infrastructure in Ecuador’s EPN”. Its aim is to develop a local Grid development infrastructure to be applied in the oceanic, atmospheric and climatic sector. The intention is to perform simulations of antenna analyses for wireless transmissions.

Panama, University of Panama:

- Project: “Collaboration Services in Integrated Broadband Fixed and Mobile Networks”

Peru: National University of Agriculture La Molina

- Project: “Impact of Biofertilization on Nitrogen Fixation, Growth Promotion and Phytopathogen Control.

Colombia: University of Cauca

- Project: “Virtual Health Community to support Tuberculosis prevention, diagnose and control in Colombia’s Cauca district. Given the high rate of Tuberculosis in the country

and most particularly in the Cauca district (identified as a national health problem), it becomes necessary to introduce a teaching-learning educational model including collaboration activities in the treatment for this disease. The other aim is to develop effective case studies.

- Project: “Hispanic American Health Link”. Its aim is to improve communications and information between and for the people who work in the health sector through WIFI, Internet and VHF connections. The idea is to work on digital literacy, training for network technicians, training workshops, and distance information and training services.
- Project: “Web Platform for the management of geographical information on the Cauca district”. Its main objective is to develop digital repositories in order to provide users and researchers with greater and better access to contents related to this topic.

Peru: Catholic University of Peru

- Outstanding Research Projects
- Project in the Chemical area. The aim is to use derivatives of the waste from sea crustaceans for Agricultural purposes, such as the creation of pesticides for fruit protection. Additionally, they intend to use this kind of waste in the area of cosmetics, and related research is being developed.
- Project: Creation of an Artificial Neonatal Bubble. The project intends to create an aseptic environment for the newborn baby by making use of controlled environmental parameters.

Ecuador: Central University

- Project: “Technological Renewal of Ecuador’s Central University”. The idea is to install technological structures in different units at the University and also to set up computer labs which provide students with access not only to commercial Internet, but also to advanced academic networks. Furthermore, they want to automate the University’s archives and to develop regular training activities on the subject for their staff.

Mexico: UNAM-DGSCA

- Project: “Development of three-dimensional interactive environments for education”. Its objective is to implement IPv4 and IPv6 applications in these environments, in

order to apply an interactive high definition system, as well as to establish simulation servers and collaboration environments that are rich in multimedia elements.

Peru: San Marcos Higher National University

- Project: “System for an early detection of draughts in Peru’s northern coast based on the analysis of the soil’s temperature and salt levels and of the vegetation index as shown by satellite images, and their relations to El Niño Southern Oscillation”. Its objective is to develop collaboration Grids to conduct research on draughts along the country’s coast and use the results to study the El Niño Phenomenon and its influence on northern Peru’s climate.
- Project: “Study on the main oceanographic features of the Peruvian Maritime Environment”. Its aim is to conduct research on the levels of polluted water.
- Project: “Study on the main oceanographic features related to the quality of the Peruvian maritime environment, by means of multivariable statistical methods”
- Project: “Research Group on Condensed Water”

Questions and Answers

In the session for the Asia-Mediterranean block, there were relevant doubts, all of them applicable to the other regions and highly clarifying for those who are structuring projects to apply for the FP7.

Who can participate in FP7 projects?

FP7 is open to anybody and any country in the world. That does not mean that anybody can get funding. For third countries there is a list of INCO states. INCO states can receive funding. Those countries that do not appear on the INCO list can participate, however, they can not receive funding.

Can a non-European partner be the coordinator of a project?

Not explicitly forbidden, but it is assumed that the coordinating partner must be an institution of a EU member state or of an associated state.

It seems that the cost model has changed in FP7?

FP7 is simpler than FP6. In FP7 we do not have cost model as in FP6. All participants are reimbursed on the same ground. Direct costs: real direct costs are reimbursed. Up to 75% for universities (and similar) for direct costs of research

activities, other organisations can claim up to 50% of direct costs related to the research activities.

What about other costs such as costs related to dissemination and training?

These would normally fall under networking activities (human networks). Direct costs can be funded up to 100%. Indirect costs may not exceed 7% of the direct costs.

About the Joint Research Units (JRU): Does it make sense to form a joint research unit in a third country or even in a region outside the EU?

Yes, this is a scheme open to third countries and it is encouraged to use the scheme. It is also encouraged to have international JRU.

What disciplines are allowed in the e-Infrastructure line?

In general terms, e-Infrastructures activities have always been open to the largest numbers of user communities. It is understood that there are some areas that have more obvious needs (HEP, Biomedicine, etc). FP7 deployment call is especially open to Grids and networking infrastructure to as many user communities as possible. The term scientific community is to be understood in a broad sense. Open to any kind of community within the scientific community

So far Grid projects have been focusing on the smooth running of the Grid. What is expected under FP7?

The Call is very broad. It should be seen in the context of ICT technology at large in conjunction with the specific scientific field. This could be either hard or soft science, but also humanities. Proposals will have to follow the structure of the funding scheme. The funding scheme requires three kinds of activities:

- a) Service activity, ie: project has to provide a service to the community (application, software access, has to be reflected in the objective)
- b) research (state of the art, specific requirement, pure research in the field) and
- c) networking activity (human networks, dissemination, training).

Closing

The responsible for the conclusions of the activity for Latin America was Carmen Mena Abela, Projects Officer for the Research Infrastructure Unit, DGINFSO. At the closing ceremony, the opinion was that the activity served as an opportunity for a greater unity with other projects at a world level that are part of the Framework Pr, such as , for instance, the EELA Project, which was met with approval in Europe. Furthermore, it was confirmed that this activity will serve as preparation for the new call for proposals that will take place in July 2007.

