

Arab States Research and Education Network

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"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."

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# ORCID and the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) sign Memorandum of Understanding



ORCID and ASREN have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate the adoption of ORCID iDs and use of ORCID's Registry amongst members of ASREN's community, which in turn should reap long-term benefits for researchers and research-related organizations in the pan-Arab community. The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) was founded in 2010 with the vision to boost scientific research, innovation and education levels in the Arab region through the establishment of a pan Arab regional R&E infrastructures, promoting and enabling science cooperation and providing tools, applications and platforms to the research and education communities.

ASREN is working with various partners to promote "Science Cooperation to Achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals" with focus on the Arab and the African Regions and to foster the establishment of national and regional platforms to support "Open Science" and "Open Access".

### Researchers

Increasing awareness and adoption of ORCID iDs amongst ASREN's community of researchers will ensure they get credit for their work by using their unique ORCID identifier, and also disambiguate them from other people with the same or similar names. Adding the ORCID iD to a researcher's profile will interconnect the researcher to multiple systems, saving the researcher time spent

re-keying their data.

### **Research-related organizations**

Increasing awareness and adoption of ORCID amongst research-related organizations in ASREN's community, such as universities and research centers, will help them benefit by adopting ORCID's infrastructure to streamline workflows, reduce administrative burden both for their researchers and staff and increase the quality and timeliness of research-related data. Platforms that commonly integrate with ORCID include researcher profile systems, current research information systems, grant application submission systems, publisher submission systems and institutional repositories.

Chris Shillum, ORCID's Executive Director remarked, "We are delighted to be working with ASREN to increase awareness and adoption of ORCID in the Arab states in alignment with one of the themes in our new strategic plan: to increase global participation in ORCID."

Yousef Torman, Managing Director at ASREN said: "We look forward to joining forces with ORCID to continue supporting our efforts towards Open Science and Open Access."

# e-AGE21 Call for Participation: e-Infrastructure for Science & Beyond

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e-AGE21 will be held virtually during 13-15 December 2021. e-AGE21 is the forum to share practices and experiences in openness to facilitate sharing of resources in science, research and education in today's unprecedented isolation. NRENs and e-Infrastructures provide essential means to stay connected and to meet the new challenges of research and education, while openness facilitate collaboration and seamless access.

e-AGE21 will discuss the role of open science as a mean to progress the achievement of the UN SDGs through engagement of communities in Science, Research and Education. Openness will include elements of 'Open Access', 'Open Data', 'Open Educational Resources' and 'Open Science Clouds and Platforms'.

With the theme "e-Infrastructure for Science and Beyond", e-AGE21 is coming with three main events: 1) NRENs, e-Infrastructures and Services, 2) Arab Regional and Global Science Cooperation and 3) First Arab Event on Open Science. The conference full program will be announced in due course.

Registration for the virtual e-AGE21 conference is open and free. More information about the event can be found at the event website: http://asrenorg.net/eage21/

**COP26 session by GÉANT, ASREN and RedCLARA highlights vital nature of Research and Education Networks** 



On Saturday 6 November, representatives from GÉANT, ASREN and RedCLARA were joined by researchers from Europe, Latin America, and Africa to present at the EUROCLIMA+ pavilion, highlighting to the COP26 audience the role of Research and Education Networks in helping with Climate Action.

In an inspiring session chaired by GÉANT's Senior Research Engagement Officer Chris Atherton, Horst Pilger, Head of Sector DG INTPA (the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships) gave the session welcome, followed by introductory presentations from GÉANT CEO Erik Huizer, RedCLARA CEO Luis Eliécer Cadenas, and ASREN Managing Director Yousef Torman on Research and Education Networks (RENs).

Guest researchers Marguerite Nyhan (Ireland), Lincoln Alves (Brazil) and Charlene Gaba (Niger) then explained the vital nature of RENs to Climate Action.

A panel session followed, focusing on the values we need to rely upon to address Climate Action; and ways in which together we can better show the value of RENs – including special mentions for In The Field stories and the GÉANT IMPACT website.

As Erik Huizer stated in his introduction, "We urgently need the creativity, brainpower & research skills of every researcher and student in the world to tackle the problem of climate change. They need to be able to share their data and results, for others to collaborate or enhance. Cooperation needs to be easy, safe and secure. Research and Education networks like GÉANT, ASREN and RedCLARA are there to facilitate that. Together we deliver an information ecosystem of infrastructures and services used for communication, collaboration, exchange of data, and access to repositories, services and facilities."

The full recording of the session is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9J-WnsC35g

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