

ASREN Newsletter September 2020, Issue 54

"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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Securing Access to Digital Resources in the Arab Region



The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) will conduct a virtual workshop on Identity Federation services in cooperation with the national research and education network in France (RENATER), the American University of Beirut (AUB) and Consortium GARR, together with the support of the pan-European Network (GÉANT), with its long-standing expertise in the provision of Trust and Identity services.

The workshop is dedicated for staff of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in the Arab Region, to support them in the deployment of identity federations as well as to join eduGAIN.

NRENs' identity federations provide a secure and privacy-preserving trust fabric for research and

education institutions and their service providers. Through them, students and researchers from participating institutions are able to use their home institution credentials to access online services and resources. At an upper level, participation in eduGAIN, the global inter-federation, enable users to access services hosted outside their NRENs and regions.

The workshop's main deliverables are to form a nucleus of an Identity Federation at each country, prepare the NRENs' technical teams to actively assume the role of the federation operator, and train the trainers who will be helping with Identity federation related setup at universities and research institutions in their countries.

The course will begin on the 1st week of November 2020 and run till the end of March 2021, it will consist of multiple online Instructor led sessions and will be followed by 1 week face-to-face workshop. It will be held in cooperation with AfricacConnect3 and EUMEDCONENCT3 Projects, both co-funded by the European Commission.

e-AGE20 call for papers: Power of e-Infrastructures



e-AGE20, the 10th edition of the International Platform on Integrating Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment will be held virtually during 15-16 December 2020. Its focus will be on the role of e-Infrastructures in the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. e-AGE20 is also supported by the EU co-funded projects AfricaConnect3 and EUMEDCONNECT3.

e-AGE20 will be a forum to share practices and experiences that go beyond teaching online courses and sharing resources 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.

Renowned speakers, experts and scientists are invited to share their experiences and debate on the complex global phenomenon and scientific challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. Topics of interest include, but not limited to:

- Roles of NRENs in the COVID-19 crisis
- Resources for Research and Education in COVID-19 Outbreaks
- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science in COVID-19 pandemic
- NREN services challenges, sustainability and business models

- Problem-solving environments in a global research
- Online teaching and learning: technologies, content, collaboration and assessment
- Open access, repository and content and open science platforms and policies
- Software defined networks and emerging technologies in AI

Participation is free. For more information and submission guidelines please visit:

http://asrenorg.net/eage20/submission-guidelines

Theme for UbuntuNet-Connect 2020 announced. Register now!

Preparations for the UbuntuNet-Connect 2020 are going on steadily. As announced last month, the conference will be held virtually from 18 to 20 November 2020. The theme for this year will be: Positioning Research and Education During Crises.

The rationale for this theme is as follows:

National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) exist in 38 countries in Africa – albeit at different stages of development –



with the primary role of connecting research and education institutions and providing them with other value-added services driving digital transformation. When the Covid-19 pandemic spread around the globe, while education and research institutions in the global north immediately moved their activities online, peer institutions in most of Africa shut down, sending millions of learners home and disrupting their education.

The reaction of the African research and education community to Covid-19 clearly shows that the institutions were not ready to handle crises of that magnitude. UbuntuNet-Connect 2020

will therefore be held around the theme: Positioning research and education during crises. The conference will feature presentations from Africa and around the world discussing solutions, proposals, projects, initiatives and ideas on how to position Africa's research and education networking community to be able to handle crises and pandemics.

The conference theme has been broken down into the following sub themes:

- Sub-theme 1: Off-campus Connectivity and Innovation
- Sub-theme 2: Policy, Governance (digital transformation) and Partnerships
- Sub-theme 3: Tools and Services
- Sub-theme 4: Best practices in e-Learning and Remote Working

Participation is free. For further details and to register for the conference, visit the conference website: https://events.ubuntunet.net/event/37/

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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for Technologies



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