Presentations and videos are available on the Internet in: http://isabel.dit.upm.es/component/option,com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,52/Itemid,74/

Connected Latin American Sites:

Agraria –OAL, Peru
 CESGA, Santiago of Compostela, Spain
 CRC, Ottawa, Canada
 CUDI, Mexico
 EC, Brussels, Belgium
 EPN, Ecuador
 EPUSP, Brazil
 ESPOL, Ecuador
 Guillermo, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 INICTEL, Peru
 IPEN, Peru
 KMI, Open University, UK
 PUCESP, Ecuador
 PUCP, Lima
 RAU, Uruguay
 RedCyT, Panama
 Renata, Colombia
 Retina, Argentina
 REUNA, Chile
 CLARA, Chile
 San Marcos, Peru
 SECYT, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Spy1, Madrid, Spain
 UCE, Quito, Ecuador
 UMA, Malaga, Spain
 UNEMI, Ecuador
 UNI, Lima, Peru
 UNMSM, Peru
 UPM, Madrid, Spain
 ZSI, Vienna, Austria
 UNAN LEON, Nicaragua
 RedIRIS, Spain
 RNP, Brazil (via Streaming)
 DANTE, Spain (via Streaming)



RAUdo-CLARA

The expert search engine is here to stay

Finding a specific document is not an easy task. Internet is fantastic in terms of access; Google, an exploration mother. But when it comes to precise and accurate searches, the combination of fantasy and maternity may result in a major headache.

Naturally, when forming part of a community like CLARA, partners, allies and friends of RedCLARA are interested in what is happening in regional networks, and searching via the major search engines is not a quick solution, much less browsing their sites, since time is scarce. But, stay calm!, RAUdo-CLARA is here, the only search engine that operates only on websites which are part of our Latin American institution's member networks.

María José López Pourailly

It only took a sentence for a great idea to take shape in Luis Castillo's head, RAU engineer: "We need the networks to report on their activities, their news; we wish to inform about what happens in their institutions, it takes us a long time to check their websites, to get their news". CLARA's Communications and Public Relations, at the San Salvador meeting (November 2006) spoke about the shortage of time and asked for information to be spread timely within the community. Upon the end of the meeting, 25 November in the afternoon, Luis said: "At RAU we have something that can help you solve this problem".

On 15 December 2006, I knew what Luis meant. Early in the morning I got an email titled "RAUdo-CLARA", signed by Luis Castillo:

"Hello María José,

Look, this is what I had told you that might be of interest to us, after you explained what it meant to browse all of CLARA's sites!

Well, we have a search engine called RAUdo which searches complete text on every site of RAU and it occurred to me that we could develop it for CLARA.

Thanks to the help of María Cervantes, a colleague, it's become true.

So I'm sending a beta version so you can test it and give me some feedback".



Luis Castillo and María Cervantes.

I tried the beta version and I could do nothing but screaming (to my inside, since there's no yelling at workplaces): Thank you, Luis! Because, in a way, I had seen the light.

I am not exaggerating, no. The searches RAUdo-CLARA performs only on websites belonging to CLARA's networks, is VERY effective, and its system management is extremely easy.

Having tested and fully approved the tool, the next task was to tune up details and install it on CLARA'S site. The product was ready on March 8th, 2007.

RAUdo-CLARA is already a reality which can be accessed by all CLARA's website users, through the site's top menu, just with one click. But before you try RAU-do CLARA (because you have to try it in order to check what you are reading isn't nonsense), let us get serious and let us talk to the brain behind the idea: Luis Castillo

In a few words, What is RAUdo?

It's a search engine that retrieves information from websites belonging to CLARA <http://www.rau.edu.uy/raudo/clara/>.

Who designed and implemented this tool at RAU, and since when has it been operating?

At RAU the engine is called RAUdo (<http://www.rau.edu.uy/raudo/>) and was developed in 2000, based on the ht://Dig search engine, under a GNU license. The group who adapted it was constituted by Alicia García, María Cervantes, Julio Cardozo and me.

Starting from the San Salvador meeting, you began the work intended to generate a RAUdo for CLARA, what motivated you to implement this tool for our community?

The knowledge of how useful it has turned out to be for RAU, and the fact that the search on major search engines returns a lot of "noise", so it becomes vague. With this in mind, I thought it would be useful for the CLARA community, to have a RAUdo adapted to it, as the search results come only from CLARA's sites. Besides, our tool retrieves terms written in Spanish and Portuguese.

A work like this takes many hours, who collaborated in this effort?

The process of "formatting" for CLARA has taken several weeks; María Cervantes, María José López and I collaborated.

A search engine as specialised as this demands constant review of the existing information on the sites it operates on. How is this work carried out and how often?

An indexing of all sites, currently eleven, is carried out on a weekly basis (settable), which allows, in this way, for information to be updated on the search engine database.

Can networks connected to RedCLARA cooperate with RAUdo-CLARA? In what way?

Of course they can. Giving notices of server changes, if any. Filtering directories they do not want to be indexed so the search engine does not publish them (indicating so on the robot.txt file on each site). Checking with a certain frequency at RAUdo-CLARA whether sites are being reached by the search engine and that the document number is right.

Besides collaborating, they can also benefit from it, as the search engine checks the links and files every site has, generating an inconsistency report which webmasters can activate in order to improve their sites.

In what way can users of RAUdo-CLARA make the most out of this tool?

Once it is clear how it searches or what the right ways to do it are, more advantages can be taken out of the tool, so we recommend to look at the Help menu at <http://www.rau.edu.uy/raudo/clara/ayuda.htm>.

