

“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

Dedicated high-speed connectivity for the Moroccan R&E communities under AfricaConnect3 1

e-AGE21 Call for Participation: e-Infrastructure for Science & Beyond 3

Call for papers and presentations is now open for e-AGE21 Virtual, 13-15 December 2021 4

Dedicated high-speed connectivity for the Moroccan R&E communities under AfricaConnect3



Over the last years, the connectivity needs of academic and research institutions in Morocco have increased significantly, and so have their needs to collaborate with peers in Europe and other parts of the world to enable them to access resources, services and applications worldwide.

Early 2021, a physical circuit with 1Gbps capacity was successfully tendered and contracted for Morocco, through its participation in the EU-funded AfricaConnect3 project; this replaces the 1Gbps GRE tunnel which since 2018 had been virtually linking the Moroccan National



Prof. Farida Fassi, Senior Scientist at ATLAS Experiment – CERN

Research and Education Network (MARWAN), operated by the Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRS), to the European GÉANT network via the Arab States Research and Education (ASREN) PoP in London.

The dedicated connectivity, which entered service in September 2021, will facilitate cooperation opportunities for the Moroccan R&E community and benefit particularly Moroccan scientists collaborating with European colleagues on large-scale research programs, such as the high-energy physics ATLAS experiment and the undersea ANTARES neutrino telescope. Each of these projects involves researchers at several sites across Morocco, all connected to MARWAN and onwards to GÉANT. The new link will also boost collaborative research into issues facing the Mediterranean – on both shores – such as climate change, desertification and sustainable agriculture.

The European Union has had a significant impact on the evolution of MARWAN since 2004, largely within the framework of its co-funded projects EUMEDCONNECT and AfricaConnect (now in its 3rd phase).

MARWAN's Head, Prof. Redouane Merrouch stated: "Our participation in the AfricaConnect3 project has provided MARWAN with the essential means to meet researchers' growing demands for high-speed international connectivity and access to resources. With this link, MARWAN seeks to further expand its HPC capabilities and to develop and extend its cloud services to host more applications, content and services for the use of students and academics. MARWAN will also continue to support its member institutions to roll out further services and to deploy eduroam and eduGAIN at all universities."

Erik Huizer, CEO at GÉANT: "Since 2004, Morocco has been a longstanding and trusted partner in catalysing R&E networking in the southern Mediterranean, first during the EUMEDCONNECT project phases and now as partner in AfricaConnect3. By providing access to the global R&E networking fabric, this international connectivity boost enables Morocco's researchers, teachers and learners to engage in collaborations with their peers in Europe and around the world and leave their mark. We look forward to continuing working with CNRS and ASREN to support our communities."

Yousef Torman, Managing Director at ASREN said: "We encourage the Moroccan research and education communities to make full use of the potential this link brings in terms of advancing research and leveraging collaboration opportunities with their peers in a broader context and having access to highly intensive computing resources available elsewhere. Furthermore, they can benefit from the Africaconnect3 extended service portfolio that includes the Africa Open Science Cloud, Africa Training Initiative, Identity Federation, eduroam and Cybersecurity."

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



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/>

Call for papers and presentations is now open for e-AGE21 Virtual, 13-15 December 2021

Scientists, researchers and educators 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 for relevance, quality and originality of research.

Posters are also welcomed. Featuring a poster at e-AGE will serve as an excellent advertisement for your work, and can act as a great conversation starter with e-AGE participants.

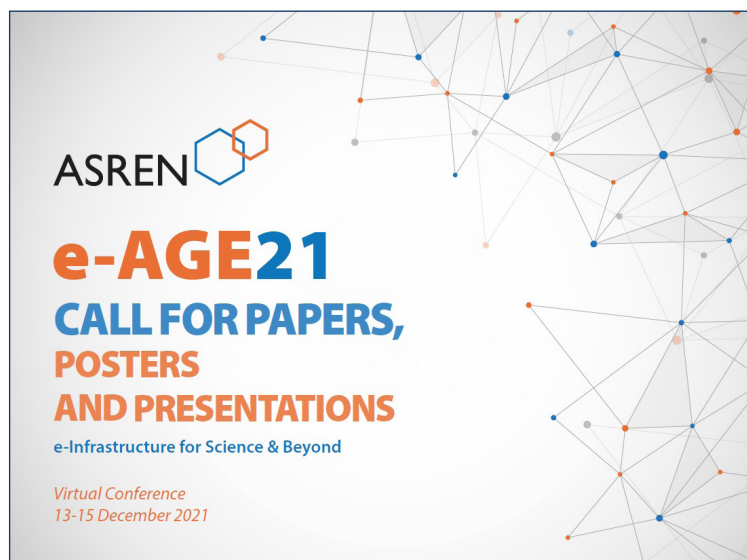
Renowned speakers and experts are also invited to submit abstracts on their research addressing an application or a problem of a significant scientific challenge.

Topics of interest include, but not limited to:

- Open Access, Open Data and Open Science Clouds
- Open Access repositories for teaching and learning
- Research via e-Infrastructures
- National, regional and global Research and Education Networks
- Scientific computing and data-intensive e-Science platforms
- NREN services challenges, sustainability and business models

Contributions should be submitted online and arrive not later than 1st November 2021.

For more information and submission guidelines please visit:
<https://asrenorg.net/eage21/submission-guidelines>



Arab States Research and Education Network

TAGUCI Building

104 Mecca Street, Um-Uthaina, Amman, Jordan

P.O. Box: 921100 Amman 11192, Jordan

Email: info@asrenorg.net |  **ASREN** |  **ASREN**

asrenorg.net



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

The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of ASREN and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.