

# 2010 | INTERNET2 FALL MEMBER MEETING



ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
NOVEMBER 1-4, 2010

## e-Infrastructures in the Arab Countries

Fall 2010 Internet2 Member Meeting  
1–4 November 2010  
Atlanta, Georgia



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# National Efforts *(Jordan)*

- The Jordanian National Broadband Network NBN is a national program to use dark fiber to connect around 3200 schools, 10 Universities and around 110 Public Access Sites
- The Jordanian Universities Network (JUNet) is the official NREN of Jordan, currently connecting 11 University sites via optical fiber, with 1Gbps each
- 14 Private Universities and 6 research institutes will be connected to JUNet this year
- JUNet is the Jordanian partner for EUMEDCONNECT and EUMEDGRID and other regional cooperation projects
- JUNet is working on promoting the use of technology for research and collaborative research.

# National Efforts (Arab Countries)

Country	NREN
Morocco	MARWAN
Algeria	ARN
Tunisia	KCC
Egypt	EUN
Jordan	JUNet
Saudi Arabia	KASCT & KAUST
Palestine	PADI 2
Syria	HIASST, SHREN
UAE	ANKABUT
Qatar	Qatar Foundation
Oman	The Research Council - OMREN

**More  
to  
Come  
..**

**The only regional network in the Arab Mediterranean Countries**

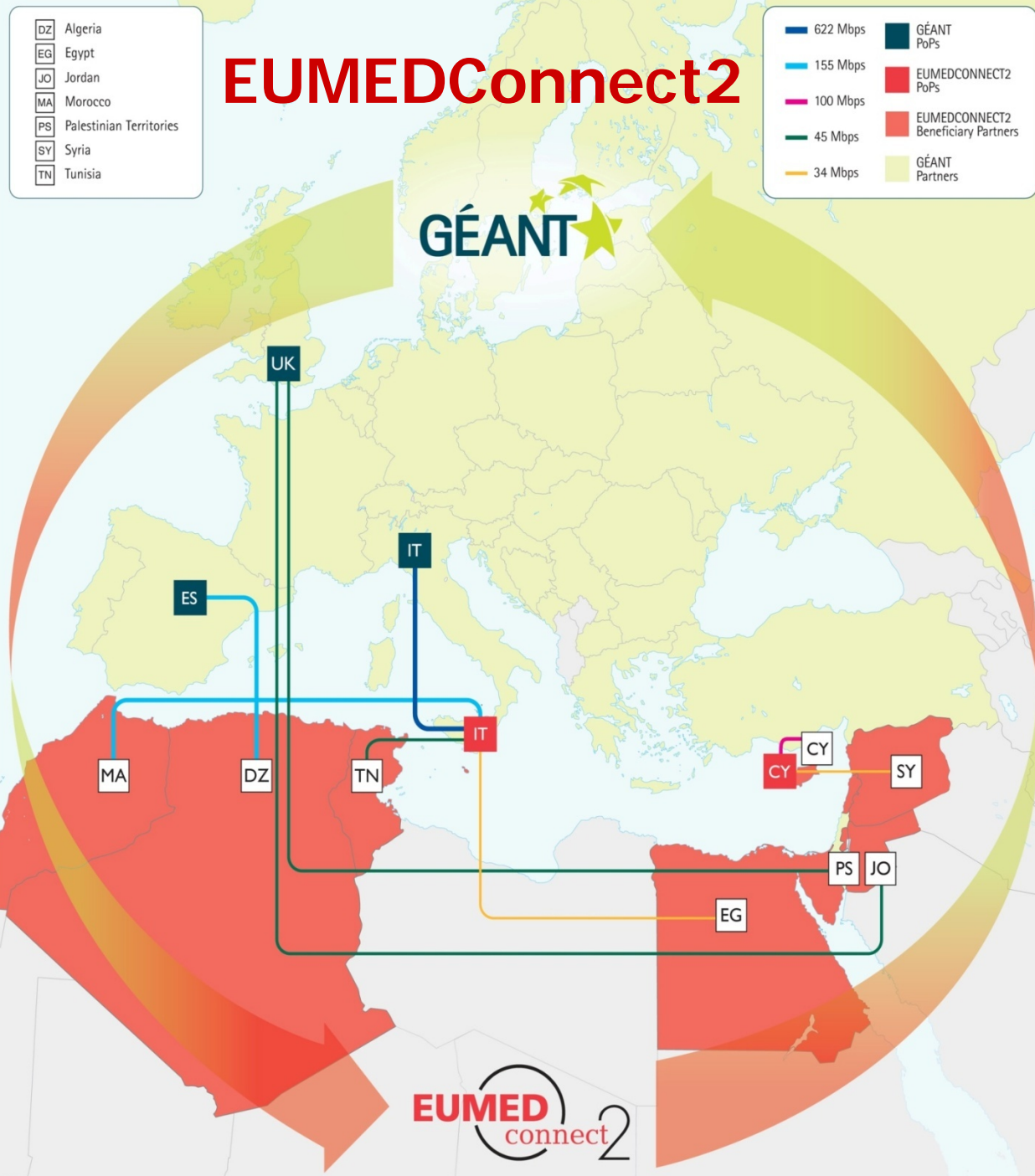
**A Euro-Mediterranean success story**

**Connects ~2m users at ~700 institutions among each other and with their peers in Europe and beyond**

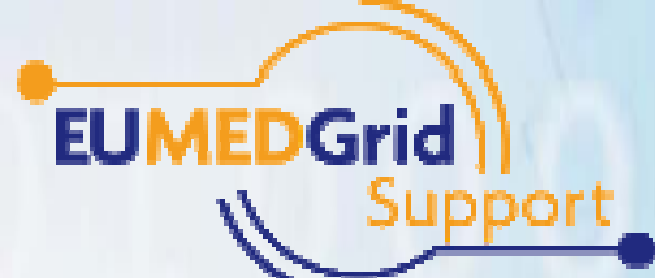
**Directly connecting Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia**