But use of RAUdo-CLARA is very simple: basically you can search by terms written in Spanish, Portuguese or English (as they are originally written) and/or perform Boolean searches.

In your own words, what is the best thing about RAUdo-CLARA?

Relying on your own tool to retrieve information for our community



This is how RAUdo-CLARA operates

Sites it searches on (indexed):

- <http://www.cedia.org.ec>
- <http://www.cudi.edu.mx>
- <http://www.raap.org.pe>
- <http://www.ragie.org.gt>
- <http://www.raices.org.sv>
- <http://www.rau.edu.uy>
- <http://www.reacciun2.edu.ve>
- <http://www.redclara.net>
- <http://www.renata.edu.co>
- <http://www.renia.net.ni>
- <http://www.retina.ar>
- <http://www.reuna.cl>
- <http://www.rnp.br>

Types of documents indexed:

Documents in the following formats are indexed: Word, PDF y RTF. The following endings are excluded: /cgi-bin/.cgi .wav .gz .z .sit .au .zip .tar .hqx .exe .com .gif .jpg .jpeg .aiff .class .map .ram .tgz .bin .rpm .mpg .mov .avi .ps .ppt .tex .ra .Z. Numerical values aren't indexed either.

Number of documents retrieved by RAUdo-CLARA:

16.000.

Considerations regarding RAUdo-CLARA searches:

It interprets words with written accent, ñ (ISO 8859-1).

Retrieves by any of the words typed.

Retrieves by all words typed.

Allows the use of Boolean operators.

Does not recognize caps.

RAUdo-CLARA operation strategy.

Each word in the documents is indexed: each document is examined and all words contained in it are extracted and stored.

- Words such as: the, of, etc, are not indexed (stopword).
- Each word has a context which is defined by the HTML code applied. For example, words between `<h1>...</h1>` have a different context to the ones within the title (title) of the document.

- Each context has an associated “weight” which is why some contexts are more important than others: ‘title_factor’ and ‘heading_factor_4’.
- Apart from the context of a word, placement of such word within the document is employed to determine its “weight”; those appearing at the beginning of a document are assigned more “weight” than those at the end.
- The number of occurrences of a word within a document is also taken into account.
- The “weight” resulting from all factors combined, is stored in the words database.

Operation of RAUdo-CLARA's search algorithm:

Each word is searched, and a list of the documents in which the word occurs is generated.

Each document is assigned with a “weight” which is computed using the combined “weight” of all words on the results list. Once all documents have been identified, they are sorted by “weight”. The document with the highest “weight” is assigned with the maximum number of stars (4), for the rest, a descending scale is applied. Then, the results are sorted according to the “weight” associated to the searched words and the “weight” of the algorithm that generated the word.

RedCLARA NEG-TREK

As good as it gets

Up and down. South America and North America. The direction that Captain Porto is following is guiding RedCLARA to new horizons: new frontiers to be reach and conquer by the institutions led by the CLARA members.

NEG mission: following the route drawn up by the crew of the ALICE Project -the mother airship-, to explore new worlds, to seek out the unique and perfect way to establish the CLARA ring backbone and the connection of the Latin-American NRENs to it and to Europe - to boldly go where no other Latin-Americans has gone before, and to take CLARA members there.

The following quotes were taken from captains Eriko Porto diary.

María José López Pourailly

19-01-2007

I feel happy. Finally everything came to a good end. The connection of Argentina to RedCLARA was re-established today. We have established BGP IPv4, BGP IPv6 and Multicast sessions. Such a good day!

12-02-2007

I've been in Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA) since a couple of days and I will stay here for a couple of days more. It is not a pleasure voyage, as the serious Captain that I am, I came here to participate in the "Winter 2007 Joint Techs" Meeting, which is organized by ESCC/Internet2. All the engineers of the most important advanced networks are here and this morning I was able to present the RedCLARA Update to them. It was ok, I felt that in RedCLARA we are experiencing a good trek (of course I knew that, but it is always good to compare).

08-03-2007

We have finished the configuration of a direct BGP peering session with Abilene (Internet2 backbone, USA) using the Atlantic Wave facility. Now we have Unicast IPv4 & IPv6, multicast IPv4 & IPv6, and MSDP up and running also in the East Coast using the WHREN-LILA infrastructure between Sao Paulo and Miami.

With the crew, we are currently working on the installation of our new PoP in the NAP of the Americas, which will receive the new connections from Central America and a STM-1 circuit from the node of Panama. This is an outcome from

the restructuring project for the backbone approved during our last meeting in El Salvador.

We are excepting to proceed with circuit testing and all activations for the next weeks, in order to have everything ready before the end of March, when the backbone topology will change in order to give a better solution for all the NRENs connected to RedCLARA.



Captain Porto guiding his spaceship.

EC Reviewers declared to be “Quite happy with the overall presentation” of the Project

EELA celebrates a year fully accomplished during its First Review

After 14 months, at the end of February, in Madrid, EELA (E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America) had and passed with success its first review made by the Reviewers and Project Officers of the European Commission. Almost a week of rehearsals - where each member of the project was called to analyse in depth and help to correct the five presentations and the three demos that were prepared - and just a couple of hours to show through those presentations and demos a year of work and progress, for a result that was more than expected and can be explained through the words of the EC Reviewer Isayvani Naicker: “In general terms we want to say that you did great presentations and great demonstrations of the applications; we are quite happy with the overall presentations, and of the EELA Project itself. The project it is of vital importance considering the relationship of Latin America with Europe and the European Commission consider it so, and like what it has been done”.

