EAPCONNECT: COLLABORATION WITHOUT BORDERS

Providing high-capacity internet and services for research and education in the European Eastern Partnership (EaP) region is a key focus of the EAPConnect project. But EAPConnect also stimulates collaboration between EaP researchers and educators and their peers in Europe. In 2017, the project partnership grew to eighteen NRENs, including six main project beneficiaries. Relationships between them continue to develop and bring new opportunities for cooperation, as six partners explain:

AMRES (Serbia – associate partner)

Miloš Cvetanović, Director

“Opportunities to collaborate, share knowledge and experience are extremely helpful and can significantly ease the learning curve or shorten the time for overcoming issues.

The Armenian and Serbian NRENs collaborated on eduroam service operations and management. AMRES was interested in an easy-to-use solution for analysing and managing usage. AMRES is using such software, so several knowledge-sharing meetings were organised. This later connected with the GÉANT Learning & Development team, resulting in an eduroam workshop hosted by ASNET-AM in conjunction with the international CST 2017 conference held in Yerevan.

Participating in events helps AMRES to share knowledge, but also to gather valuable feedback. This information enriches training materials for AMRES member institutions, and is a starting point for future trainings under the GÉANT or EAPConnect umbrellas.

Topics of interest for AMRES for potential cooperation between Serbian R&E institutions and counterparts from peer NRENs are: eduroam, federated identity services, DDoS attack mitigation, digital libraries and clouds.”

ASNET-AM (Armenia – beneficiary partner)

Hrachya Astsatryan, Head - Center for Scientific Computing, National Academy of Sciences

“EAPConnect organised a series of workshops, trainings and site visits to EU associate partners to help ASNET-AM develop sustainable cutting-edge services.

Knowledge transfer from Dutch NREN SURFnet and AMRES was important for us to increase eduroam sustainability and visibility. In 2017 the number of service locations increased from 5 to 29.

In April we participated in a Network Performing Arts Production Workshop, then in October was the ‘Music Without Borders’ concert between Minsk and Tallinn. Knowledge transfer from the Italian NREN GARR helped us to master and implement the LoLa service.

Thanks to this service, ASNET-AM made contact with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra and Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan.

Participation in GARR’s Clouds Workshop in June was crucial for us to deploy an experimental ‘infrastructure-as-a-service’ platform. This allows us to increase our level of collaboration with the National Library of Armenia by providing customised VMs for its needs.

Supercomputing and data analytics are interesting topics for the upcoming year.”

BASNET (Belarus – beneficiary partner)

Sergei Kozlov, Head of network administration sector, UIIP, National Academy of Sciences

“There was a 100% increase of access capacity to GÉANT for BASNET customers in 2017, following an external connectivity upgrade to 10 Gbps in August.

As the result of increased visibility hosting the EAPConnect conference, EaPEC 2017, BASNET received a request from the Belarusian State University’s Center for Particle and High-Energy Physics to increase its access link bandwidth to LHC resources in CERN. This work is planned for 2018.

In 2017, the Belarusian National Technical University provided eduroam to its users with the support of BASNET. Currently BASNET is working on providing it for the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics.

With the support of EAPConnect we installed and tested LoLa devices with the network connection, and involved Belarusian musicians to perform in ‘Music Without Borders’. This positive experience gives us hope for future adventures. We expect that LoLa will be in Slovakia and, with SANET, we will be able to organise a public concert of folk, classical and jazz, with audiences in Minsk and Bratislava.”

Pictures

Left main image; Miloš Cvetanović and the AMRES eduroam team.

Left below images; Hrachya Astsatryan, Sergei Kozlov, Kristina Lillemets, Ramaz Kvatadze.

Above; Georgian musicians Reso Kiknadze and Khatia Koridze rehearsing for ‘Music Without Borders’.

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For the third consecutive year, the EaPConnect project has invited Eastern Partnership (EaP) research and education communities to ‘Enlighten Your Research’. As well as collaboration in scientific research fields, EaPConnect added the possibility for cooperation in the area of musical performance, artistic research and education.

By proposing a project that would use computer network resources and services to foster international collaborations and accelerate the research and discovery process, selected researchers can secure those resources and present their proposals at this year’s Eastern Partnership E-infrastructures Conference, EaPEC 2018. EaPEC 2018 will be hosted by GRENA in Chisinau, Moldova. www.eapconnect.eu/conference

EaPEC 2018
Winners of EYR@EaP2017:

The 2017 Enlighten Your Research (EYR) call in the Eastern Partnership region (EYR@EaP2017) was a great success: a record-breaking 30 plus proposals were submitted on a wide range of topics and six were selected to go ahead. They were presented with awards during the EaPEC 2017 conference in Minsk, Belarus.

- Grusha Alexander Ivanovich, Central Scientific Library Yakub Kolats of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for “Heritage Digital Data”.
- Boris Hincu & Elena Cairns, Moldova State University for “Elaboration of the Task Oriented Instrumental Support (TOS) for Integration of MSU and INH HPC Clusters into a Cloud Computing System”.
- Maryna Druchenko, Scientific and Technical Library, National Technical University of Ukraine for “KPI Digitization Center: Center for digitization of cultural heritage for the Ukrainian libraries, museums, and archives”.
- Yevhen Potsnikov, Nizhyn State University named after Mykola Gogol for “Through Research to Perfection: New Approaches to Continuous Professional Development of IT Service Teachers”.
- Tigran Zargaryan, National Library of Armenia for “Online Armenian digital library for research based on the e-infrastructure facilities of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia”.
- Ilgiz Safarov, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands for “Open Government Data adoption. A multi-level framework for data sharing and utilization in EaP countries”.

Further information: www.eapconnect.eu