**Linking Mediterranean and European partners via GÉANT**

**Jointly funded by the EC and the MED partners to reduce the digital divide**



# The EUMEDGRID Support Project



## [ Partners & Third Parties ]



CCK



CYNET



CERIST



EUN



CNRS-IDG  
HealthGrid



JUNET\_



CNRST\_



HIAST



INFN, GARR,  
COMETA



IUGAZA



TÜBİTAK,  
ULAKBİM



TRUST-IT



University of Malta

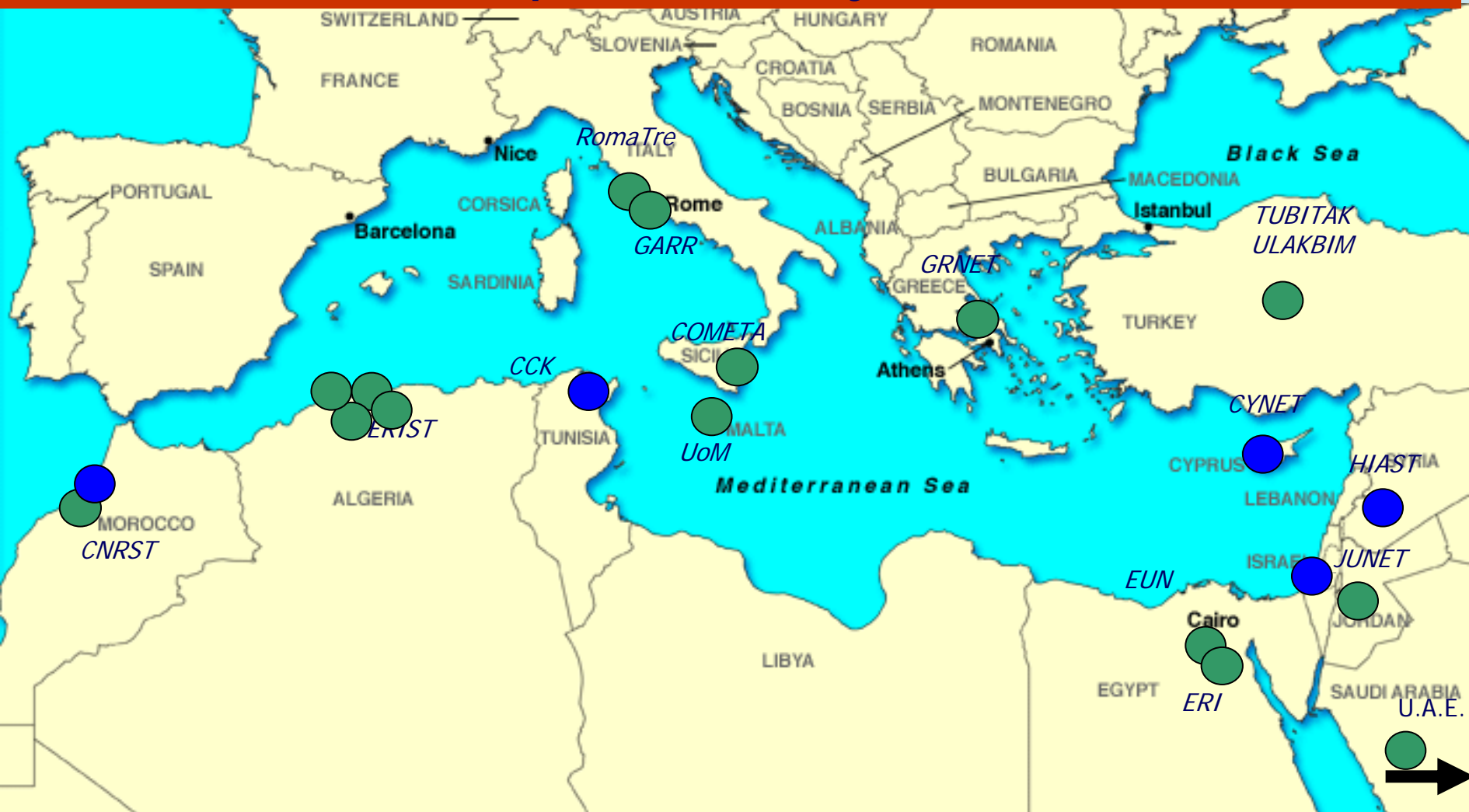
## Objectives & Strategic Lines

- To support the consolidation and expansion of the EUMEDGRID Infrastructure with a special emphasis on sustainability.
- Create a Two Levels network of Competence Centres
- Involve new user communities
- Strongly cooperate with relevant projects and initiatives for the Mediterranean
- Create critical mass to exploit the available resources and build consensus.
- High Level Policy Dissemination
- Involve institutions and ministries to include elnfastructures in the political agenda



# Current *EUMEDGRID-Support* infrastructure

20 sites (15 operational today) in 13 countries



# Regional Effort: PAN Arab Research Network

- In 2005, and based on Jordan's Experience with JUNet, The Ministry of ICT of Jordan initiated a project to study the feasibility of using the optical fiber of the power distribution grid in the Arab Countries for the purpose of building the PAN Arab Research and Education Network
- The project was funded by the Government of Jordan, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Cisco Systems
- The first phase of the feasibility study covered Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine Authority, Lebanon and Syria





## Regional Effort:

### NAP: Arab States Network Access Point

- In line with the Global Summit on Knowledge societies, one pillar of the General Arab Strategy for Communication and Information Technology “Building an Information society 2007-2012” was:

