



**Emerging NREN Programme
Terms of Reference
Brighton, UK, 9-13 June 2025**



Introduction

The GÉANT Emerging NREN Programme (ENP) is part of the GÉANT Project (GN5-2)¹ and has been taking place alongside TNC, GÉANT's flagship yearly conference, since 2018. In its consecutive editions the programme has aimed to integrate individuals from emerging NRENS from around the globe into the TNC community and create further synergies and connections at different organisational levels between European and international NRENS.

In six editions the programme has reached 74 participants from 44 different countries and territories.

In 2025 the GÉANT Emerging NREN Programme will be held physically alongside TNC25 from Monday, 9 June 2025 to Friday, 13 June 2025 in Brighton, United Kingdom, and supported by JISC, the United Kingdom NREN.

ENP Programme 25

The ENP25 programme will consist of the activities highlighted below. Candidates are expected to participate in the full programme.

- **TNC25 attendance**

ENP25 candidates will participate in the full TNC25 programme and registrations fees will be waived by the conference organisers.

TNC is the largest Research & Education networking conference which aims to present participants with a unique overview of the latest developments in research networking, both in the technical field and in the area of application and management. Every year TNC brings together a wide cross section of specialists from a variety of roles in the areas of Networking, Trust & Identity, Access Management and more from all NRENS, universities, research organisations and institutions, and industry.

¹ As part of the GÉANT Framework Partnership Agreement (GN5-FPA), the GN5-2 project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101100680.

- **Dedicated ENP programme coordinated with the conference's local NREN host**

ENP participants will also enjoy a tailor-made programme that includes the following dedicated sessions:

- **A dedicated two-hour session with the TNC host, JISC**, the UK NREN on Monday.
In the past sessions have included presentations of European NRENs, visits to Supercomputers, Campus network equipment, meeting with national telecommunication operators, end users, ICT centers, tech hubs, etc...
- **A GÉANT presentation**, that will introduce the GÉANT Community Programme, Special Interest Groups (SIG) and Tasks Forces (TF).
This session was introduced for the first time at TNC23, other participants to the conference interested in ENP joined and made the discussions and exchanges richer.
- **A meeting with the GÉANT CEO** (to be confirmed).
- Participation in one of the multiple SIG (Special Interest Groups) meetings taking place at TNC25 i.e. SIG-AI, SIG-Sustainability, SIG-Procurement.

In addition, prior to TNC25 a series of videoconference calls will be held with the participants to help them prepare so that they get the maximum benefit out of attending TNC25.

A tentative Agenda can be found in Annex I.

- **Lightening talk submissions**

ENP participants are strongly encouraged to submit Lightning Talk proposals on a topic they would like to share with the TNC25 audience.

Alternatively, it would be also highly recommended to do a SIG submission on a topic related to that particular SIG (AI, Sustainability, Security, MSP, etc).

Further details can be found at: <https://tnc25.geant.org/submit/> (Lightning Talks section, opens on 5 February 2025).

The submissions will be closed on 11 March 2025 and the selection will be based on a competitive process.

In the past five TNC conferences, **14 ENP** participants were selected in this very competitive process and delivered very interesting, rich and diverse presentations with titles such as:

- Digital Crop-Disease Surveillance Systems in sub-Saharan Africa
- Face Recognition - Internet of Things Fused System for Criminal Recognition and Location Identification in West Africa
- Student information system with integrated management software Cocktail in Madagascar.

For selected candidates, GÉANT will look at organising support for the Lightning Talk presentation.

- **Integration with the International NREN community**

In order to make the ENP more valuable, all participants will be paired with GÉANT community members based on common professional backgrounds, in order to facilitate informal dialogue between individuals sharing the same interests.

The objective of this pairing experience is to make TNC participation more relevant and impactful for the ENP candidates by providing the opportunity to strengthen and enrich the NREN community and build new relationships. Participants from the GÉANT community also greatly benefit from the exchange as it enhances their understanding of NRENs around the world by listening to different perspectives on needs and challenges.

Candidate Profile

The ENP team invites Regional and National R&E Networks to nominate representatives to take part in the programme. We encourage the participation of NREN staff members who are part of the community but are not usually able to attend conferences and would benefit from the knowledge exchange. We also strongly promote diversity among participants, for instance by encouraging applications from women wherever possible.

The ENP25 welcomes up to three candidates for each of the following regions:

- North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean & Western Asia
- West and Central Africa
- East and Southern Africa
- Latin American and the Caribbean
- Asia-Pacific
- Central Asia
- Non-EU members from Eastern Partnership Countries
- South East Europe (SEE region)

Candidates' Application Requirements

Applicants must be an NREN employee or be NREN-affiliated and must submit their application by providing their CV in English and complete an application form that includes the following elements:

- Organisation, current role and a description of the candidate's responsibilities,
- Topics/issues of interest in the candidate's work,
- Languages spoken and level,
- Reason for applying for the Emerging NREN Programme,
- Participants are also highly encouraged to submit Lightning Talk proposals. This requirement is mandatory for the GÉANT WOMEN in STEM sponsorship.

In addition to the pre-requisites, the following criteria will be taken into consideration for the final selection:

- Quality of the overall application
- Diversity and gender: The Emerging NREN Programme strongly encourages applications from women/minority groups wherever possible.

