



AARC PROJECT STARTS

TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AAI FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration project, AARC, started on 1 May. Led by the GÉANT Amsterdam office, the project got off to a flying start by gathering requirements from e-science and libraries communities at the EGI and GARR IDEM conferences, and holding a project kick-off meeting in early June for the 20 partners and other members of the wider community.

"I am very excited to lead AARC and work with NRENs, e-infrastructure providers and libraries," says Licia Florio. "With so many parties represented, this will enable us to progress on some very critical technical and policy areas and move towards a vision in which researchers use one set of existing credentials to access a wide range of services, regardless of which e-infrastructures and service providers are offering them."

AARC works closely with the GÉANT project, with the REFEDS (Research and Education Federations) and FIM4R (Federated Identity Management for Research communities) groups, with e-infrastructures such as EGI, PRACE, and EUDAT, and with user communities.

WHAT WILL AARC DO?

It is commonly recognised that national identity federations and the eduGAIN inter-federation service offer a secure and scalable infrastructure to enable shared access to online resources. However, there are still challenges that prevent their wider adoption by all e-infrastructures and collaborative projects.

AARC will help to avoid a future in which different e-infrastructures and research collaborations develop and operate independent AAls. It builds on the results of previous projects to address the challenges of interoperability and the functional gaps among deployed AAls by focusing its work on four main areas:

- developing an integrated, cross-discipline AAI framework, built on existing federated access services;
- developing an extensive training and outreach package;
- harmonising policies among e-infrastructures to make it easy for resource and service providers to offer their services on a cross-border and cross-organisational basis;
- piloting policy frameworks and components of the proposed integrated AAI in existing services.

FURTHER INFORMATION

AARC is a two-year project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The partners are CERN, CESNET, CSC, DAASI, DFN, EGI, GARR, GÉANT, GRNET, JISC, Jülich, KIT, LIBER, MZK, FOM-Nikhef, PSNC, RENATER, STFC, SURFnet and SURFsara.

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