

**PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING TEMPLATE TO PROPOSE A GÉANT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)**

- **General Information:**

<b>SIG Name:</b>	AI for Research and Education Networks (SIG AI)
<b>Brief Description:</b>	This SIG will explore the potential applications of AI within the context of Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in Europe. The group will delve into how AI can enhance cybersecurity, above-the-net services, network management, and network services currently offered by GÉANT and the NRENs. This SIG will also look at new EC regulations concerning AI and how they affect GÉANT and the NRENs.
<b>Steering Committee</b>	<i>Daniela Brauner (GÉANT) - Chair</i> <i>Albert Hankel (SURF)</i> <i>Marcin Wolski (PSNC)</i> <i>Jan Kohlrausch (DFN-CERT)</i> <i>Hrachya Astsatryan (ASNET-AM)</i> <i>Panos Louridas (GRNET)</i>
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Leonie Schäfer (DFN)
<b>Topics / Keywords:</b>	AI in the areas of cybersecurity, above-the-net services, network management, network services and policy in the context of NRENs
<b>Supporting NRENs:</b>	GRENA, CYNET, GRNET, SURF, GARR, PSNC, NORDUnet, CSC, DFN, ASNET-AM, ARNES, RedCLARA, FCCN, SWITCH, Internet2, ESNET, URAN, AARnet, LEARN
<b>Support (Others):</b>	Sabine Jaume (Independent Consultant, France) Changqing An (Tsinghua University, China) Peter Löwe (WZB, Germany)

- **Aims:**

The SIG's initial efforts should focus on building a strong foundation:

Knowledge Sharing:

1. Organise workshops and presentations to introduce NREN professionals to the basics of AI, its potential applications in networking and to discuss the risks and responsibilities associated with the use of AI by NRENs.
2. Compile a comprehensive knowledge base that explores relevant research papers, case

studies, and best practices in utilizing AI within NREN environments.

3. Serve as a cumulative starting point and knowledge hub before the specific sub-themes are taken up by the different work packages of the respective GÉANT project.

Use Case Development:

4. Identify specific use cases within the NREN project areas (cybersecurity, above-the-net services, network management, and network services) where AI can be demonstrably beneficial.

- **Background Information:**

We organised two sessions at TNC24 in Rennes, France. The Community Hub session on Tuesday 11 July 2024 was well attended with around 30 participants. We also held one-to-one meetings with potentially interested individuals throughout the conference. We also took part in a SIG Marketplace Community Hub on Thursday, 13 July 2024. Other potential participants who were unable to attend the TNC were contacted by email.

We are in the process of setting up a wiki, preferably an official SIG wiki in the GEANT Wikispace. The same applies to the mailing list.

Further details on the proposed SIG can be found in the SIG proposal attached to this document.

## **Annex A: Standard Terms of Reference (DO NOT AMEND)**

### **1. Context and principles**

1.1 GÉANT Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are established under the auspices of GÉANT in order to create an open forum where experts from its community exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices about specific technical or other areas of business relevant to the research and education networking community.

### **2. Initiation**

2.1 A GÉANT SIG can be initiated by any member of the GÉANT community based on the following conditions and steps:

- at least 3 NRENs or other organisations support the creation of the SIG and are willing to actively participate;
- an initial Steering Committee (SC) of 3-5 individuals nominated by the supporting organisations is established by simple agreement of the requesting NRENs or other organisations;
- the SC informs GÉANT about the creation of the SIG by submitting the detailed Charter document;
- if GÉANT agrees, the new SIG has been created.

2.2. Once the SIG has been created, GÉANT will provide continuous support subject to yearly monitoring (also see 4.).

### **3. Operations, composition, and roles**

3.1 A SIG is to keep the strengths and interests of the community, to continue sharing and investigating within the spirit of openness and collaboration.

3.2 A SIG should act as a catalyst, organising virtual and face-to-face meetings, small workshops, training or BoFs co-located with other related group-meetings or relevant conferences.

3.3 Should the SIG produce any kind of results, these shall be made available in the public domain.

3.4 Participation in a GÉANT SIG is open to any clearly identified organisations or individuals, provided that the other SIG participants are sufficiently informed about their interest and intentions.

3.5 A SIG is collectively led by its SC (3-5 voluntary members) nominated by its participants and appointed by GÉANT for a two-year term of office that is interruptible and/or renewable.

3.6 The SC is responsible for the business of the SIG. The SC takes decisions primarily by consensus or by simple majority within the SC. If a decision cannot be made, GÉANT is responsible for the decision.

3.7 The SC is also responsible for producing brief annual reports to GÉANT about the progress of the SIG according to the pre-defined yearly plan and Key Performance Indicators.

### **4. Termination**

4.1 A SIG has no pre-defined mandate or expiration date, but its support, subject to yearly monitoring by GÉANT, can be terminated if one of the following situations occurs:

- the SC has fewer than 3 members for a 3-month period;
- the SC collectively requests the termination of the SIG;
- the yearly assessment results are unsatisfactory;
- any of the SIG participants, subject to detailed investigation by GÉANT, explicitly requests the termination of the SIG;
- GÉANT decides to terminate the SIG.

4.2 Appeals by any of the SIG participants can be submitted to GÉANT; these shall be resolved within 3 months.

4.3 After detailed investigations of the aforementioned situations and potential appeals, the decision of GÉANT about the SIG support is final.

### **5. Resources and support**

5.1 As long as the SIG is supported by GÉANT, GÉANT will provide the following services:

- mailing list(s) and public web archive(s) under the geant.org domain;
- maintenance of wiki page(s);
- website - on request and as decided to be appropriate by GÉANT;
- online survey tool - on request;
- social media, news, and annual report coverage – on request and as decided to be appropriate by GÉANT.

5.2 In the case of termination of GÉANT SIG support, the transition of services a), b), and c) to other providers is ensured by GÉANT.

5.3 Official minutes keeping, AV recording or other archiving is subject to discussion with the GÉANT employee assigned to support the SIG.

5.4 A SIG has no dedicated budget other than the expenses of GÉANT.

5.5 GÉANT may find internal or external funding sources (e.g., projects, commercial sponsors) to cover the expenses of SIG support, as appropriate.