Participant Selection and Sponsorship

This year two selection tracks will be made available to participants. One via their Regional Research Education Network in addition to a GÉANT women in STEM selection.

Regional REN Selection

Up to three candidates will be proposed by their Regional Research and Education Network in collaboration with the local NREN.

The RREN selection team will expect the following pre-requisites from applicants:

- CV in English,
- Complete ENP25 application form,
- In addition, some regions might define other criteria for selection. (e.g. mandatory lightning talk application or targeting the most emerging NRENs from their community).

Regional Networks will gather candidate information and send it to luis.martin@geant.org by 14 February 2025.

Regional REN Sponsorship

- All costs associated with travelling, accommodation and sundry expenses will be covered by EU-funded projects, the regional REN, or some other arrangement agreed locally, as appropriate. GÉANT will not provide any financial support for such costs.
- The TNC25 registration fee will be waived for all participants by GÉANT.

GÉANT Selection – Women in STEM

In addition to the Regional REN selection, GÉANT will directly sponsor two to three female participants from countries and territories listed by the OECD DAC² as official development assistance recipients.

The GÉANT selection team will expect the following pre-requisites from applicants:

- CV in English,
- Complete ENP25 application form,
- Lightning talk submission

GÉANT direct candidates must submit their application form and CV to <mailto:luis.martin@geant.org> by 14 February 2025, clearly indicating “Emerging NREN Programme 2025” in the subject of their email.

² <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>

A committee composed of three GÉANT International and Partner Relations Managers will meet in March to finalise the list of participants.

Candidates may apply to both the regional REN and the GÉANT sponsorship as the two selection processes will take place in parallel.

GÉANT Sponsorship

- All costs associated with travelling and accommodation will be covered by the GN5-2 project, as appropriate. If outside of the GÉANT Membership, sponsored participants will sign a volunteer agreement with GÉANT to expense claim: air travel, public transport, visa application costs, hotel costs, meals and travel insurance.
- The TNC25 registration fee will be waived for all participants by GÉANT.

Annex I Tentative Agenda for ENP25

Prior to TNC

Time	Activity
8 May 24 14:00 – 15:30 CET	Welcome to ENP session (Virtual)
Online	Meet and greet with your pair

TNC25 Week

Monday 9 June 25

Time	Activity
14:00 -16:30	Emerging NREN Programme JISC presentation Room: Unitarian Church (room TBD)

Tuesday 10 June 25

Time	Activity
09:30 -10:00	TNC registration
10:00 -10:30	TNC101 getting the most out of your 1st TNC Room: tbd
11:00 – 12:30	Opening Plenary Room: tbd
12:30 – 13:00	TNC Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	CEO – Emerging NREN meeting Room: tbd
14:00 – 15:30	TNC Sessions and Demonstrations https://tnc24.geant.org/sessions/ (last year example)
16:00 – 17:30	Lightning Talks: First Strike Room: tbd
17:30 – 19:00	Opening Reception Location: TBD
18:45 – 21:00	ENP Pair Dinner

	Meeting point 18:30 – TNC25 Conference venue Entrance
20:30 – 23:45	Kick-off party Location: tbd

Wednesday 11 June 25

Time	Activity
09:00 – 10:30	Wednesday Plenary Room: tbd
11:00 – 12:30	Lightning Talk Plenaries - Part 2 Room: tbd
12:30 – 14:00	TNC Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Emerging NREN Programme GÉANT presentation Room: tbd
19:00 – 23:00	Conference Dinner Location: tbd

Thursday 13 June 24

Time	Activity
09:00 -15:30	TNC Sessions and Demonstrations https://tnc24.geant.org/sessions/ (last year example)
12:30 – 14:00	TNC Lunch
16:00 – 17:30	Closing plenary Room: tbd

Friday 14 June 24

Time	Day for SIG and TF groups participation
09:00 – 17:30	Meeting point – TNC25 Conference venue Entrance

Annex II: Lightning Talks at TNC24

Lightning Talks were given at TNC24 by 2 Emerging NREN Programme participants. The Lightning Talks can be viewed via the links in the table below:

Name	Institution	Talk Title	Video Link	Time on Video
Jelina Tetangco	Philippine Research , Education and Government Information Network (PREGINET)	“The uphill road to sustainability”.	https://tnc24.geant.org/recordings/?session=s519	18.31
Joan Ampaire	Research and Education Network for Uganda (RENU)	“They will not know what hit them!”.	https://tnc24.geant.org/recordings/?session=s512	20.13

Annexe III Participants Quotes:

“ENP24 it's a platform for collaboration, learning, discuss challenges that each NREN is going through”

“Realising there is a whole community that is willing to assist and mentor the emerging NRENS”

“Very good initiative to meet the CEO.”

My highlight was “The data centre, it was a great eye opener being exposed to a different kind of infrastructure in a data centre”

My highlight was “Seeing how the French NREN function with its partners”

My highlight was “Having to connect with fellow ladies from across the globe in the same industry as me and getting to hear their personal experiences in the field and future endeavours”

The benefits of ENP pairing was: “It Helped me to get in touch with people from different communities: Networking, Trust & Identity Federation”.

The benefits of ENP pairing was: “What was beneficial was being able to ask questions to do with TNC or GEANT and being given satisfactory answers on various topics”