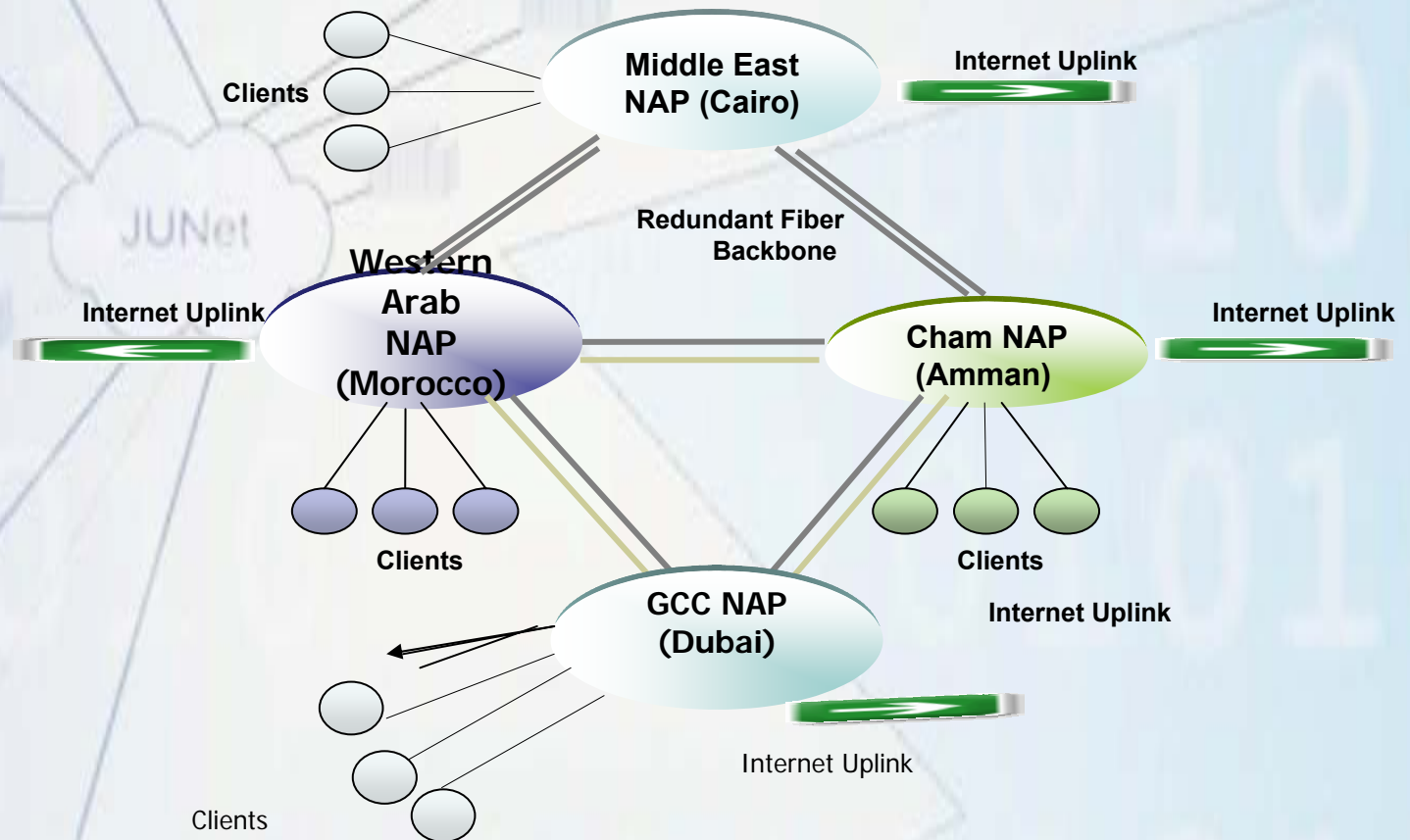
*“Achieving universal access and improving quality of services for the Arab citizen, utilizing information and communication technology”*

- Based on this pillar, the ITU / Arab Regional office adopted the NAP in the Arab states initiative

# NAP – Proposed Locations

- **Western Arab NAP:** located in **Morocco** to cover Algeria, Mauritania, Libya and Tunisia
- **Middle East NAP:** located in **Egypt** to connect Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Comoros.
- **GCC NAP:** located in **Dubai** to connect Kuwait , Saudi Arabia , Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, UAE and Yemen.
- **Cham NAP:** in located **Jordan** to connect Syria ,Iraq, Palestine Authority and Lebanon .

# NAP: Layout



# Rome Declaration

After several meetings and discussions, the representatives of the Arab Mediterranean NRENs recognized that:

- The importance for the academic and research community in the Mediterranean region to count on **a regional infrastructure for data communication to improve cooperation in the area of academic research and investigation and education within the region and globally.**
- The importance for the academic and research community in the Mediterranean region to count on **a regional consortium to support the development and implementation of a regional infrastructure for data communication based on advanced networks.**
- The importance for the academic and research community in the Mediterranean region to count on **a regional consortium to support applications and e-services that assist research, education and learning in these countries.**



# Rome Declaration (September 2006)

Therefore the representatives of the Arab Mediterranean NRENs Declared:

- The necessity for the existence of national research and education networks
- The desire to further develop and consolidate the Mediterranean EUMEDCONNECT network .
- That it is desirable to establish a Mediterranean research and education network based on the existing research networks in several countries.
- To cooperate in the development and consolidation of national research and education networks in those countries in the Mediterranean region, where they do not yet exist or where they have recently been founded
- To create a Mediterranean coordination space for the integration and regional coordination of the national research and education networks.

