FOCUS ON CYNET

You may have heard about Cyprus as a popular holiday destination with the most sunny days every year, but Cyprus also has a dynamic research and education sector with 10 major universities, as well as several colleges, research institutions and dynamic innovative companies. Moreover, Cyprus participates in Horizon 2020 with 245 programs, attracting a total funding of €106.65 million. This makes Cyprus the number one participating country in the largest funding program for research and innovation in Europe.

Investing in dark fibre

In 2017, after the decision of the Republic’s Council of Ministers, CyNet received significant funding from the European Structural and Investment Funds in Cyprus, for the implementation of dark fibre in the network in Cyprus. The aim of this project is to connect all CyNet’s members (universities and research institutions) to dark fibre.

CyNet aims to make the best use of the new circuits and, if in the future, it will be connected to the already deployed dark fibre via the GÉANT network in the future.

Exciting new CSIRT developments in Cyprus

In 2010 CyNet was appointed as the Academic CSIRT of Cyprus. While the project did not progress due to lack of funding, a proposal was submitted in 2017 and funding has been granted through the CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).

Specifically, CyNet in collaboration with GÉANT, the Telecoms Regulator in the Republic of Cyprus (2nd partner in the proposal), were selected for the funding with the action “2017-CY-01-1. Establishment of Cypriot Academic CSIRT, under the ‘Connecting Europe Facility Call for proposals: CEF Telecom Call 2017 CEF-TC-2017-2’.” The main objective of the action is the establishment of infrastructure and support of research and education organizations and thus contribute to the creation of a Springboard of Innovation in the Republic of Cyprus.

CyNet, counting only 4 permanent staff, puts a huge amount of work into setting up and leading these activities and is interested in offering more services via the GÉANT network in the future.

AAl Developments

GEANT is supporting CyNet with eduGAIN training and knowledge transfer and in particular, working with Federation as a Service (FaaS) as part of eduGAIN. CIF (CyNet Identity Federation) is the federation of Cyprus. However, whilst CyNet is a voting-only member of the eduGAIN community and there is no federated access in Cyprus yet, development is in progress. At the moment, GRNET is assisting CyNet in deployment of the service. To this end, a first webinar for CyNet’s members was organised on 19 April, which was an introduction to the main aspects of the service. This was followed by a hands-on workshop, where our members were trained on how to set up an IDP or SP.

Future Talent to support R&E networking

Last year two CyNet students became part of the inaugural TNC17 Future Talent programme in Linz, Austria. Cypriot students submitted four proposals and two students were selected to participate in TNC17. Rify Areal, a Computer Engineering student from Frederick University recognised the mentoring part. “I am a Ph.D. student and for my research I have to do a lot of presentations and talks, so this is helping me tremendously.”

CyNet aims to make the best use of the new circuits and, if in the future, it will be connected to the already deployed dark fibre via the GÉANT network in the future.

What new parts of the Cypriot research and education community would you like to approach and engage with more?

We wish to get more engaged with schools, hospitals and innovative companies carrying out research work and participating in research projects, so as to provide an integrated connection of all research organisations. For example, the Library of the Republic’s House of Representatives will soon be connected to our network, in order to provide support to researchers involved in legislative matters.

How would you value the cooperation with GEANT so far?

How can GEANT support you in your further activities in the research and education community?

Excellent cooperation! CyNet’s presence on the European research and education community since 2000 with a current connectivity to GÉANT of 2Gbps to London and Frankfurt. In addition, CyNet has been able to secure a connection of 10Gbps to Athens resulting in faster connectivity to Greece. GEANT’s positive cooperation with CyNet’s request will benefit all CyNet members, since the majority of their distance learning students are from Greece, and this new connection will definitely minimise traffic latency.

Moreover, CyNet is providing several GÉANT services like eduroam, TCS, RN, A-SiPR, MD-VPN, Cloud, etc. and is in the process of deploying eduGAIN. CyNet is also a partner in international research projects like EAPConnect and EU-MEDCONNECT.

For further information, please contact partner-relations@geant.org

“We are a lean, knowledge-based, forward-looking, dynamic, organisation, strongly committed to enhancing our knowledge and realising our mission to provide integrated connection of all research organisations. With the help of GEANT we aim to materialise our vision to facilitate and Springboard Innovation in the Republic of Cyprus as a trusted partner of the research and innovation ecosystem and a regional hub.”

Dr. Georgios Konnis

For further information, please contact partner-relations@geant.org