María José López Pourailly

Held on the 27th and 28th of February 2007 in Madrid (Spain), and hosted by CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, MedioAmbientales y Tecnológicas), this event was not only about EELA, actually it was the First EELA, EUMEDGRID and EUChinaGRID Review, meaning that these three major Grid projects were under the microscope of the Reviewers of the European Commission (EC). For the three of them it was the moment to present to the EC what was done with the funds, what were the achievements and failures after the first year in each of the projects. In simple words, it was the unique opportunity to show if the projects worth the effort and the financial and politic costs assumed by the EC.

Work Packages, External Advisory Committees, EU Project Officers and Reviewers of the three Projects did participate in the Reviews, that were preceded by a “preparation week” (to rehearse and discuss about each presentation that was going to be shown at the Review) and followed by a two-day e-Science Congress (on the 1st and 2nd of March) organized by CIEMAT.

EELA achievements in 2006

The EELA project is organized in four Work Packages (WP). Each one of them addresses a different area in the work plan: WP1 - Project Administrative and Technical Management, WP2 - Pilot Test-bed Operation and Support, WP3 - Identification and Support of Grid Enhanced Applications, and WP4 - Dissemination Activities. After a year of work, each of these WPs have achieved almost all the goals expected for that period (which is actually the first half of the whole project development time-life). Those achievements or works carried out, were the central core of each one of the presentations given at the First Review.

In short, those achievements were the following:

WP1:

Contract Signature (20/12/2005)

- Kick-Off Meeting - KoM (30/01/2006 to 02/02/2006)
- External Advisory Committee established
- Mailing lists created (29)
- New EELA Web Site online (<http://www.eu-eela.org>)
- Event agenda created (<http://indico.eu-eela.org>)

Project Documents repository created (<http://documents.eu-eela.org>)

New Timesheet Tool developed (<http://tsheet.eu-eela.org>)

Support System available (<http://support.eu-eela.org>)

- EC Funds for 2006 distributed among partners
- MoUs with BELIEF (signed), EGEE-2, SEEGRID-2 (signed)
- 8 Milestones(100%) met on time
- 14 Deliverables (100%) submitted to EC on time
- 1 pending submission to EC



WP2:

- WP2 labour force is composed of 44 individuals, part-time or full-time
- The EELA Pilot Testbed is currently made of 10 production sites and 6 sites under certification (2 non-EELA sites)
- The total effort of computing power committed so far is 98.3% and disk storage is 92.5% of the proposed in the Technical Annex
- The Central middleware repository (hosted by EOC-UFRJ) was utilised to perform 100 installations (excluding tutorial installations)
- Network software has been tuned to make effective use of the available high-bandwidth, high-latency end-to-end network connections between Europe and Latin America
- All monitoring Tools are fully operational
- The Brazilian Certification Authority is in operation
 - There are currently 10 active user certificates
 - 2 active e-infrastructure manager certificates
 - There have been 8 CRLs issued (6 months of operation)
 - 65 active host/service certificates
- 2 distinct VOs (EELA and EDTEAM)
- 2 EGEE VOs (ALICE and LHCB)
- 120k successfully executed jobs

WP3:

- 61 EELA VOMS users
- 13 Running Applications
- 9 Applications developed by EELA
- 12 New applications interested in joining EELA (From 1st Grid School + Questionnaire)
- 51 Presentations in conferences 4 Papers/proceedings published
- 4 Deliverables
- 11 Monthly reports
- 5 Information Sheets

WP4:

- 9 Tutorials
- 1 Grid School
- 2 Workshops
- 1 Conference
- 386 Participants enrolled
- 1194 Participants X Days
- 5 Local Training Teams
- 4.8/6 Average Feedback
- 4 Press releases
- 53 Press cuts
- 2 Bulletins
- 3 Posters
- 2 Banners
- 1 Fact sheet
- 1 Brochure (English, Spanish and Portuguese versions)
- 46 new communities filling out the Survey of Communities (12 of them from non-EELA countries)

The Review general results

In the Agenda, the morning of the first day of the Review (the 27th of February) was for EUChinaGRID, the evening was for EELA and EUMEDGRID was scheduled for the morning of Wednesday the 28th.

The tension could be smelled in the air. The continuity of each project was in jeopardy. The reviewers had to do their job, and the questions weren't easy.

The evening of the 28th was for the Closing Session: the moment were all was about "all or nothing". Carmen Mena, Project Officer of the Unit of 'Research Infrastructure', defined the scenario: "There will be 55 minutes for questions, recommendations and oral feedbacks".

After some questions addressed to EUChinaGrid and EUMEDGRID, an important advice was given by Carmen Mena to the three projects: “We do not have seen a homogeneous way of defining the criteria for the way to decide for one application and not other one. In a cluster level you should do an extra effort to define the criteria. Some of the deliverable produced won’t reach the politicians and the decision makers; you have to sell this, you have to put an extra effort in the policy, you have to pass this message to them, ask them for money and long term commitments, you have to commit your self to maintain your projects in time; this is for the three projects: this is our view for the cluster recommendations. You have to discuss how to address these people, not everybody understands about Grid and don’t care, they care if that has an impact and if it is beneficial for some regions”.

“The problem is at regional level, you must know how to reach the politicians, the decision makers, you have to use your creativity through the project. You need them to help you with money and to ensure your sustainability. We need national efforts to provide impetus for networking projects”, concluded the Project Officer.

The EELA Review results

Isayvani Naicker was the reviewer in charge of giving the preliminary results (the EC has a couple of months to elaborate a document with the final results and recommendations) to the EELA representatives:

“In general terms we want to say that you did great presentations and great demonstrations of the applications; we are quite happy with the overall presentations, and of the EELA Project itself. The project it is of vital importance considering the relationship of Latin America with Europe and the European Commission consider it so, and like what it has been done.

