Arab States Research and Education Network ASREN المنظمة العربية لشبكات البحث العلمي والتعليم

ASREN Strategic plan 2012-2015

ASREN Launch Meeting
8-9 December 2010
Cairo, Egypt

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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) was 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.

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More National Efforts (Arab Countries)

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

More to Come ..

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The only regional network in the Arab Mediterranean Countries

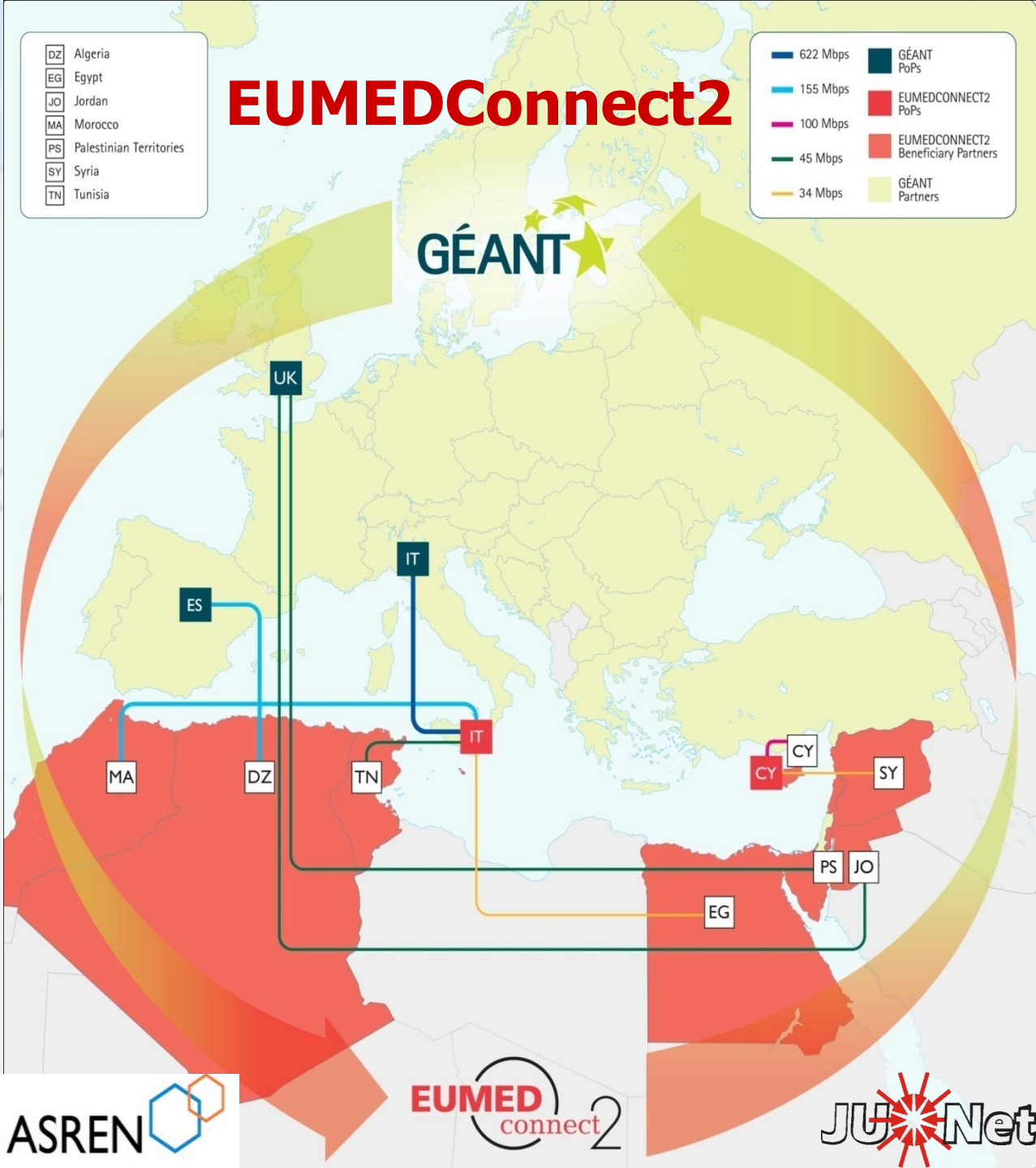
A Euro-Mediterranean success story

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

EUMEDGrid Support

[Partners & Third Parties]

