

CEENET
Central and Eastern European
Networking Association
Connecting Machines to Connect People

Oliver B. Popov

Department of Computer and Systems Sciences

Stockholm university

Prague, February 2017

Content

- *The first steps*
- *Common problems and reflections*
- *Goals and activities*
- *Workshops*
 - *Technology*
 - *Management and policies*
- *Declarations and statements*
- *Projects*
- *Multidimensional support*
- *Closing the shop*
- *Appreciation*

The first steps

- *1992 (February) – Four countries (BG, SK and CZ, HU, and PL) and ACONet, NSF, RIPE and DFN signed MoU*
- *1992 (December) – Now, there are eleven – Working group*
- *1993 (September) – MoU to form an Association*
 - *External connectivity (to Internet)*
 - *Network education and training*
 - *Management and administration*
 - *User services*
- *First GA in February of 1994 and the CEENet statute*
- *Special role of ACONet in provision of funding and know-how*

Structure and organization

- *One rep per country*
- *One vote per country*
- *Keep the membership fees as small as possible*
- *Offices in Vienna (ACONet/Vienna University) and Warsaw (Institute for High Energy Physics - Warsaw University) - Secretariat*
- *Authorities – General Assembly and Management Committee*
- *At the peak of its expansion – there were twenty seven member countries*

CEE region

- *Identification of similar problems and issues*
 - *Proactive and generative behavior of the academia*
 - *Lack of awareness among the decision makers*
 - *Political, social, and economic challenges change priorities*
 - *Need for human capacity*
 - *Telecom monopolies and high tariffs*
 - *Fragmentation of efforts*

Some reflections ...

- *Technology is never politically neutral*
- *The work of CEENet has shown that while networking is subject to technological and economical challenges*
 - *it is most of all a political challenge (fighting sometimes both an ignorance and an arrogance)*
 - *The grand idea – overcoming “the digital divide”*

Goals

- *Dissemination of the technological know-how for building the essential infrastructure*
- *Management strategies and policy issues for sustainability*

All based on = technological competence + managerial vision + political skills + public awareness including support from the stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Activities

- *Educational/Scientific Workshops*
 - *Technology*
 - *Management*
 - *Policy*
- *Projects*
 - *Feasibility and preparation studies*
 - *Some infrastructure deployment*
 - *Education and research - focused ones*

Workshops on technology

- *Warsaw – 1995*
- *Budapest – 1996*
- *Zagreb – 1997*
- *Bratislava – 1998*
- *Budapest – 1999*
- *Budapest – 2000*
- *Budapest – 2001*
- *Budapest - 2002*
- *Budapest - 2004*
- *Ohrid - 2005*
- *Batumi - 2006*
- *Tbilisi – 2013*
- *Kiev - 2013*
- *Sofia – 2014*
- *GN3 + and GN4
work on CBP - 2015*

Inspired by

- *The ISOC effort on a global scale but modified with regional domains and local colors in order to be relevant and responsive – variation in the degree of development and needs.*
- *The similar activities by ACONET supported inter alia by IBM and Austrian government via Vienna university.§*

Strategy and objectives

- *Have a combined team of lecturers*
 - *From CEE countries for promoting recognition and attaining sustainability*
 - *From EU and USA for state of the art updates as well as building the human competence network*
- *To expose the participants to the leaders in the ICT industry*
- *To explore the intended and the unintended social consequences of the ICT and the Internet*

Structure and content

- *Initially two tracks (lectures, labs)*
 - *Engineering the Network (EngiNe)*
 - *Network Knowledge Systems (NetKnowS)*
- *In 1998, a third track was introduced - Wired Education (WirEd)*
 - *Sponsor's Spotlights (SSL)*
 - *Evening Lecture Series (ELS)*

