

DRAFT

**Ideas about Associations of
National Grid Initiatives**

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Historical evolution of NRENs

- Many decades ago: most countries had a variety of R&E networks
- National R&E Network “Initiatives” in various countries:
 - Some government sponsored, others not
 - Recognition that network will become crucial to research
 - Desire to gain economies of scale, sustainable funding, etc.
- This leads to National R&E Network **Organizations**:
 - Some are their own legal entity, others are not
 - ALL have official government recognition and sustainable funding
- In parallel, need to coordinate NRENs across Europe:
 - 1986: RARE (Réseaux Associés pour la Recherche Européenne) established under Dutch law on 13 June 1986 by Hans Rosenberg on behalf of University of Utrecht and Klaus Ullmann on behalf of the DFN Association. → [COSINE project](#)
 - 1985: EARN (European Academic & Research Network association) established as a legal entity in February of 1985 by participants in [IBM networking project](#).
 - 1994: TERENA (the Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association) when RARE changes name after merger with EARN.
- Note that TERENA is an Association of **Organizations**:
 - TERENA (the Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association) is an association of **organisations**...
 - TERENA's principal members are the National Research and Education Networking **organisations**...
- Note: DANTE, GEANT are a separate (complementary) business from this.

What could be the parallel for Grids?

- Pre-2005: Many Grid projects in each country
- 2006: EGEE and DEISA as European “motors” for Grids
- 2006-2007: National Grid **Organizations?**
- 2007-2008: **Association** of National Grid **Organizations?**
- Note: This is complementary to the setup of a European Grid Infrastructure “operator” *à la* DANTE/GEANT.
- How do we get there from here?
 - National Grid Initiatives formed from “bottom-up consensus” in various countries.
 - May or may not have government sponsorship and funding.
 - Almost surely will not be legal entity, but consensus can be found for an institute or a person to represent it.
 - No guarantee of a single “flavor” per country (most likely 2!).
 - Institutes or persons representing NGI can form Association(s), like RARE and EARN were in the past.

Proposal to EGEE partners

- Define “National EGEE Grid Initiative”
 - Let us define the EGEE participation in each **country** as the “National EGEE Grid Initiative” (NEGI).
 - Build consensus in each **country** and find a single institute or a person to represent its NEGI.
 - Should be easy given EGEE Federation structure.
- Launch the “Association of National Grid Initiatives in Europe” (ANGIE).
 - Parallel to RARE in networking history.
 - Linked to EGEE project participation/promotion, but non-exclusive
 - Members would be the individual persons representing NEGIs (this greatly simplifies setting up the Association).
- NEGIs and ANGIE would
 - “lobby” in a coherent way for the creation of National Grid **Organizations**
 - promote the “EGEE flavor” of Grid.
- When a critical mass of National Grid **Organizations** exists, **THEY** should decide if/how/when to create the “Association of National Grid Organizations”.