ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

ASREN *Newsletter*

April 2021, Issue 61

*"**ASREN** is a non-profit company with limited liability (GmbH) and is officially registered in Germany, under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. The main goal is to connect Arab institutions among themselves and to the globe through high-speed data-communications networks. Such networks will enable sharing and access to a variety of R&E services and applications in addition to utilization of highly sophisticated and technologically advanced computing resources available only at very few institutions in the world."*

In this issue

Registration is now open for OMREN Technology Summit

Oman Research and Education Network (OMREN) will conduct it first OTS - Omren Technology Summit virtually on 31 May 2021.

The summit is an annual gathering of OMREN and Global Research & Education community to share their knowledge, success stories, identify solutions, explore business opportunities, discuss current challenges and needs to improve services and achieve objectives of Connect, Collaborate and Innovate.

The summit will feature 1 day of expansive line-up of stellar speakers, case studies, panel discussions, engaging discussions, unique presentations providing access to a

wealth of industry-leading knowledge, sharing best practices and experiences, spotlighting trends, information exchange, cutting-edge insights and outlooks with actionable takeaways.

The event is an ideal meeting place with power packed networking opportunities with diverse global and regional Stakeholders, NRENs, Researchers, solution providers, leading Industry Experts, Decision Makers, Policy Makers and Government Officials from across the value chain.

ASREN's Managing Director, Yousef Torman will take part in the event with a presentation on "Towards a New Role of NRENs", beside high level and distinguished speakers from around the world.

For more information and registration: https://www.ots.om/

ASREN to feature at Open Repositories 2021

After a competitive selection process with a large number of submissions of a high caliber representing the great work being undertaken by the repositories community, ASREN has been selected to contribute at the 16th annual Open Repositories Conference (OR2021).

OR2021 will be held online from 7-10 June 2021 with the theme "Open for All". OR2021 will provide an opportunity to explore and reflect on the ways repositories enable openness for all.
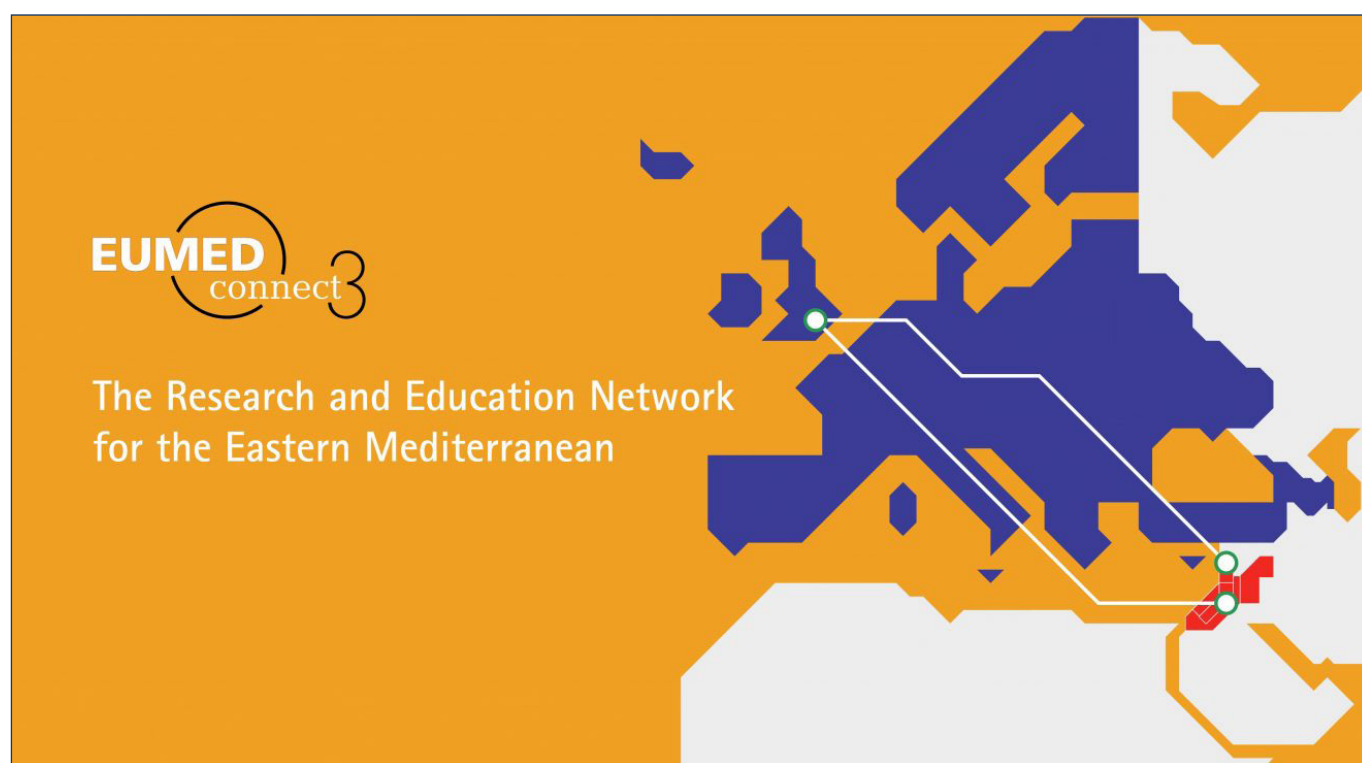
ASREN will contribute to the event under the workshops and tutorials track with a workshop on "Brokerage Event towards a FAIR Compliant Commons in the ASREN Region", 7th June 2021 with the main conference beginning on June 8th.