“The approach of the researchers that have been involved in the project is very well recognized, and also the extension of the application areas of interest; the inclusion of the users of the regions and the new users it has been very important. Also the involvement with the users is noticed and well considered.

“The Certification Authorities as well, the work that have been carried with the CA in LA is fine, but anyhow they can be improved and you have to find out how to do that; the e-Learning application could be an extension of the CAs, and so you could take them further.

“About RedCLARA and the network itself, the sustainability issues are considered but through the project itself you are taking this network forward. It is acknowledge the importance that the European Commission gives to RedCLARA.



“A gap is in the policy domain, and the issues that were showed as clustering by Carmen. The policy issues must be raised. The policy issue it is the key for sustainability. You have to focus in dissemination for the people that will be benefited from the users: policy makers, and intensive work with politicians and decision makers. WP4 needs other types of resources; the Grid School video, if you could target it to the policy makers you could show them your achieves, and so it could be use in a much more effective way; you have to link the dissemination activities with the policy makers, and that will, of course, help also to the sustainability of RedCLARA”.

Now, while EELA keeps working to achieve all the objectives of the project, and in the middle of the preparation of the proposal of its the second phase, the EC reviewers are working on the final document which will contain the in depth analysis and the results of the Review, which will be a new input to guide the EELA team through the best way to finalize the second year of the project.

EELA Objectives:

Establish a scientific collaboration network:

- Setting up the structure of the collaboration network.
- Implementing adequate support mechanisms.
- Adopting policies, regarding the shared use of the e-Infrastructure.
- Evaluating new possible areas of collaboration and relevant partners.

Set up a pilot e-Infrastructure in Latin America, interoperable with the existing one in Europe (EGEE):

- Adopting a Security Policy based on public and private certificates and establishing Certification Authorities (CAs).
- Creating Virtual Organisations (VOs) for identified research communities.
- Supporting advanced use of the network and fully integrating it in the shared e-Infrastructure scheme.

Identify and promote a sustainable framework for e-Science:

- Identifying research communities and applications that will be enhanced thanks to the use of a shared e-Infrastructure.
- Supporting a dissemination effort towards identified and new communities.
- Defining a roadmap for a future consolidated e-Infrastructure in Latin America and its links to Europe.

EELA Purpose and Approach:

- Build a bridge between consolidated e-Infrastructure initiatives in Europe and emerging ones in Latin America.
- Create a collaboration network to deploy a large portfolio of scientific applications on a well supported Pilot Test-bed.
- Care in parallel of the training in Grid technologies and of the knowledge dissemination and outreach.

EGRIS-2 Announcement

The Second EELA Grid School (EGRIS-2) will take place in Merida (Venezuela), from July, 30 to August, 10, 2007.

The instructions about how to submit applications to be ported on the Grid during the school are available at: <http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=90>.

The dead line to submit proposals for applications is the 15th of June 2007. This activity is not restricted to the EELA members.

If you want to know more about EELA Grid Schools, take a look at the video of EGRIS-1: <http://documents.eu-eela.org/getfile.py?recid=632>.



GRID Colombia:

The new project from the Coffee Country, sets a valuable example

Grid Colombia, the new initiative that is channeling the efforts of several Colombian professionals and scientists, aims to the definitive building of a national Grid through the RENATA network.

María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz

The efforts to get this initiative ahead are bearing fruit and as activities such as meetings and videoconferences are being carried out in order to establish the phases of the project, everything indicates this will be the year of Grid Colombia's definite establishment; so much so, that the possibility to join the EELA project is under study.

Colombia is celebrating, but this time it isn't about Shakira or their wonderful coffee, but because of the Grids. This country can already brag about being one of the few in Latin America to be carrying out the novel and major project for a national Grid.

Grid Colombia is defined as a virtual organization in its earlier stages, with a fundamentally academic basis and destined, so far, to centralize the efforts towards the creation of a computational Grid with academic purposes, which will operate over the National Academic Network of Advanced Technology (RENATA), on a regional and national scale.

The idea the project board members have - Ministry of National Education of Colombia, COLCIENCIAS (governmental Organization for the scientific development), the Connectivity Agenda, and the Front coordinators (explained below)- is for Grid Colombia to, in one year, set itself as the first distributed computing alternative in the country, and in two years, all universities connected to RENATA which are developing distributed computing projects join Grid Colombia, and in four years, Grid Colombia becomes visible, well-recognized and certified as a Grid alternative on an international level.

Today, Grid Colombia is on its first phase (which is estimated to last one year) and, so far, it has carried out a series of activities which have allowed it to advance in this process,

such as: the campaign of invitation to the universities members of RENATA to participate in the project and to constitute the Directive Committee; formation of work fronts; formalization of the participation of the universities in the initiative, aiming to define the project's final conformation and to structure work plans for 2007; and presentation of proposals to obtain funding.



Virtual Conference: the kickoff

As a result of these activities, the "First Virtual Conference of Grid Technologies in Colombia: Grid Colombia, a way to form a community" was organized in November 2006, through a videoconference on the RENATA network. In such conference, all interested parties presented their project related works, and organized four fronts to distribute the work load of the national initiative.

- Formation and Training Front, coordinated by the Industrial University of Santander.
- Sustainability Front, coordinated by the University Manuela Beltrán.
- Configuration and Operation Front, coordinated by the University of Antioquia.
- Promoting and Popularization Front, coordinated by the Pontifical University Javeriana.

Once the Fronts were presented, participating institutions stated which one they wanted to participate in. The result: 13 universities joined one of the fronts. To date, Grid Colombia has participants from the regional sub networks that constitute RENATA.