إتحاد شبكات البحث العلمي والتعليم للدول العربية المتوسطية

## **Consortium of Arab Mediterranean Research and Education Networks (CAMREN)**

- The consortium was introduced as an action point for the Rome Declaration

# In Summary

- PAN Arab Network, **2005**
- Rome Declaration **2006**
- NAP, the Network Access Points **2007**
- CAMREN **200?**

# Major Obstacles and Concerns...

- Financial support
- Technical Support
- Political Support
- Applications, Services, Contents .
- Promotion
- Bureaucracy
- Monopoly, Regulations...
- Time...

*This slide is unorganized intentionally*

**I used to carry this heavy slide with me for the last 4 years.**





# Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN)

***Promoting world-class Pan-Arab e-Infrastructures  
and E-services for the Research and Education  
communities to boost Scientific Research and  
regional Cooperation***

**“The ASREN initiative will connect our researchers and scholars allowing them to share knowledge and to collaborate. It is a unifying network for the Arab region, and I commend it.”**

**Amro Moussa**

**Secretary General of the Arab League**



**“Investing in e-Infrastructures will advance inter-Arab research and education and promote cooperation with Europe and the World”**

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair of UN  
Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID)**

# ASREN: Vision and Mission

- **Vision Statement:** Pan-Arab collaborative research and education projects and activities, contribute to boost the scientific research, innovation and education levels in the Arab countries by uplifting efficiency and productivity of research and education communities.
- **Mission statement:** To implement, manage and extend sustainable Pan-Arab e-Infrastructures dedicated for the Research and Education communities and to boost scientific research and cooperation in member countries through the provision of world-class e-Infrastructures and E-services.

# ASREN: Objectives

- To build, maintain and consolidate regional e-Infrastructures dedicated to e-Science and education across the Arab Countries
- To contribute to create and sustain National Research and Education Networks (NRENS)
- To facilitate the collaboration and cooperation among the researchers and academicians in the Arab region



# ASREN: Legal Form

- ASREN will be a legal entity and will be registered in Germany as a non for Profit company with representation in the Partner countries.
- ASREN will be Honorary Chaired by His Excellency **Amro Moussa**, the Secretary General of the League of Arab states
- ASREN will be Chaired by **Dr. Talal abu Ghazaleh**, Chair of United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development (UN GAID)