The workshop will frame the landscape of actions carried out in Africa to promote FAIR principles and Open Science. Aiming to bring together solution seekers, solution providers, policy makers and end users to trigger new collaborations.

The workshop is mainly targeting the ASREN region, and it will include perspectives from Europe, as well as from other parts of Africa.

For more information and registration, visit https://or2021.openrepositories.org/

EUMEDCONNECT3: catalysing research and education in the Eastern Mediterranean

The EU-funded EUMEDCONNECT programme has been providing support to research and education (R&E) networking in the Mediterranean region since 2004. Now in its 3rd phase, the project is run by GÉANT in partnership with its regional counterpart ASREN to support R&E networking in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. The NRENs of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Spain are also actively involved. EUMEDCONNECT3 partner countries connect at the ASREN PoP in London (Slough) where they interconnect with the GÉANT network.

A catalyst for NRENs

EUMEDCONNECT3 catalysed the formation of the Lebanese NREN, TechCARE. The TechCare Consortium was formed in 2018 and now counts 10 member universities. Thanks to the project funding the bandwidth, the institutions leveraged bulk purchasing power and reached a framework agreement with a single internet service provider, which eventually enabled free peering between the universities. Starting off with 10Mbps in 2016, Lebanon's international R&E connectivity is now at 5.26Gbps.

In Palestine, with support from the regional REN, ASREN, and GÉANT, EUMEDCONNECT3 is working towards the re-establishment of a local NREN and the development of R&E infrastructures. Thanks to the community's support, Palestine is now officially listed as national eduroam roaming operator and plans are underway for local institutions to join eduGAIN.

"Advanced connectivity is essential for regional and international interdisciplinary research and for scientists to fully reap the benefits of SESAME. The ASREN connection prepares the ground for SESAME to become the scientific hub in the Middle East and for tackling the data deluge in the years to come."
Dr. Khaled Toukan, Director, SESAME

"The network co-funding received from the EU was the catalyst that got the TechCARE – the Lebanese NREN started. Without this funding, Lebanon would still be without an NREN."
Dr. Yousif Asfour Chief Innovation and Transformation Officer and CIO, American University of Beirut (AUB) President of CIO Lebanon Association

Support to Education

The EUMEDCONNECT3 co-funded bandwidth played a key role in the survival of education institutions in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. It facilitated the swift transition to distance learning and working from home with a series of real-time communications and videoconferencing tools for students and teachers. These tools provided the opportunity to remove barriers to education by enabling inclusive delivery methods accessible for all. The project also lobbied for a reduction of 4G charges for students in Lebanon.

The project is also supporting students in the Erasmus+ programme, which gives NRENs the opportunity to expand the reach of eduGAIN and eduroam and enable access to these services anytime and anywhere.

Support to Healthcare

Specifically in Lebanon, the access to reliable connectivity was vital to coordinate multidisciplinary efforts for combatting COVID-19 by raising awareness and collecting research data through a shared portal; to enable international collaboration for virtual surgical support; and to ensure secure accessibility to remote consultations.

Support to Research

The EUMEDCONNECT3 project supports SESAME, the synchrotron-light for experimental science and applications in the Middle East. The particle accelerator can be used to study the properties of materials with unrivalled opportunities for international collaborative research in areas such as developing new materials, designing pharmaceuticals, probing the structure of DNA, assessing archaeological artefacts, measuring soil pollution to name but a few. It is set to become the scientific hub in the region for tackling the data deluge in the years to come.

EUMEDCONNECT3 also provides connectivity to 40 currently running Horizon2020 projects in total in the region on agriculture resilience, food and water management, energy research, and refugee protection.

Support to Capacity Building

As part of the EUMEDCONNECT3 project, ASREN is facilitating a blended Identity Federation training course, from Nov 2020 to March 2021 in conjunction with GÉANT and assistance from RENATER and GARR. The course focuses on developing the skills required to create national Identity Federation infrastructure for eduGAIN. This, in turn, is key to enabling collaborative access to digitized online content and resource sharing against the backdrop of accelerated plans to move towards online teaching, collaboration and virtual operability.

Source: https://connect.geant.org/2021/03/26/eumedconnect3-catalysing-research-and-education-in-the-eastern-mediterranean

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Gift Leather Cover

TAG-TAB KIDS
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Screen Protector   Back cover   WARRANTY 1 YEAR

Gift

Elegant Green

Magic Black

Brown   Dreamy Blue

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Screen Protector   Back cover   WARRANTY 1 YEAR

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Fantasy Forest

Space Gray

Brown   Streamer Purple

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Fingerprint

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Gift **Fabric Sleeve Case**

5000 mAh

15.6" FHD

Built in Camera

Fingerprint

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- 1x USB 3.0, 2x USB 2.0,
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Gift

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Built in Camera

AC Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0

1 YEAR WARRANTY

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- Backlit Keyboard

Gift   **Fabric Sleeve Case**

4000 mAh

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Built in Camera

Fingerprint

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Rubber cover

4290 mAh

14" FHD

Built in Camera

AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.2

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- 8 GB DDR4 RAM
- Storage: 256 GB SSD
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- Backlit Keyboard

Gift

7000 mAh

14.1" FHD
Screen ten points touch

Built in Camera

Fingerprint

AC WIFI, Bluetooth 4.2

1 YEAR WARRANTY

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