TRUST & IDENTITY PROGRAMME GOING STRONG IN 2019

2019 promises to be an exciting year for the Trust & Identity Programme of GÉANT. Chief Community Support Officer Klaas Wierenga explains.

Over the past few years, Trust & Identity (T&I) has become a significant part of not only the GÉANT project but also research and education in general and it is not hard to see why. Students, staff and researchers are becoming more mobile; visiting, working and collaborating around the world, but are also accessing information, and services from a huge range of global providers and systems.

In order to be able to work globally, users need to be able to identify themselves with a huge number of systems and rely on their identity being protected. The rise of distributed cloud services will only increase this need for user identities to be both shareable and secure. Already millions of R&E staff and students every day are using services such as eduTEAMs and eduGAIN to get online and connect to services to help them work and study, and 2019 promises even more opportunities to help them.

The Trust & Identity Work Package in GN4-3 is bigger than ever. The main T&I services in the GÉANT community - eduTEAMs and eduGAIN - remain the core of the programme, and they will be more secure, robust, better supported, and easier to use. For example eduTEAMs Managed IdP service will enable smaller institutions to offer eduTEAMs services to their staff and students using a simple, hosted service.

In addition, new and exciting services like MyAcademicID and eduTEAMs are being introduced, building on the foundation of eduGAIN interfederation and supporting research teams and students.

AARC – moving forward

The AARC project that addresses the needs of research collaborations will finish in April, but its results will carry on. Support for researchers is now an integral part of T&I in GN4-3, and the AARC Blueprint Architecture (BPA) is being adopted by most research collaborations worldwide and GÉANT's own implementation of it, eduTEAMs is gaining traction both among NRENs and research groups.

https://aarc-project.eu/  
https://eduteams.org/  

Other Trust & Identity projects that GÉANT will be contributing to in 2019 include:

MyAcademicID

The MyAcademicID project that GÉANT and a number of NRENs participate in looks at integrating student cards and government issued electronic identifiers (eID) with eduGAIN to provide a consistent identity for students across on- and offline activities.

NGL_Trust

The NGL_Trust project is an activity involving GÉANT, EPSI and a number of other research institutions and NRENs. It will launch a range of open calls for innovation projects aimed at exploring new and exciting ideas in the field of privacy enhancing technologies. This project will support the development of technologies at early Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) which could later feed into GÉANT service development.

LifeSciences AAI

In 2019 the LifeSciences AAI pilot work is planned to develop into a robust production AAI service for the Life Sciences cluster of projects. This field of research is heavily dependent on cross-institution and international collaborations and the nature of the data shared requires the most stringent management and control of access. Effective AAI solutions will support the flexible yet controllable access to data and services which are an essential foundation for research.

EOSC-hub, EOSC and R&E e-infrastructures

As a major infrastructure provider for the R&E communities, GÉANT will be highly active in supporting the EOSC, EOSC-hub and other initiatives throughout 2019 both at a practical level with existing services but also in helping to develop the future frameworks that will support EOSC delivery. And finally, GÉANT will continue with its global coordination activities under the aegis of REFEDS, the Global eduTEAMs Governance Committee and the eduGAIN Steering Group to help support existing federations and to develop an even wider take-up of identity federation and interfederation across research and education.

All in all, 2019 looks set to be an exciting and very busy year for the Trust & Identity team across GÉANT.

What is AARC and how does it help R&E?

AARC has developed a Blueprint Architecture (BPA) to implement federated access management solutions for international research collaborations. The BPA sets out a theoretical architecture and the high-level components to build customised solutions for their requirements. These components help support:

- User Identities: services which provide electronic identities that can be used by users participating in international research collaborations.
- Identity Access Management: defines an administrative, policy and technical boundary between the internal/external services and resources.
- Authorisation: contains elements to control the many ways users can access services and resources.
- End services: defines the external services which are an essential foundation for research.