



16 March 2020

Ms Laura Durnford
Senior Communications Officer
GÉANT

Dear Laura,

Subject: **Cancellation of SIG-Marcomms event scheduled to take place on 2&3 April 2020, in Nicosia-Cyprus**

With reference to the cancellation of the SIG-Marcomms event, scheduled to take place on 2&3 April 2020 in Nicosia-Cyprus, we would like to inform you that the event was cancelled because of the COVID-19 outbreak and the restrictive measures taken for the prevention of the virus spread.

More precisely, the first confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Cyprus were announced on Monday 9th March 2020. The following day, the University of Cyprus announced restrictive measures, one of them being the cancellation or postponement of all open lectures, events and gatherings within the University grounds until April 30th, regardless of the organiser. The Universities' facilities being the only available venue for CyNet, as well as the official predictions that the virus situation would soon become worse, left CyNet with no choice but to indicate the cancellation of the event.

Below is the link to the press release by the University of Cyprus:

https://ucy.ac.cy/pr/documents/Press_Releases/2020/ENGLISH_2020/MARCH_2020/covid19_suspension.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1a3-jO-IVsthENcZL2Sn2S7sEVJQGdfoMDCSZAVeBeqxQkxUkaeumqbFk

Furthermore, the President of the Republic of Cyprus in his televised presidential decree, on the night of 13th March 2020, announced strict measures for the prevention of the spread of the virus. Amongst these, is the prohibition of entry to the country to any citizens, irrespective of nationality, who do not belong to various categories (as of 15th March 2020 and for the period of 15 days). The measures apply for the time being and may extend at any time depending on the development of the situation.

You may see all the restrictive measures announced by the President of the Republic in the link below:

<https://in-cyprus.com/coronavirus-new-measures-announced-include-restrictions-on-entry/>

As of last night, and by decision of the Council of Ministers, further and stricter travelling measures have been announced. More precisely, people belonging to the categories that are allowed to enter the country must carry with them a certificate from an authorized party indicating that they do not carry the virus. Also, many airlines are cancelling their flights to Cyprus.

All the above render the event impossible to take place in Cyprus, or any other country at the moment, we would think.

CyNet regrets the cancellation of the event, which understandably may cause some inconvenience or even financial burdens to participants who already made travelling plans. However, this is an exceptional situation, not anticipated by our institutions when the organizational details were made. It is our duty as human beings to do whatever possible for the prevention of this terrible pandemic.

With the hope that the spread of the virus will cease soon and that our professional and private lives will shortly go back to normal, we would like to thank GÉANT for the opportunity to host this event and wish everyone good health.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. George J. Konnis
Managing Director
CYNET