

Simplified NIF for GN4 Input

Purpose: This NIF form is to be used for the submission of New Ideas suggested for inclusion in the GN4 Phase1 and beyond proposals. Budget estimates, information about objectives, impact, benefits, etc. as well as scope must all be supplied.

Submit to: pmo@GÉANT.net by January 31st, 2014 with the subject label starting: GN4Input

Overview

Project Name:	Level of assurance	Project Proposer:	Mikael Linden, Harri Kuusisto - Funet
Project Type: GN4 Phase1 or longer term	Longer term	Estimated Project Costs (best effort!)	
Duration proposed	Y1: preparing and community consultation Y2 and Y3: adoption in federations and Home Organisations	Manpower in person-months also identifying specific expertise required	Preparing and community consultation: 18 p.a. (1 person editor 50% 5 persons support team 20%) Adoption: 18 p.a. (1 person flywheel 50% 10 persons deployment team 10%)
Deliverables proposed (If any can be defined at this stage)	Profile for Assurance Level 1 Profile for Assurance Level 2	Hardware and equipment:	none
Milestones proposed (If any can be defined at this stage)	AL1 approved AL2 approved	Other costs	Training and dissemination events needed: € 15 000

1 Background and Reasoning

Provide background information and the context of the project. Explain the reason for the project. What do you want to be different? What do you hope to improve? Why is the project needed? This should be the reason for the project, not the solution.

European R&E identity federations have been providing federated authentication for nearly a decade, but the reliability of the authentication (a.k.a. Level of Assurance, LoA) provided by the Home Organisations depends on the federation. There is no well defined, internationally adopted scheme for assessing the LoA provided by Home Organisations in different countries. The missing LoA scheme becomes a more pressing problem as interfederation services (such as GÉANT eduGAIN) enable Service Providers to authenticate end users from federations with varying baseline LoA.

Research is a key customer for interfederation. The research communities have indicated that they need different Levels of Assurance with provenance: “A single Level of Assurance in the quality of authentication cannot meet the need of all communities. Credentials issued under different levels will need to include the provenance of the level under which it was issued.” [Euroforum FIM4R group: Federated Identity Management for Research Collaborations. 23rd April 2012].

The industry has developed LoA schemes, such as Kantara Identity Assurance Framework. Those schemes can be used as the basis in the R&E, but their adoption is still a significant challenge.

2 Objectives, Impact and Benefits

Provide one or more bullet points to briefly describe the primary objective(s) of the project in terms of the desired outcomes. This should be expressed in the form: 'To ensure...', 'To implement...', 'To service...', 'To improve...', 'To innovate...', 'To optimize...', 'To save...', etc. For each objective mention the benefits to identified stakeholders (e.g. end-users, NRENs, large international research projects, industrial research partners, high level education, etc.) should be mentioned. A description of the expected overall impact must also be provided.

- To develop Assurance Level 1 and 2 specifications for higher education and research
- To develop an audit framework for them
- To deploy them in eduGAIN

3 Scope

Describe the areas expected to be covered or impacted by the proposed activity, such as organisational areas, systems, processes, resources.. i.e. *what is 'in scope'*. This is not a list of what will be done but identifying the services, areas or what, will be affected.

Also please enumerate specific items which although they could perhaps be related are intentionally not addressed by your proposal ("Out of Scope").

1. In Scope

- Developing LoA specifications
- Community consultation among Home Organisations and Service Provider communities
- Developing audit framework for Home Organisations' compliance
- Deploying LoA framework for Home Organisations in eduGAIN

2. Out of Scope

- Level of Assurance of Federations' operational procedures

4 General Information

Outline any potential issues, risks, dependencies, assumptions, constraints and limitations or any other points that may be useful to help assess the proposal.

- Deploying a common LoA framework is a significant and long-lasting effort
- Deploying a LoA framework requires resources also in the Home Organisations, and the question remains how to compensate that or provide sufficient incentive to the Home Organisations to cover these costs