Workshops on management

- *Yaroslavl – 1998 (co-organized with TERENA)*
- *Ohrid – 2000*
- *Thessaloniki (mainly SEE) – 2000 – spin-off from Ohrid*
- *Zagreb – 2002*
- *July 2002 – NREN Creation “Flying” Workshop*
 - *Three countries in one week*
 - *Czech Republic –CESNET*
 - *Poland – NASK/POL-34*
 - *Estonia – EENET*
- *NREN Cookbook (in Russian)*
- *Chisinau – 2004*

Workshops on policies

- *Tartu – 1997*
- *Tbilisi – 1999*
- *Bishkek – 2001*
- *Baku – 2003*
- *Varna – 2003 (co-organized with TERENA)*
- *Poznan – 2005*
- *Istanbul – 2006*
- *Bucharest (some co-organization with TERENA, EU) - 2011*

Main issues addressed

- *Target groups and domains*
- *Services*
- *Telecoms and regulations*
- *Relation to the policy and decision makers*
- *Funding models*
- *Strategies for growth and stability*
- *Challenges both technological and societal*

Declarations and statements

- *CEENet Tartu Declaration in 1997*
 - *Information society and NRENs*
- *Varna Statement in 2003*
 - *Networking, society and infrastructures*
- *Istanbul Recommendations in 2006*
 - *Security, privacy, and digital trust*

Projects

- *Virtual Silk Highway (satellite IP connectivity for eight countries in the SC and CA countries)*
- *Porta Optika – Preliminary studies in successful dark-fiber based REN deployment in EE, Baltics and Southern Caucasus regions.*
- *BSI – Black Sea Interconnection (GEANT connection for Southern Caucasus region)*
- *E-JUMP 2.0 – New Technologies of e-Learning*
- *TRAIN2 - feasibility study for Central Asia - 2008*
- *EaP – feasibility study – Chisinau, September 2014*

Projects/2

- *CEENGINE – extending the benefits of RENs and ERA – GEANT to Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia (EU FP7 – 2011-2014)*
- *In Thessaloniki, with the presence of EU, SEE members of CEENet signed an MoU in 2000 that spurred a series of projects (usually coordinated by GRNET) such as SEEREN, SEEFIRE, SEELIGHT, SEEGRID, SEE-HPC, ...and still going strong*
- *Co-operated with Cisco Systems on Cisco Networking Academies in the CEE and FSU regions*

Projects/3

- *ALaRI – recruitment and selection of students for a graduate programme at the UL in embedded engineering systems - 2002*
- *@DULINE – Creation and design of distance education courses and course in tutoring adults on-line- 2003*
- *ICT4ICT – modeling ICT diffusion in CEE and developing countries and validation via pilot projects in Armenia and Macedonia – funded by SPIDER and in cooperation with MSU - 2005*

Organizations and institutions

- *NATO*
 - *Public Diplomacy Division*
 - *Computer Networking Panel (NIG, ANW and ARW)*
- *EU – programmes F5, F6, and F7*
- *Open Society Institute*
- *Internet Society*



Some corporate sponsors



Closing the shop

- *Self-serving cliché – victims of its own “success”*
- *The world has changed, the NREN scene has also – the need for concentration and the fusion of DANTE and TERENA – GEANT Association*
- *Today - we talk about zero-rating, net neutrality, privacy, surveillance, deep and dark net, data deluge, ... and still four billions are not connected.*

Closing the shop/2

- *A memento monograph – just the timeline gusto – 2017/2018*
- *Eventually a small scale EU/NATO project*
- *A conference/workshop on the latest issues relative to the Internet, NRENs and e-Infrastructures – both from societal and technology aspects – 2017/2018*

Appreciation

- *Mosaic of various efforts, intelligence dedication, and time*
- *“But most importantly, perhaps one needs product champions. For only these individuals can create all other conditions.” Peter A. J. Tindemans*
- *Our pioneers – Jan, Pavol, Peter, Tomaz and Jacek*

Down the memory lane...



Thank you so very much

- *For your attention*
- *To the Organizers for being so kind to allocate a session devoted to CEENet and its role in R&E networking in CEE*
- *To Jan and his team for their hospitality and moreover for the continuous support since the inception of CEENet – 25 years ago.*