

EDUROAM GROWING IN EUROPE'S EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES



Europe's Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine – have made great strides in the deployment of eduroam, the secure, world-wide roaming access service for research and education. In 2017, coverage increased in the region by 470% overall from 38 to 179 service locations, with a 1600% rise in Ukraine being the most significant increase.

Alongside developments in the region's network connections to GÉANT, it is estimated that two million scientists, academics and students at over 700 institutions across the region will benefit from the boost in network and Wi-Fi connectivity.

Supporting connectivity and eduroam uptake in the region are goals of the Eastern Partnership Connect (EaPConnect) project. All six EaP countries now have eduroam successfully deployed and have been active in a range of activities to develop and promote the service.

Events and visibility

More than 130 guests from Georgia and other countries used eduroam during a UNESCO-supported event in February this year. GRENA, the Georgian NREN, provided eduroam at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), the first national university in the Caucasus. Now the major educational and research institution in Georgia, TSU has around 600 foreign students and 22,000 Georgian students.

In Ukraine, URAN developed a project for an eduroam zone for the Clinical Medical Rehabilitation Cardiac Surgery Centre of the Ministry of Health.

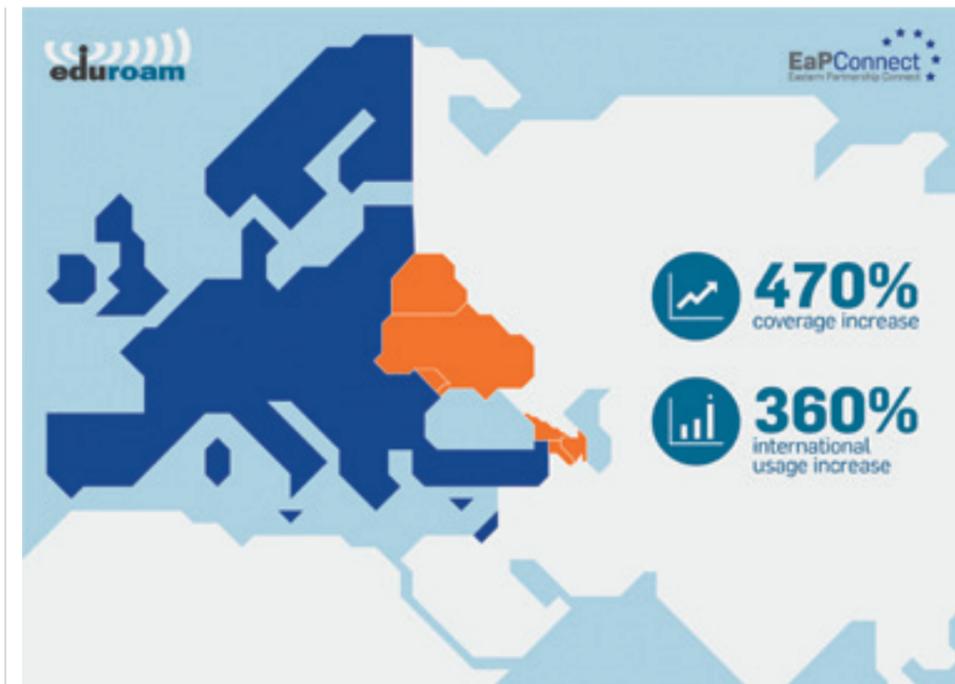
They also provided an eduroam Wi-Fi zone in a public area of the Kiev Palace of Children and Youth, where scientific and education events are frequently held. This allowed internet connectivity for up to 250 users simultaneously. In December, URAN in cooperation with the Igor Sikorsky Kiev Polytechnic Institute held a workshop on eduroam and other URAN services.

To popularise the service, in 2017 RENAM organised four training and promotional events in universities in Moldova. In the beginning of 2018, meetings about eduroam were organised in the Republican College of Informatics and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cooperation with Erasmus+, the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe, has significantly contributed to the spread of eduroam. In Georgia, information was collected about university staff and students participating in Erasmus+ who need mobility across various European universities. Merged into the virtual organisation Erasmus+, these individuals were then able to use eduroam, so promoting the service and increasing interest among Georgian universities. In Ukraine, cooperation with Erasmus+ is being explored, to set up eduroam on their premises. Armenian students also benefit from eduroam during their studies abroad under the Erasmus+ exchange programme.

Locations

In Georgia, eduroam was rolled out not only to TSU, but also in the International Black Sea University, the University of Georgia, the Georgian Institute of Public



Affairs, the Caucasus University and the National Science Library. It is now available in 20 locations and negotiations are underway with more universities. In Armenia eduroam is mostly available in the research and educational institutions of the National Academy of Sciences. ASNET-AM is actively involved in negotiations to widen the service to universities.

In Belarus in March, BASNET launched eduroam at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR). This is the industry-leading educational establishment in Belarus for higher education in computer science and radio electronics. With 55 access points deployed across multiple faculties and departments, eduroam replaced the internal university network.

Several research institutions from the Academy of Science of Moldova and educational institutions such as the Academy of Economical Study and the Technical University of Moldova are connected to eduroam. During 2017 there were around 26000 national and 2700 international authentications.

In Azerbaijan, AzScienceNet established eduroam in 20 research institutions of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and in the Azerbaijan Medical University. As EaPConnect creates the infrastructure for international collaboration, more organisations are willing to establish eduroam.

Ukraine has seen the largest growth in eduroam deployment: having become a participant country in 2016 with 6 service locations, it now has 98. By the end of 2017, the number of service locations had increased in Azerbaijan from 18 to 21, in Armenia from 4 to 29,

in Belarus from 5 to 10, and in Moldova the number quadrupled to 16. The extension of campus eduroam zones will continue next year by extending the eduroam infrastructure through EaPConnect procurement.

Technical support

To support the use of eduroam by small-scale scientific-educational institutions in Georgia, GRENA introduced a mechanism to enable them to connect using only wireless access points configured with eduroam. In contrast to the standard eduroam service authentication method, in which the user's home institution verifies the user's credentials, in this case the user information base is configured and held by GRENA, and the users are added by the organisation's specially-designed control panel.

Training

A designated eduroam training event was hosted by the Armenian project partner IAP NAS RA / ASNET-AM in September 2017. Alongside their own staff were participants from the EaPConnect partners in Moldova and Ukraine. The event was designed to transfer technical knowledge as well as to help promote the service to users and organisations.

In line with infrastructure implementation, all EaP NRENs have provided local user training to support the adoption of the eduroam service.

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