



GÉANT COMPENDIUM

PAINTING AN 'ON-DEMAND' PICTURE OF NREN EVOLUTION

The GÉANT Compendium of National Research and Education Networks in Europe (The Compendium) has, since 2001, collated information about NRENs in areas such as network, funding and services via an annual survey.

The GÉANT Compendium of National Research and Education Networks in Europe (The Compendium) has, since 2001, collated information about NRENs in areas such as network, funding and services via an annual survey.

Words
Sabrina
McCollum,
Community
Research
Officer

It is the result of a broad, collective effort to portray the networks of the research and education community in Europe and beyond. Almost 500 people participate in the joint effort by providing facts and figures to populate the rich

and colourful picture it presents. It is then members of this same community who comment on findings via a report which is produced annually.

NRENs are a large and diverse family. Each national organisation reflects

the specific environment in which it grew, with country-specific peculiarities such as the political situation, the history of the organisation and its relations with user groups, funding agencies, and the status of research and education in that country all woven into its fabric. The diversity and complexity of the NREN community can make comparison challenging, but it is the Compendium's ambition to help provide an insight into this thriving community.

By harnessing the understanding we have of the past and current NREN landscape, the Compendium offers an informed look at ways to further support the research and education sector.

“The Compendium is a living picture of what we, the NRENs, do every day to meet our users' requirements and help them in their research, teaching and learning activities,”

adds Elis Bertazzon of GARR.

Within the NREN community it is used as a reference source; to guide strategic planning; and as support material when negotiating with national funding bodies. For those outside, this self-portrait is for anyone with an interest in the development of national research and education networks and the organisations behind them.

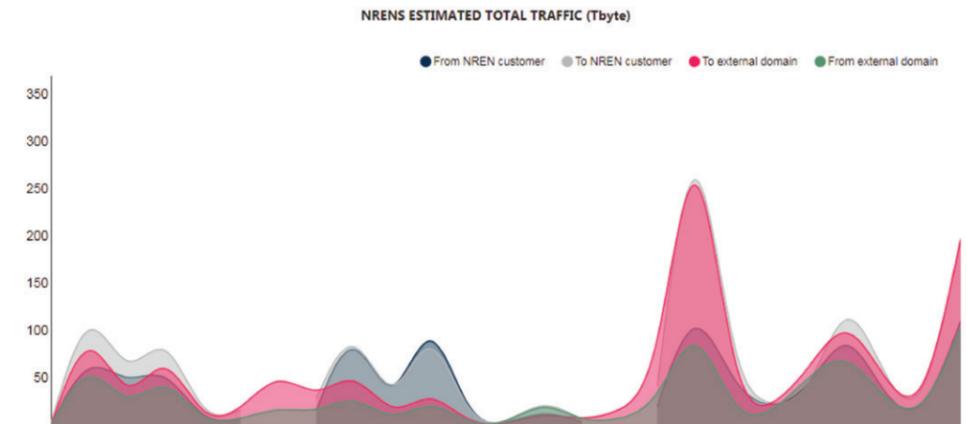
You can find electronic copies of the reports at <https://compendium.geant.org> “Download Print Edition” button.

Making the community's data work for the community

To make the survey data as accessible as possible, and easy to visualise and customise, we soft-launched in November 2017 a custom-built website that allows users to compare data from different countries and regions across an extended period as well as look at various aspects of specific countries like staffing levels in a graphical way.

Traffic Volumes

Data on the traffic flowing to and from external networks as well as to and from institutions connected to the NREN.



From <https://compendium.geant.org> users can explore current and past network traffic statistics, the type of organisations that connect, and funding and staffing levels and sources as well as links out to service portfolios and the full list of responses given by each respondent organisation. In addition, the website users have the opportunity to download the relevant subset of the data they are interested in to further look at the numbers.

The site is very much in development and we are keen to gather feedback on it so please get in touch if you've any thoughts at info@geant.org

What is the data showing?

Taking into account the latest survey which closed in December 2017, the stories emerging are positive. The picture is clearly very different in the different countries and regions but we are broadly seeing an increase in budgets and personnel, the diversification of the NRENs' user base and service portfolio, and growing network usage.

For example, the number of schools connected to NREN networks surged by 28% from 25,460 (2016) to 32,543 (2017). In addition, it has been noted that where a local NREN's acceptable usage policy allows it to connect, the number of government institutions grew by 75% and for-profit organisations by 57%. In terms of what additional connectors means for the network, over half of the NRENs who responded forecast the average traffic growth to be circa 49% by 2020 – with schools coming out at 61% expected growth.

GÉANT Compendium of National Research and Education Networks in Europe



2016 Edition
compendium.geant.org

