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:	Service portfolio mapping across all participating NRENs	Project Proposer:	Martin Bech, DeIC

Project Type: GN4 Phase1 or longer term	Phase1	**Estimated Project Costs (best effort!)**	
Duration proposed	12 M	Manpower in person-months also identifying specific expertise required	24 PM - good knowledge of NREN activities - capacity to conduct surveys - insight in the legal and practical aspects in service implementation
Deliverables proposed (If any can be defined at this stage)		Hardware and equipment:	0
Milestones proposed (If any can be defined at this stage)		Other costs	

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.

When looking at the very broad offer of various services by all the NRENs in the GÉANT community, it is easy to convince oneself that there are many more services than the few services in the GÉANT service portfolio. It is also a fair assumption that a lot of innovation in terms of services takes place in the NRENs outside of current GÉANT activities.

Different activities contribute to draw the landscape of existing activities and services:

- the TERENA compendium: a high level synthesis which gives key figures

- "Campus best practices": more qualitative case studies which can serve as an inspiration

- The Nordic NREN collaboration with the same aim: service matrix.

- Task Force Management of Service Portfolios (TF MSP in TERENA).

These activites have produced great results, they can be used along with other surveys to help have a precise overview of existing services and in the future to identify the best practices. However, it is challenging to know if services can be "exported" to other contexts: are NRENs willing to share what they have built to the larger commuties? Are there legal or other obstacles?

This project aims to address these challenges.

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 identify and document best practices

The primary benefiters are the NRENs and GÉANT who know where to look when building new services.

- To avoid duplication of work, develop synergies leading to economies of scale

The primary benefiters are the NRENs and GÉANT who can avoid building and developing services which already exist by getting at least inspired by their peers' experiences

- To encourage sharing of practices and build communities

The primary benefiters are the NRENs and GÉANT who can in some cases exchange services. Among the principal objectives of this project would be to identify 1. If NRENs are willing to share their experiences; 2. To identify the practical conditions of feasibility of these exchanges.

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

- Survey of all services offered by every NREN
- organizes these services into comparable categories (like the TERENA Compendium, but much more detailed)
- puts all this data into an information resource on the internet, which every NREN can then update continuously
- identifies in which modes NRENs are willing to share each service
- identifies legal and other problems in such a sharing of services
- proposes steps to mitigate possible obstacles for cooperation
- uses the data gathered as basis for a jury that each year selects the service of them all
- Lets the commissioner award this service by the presentation of the GEANT service excellence award at some grand Oscar-like event

2. Out of Scope

Developping and implementing the services identified as best of breed themselves

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.

The main risk would be the reluctance of some NRENs to participate in such a survey. The preparation phase for the survey, both its conception and the identification of the key interlocutors, has to be carefully done.

The second risk lies in the difficulty to find the right resources within the community to identify legal constraints and other obstacles.