Since the videoconference was held, the Ministry of Education and COLCIENCIAS have been promoting a call for proposals to allocate resources to projects which operate on RENATA, and one of the areas of the call for proposals is Grid. Grid Colombia will present two proposals, which intend to provide the initiative with real resources.

And the projects continue

The pro Grid Colombia activities do not end here. Besides the virtual encounter, others have been performed which have helped to continue developing the project, such as meetings in Bogotá and Medellín, and two national videoconferences devoted to define the initial guidelines for Grid Colombia.

To the aforementioned, we have to add the International Grid Computing Seminar which took place on March 5-9 this year, with the objective of promoting Grid technology in the country.

The Seminar was organized by the faculties of Science and Engineering of the University of Los Andes (Bogotá), which invited Grid Colombia as to take advantage of the instance and join forces to increase impact all over Colombia. The invitation was extended to all of the Andean community and the contents of the Seminar were taught by instructors who were members of the EELA project from Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina.

On 5 May (always at the University of Los Andes), the Seminar started with the 4th EELA Workshop, which aimed to

present the project to the Colombian scientific community and value the interest of Colombian institutions towards collaborating with EELA in the development of e-Science in the country. This activity also helped to promote other Grid projects and initiatives in their area of e-Infrastructures for e-Science, which are carried out in Europe, and to promote the importance of RENATA.

Following these activities, between March 6-9, the 9th EELA (e-Infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America, project funded by the European Commission) Grid Tutorial was offered for System Users and Administrators.

According to the organizers, the high motivation shown by the attendees, allows us to assume this Seminar will become a definitive impulse to the activities of the Grid Colombia initiative.

Grid Colombia closer to EELA

The idea of being involved in the EELA project has been on the minds of the creators of the Grid Colombia initiative since they began incubating the project. Everything started with the signing of a “Memorandum of Understanding” to participate in EELA, which, in the first instance, they thought would be enough to pin down the link during the March Seminar. However, the infrastructure and application demands have caused a delay in the plans.

The main reason for this delay is that EELA demands the creation of a “Joint Research Unit” (JRU) in each country that wishes to participate in the project, as the objectives is, above all, to generate a human investigation network. This JRU has not yet been established in Colombia, but Harold Castro, from the Universidad de los Andes, and Jorge Zuluaga, from the Universidad de Antioquia are already working on its development.



The participation of Grid Colombia in the EELA project will depend on the complexity and the time it will take to form a JRU; according to the creators of the Colombian project there is still some information missing, but the best intentions to achieve it are there. Clearly, this is an opportunity they don't want to miss, seeing as this would be the perfect finale for Grid Colombia.

More information:

To access all information on Grid Colombia, visit:
<http://urania.udea.edu.co/grid-colombia>

To access the 4th EELA Workshop presentations, go to : <http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=82>

To access the contents of the 9th EELA Tutorial, go to : <http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=83>



The Latinamerican NRENs:

One day were the top of the news...

After three years and 12 editions of DeCLARA, lots of relevant information about the national networks that make CLARA a reality have been published and spread. But, no matter if we like it or not, our memory is fragile and to remember when this or that happened it can take a lot of time. That's why thinking about the present edition of DeCLARA, we decided to honor the past by creating a compendium with the most relevant historic information of each one of the NRENs involved in CLARA: facts that one day were the top of the news within our community.

The information is structured in a chronological order and by countries. When it is feasible we show the links that will guide you to the news that about a specific event was published in the CLARA website.

María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz y María José López Pourailly

Brazil: September 1989

The National Research and Education Network of Brazil, RNP, is created by the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology (MCT); in **September 20 of 2004** RNP celebrates its connection to RedCLARA.

After a year of the connection, in **November 17th 2005**, RNP and the Ministry of Science and Technology launch the new Multigigabit Academic Network.

“The minister of Science and Technology, Sérgio Rezende, launched, in November 17 of 2005, the new multigigabit academic network infrastructure that RNP -Brazilian National Research and Education Network- operates. According to the minister Rezende, the President Lula Government is investing 40 millions of Reais (Brazilian currency) in the implantation of the new connections of the national backbone and in the creation of 27 metropolitan optical networks, that will integrate this backbone”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/05_11.htm

In **April 24th 2006**, RNP launches the University Telemedicine Network.

“RUTE Network will promote the interconnection and collaboration among health research groups throughout Brazil”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_02/07_06.htm

Argentina: 1990

The Academic Argentinean Network, RETINA, is born. In **February 10th 2005**, is connected to RedCLARA.

Chile: December 11th, 1991

The National University Network, REUNA, is born. Some years later, in **August 31st 2004**, REUNA is the first NREN to establish its connection to RedCLARA. In **November 2006**, the new version of this network comes to life: GREUNA.

“The transition from REUNA2 to GREUNA (from an ATM to a Gbps network) was made possible by updating the existing equipment throughout the network: with the support of the MECESUP Programme AUS307 (“Improving the Quality and Technological Services to Support Teaching”, 2004-2006), the core Cisco LS1010 Switches ATM were replaced by Cisco 7606 equipment and the devices to access the backbone (Cisco 7204) were replaced by Cisco 6503 machines.

“The new equipment is of Layer 2 and Layer 3 type, and is characterized by its high performance and availability. In the case of access equipment, the processing capacity was increased by 150 times. While the former 7204 equipment supported 100 kpps, the new 6503 one supports a minimum of 15 Mbps, about 15 million packets per second”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_03/11_07.htm

Mexico: April 8th 1999

It is officially created the University Corporation for the Development of Internet in Mexico, CUDI. It's connection to RedCLARA is established 15 years later, in **November 24th 2004**.

