Impact of European Digital Identity Wallet on NRENs

GÉANT Innovation Programme 2021
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Digital Identity for All Europeans
eWallets: what will change

- Shift from ‘identity only’ eID to a wide range of (identity related) attributes
- Every member state must provide at least one eWallet to it’s citizens
- Not only for the public sector, but also for private sector use cases
Research questions

1. How does the EU Digital Identity Wallet ecosystem impact the role of NRENs and providers of credentials in the research and education domain?

2. How can existing NREN initiatives be leveraged to support the EU Digital Identity Wallets?

3. Is there a coordinating or supporting role to be played by GÉANT in this ecosystem?
Roles in EU wallet ecosystem (simplified view)

Main roles
- Wallet Provider
- Person Identification Data Provider
- Authentic Source
- Electronic Attestation of Attributes Provider
- Relying Party
- Trusted Lists Provider
SWOT for NREN roles (example)

NREN as Relying Party

**Strengths**
- NDREPs experienced with ID federation
- NREPs capable of connecting many different wallets
- Trust and trust building are most valuable NREN assets
- Strong eduID's and infrastructure already available

**Weaknesses**
- Central DP role not fully in line with SSI principles
- Certain NREPs are understaffed
- Moving from chip card to virtual card on the mobile has very much reduced the "sharing factor"

**Opportunities**
- Institutes must accept eWallets for student registration
- Facilitate Life Long Learning
- Improve (international) student mobility
- Provide RP services to Institutes, for other use cases

**Risks**
- Competition from other (new) trustworthy (RP) service providers
- (Other wallet use-cases may drive) Institutes to take-up this role themselves

Value through innovation
Roles in EU wallet ecosystem (simplified view)

Relevant NREN roles

- Relying Party
- Authentic Source
- Electronic Attestation of Attributes Provider
- Wallet Proxy

All on behalf of their members
Recommendations

• We advise both institutes and NRENs to actively assess eWallet developments, not only in the research and education domain but in the market in general, and adapt the strategies for their trust and identity frameworks accordingly.

• GÉANT may facilitate this through market research, eWallet technology assessments, market consultations for eWallet solutions and services, and providing a strong liaison with EC identity initiatives such as the EDI Toolbox development.

• GÉANT can support and harmonize the development of eWallet research and educational content standards and act as a sectoral governance body for these standards.