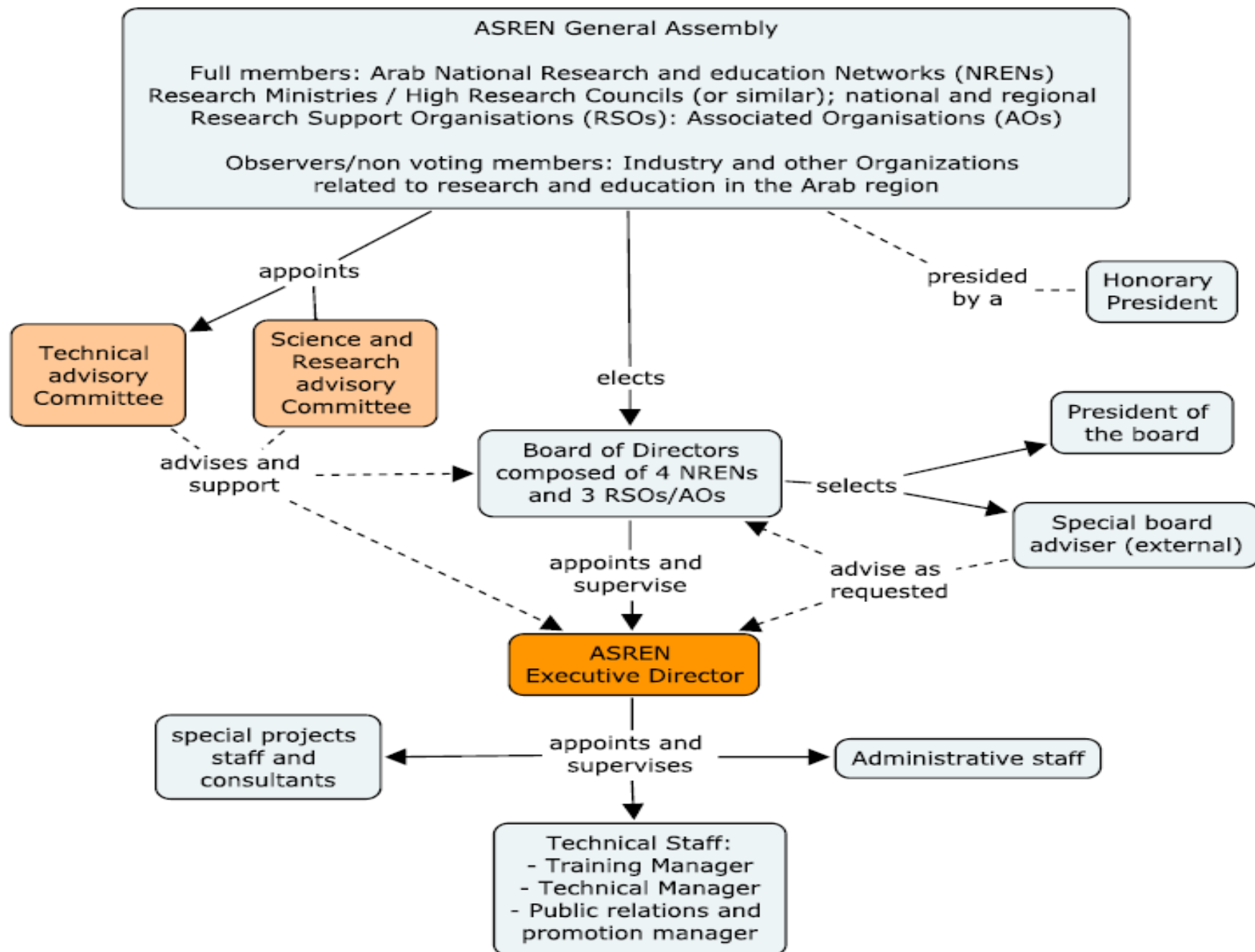
# Who can Join ASREN

## Full/voting members that are either

- The Arab National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) or organisations that have same functions
- Research Support Organisations: National and regional organisations that support Science Education and Research applications using the ASREN network and services
- Associated Organisations, key partners that are investing and supporting ASREN creation and expansion (with significant resources), or that strengthen ASREN strategic objectives and sustainability, to be approved by the General Assembly case by case.

## Non-Voting Members:

- Other national or regional organizations, industry and partners, related to research and education in the Arab region or interested in ASREN;



# ASREN funding

- ASREN funding to cover normal operations and its projects will come from Members fees and contributions from the Member States
- Donations and contributions and collaboration from International Donors, and Sponsoring Private Entities
- Specific project and programme funding from Development Agencies, National or Regional budgets, and Governments
- Special contributions from members for specific services, projects and products
- Contributions from associated members made directly to a project or a group of member



# NRENs involved in the Development of ASREN

- NRENs of the following countries participated in the planning of ASREN through the EUMEDCONNECT2 Project meetings

- Algeria
- Egypt
- Jordan
- Morocco
- Tunisia
- Palestine
- Syria
- UAE