Costa Rica: April 18th 2001

Through the signature of the Executive Decret N° 29431 MICIT, it is established the creation of the Costa Rican Advanced Research National Network: CR2Net.

In **September 12th 2005** CR2Net is connected to RedCLARA through the node located in Mexico. In **2006** CR2Net must disconnect, but Costa Rica keeps working to get its network reconnected.

“After the meeting sustained by the members of the ALICE project in Costa Rica, in 2003, its bulletin n° 20 the CONICIT (National Advice for Scientific and Technological Researches of Costa Rica) closed a report dedicated to this subject indicating: “Thanks to this initiative in a near future it will be possible to speak of joint research and development, combining efforts and the individual capacities of all the countries that are members”. That “near future” became present for Costa Rica the 12 of September of 2005, when it was established the connection of CR2Net -National Research Network- to the node of RedCLARA located in Mexico, at 10 Mbps”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/04_04.htm

Ecuador: September 18th 2002

It is created the Ecuadorian Consortium for the Development of the Advanced Internet, CEDIA, in the Government Palace in Quito. In January 10th 2003, the Ministry of Education and Culture publish the ministerial agreement that approbates CEDIA statutes. In **January 18th 2006**, CEDIA establishes its connection to RedCLARA.

“A 10 Mbps link starts from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and gets to Santiago, Chile, where it joins the central ring of the advanced network infrastructure of Latin America. By means of CLARA, the Ecuadorian academic community is in direct contact with their counterparts in Latin America, Europe and the USA”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_02/06_04.htm

In **July 22nd 2006**, CEDIA is officially launched.

Peru: April 30th 2003

It is created the Peruvian Academic Network, RAAP, aiming to integrate the researchers and to be the scenario were they carry out their activities, by allowing them to share resources and applications. Two years later, in **April 7th 2005**, RAAP establishes its connection to RedCLARA.

In **September 29th 2005**, RAAP celebrates its official launch event.

“The 19:00 hours of Lima were running that September 29. A springing wind refreshed the air among the trees and the gardens of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP). In one of them a dark and enormous awning rose, one that was prepared to receive almost 300 people who would do of the Peruvian Academic Network - RAAP launching, an event really difficult to forget. One in that it was clear how much the academic and scientific communities of Peru longed for to count on a research en education network, that opened to them the doors of the collaboration”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/04_06.htm

El Salvador: January 29th 2004

It is signed the creation of RAICES, the Advanced Research, Science and Education Network.

In **December 14th 2005**, RAICES establishes its connection to RedCLARA. e la Red Latina.

“The 14 of December of 2005 will be for many of us an unforgettable date. And how could it be different, if that was the day in which Guatemala, through its network RAGIE, and El Salvador, through RAICES, established their direct connection with RedCLARA that, by means of these new connections, that same day added eleven countries of Latin America to its powerful infrastructure”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/05_05.htm

A year later, in **November 24th 2006**, RAICES carries out its official launch event.

“The official launch of RAICES took place on 24 November 2006. The event was attended by representatives from CLARA’s member national networks, as well as its President



and Executive Director. The Salvadorian Deputy Minister of Education also attended the ceremony and he highlighted the importance of RAICES for the country's educational policies".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_03/11_03.htm

Guatemala: February 2004

The Guatemalan Advanced Network, RAGIE, is constituted as a civil association.

RAGIE is connected to RedCLARA in **December 14th 2005**.

"The 14 of December of 2005 will be for many of us an unforgettable date. And how could it be different, if that was the day in which Guatemala, through its network RAGIE, and El Salvador, through RAICES, established their direct connection with RedCLARA that, by means of these new connections, that same day added eleven countries of Latin America to its powerful infrastructure."

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/05_05.htm

In **November 27th 2006**, RAGIE is officially launched.

"After waiting for several months, RAGIE had its official launch party. An event with important personalities gave the finishing touch to this Network which has grown out of sheer strength and which after a year of being connected to RedCLARA already has several scheduled projects and convenient offers".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_03/11_03.htm

Venezuela: October 11th 2004

The Academic Network of Research Centers and National Universities of Venezuela, REACCIUN2, is connected to RedCLARA.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/05_06.htm

In **January 23rd 2006**, REACCIUN2 is officially launched.

Nicaragua: February 2nd 2005

It is constituted RENIA, the Nicaraguan Network of Advanced Internet, as a Civil Non for Profit Association, with a scientific and social profile without political orientation.

In **March 21st 2006**, it connects to RedCLARA.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_03/11_02.htm

Honduras: April 25th 2005

"In April 25 the principals of the public and private universities of Honduras, in conjunction with the representatives of

state and international institutions of telecommunications, created the Honduran Network of Universities with Advanced Telecommunications (RHUTA). To date UNITEC had represented Honduras in CLARA, but now, from its creation, RHUTA occupies this position in the Latin American Cooperation of Advanced Networks".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/02_06.htm

Cuba: April 30, 2005

"In April 30 of 2005 Cuba entered to CLARA like partner. The allegiance request was presented through the Ministry of Superior Education , in it the National Education and Research Network of Cuba (RedUNIV) -by means of the Vice-minister Eduardo Cruz González- declares to know the CLARA statutes and to adhere to its principles and objectives".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/02_07.htm

Colombia: June, 2005

"Through the National Academic High Speed Network (RUNAV), Colombia does integrates to RedCLARA thanks to Connectivity Agenda of the government of this country whose mission is to facilitate to the universities its interconnection at high speed with more than 700 institutions of superior education and research centers of America and Europe".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/02_08.htm

In **January 24th 2006**, the currently named National Academic Network of Advanced Technology of Colombia, RENATA, celebrates its official launching event. In **March 24th 2006**, RENATA is connected to RedCLARA.