CCK	CYNET	INFN, GARR, COMETA
CERIST	EUN	IUGAZA
CNRS-IDG HealthGrid	JUNET_	TÜBİTAK, ULAKBIM
CNRST_	HIAST	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 eInfrastructures in the political agenda

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Regional Efforts: PAN Arab Research Network

- In 2005, MoICT of Jordan proposed conducting a study for the feasibility of using the optical fiber of the power distribution grid in the Arab Countries to be used for 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, Lebanon and Syria

The study was presented in the WSIS in Tunisia Nov, 2005

Regional Efforts: NAP: Arab States Network Access Point (2007)

- **An initiative which aimed build Network Access Points for the Arab region as follows:**
  - 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 .
- **The last time this initiative discussed was in December 2007**

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Regional Efforts: Rome Declaration (2006)

After several meetings and discussions, the representatives of the Arab Mediterranean NRENs recognized the importance of the regional research infrastructure and 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.

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إتحاد شبكات البحث العلمي والتعليم للدول العربية المتوسطية

Consortium of Arab Mediterranean Research and Education Networks (CAMREN)

- The consortium was introduced in 2007 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?**

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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.

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Arab States Research and Education Network ASREN المنظمة العربية لشبكات البحث العلمي والتعليم

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

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“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.”

H.E. 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”

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

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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

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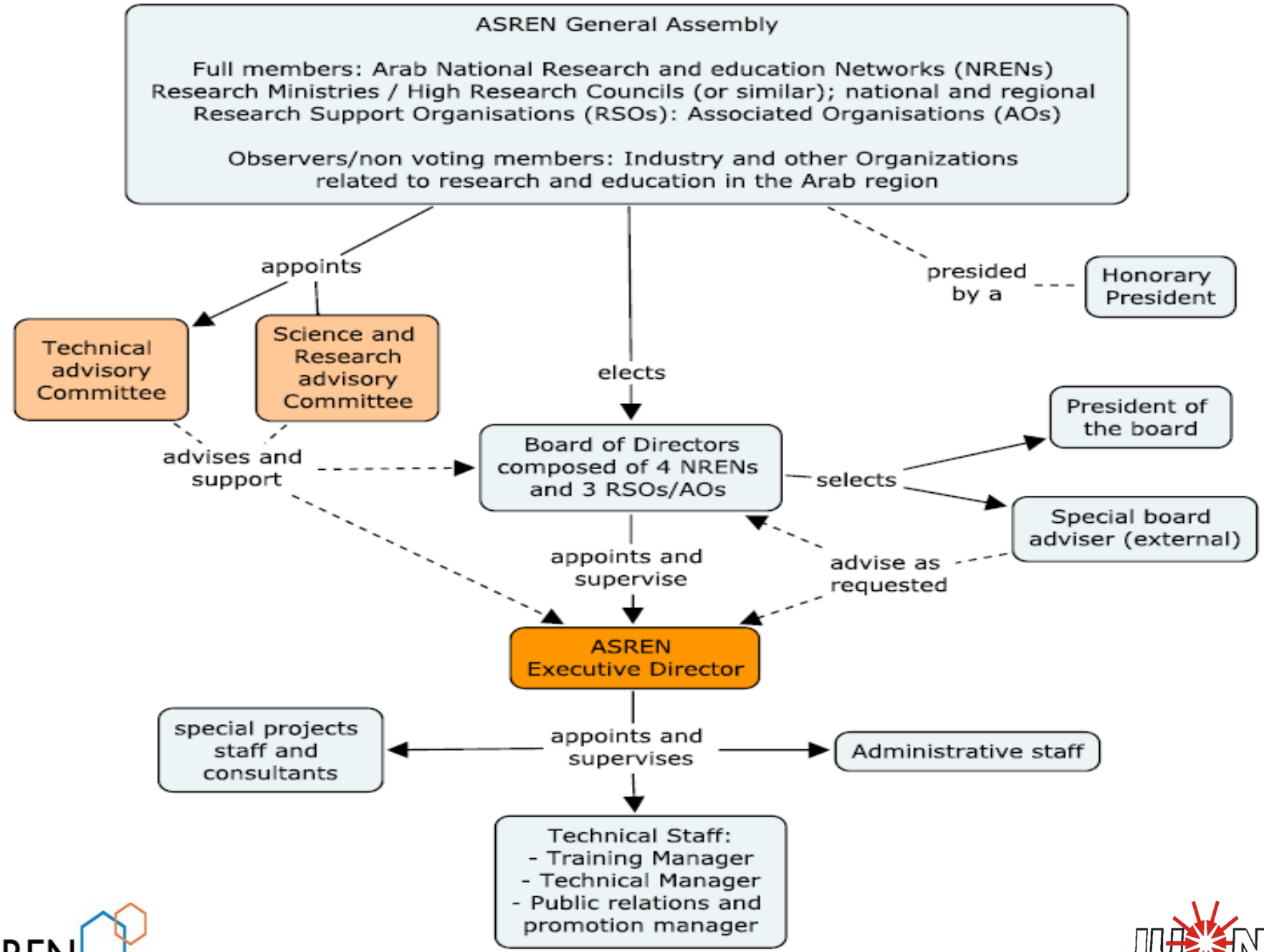
ASREN General Assembly
Full members: Arab National Research and education Networks (NRENs) Research Ministries / High Research Councils (or similar); national and regional Research Support Organisations (RSOs): Associated Organisations (AOs)
Observers/non voting members: Industry and other Organizations related to research and education in the Arab region
appoints
presided by a
Honorary President
Technical advisory Committee
Science and Research advisory Committee
elects
advises and support
Board of Directors composed of 4 NRENs and 3 RSOs/AOs
President of the board
selects
Special board adviser (external)
appoints and supervise
advise as requested
ASREN Executive Director
special projects staff and consultants
appoints and supervises
Administrative staff
Technical Staff:
- Training Manager
- Technical Manager
- Public relations and promotion manager

