



Connecting the Eastern Mediterranean research and education communities



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What is EUMEDCONNECT3?

The EU-funded EUMEDCONNECT project supports research and education (R&E) networking for the Eastern Mediterranean (Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine). Now in its 3rd phase, it provides high-capacity international internet connectivity for academic and scientific collaborations. The project is run by the GÉANT organisation in partnership with ASREN, the local NRENs and the NRENs of Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy and Spain. With direct links to GÉANT, the pan-European R&E network, EUMEDCONNECT3 is a gateway providing Eastern Mediterranean scientists to be truly global players.

Synergies with the AfricaConnect3 project

Through its earlier phases the EUMEDCONNECT programme also provided a regional R&E network for North Africa, with Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia benefiting since 2004. In July 2015, the North African countries became partners in the new AfricaConnect2 project, and continue participating in the successor phase AfricaConnect3. Close links with the EUMEDCONNECT3 community are being maintained as the two projects bring the African and Arab R&E communities together.

EU support

Up to the end of 2021, the EUMEDCONNECT3 project is co-funded with €3.2m by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Union from its regional European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI South).



Long-term sustainable e-infrastructure links are essential for promoting collaboration between researchers and educators in Europe and the South Neighbourhood. EUMEDCONNECT remains the only R&E network in the Eastern Mediterranean and has been playing a crucial role in connecting the regions since 2004. With European Commission support and finance, it allows more than 50 million researchers and students across the regions to have access to the data-communications network in order to facilitate and improve the quality of their research and studies.

Michael A. Köhler, Director
Neighbourhood South,
Directorate-General
Neighbourhood and Enlargement
Negotiations (DG NEAR),
European Commission



A real network with real benefits

The EUMEDCONNECT3 network delivers real value and benefit to society by driving innovative research and education (R&E).



opening classroom doors

EUMEDCONNECT3 is a gateway for students in the Eastern Mediterranean to learn with the world's most inspirational tutors in an interactive virtual environment.



tackling climate change

EUMEDCONNECT3 helps protect the Mediterranean by supporting cutting-edge climate research, combating desertification and improving water resource management.



saving lives

EUMEDCONNECT3 improves life chances of thalassaemia sufferers by speeding up the development of innovative drugs that reduce their dependency on expensive and frequently unsafe blood transfusions.

What to expect from EUMEDCONNECT3

Benefits for the region

- Supports applications with high societal impact, such as e-health and e-learning.
- Drives research to tackle regional problems, such as desertification, water shortage and sustainable farming.
- Bridges the digital divide and fights brain drain.
- Creates more competitive markets.

Benefits for students and researchers

- High-capacity, congestion-free international bandwidth for academic and scientific collaborations accessed via national NREN partners.
- Access to advanced services (cloud computing, eduroam, federated identity systems, etc.)
- Direct connection to European R&E community with access to over 50 million users.
- Gateway to global R&E collaborations.
- No EUMEDCONNECT3 network usage charges.

Benefits for National Research and Education Network (NREN) partners

- EU funding support for beneficiary countries.
- Connectivity provided and managed by the GÉANT organisation and its regional counterpart ASREN at best rates.
- Capacity building at campus and NREN levels.
- Catalyser for NREN development.
- Expertise of GÉANT, ASREN and European NREN partners.
- Participation in global R&E networking community activities.

Placing Lebanon onto the global connectivity map

In early 2016, the American University of Beirut (AUB) allocated 10 Mbps of its internet bandwidth to an ASREN link in London, where it interconnects with the pan-European GÉANT network, thus providing AUB with international R&E connectivity. This step and capacity upgrades to currently 5.26 Gbps led AUB, in conjunction with other institutions across the country, to form TechCARE, the Lebanese NREN. In the debate about the benefits TechCARE could bring, value-added services such as eduroam (world-wide roaming access) and eduGAIN (access to content and resources with one trusted online identity) are playing a key role.

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It can be challenging to convince R&E institutions in Lebanon about the value of an NREN, especially when the infrastructure, tariffs and political climate are all but favourable. But by moving the NREN discussion away from how can we build a fast and cheap network, we can put the focus on providing shared services to build a community, and then use this community as leverage to build the high bandwidth. The implementation of eduroam at AUB has delivered a key argument to secure a critical mass of support and EUMEDCONNECT3 allows us to now deliver on the connectivity front.

Yousif Asfour, Chief Information Officer, American University of Beirut (AUB)





Arab States Research and Education Network
المنظمة العربية لشبكات البحث والتعليم

The Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) was launched in 2010 under the auspices of the League of Arab States and the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) to connect NRENs across the Arab region. Building on EUMEDCONNECT, ASREN sets out to widen its geographical footprint and to create a pan-Arab R&E network. This strategic step is expected to lead to long-term sustainability of e-infrastructures in the Mediterranean and the neighbouring Gulf region, potentially serving a population of over 250 million people and ensuring that researchers and academics in the region can continue to participate in world-class research and education activities.

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Advanced connectivity is essential for regional and international interdisciplinary research and for scientists to fully reap the benefits of SESAME. The ASREN connection prepares the ground for SESAME to become the scientific hub in the Middle East and for tackling the data deluge in the years to come.

Khaled Toukan,
General Director,
SESAME (Synchrotron-
light for Experimental
Science and
Applications in the
Middle East)



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Building on a decade of very positive impact of the EUMEDCONNECT programme on the development of e-infrastructures in the Mediterranean, we will continue our efforts during the current project phase to further support the roll-out of services and to get R&E communities more engaged in maximising research outputs through utilisation of these e-infrastructures.

Yousef Torman,
Co-Managing
Director,
ASREN





Further Information

Go online to learn more about EUMEDCONNECT3 and keep up to date with the latest developments

www.eumedconnect3.net

To find out more about GÉANT, visit www.geant.org

To learn more about ASREN and how to join, visit www.asrenorg.net

To find out more about DG NEAR, visit <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement>



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