GÉANT Innovation Programme: funding new ideas from and for the Research and Education Community

On 23 February, the GÉANT Association launched the Innovation Programme: a one-of-a-kind opportunity for GÉANT community members, to enable initial development, establish a proof of concept or test their new ideas, with lightweight administrative constraints.

Words: Silvia Fiore, GÉANT

What is the Innovation Programme about?
The Innovation Programme was introduced to prospective applicants by Gyöngyi Horváth (Community Support Office at GÉANT) and Claudio Allocchio (Chairman of the GÉANT Community Committee and Senior Technical Officer at GARR) at a well-attended Infoshare. From a total programme fund of EUR300k, a maximum of EUR30k is available per project to support innovative ideas. Work can be carried out by any legal entities belonging to the GÉANT Community, for example, NRENs and any not-for-profit organisation served by the NRENs, such as universities and research institutes. Projects must have a duration of no more than nine months, with all projects completed no later than the end of December 2021.

When can you apply?
The programme remains open until the total programme fund has been allocated. However, keep in mind the key dates mentioned on the webpage! Evaluations are carried out by subject matter experts, followed by a final evaluation by the GÉANT Innovation Programme evaluation committee.

Why should you apply?
The Innovation Programme gives GÉANT community members the chance to develop their ideas and to test them in a real environment, with flexibility to focus on any subject area or topic to support technological evolution, and potentially having scientific, societal or economic impact and providing that it falls within the GÉANT community’s remit. For example, proposals can draw upon areas such as Research and Education networking, cloud, security, Trust & Identity, education and eHealth. Any proposals that demonstrate strong impact and create benefit for the European Research and Education community are welcome.

How will it benefit the GÉANT Community?
The programme is part of the GÉANT Community Programme, whose Task Forces, Special Interest Groups, workshops and training events assist GÉANT, NRENs and other research and education bodies to collaborate and share experiences. A grassroot, voluntary initiative built by world experts from NRENs, user organisations, research institutions, commercial and industrial sectors, the Community Programme has already developed great services, now widely adopted, such as eduroam, eduVPN and eduMEET. All these ideas were designed to fix a problem that the Community itself experienced.

The programme committee particularly encourages ambitious and novel research proposals addressing new concepts and techniques and those with the potential for significant scientific or societal and economic impact. New ideas help progress the community as a whole, supporting its members to strive and try new directions.

To check the guidelines on how to apply to the Innovation Programme, visit https://www.geant.org/Innovation/Pages/Innovation-Programme.aspx.

For further information and help, please contact: innovation@geant.org

Watch the Infoshare on GÉANT’s YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sDUu0C8A

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