SEE-GRID-2 project Launched in May
to advance the South East European Grid Infrastructure and
to ensure Regional Cooperation & Stability

The research and education communities of South East Europe (SEE) will benefit from the next generation regional computing and storage Grid Infrastructure and advanced applications that will be delivered thanks to the "South Eastern European Grid-Enabled eInfrastructure Development-2" project (SEE-GRID-2). SEE-GRID-2 had its official start date on May 1st, 2006 and the kick-off meeting took place on the 4th May in Istanbul, Turkey. The project aims to further advance and integrate the existing Grid Infrastructure and services that have been created by its predecessor (SEE-GRID), to further strengthen scientific collaboration among the participating countries, and ultimately achieve sustainability for national and regional eInfrastructures.

The initiative is coordinated by the Greek Research & Technology Network (GRNET) and the project consortium consists of representatives from Albania (Academy of Sciences - INIMA), Bosnia-Herzegovina (University of Banja Luka), Bulgaria (IPP-BAS), Croatia (RBI), F.Y.R. of Macedonia (UKIM), Hungary (MTA-SZTAKI), Moldova (RENAM), Romania (ICI), Serbia-Montenegro (University of Belgrade, University of Montenegro), Turkey (TUBITAK-ULAKBIM), as well as the European Centre of Nuclear Physics (CERN) in an advisory role. In order to ensure the necessary critical mass, twenty seven regional Research and Academic institutions have been selected to participate in the project as third-parties to the consortium partners, and the entire project is further strengthened through the collaboration with the major Pan-European FP6 project EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-science in Europe) and other Grid projects.

Research & Education Networking and Grid initiatives in South East Europe, such as SEE-GRID-2, play an important role in an area where regional unrest was hindering cooperation and economic growth until recently. SEE-GRID-2 is a key example of the sustained efforts for easing the digital divide between the region and the rest of the continent, thus paving the way for future enlargement steps of the European Union and contributing to the overall stability and peace in South-East Europe.

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Figure 1: The SEE-GRID-2 Consortium