# Who is Behind ASREN “NOW”

- Many thanks to Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh for:
  - His involvement at the personal level to support ASREN as he announced ASREN in Brussels 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. His involvement also brought high level support from the Arab Leaders, especially H.E. Amro Moussa who accepted to Honorary Chair ASREN
  - For making all of his technical, financial and legal resources available to support the development of ASREN
  - For his generous contribution to cover all the cost of creating and registering ASREN as a legal entity including the initial capital that should be invested prior to the registration.

# Who is Behind ASREN “**NOW**”

- Many thanks to the EC, EUMEDCONNECT2 Project and DANTE for:
  - Facilitating the meetings between the Arab NRENs under the EUMEDCONNECT2 Project and financially support their participation
  - For conducting several events to bring high level support towards creating a pan Arab research infrastructure
  - For providing technical advice through hiring a consultant to help and facilitate the planning and creation of ASREN

# **ASREN Founders Meeting**

**8 December 2010**  
**Cairo, Egypt**



**Under the patronage of  
the Secretary General of the League of Arab States  
*His Excellency Mr. Amre Mosa***

**And The Chairman of ASREN  
*Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh***

**You are invited to join the ASREN Launching Meeting**

**Arab League Headquarters,  
Cairo, Egypt,  
8 - 9 December 2010**



# Thank You

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