GÉANT E-ACADEMY HOSTS NEW LEARNING CONTENT FOR RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

GLAD TEAM CAN NOW SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR NEW COURSE CREATION

Collaboration between the GÉANT Learning and Development (GLAD) team and the AARC project delivers new materials for the GÉANT e-Academy online learning platform: the 'Policy Development Kit' (PDK). The PDK, whose creation proved a valuable learning experience for the AARC team, will benefit users from research communities.

Irina Mikhailava, who heads the GLAD team says: 'The GÉANT e-Academy gives our community the unique benefit of a common space for accessible online training products. Our ambition is to create an online learning platform available 24x7 with quality training material. It also aims to be a platform that enables the community to disseminate its e-learning products. Research and education communities are set to benefit and, at the same time, contribute to this digital learning platform whose training modules cover a range of topics within and beyond the networking landscape.

The e-Academy was chosen by the AARC project as the vehicle for securing the PDK knowledge developed in recent years. The PDK focuses on capturing knowledge around policy

Picture
From left to right:
Uros Stevanovic,
Irina Mikhailava,
Hannah Short

aspects and has been designed to increase policy writing capability within research infrastructures. "It provides template policies to help infrastructures get started or implement their own policy layer" explains Hannah Short of CERN, who is AARC's Operational Security Task Leader. "The PDK's key benefit is that the policies are all ready and available and aim to facilitate interoperability between the infrastructures that adopt them". The opportunity to capture knowledge through e-Academy offers the AARC project team a degree of comfort in knowing that users will be able to access AARC knowledge even after the end of the project.

A cross disciplinary team was set up to make the PDK happen: the AARC project provided materials and experts whilst the GLAD team offered technical and didactic support.

For each e-Academy project, GLAD offers support in packaging content knowledge into engaging and interactive e-learning products. This process can be at times challenging as content owners need to look at the ideas from the learner's point of view. Every piece of knowledge within a course needs to have a clear purpose and play a direct role in developing the learner's skills and competencies. If it doesn't serve that purpose, then it should not be there. In the words of the PDK expert, Uros Stevanovic: "This is fundamental when trying to produce something for others to learn from … as this could influence how well the information is regarded and absorbed in the future."

The creation of e-learning materials is an experience of growth and development for content owners too.

The AARC experts were particularly challenged when it came to creating the content's video elements. Uros adds: "Working with GLAD during video creation gave me a different perspective on how to produce visual information and made me appreciate more the work of visual experts. It was challenging!"

GLAD will be collaborating with community experts who help monitor content and evaluate the level of relevance of any given course. In fact, e-content in this dynamic field can easily become obsolete.

PDK creation is indeed the outcome of the extensive work carried out by many AARC project members. "AARC project participants were very excited about the prospect of their knowledge and skills being used to help others" concludes Hannah Short.

The release of this latest online course is for GLAD a positive experience and another step forward in adding content variety to the e-Academy. The team looks forward to working with other projects, content owners, teams and initiatives to harness their knowledge and output and translate them into engaging, accessible and useful learning for others. Get in touch with GLAD if you want to learn more!

Policy Development Kit on the eAcademy: **bit.ly/2FoKsDl**

GÉANT Learning and Development: **https://learning.geant.org/**