

Promoting broadband across Europe

- the FP6 IST BReATH project -



Broadband for All

The deployment of new broadband technologies, such as DSL and cable modem, has spurred a dramatic growth and impressive demand for Internet e-services. However, the roll-out of broadband services has not been equally pervasive, or perhaps appealing, across all the EU countries (new and old member states). Whereas Western European countries are considered to be amongst the world leaders in e-services and high-speed connectivity, new member states in Central and Eastern Europe are still lagging considerably. Issues that are related to differences with respect to economical, regulatory, organizational, strategic planning even cultural aspects could be blamed for the unbalanced development and exploitation of broadband technologies and services. The "Broadband for All" strategic objective of the EU (<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/so/broadband/>) thus can play a key role in aiming to enable **affordable broadband access to electronic services for all Europeans**, including those in less developed regions, peripheral and rural areas.



Bridging the Guadalquivir, Sevilla © R.D.J. Kramer 2005

BReATH

Research organisations in New Member States (NMS) and Associated Candidate Countries (ACC) have a key role to play by becoming involved in the activities of IST and promoting the research results to other organisations in their respective countries. The FP6 IST BReATH project (EC project officer: dr. Jorge Pereira) aims to bring together a rather diverse group of organizations, institutes, universities and industrial partners and contributors to **share experiences and provide a roadmap** for the strategic development and eventual deployment of broadband services in those areas that are just starting out or plan to do so in the future.

One of the project's key objectives is to increase awareness with respect to **bridging the digital gap** and to help research institutions focus on those broadband and e-service topics that will provide greatest leverage of IST research in their countries. Another key target is to initiate 'networking hubs' that focus on broadband and e-service opportunities. These will be used to raise awareness, increase information supply and advance cross-border cooperation between countries that have fully embraced and implemented broadband services and those that can learn and benefit from this experience. A broad dialogue shall pinpoint where research effort in NMS and ACC countries can best be placed.

During the course of the project (06/2005 - 11/2006) the seven contractors will accomplish the objectives through a series of events such as **seminars, workshops and business-to-business meetings** that will provide opportunities for networking and partnering discussions among the largest possible number of local, national and European actors and organizations (for example, research centres and institutes, universities, industrial companies, local operators, government bodies, and telecommunication agencies).



Local workshop Warsaw © BReATH 2006

BReATH events

Past:

- **9-13 January 2006:** local workshop (10 January) in Warsaw (Poland) on barriers and risks in broadband development in Poland, plus various company visits related to this workshop

Upcoming:

- **28 February - 1-2 March 2006:** local workshop in Prague, Brno (Czech Republic) and Bratislava (Slovakia) on FttX developments
- **22 March 2006:** joint broadband conference with other projects at 6th IST-FP6 Concertation Meeting in Brussels (Belgium)
- **29 March 2006:** local workshop in Prague (Czech Republic) on broadband regulation in the Czech Republic
- **5 April 2006:** local workshop in Ljubljana (Slovenia) on barriers and risks in broadband development in Slovenia