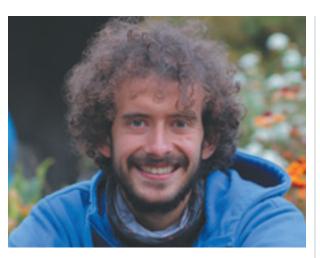# Future Talent Programme 2019 Conquering the TNC Stage

Since the launch of the Future Talent Programme (FTP) in 2017, TNC has become a key event to showcase the work of talented IT students. This year, the programme welcomes 11 new talents from European NRENs and their local institutions, who have enrolled and followed a training course to prepare for the challenge.

The students were given the opportunity to submit their ideas for the Lightning Talk Challenge. This initiative is aimed at offering finalists the opportunity to experience TNC for the first time and to provide an introduction to the international R&E community. Supported by their NRENs, six finalists impressed the TNC programme committee with their submissions: Pierre van Houtryve from Belgium (Belnet), António Ferreira from Portugal (FCT/FCCN), Era Ajdaraga from Macedonia (MARNET), and Luca Coviello, Agnese Sbrollini and Enrico Pietrocola from Italy (GARR).

All candidates were trained by professional speaker and TEDx Senior Speaker Coach, Barbara Rogoski, who has been working with the Future Talent Programme from the start of the programme. Barbara commented: "As the speaker coach of the Future Talent students who present their ideas at the TNC conference, I am able to teach them how to take their great ideas and build these into interesting talks, and how to present their talks with clarity and passion. I really enjoyed the process to go from shy students to confident speakers!"

Upskilling Europe's IT Workforce

Irina Mikhailava, Head of GÉANT Learning and Development (GLAD) explains: "At GÉANT, we believe it is crucial to engage, foster and develop future IT professionals. This sentiment holds true now, more than ever, as the sector undergoes a period of considerable growth.

We set up the GÉANT Future Talent Programme to demonstrate our commitment to the up-skilling of Europe's future IT workforce. The FTP is the gateway for young professionals to the European and global networking community. It offers them an opportunity to grow and develop their skills through a series of free webinars. Furthermore, it rewards learning by offering free admission to prestigious international events to those individuals whose work is recognised by an independent panel."

The GLAD team designs and executes the programme and provides coaching and learning to student talent across the community with engaging activities to further their academic studies. This approach enables NRENs to play a major role in developing young people's skills and inspire fresh thinking. By participating in the FTP, NRENs can strengthen relationships with their member institutions, motivate high-quality students, and spark excitement about their work with stimulating opportunities.

Pictures
Left: Agnese Sbrollini

Right: Luca Coviello

Talk Topics

- **Building Community Machine Learning Tool for Agriculture and Forest Species Identification** – António Ferreira, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), Portugal (FCT/FCCN).
- **FOG Computing as a Lifeline for E-Health Users** – Era Ajdaraga Krluku, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Macedonia (MARNET).
- **Content-Interaction-Powered Distance Learning – Contact, pointing, immersion and feeling of presence** – Enrico Pietrocola, Conservatorio G.Verdi, Milano, Italy (GARR).
- **Sport-Related Sudden Cardiac Death: A New In-Cloud System for Athletes Prevention** – Agnese Sbrollini, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy (GARR).
- **Project Fox, a Quest for a Statically Typed Embeddable Programming Language** – Pierre van Houtryve, HEPH Condorcet, Mons, Belgium (BELNET).