ASREN

Arab States Research and Education Network

ASREN *Newsletter*

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The MAGIC Project

In this issue

The Project on Middleware for collaborative Applications and Global virtual Communities (MAGIC) started in April 2015 and was funded under the EC Horizon 2020 Program. The project aims at consolidating and completing the building blocks of the middleware necessary for the establishment of a marketplace of services and real-time applications for international and inter-continental research groups.

MAGIC is a global collaboration project with 20 partners representing regional and national research and education networks for Europe, Latin America, Africa, Central Asia, Arab Region, Asia-Pacific and

Caribbean regions. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To foster the deployment of the platforms that enable mobility of people and seamless access to services by promoting the establishment of identity federations connected to eduGAIN, creating awareness of privacy and security issues and spreading educational roaming (eduroam).

- To develop a Model for the provision of services between NRENs of participating World Regions based on Cloud Provisioning that takes advantage of applications developed and run by NRENs across different continents to create a model for a worldwide application market for collaboration tools and services.

- To seek consensus among participating World regions on the importance of interoperability of Real Time Applications and work towards the adoption of standards to promote the creation of a worldwide environment for these applications.

- To foster the collaborative work of Global Science Communities by actively promoting the participation of Latin American and other regions' researchers

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) has been an active partner in MAGIC with a mandate to implement and deploy services in the Arab region. In cooperation with CESNET, (the national research and education network of Czech Republic), GEANT (the regional European R&E network) and RNP (the Brazilian national research and education network), ASREN conducted two workshops on deploying federation of identity infrastructure and implementing eduroam. Federation of identity infrastructures and eduroam has been implemented in several Arab countries including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, UAE, Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ASREN has also been one of the main players in developing the Global Science Communities on Biodiversity, e-Health, Environment and remote Instrumentations. A workshop and a session on Global Science Communities was included in ASREN's Annual Conference e-AGE 2016 in Beirut with participating organizations from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Malawi and Chile.

The funding of the European Commission is highly acknowledged. It provided means to enable collaboration at the global level with partners from all over the world.

GÉANT appoints Erik Huizer as Interim CEO

CAMBRIDGE - GÉANT is pleased to announce Erik Huizer as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), replacing Steve Cotter.

"It has been an enormous privilege to have led GÉANT during an important period of transformation and growth," said Steve Cotter. "I am proud to have worked with remarkable colleagues who are so committed to advancing R&E technologies and services throughout the world."

"The Board is thankful for Steve's period of service and leadership," said Christian Grimm, Chairman of GÉANT. "Steve's leadership has been instrumental in making important steps to complete the merger process. He very professionally implemented necessary changes in the organisation to enhance the delivery of valued services to Members of the Association. Steve also established a new Executive team that will benefit the Association, its Members and users in the European R&E community in the forthcoming years."

Erik Huizer has a long-standing involvement with the NREN community as a CTO of SURFnet. He was a member of the GÉANT Association Board and served as Managing Director for ICT at the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). Erik has fulfilled various board-level functions of Internet related organisations and for over 30 years he has been involved in education and research networking, Internet standardisation and Internet governance. For his contributions to the Internet he was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame in 2014.

As Interim CEO, Erik will ensure GÉANT continues to evolve, ensuring a smooth transition whilst a permanent CEO is recruited.

Call for Papers
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION - The e-AGE 2017 Conference
Cairo – Egypt, 3-4 December 2017

CAIRO - The e-AGE conference had established itself as an important venue for networking among experts and scientists. In 2017, e-AGE will be held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, the secretary general of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt during 3 – 4 December 2017. The main theme of e-AGE 2017 is "EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION".

e-AGE 2017 will include events, workshops and meetings centered around the following:
- 10th Event on Euro-Mediterranean e-Infrastructure
- 7th Annual Meeting of ASREN
- 9th Annual Conference of the Arab Organization for Quality Assurance
- EUMEDCONNECT3 and Africaconenct2 Project Meetings
- Technical workshops on R&E networking

Moreover, special sessions will be dedicated to specific domains, mainly focusing on experiences in connectivity and e-Infrastructure, applications and services across a variety of scientific domains. It is also important to show how research infrastructure creates tangible benefits to communities and collaborations. It is still critical to demonstrate how research connectivity can promote collaboration and innovation. Different discussions will be stimulated during e-AGE to drive outcomes and concrete results on practical steps towards developing a regional e-Infrastructure.

Authors are invited to submit full papers reporting on their original and unpublished research in e-Infrastructures and computational and data-intensive sciences. All papers will be peer-reviewed and accepted papers will be published in the conference proceedings.

Topics of interest include, but not limited to:

- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in the scientific areas related to energy, environment, health, climate, water, agriculture, biology, economy, medicine, as well as in social sciences and humanities.
- Perspectives on NRENs, including challenges, operation, sustainability, funding, governance, business models, security and services.
- Problem-solving environments, Virtual Research Environments, Science Gateways and collaborative tools, applications and services.
- Education and e-Learning Technologies, access to educational resources, repositories, libraries and contents, clouds, grids, parallel and distributed computing, and high performance computing.
- Internet technologies and trends, Internet of Things, Security, SDN and AAIs.

For more details, please visit the conference website:

http://asrenorg.net/eage2017/?q=Page/call-participation

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