EaPConnect
Eastern Partnership Connect

CONNECTING THE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMUNITIES
IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

EaPConnect aims to create a regional high-capacity internet network dedicated to research and education across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

With connections to the pan-European GÉANT network EaPConnect will enable scientists, students and academics in the region to engage in global collaborative projects and bring the Eastern Partnership countries closer to the EU.

www.EaPConnect.eu

Our objectives

Inaugurated in June 2015 at the 1st Eastern Partnership (EaP) Ministerial meeting on the Digital Economy in Luxembourg, the Eastern Partnership Connect (EaPConnect) project aims to:

- establish a high-capacity internet network for research and education (R&E) across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
- integrate EaP national research and education networks (NRENs) into GÉANT, the pan-European R&E network;
- bridge the digital divide;
- enable more scientists, students and academics in the region to participate in global R&E collaborations;
- deploy eduroam and stimulate integration towards GÉANT services.

EaPConnect project partners and representatives at 1st EaP Ministerial meeting on the Digital Economy

By interconnecting the R&E communities across the region and with their European counterparts, EaPConnect will create a gateway for talented individuals in the EaP countries to be truly global players.

The Eastern Partnership

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a regional and multilateral initiative between the EU and its six Eastern partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

It shares mutual interests for the benefit of its citizens and has a vision to bring the six neighbours closer to the EU. Following the Riga Summit in May 2015 and the 1st EaP Ministerial meeting on The Digital Economy in June 2015, the Eastern Partnership reaffirmed its commitment towards the Single Digital Market and recognises the importance of e-Infrastructures in:

- promoting digital inclusion;
- stopping brain drain;
- providing access to high-quality scientific content;
- enabling participation of EaP countries in Horizon2020 projects.

EaPConnect will realise this vision for the research and education community across the region and beyond.

Funding

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargements Negotiations (DG NEAR) is contributing 95% (€13m) towards the cost of the EaPConnect project; the remaining 5% being co-funded by the six beneficiary countries. The project is due for completion mid-2020.

"Once completed, EaPConnect will allow the research and academic communities of the six partner countries to work together in virtual networks with their European counterparts. It is success stories such as these, our common needs and shared vision that bring us together."

Andrus Ansip, EC Vice President for the Digital Single Market

How we will deliver our objectives

EaPConnect is coordinated by expert networking organisation GÉANT (formerly DANTE), that also operates regional networking projects in other parts of the world. GÉANT has successfully developed and consolidated R&E networks in Latin America, the Mediterranean, Asia, Central Asia, the Caribbean and most recently Eastern and Southern Africa, linking them to the pan-European GÉANT network.

Based on a proven model of interconnecting national R&E networks in regional backbones, EaPConnect involves the national research and education networks (NRENs) of the six Eastern Partnership countries. Together with GÉANT they will deliver the EaPConnect project locally and provide assistance and support to deploy connectivity in universities and research institutions across the region. Furthermore they will work towards the development of cross-border connections and interconnections to GÉANT, the pan-European R&E network.

EaP national research and education networks:

Armenia:	**IIAP NAS RA** – The Institute for Informatics and Automation Problems of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia	
Azerbaijan:	**AzScienceNet** – The Institute of Information Technology of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	
Belarus:	**UIIP NASB** – The United Institute of Informatics Problems National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	
Georgia:	**GRENA** – The Georgian Research and Educational Networking Association	
Moldova:	**RENAM** – The Research and Educational Networking Association of Moldova	
Ukraine:	**URAN Association** – The Association of Users of Ukrainian Research and Academic Network	

International allies

EaPConnect also benefits from the assistance of NRENs from Europe and other parts of the world that will provide training support and further guidance to bring the project to completion:

Who is EaPConnect for?

EaPConnect will support data-intensive, time-critical applications between collaborating partners, but can equally be used to provide fast access to conventional web-based resources from all over the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and beyond. This will benefit scientific collaborations in areas such as environmental monitoring, telemedicine, life sciences and physics.

The connectivity boost will also support seamless e-learning activities across borders thus advancing research and education alike in the entire region.

> **The EaPConnect project which will connect the Georgian research and education community to the pan-European research network GÉANT is clearly a very important step forward the integration of the country's scientific talent to the European Research Area. The Georgian research community has a strong interest in the European technologies and scientific values. I believe that scientists working in high-energy physics, medicine, meteorology, climate change, seismology and computational biology will greatly benefit from the established network and implemented services.**

Prof. Dr. Ramaz Kvatadze, Executive Director, Georgian Research and educational Networking Association GRENA

> **High-capacity connectivity provided via the EaPConnect project will enable researchers in the Eastern Partnership to have fast and convenient access to language material archived at CLARIN centres worldwide and to make use of online linguistic analysis tools.
> We are looking forward to providing CLARIN's e-Infrastructure to the research communities in the Eastern Partnership countries via the EaPConnect network facilities. This opens up exciting possibilities to study the unique languages and cultures in this area.**

Mr. Dieter Van Uytvanck
Technical Director CLARIN ERIC

How to connect to EaPConnect

Any type of not-for-profit research and education activity can use the network. To benefit from the EaPConnect infrastructure, prospective users should contact their local NREN to find out how to join the project.

For further information, please visit www.EaPConnect.eu or email info@geant.org

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