"On Tuesday January 24, by means of a videoconference that brought together the Colombian cities of Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellín and Popayan, Colombia celebrated the launch of its National Academic Network of Advanced Technology: RENATA.

"Recorded as the official beginning network's operations, the event was presided by Martha Pinto de de Hart, Minister of Communications; Cecilia María Vélez, Minister of Education; María del Rosario Guerra, Head of Colciencias; Ignacio Burell, European Union representative, and Gustavo Gomez Uribe, Head of the Connectivity Agenda. Florencio Utreras, Executive Director of CLARA and Nelson Simões, Executive Director of RNP (Brazil) and President of the CLARA Board, also participated in the videoconference through RedCLARA".

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_02/06_02.htm

Uruguay: June 6, 2005

The Uruguayan Academic Network, RAU, establishes its connection to RedCLARA.

“Exact half an hour took to Luis Castillo, RAU engineer -Uruguayan Academic Network -, to pass the voice of the great news that would mark in the calendar of CLARA with red and stars the 6 of June”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/03_04.htm

In **November 29th 2005** it is officially launched in Montevideo, the Uruguayan Advanced Academic Network, RAU2.

“On Tuesday 29th of November, the Uruguayan network RAU2 and its connection to the RedCLARA network was officially launched in Montevideo (capital of Uruguay). Representatives of diverse academic networks that were in Uruguay for the 5th Meeting of the ALICE Project and for the General Meeting of CLARA had the privilege of assisting to the launching event of RAU2”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/05_08.htm

Bolivia: July 6, 2005

“The 6th version of the Internet Protocol (IPv6) was granted to the Agency for the Development of the Information Society in Bolivia (ADSIB). This is one of the BOLNET projects and its objective is to improve the communication in all its action area and to increase the speed, for of development aims.

“The 6 of July LACNIC (Address register of Internet for Latin America and the Caribbean) assigned the IPv6 to ADSIB, constituting to the organization in the first Bolivian network in counting on this protocol”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/03_09.htm

Panama: September 9th 2005

“Friday 9 of September had a new glance for the Panamanians. That day was settled down the connection of the Scientific and Technological Network of Research Centers and Universities of Panama (RedCyT), with RedCLARA, to 10 Mbps”.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02/04_03.htm

Nicaragua: March 21st 2006

RENIA, the Nicaraguan NREN, establishes its connection to RedCLARA.

http://www.redclara.net/en/07/02_03/11_02.htm

Highlights of 3rd GÉANT2 Technical Workshop Ready to Download

This article was taken from: GÉANT2 PR Bulletin

Go to <http://www.geant2.net/server/show/nav.1840> to see presenters in action from across the JRAs. GÉANT2 has also put together a short film about the week- you may well spot a colleague or two from your NREN! Please feel free to embed this video in your own site, if you so wish. Contact us for details (prm@dante.org.uk).

Several key presentations were recorded and are available to download from the same page providing a status update about what's going on in the GÉANT2 JRAs. The “Newcomers’ introduction to GÉANT2” plus the GÉANT2 overview from the DVD, provide an essential resource for new staff members or those new to the project.



A G E N D A

A P R I L

Nova Educ@ Conference 2007, Nova Southeastern University
2-4 April in Miami, USA
<http://www.SchoolofEd.nova.edu/novaeduca>

Congress on Mediterranean Marine Sciences
9-13 de April in Istanbul, Turkey
<http://www.ciesm.org/>

V CEISAL European Congress of Latinoamericanists: "Three-way relations between Europe and the Americas in the 21st Century: expectations and challenges"
11-14 April in Brussels
www.ulb.ac.be/soco/cercal/accueil.html

2nd International Workshop on Distributed Cooperative Laboratories
16-18 April 2007 in Santa Margarita Ligure, Portofino, Italia
<http://www.ingrid.cnit.it/>

Internet2 Spring Member Meeting 2007
23-25 April in Arlington, Virginia, USA
<http://events.internet2.edu/2007/spring-mm/calls.html>

HealthGrid Conference 2007
24-27 April in Geneva, Switzerland
<http://geneva2007.healthgrid.org/>

M A Y

Seventh IEEE International Symposium on Cluster Computing and the Grid — CCGrid 2007
14-17 May in Río de Janeiro, Brazil
<http://ccgrid07.lncc.br>

IBERGRID Conference
14-16 May in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
<http://www.ibergrid.eu>

TERENA Networking Conference 2007
21-24 May in Lyngby, Denmark
<http://tnc2007.terena.nl/cfp/index.php>

8th ASTP Conference
31May - 1 June in Heidelberg, Germany
<http://www.astp.net>

J U N E

2007 IEEE Workshop on Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks
13-15 June in Bologna, Italy
<http://lia.deis.unibo.it/confs/policy2007/index.html>

7th National Conference on Informatics Security ACIS 2007
20-22 June in Bogotá, Colombia
<http://www.acis.org.co/index.php?id=840>

Student Workshop AIMS 2007
21-22 June in Oslo, Norway
<http://project.iu.hio.no/aims.html>

The 2007 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, & Applied Computing
25-28 June in Las Vegas, USA
<http://www.worldacademyofscience.org/worldcomp07>

2007 International Conference on Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
BIOCOMP'07
25-28 June in Las Vegas, USA.
<http://www.world-academy-of-science.org/worldcomp07/ws/BIOCOMP07>

World Conference on on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications
25-29 June in Vancouver, Canada
<http://www.aace.org/conf/edmedia/call.htm>

III International Conference on Communities and Technologies
28-30 June en Michigan, the USA
<http://ebusiness.tc.msu.edu/cct2007/index.html>