Kristina Lillemets, Director of Infrastructure for EENet of HITSA:

"I believe that the programme will be not only thought-provoking and challenging, but practical too. With the e-Estonia model in mind, we’ll be pulling all the stops to provide our conference guests a truly memorable experience. We look forward to launching the event and can’t wait to introduce this year’s prestigious keynote speakers, who will also enlighten us on some of the key factors behind e-Estonia’s success. With 21 sessions covering multiple themes and more lightning talks than ever, TNC19 will inform, inspire and stimulate the community."

The global Research and Education networking community is already gearing up for TNC19, GÉANT’s flagship event. This year’s programme promises to be thought-provoking, enriching and inspiring and expectations within the community are already very high.

TNC19’s theme, Forging Digital Societies, is inspired by two main concepts: the idea that computer networks, by supporting human interactions, help to create and forge digital societies, is combined with the innovative model of Estonia’s e-residency programme. TNC is the place where our community gathers to shape the future of research and education forging the society of the future with digital ‘fire’ and passion for innovation and progress. The programme will also focus on sub-themes and areas of interest such as Network, Trust & Identity, Security, Supporting Research & Education, and Communities & Collaboration.
Keynote speakers

Through keynote speeches TNC19 presents participants with a unique overview of the latest developments in Research and Education networking, both in the technical field and in the area of application management. Ranging from security strategies, national ICT policies and the role of community, TNC19 covers a wide variety of inspiring topics by renowned experts in their fields.

This year’s keynote speakers are:

**Siim Sikkut**

Siim is the Government CIO of Estonia, in charge of keeping the eEstonia digital innovation engine humming ever faster. Nominated by Apolitical, a global network for government representatives and public servants, to the 2018 list of the world’s Top 20 most influential people in digital government.

**John Womersley**

John Womersley is Director General of the European Spallation Source (ESS), a European intergovernmental laboratory that will start user science operation in 2023. Before moving to ESS, Prof. Womersley held the position of Chief Executive of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), the United Kingdom’s funding agency for large scale science facilities and national laboratories, particle physics, nuclear physics and astronomy. He has also served on the council of CERN and has chaired the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

**Merike Kaeo**

Merike Kaeo is CEO and founder of Double Shot Security. She has over 25 years of experience in pioneering Internet technology deployments and developing strategic security initiatives. In 2007, she was instrumental in fostering cooperation and trust among the global operational security community and the Estonian National CERT during the cyber attacks against Estonia. In 2014 Merike was part of the EU Network and Information Security (NIS) Working Group 2 that created guidelines and recommendations to promote the sharing of cyber threat information and incident coordination in both the public and private sectors in the EU.

**Tusu Tusubira**

Tusu Tusubira is the Founding CEO of the UbuntuNet Alliance and managing partner of Knowledge Consulting Ltd. He received the 2015 continental African Network Information and Infrastructure Award and served on the boards of RENJU and TENET, the Research and Education Networks of Uganda and South Africa. Tusu worked for Makerere University for 32 years (Head of Electrical Engineering, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Technology, and Director, ICT Support) and continues to participate actively in research with more than 60 papers and books as author or co-author.

**What is a Lightning Talk?**

Lightning Talks focus on one key point. This can be an idea, a successful project, a cautionary story, a collaboration invitation, a quick tip or demonstration. It is an opportunity for ideas to get the attention they deserve, within a maximum of 5 minutes. The clock will be ticking, so get prepared!

**2019 GÉANT COMMUNITY AWARD**

Nominations are now open for the 2019 GÉANT Community Award. The winner will be selected by a panel of judges from within the GÉANT community and will be announced at TNC19.

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

- Initiators of significant new ideas or improvements which have had lasting impact on the organisation, project or community.
- Impactful contributors to the GÉANT project or wider community activities over a sustained period of time.
- Outstanding contributions to the project or community which have immediately led to significant and recognisable new ideas, developments or improvements over the last 12 months.

**HOW TO NOMINATE**

A maximum of two submissions per person will be accepted; if more nominations are submitted, only the first two complete forms will be taken into account. The nomination form is available online: [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GEANTCommunityAward2019](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GEANTCommunityAward2019). Deadline for nominations is midnight CET on Friday 22 March, take this opportunity to nominate a colleague or a member of your community that you think deserves recognition for their contributions to Research and Education networking in Europe and further afield.

**Best Lightning Talk Award**

We are delighted to announce that TNC19 will be the stage of the brand new Best Lightning Talk Award. Lightning Talks are regular plenary sessions that galvanise the TNC audience; their importance has grown year after year and expectations within the community are already very high. We invite our readers to keep an eye on the forthcoming regular TNC19 communications and social media announcements to learn more about this new and exciting award. Stay tuned...