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Strategic Plan

2012-2015

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Overall Objective.

To contribute to boost the scientific research, innovation and education levels in the Arab countries by uplifting **efficiency and productivity of research and education communities**

Expected Outcome

Is in place and sustainable a Pan-Arab RREN dedicated to **support Research and Education communities** and to boost **scientific research and cooperation** through the provision of world-class **e-Infrastructures and E-services**,

targeting

Result 1: ASREN is a **sustainable regional** organisation

Result 2: Are **Built and maintained regional e-Infrastructures** dedicated to e-Science and education across the Arab world

Result 3: ASREN Contributed to **create new NRENs** and to the **sustainability** and expansion of existing NRENS

Result 4: ASREN facilitated **the collaboration and cooperation among the researchers** and academicians in the Arab region.

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R1: ASREN is a sustainable regional organization

- After 9 months, ASREN has completed incorporation process, and has executive staffs contracted.
- After one year, the Technical Committee, Network Operation Centre (NOC) and Network Engineering Group (NEG) are in place and produced their own work plans and are implementing it.
- After 3 years funding (non EC) is committed to cover 100% ASREN's operations costs and all activities.

R2: Are Built, maintained regional e-Infrastructures dedicated to e-Science and education across the Arab Countries

- After 2 years, at least 5 Arab NRENS are interconnected.

- After 3 years 8 NRENs are interconnected, rationalising the use of direct connections from members to GEANT and TIEN

Note: The feasibility of reaching this indicator will be confirmed by the interconnectivity study

R3: Contributed to create and sustain NRENS

- After 2 years, ASREN has provided support to create new NRENS in at least 3 countries (mainly, technical support)
- After 2 years, at least 25 technical staff of the NRENs have been trained (technology areas HSN, routing ...)
- After 3 years, at least 5 NRENS have initiated projects with other NRENS.

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R4: facilitated the collaboration and cooperation among the researchers and academicians in the Arab region

- After 1 year, at least 2 user forum/events for boosting collaboration among researchers and academics, have been organised by ASREN, 4 after year 2
- After year 1, the guidelines for interconnection and interoperability of e-services (offered by the NRENs) have been developed (with collaboration of all NRENS) and approved, and being implemented during year 2.
- After 3 years at least 2 e-content services projects have been initiated by ASREN

Assumptions, To achieve this, We Need Your Help!

- **LAS:** We call on you to help us in getting the political support from high level Ministers and decision makers in the Arab States.
- **TAG:** We Call on you to continue supporting ASREN and to help us in getting funds.
- **EC:** We call on the EC to further fund EUMEDCONNECT3 as it is crucial for the success of ASREN.
- **NRENs:** We call on you to get more involved in planning and supporting ASREN
- **Scientists and researchers:** We call on you to start exploring and crystallizing projects and ideas to use this network

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Thank You

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