

# CLOUD SERVICES: EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS IN THE COMMUNITY

NRENs and their institutions have been pretty busy in the first half of 2018 establishing their cloud offerings and promoting services and support to institutions and users. Numerous events were held throughout Europe and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. Here are some highlights from just a few of the events that took place recently.



## Cyprus

Universities, Schools and Research Institutions in Cyprus were introduced to Microsoft Azure cloud services through the GÉANT IaaS framework agreement at a workshop hosted by CyNet on the Microsoft offering for universities. Over 50 attendees participated in the event held on 29 March in Nicosia. The programme included sessions on CyNet and its new perspectives; the GÉANT IaaS Framework and Azure4Edu; biometrics, learning analytics and gamified learning tools from SCM Secure; DocuSign tools for educational administration and processes; and Microsoft reseller AppXite. Representatives from Appxite were on hand as well.



## Israel

On 14 February IUCC launched the Inter-University Cloud Forum. IT staff from Israel's universities gathered for a working meeting to discuss an introduction to IUCC's cloud offering, implementation of the GÉANT Framework in Israel, tips for managing AWS environments and Microsoft Azure costs. Lively discussions focused on the unique challenges of using cloud services by researchers, with an emphasis on budgets, allocation and information security. IUCC expressed its pledge to support and work alongside institutions to assist in exploiting the advantages of cloud services and the added-value the GÉANT framework single market will hopefully bring to the table.

The highlight of the forum was a presentation on a proof of concept process successfully used to create an HPC environment based on Microsoft Azure at the Weizmann Institute of Science. The forum will meet every two months.

## UNINETT

## Norway

On 21 March, the Norwegian higher education cloud initiative (UH-Sky) organised a conference on Microsoft Azure on how IT organisations can use cloud services in their everyday routines. Eighty participants, developers and technical managers from ICT departments, gathered at Gardermoen. Representatives from Microsoft Azure and ATEA (preferred joint supplier) were on hand to answer any questions.

As part of the GÉANT IaaS framework, Norwegian research and higher education institutions can utilise Microsoft Azure through three resellers. Norwegian universities and institutions only need to sign a call-off agreement to use Microsoft Azure IaaS-technology.

## SWITCH

## Switzerland

On 10 April, SWITCH hosted its third Higher Education Cloud Day at the University of Bern. The Higher Education Cloud Days are an open and collaborative environment to gain knowledge shared user experiences and best practices. Registration exceeded expectations, with around 65 attendees filling the meeting room to capacity. Almost all universities participated, along with university hospitals and CERN. The program highlighted sessions with speakers from Google, Microsoft, AWS, amanox and SWITCH. The sessions were accompanied by a lively discussion of the GÉANT tender and framework agreements.

Stay up to date on more events and news at <https://clouds.geant.org/news/>