AfricaConnect3

Enhancing digital technologies in Africa

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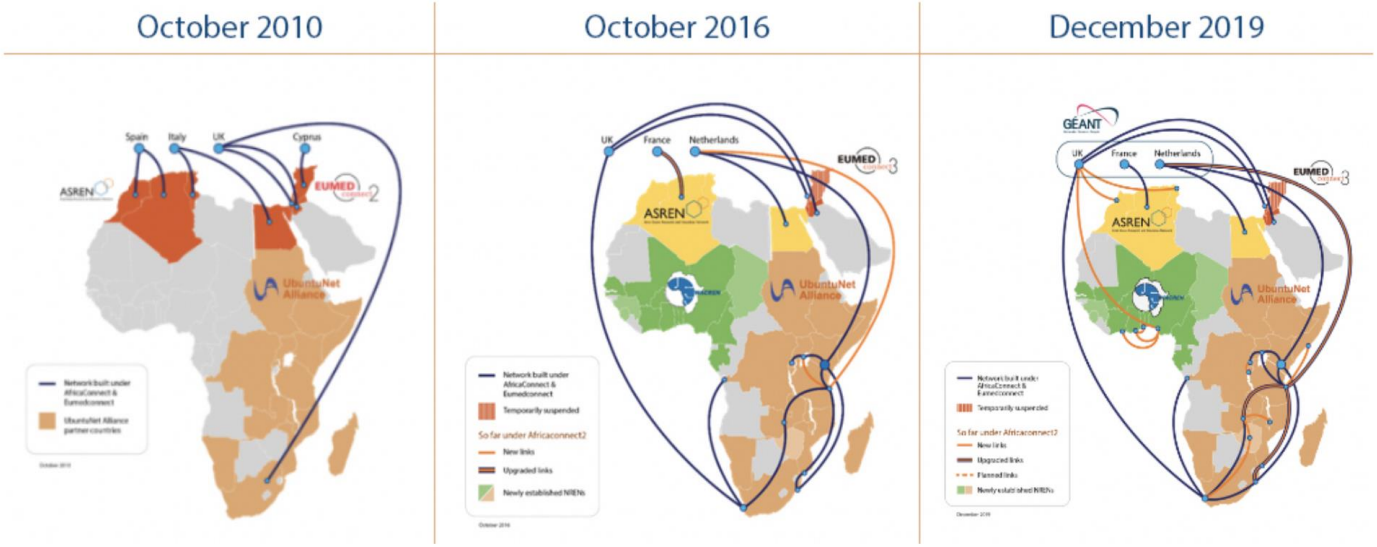
The AfricaConnect3 project receives funding from the European Union under Grant Contracts DCI-PANAF/2019/411-583/584/585/586

A journey: The History of RRENs in Africa

AfricaConnect3 builds on the achievements of:

- The EUMEDCONNECT project, which has provided a research and education network for Northern Africa and the Middle East since 2004 with our regional partner ASREN.
- And the AfricaConnect project which helped establish a regional gateway for collaborative research and education (R&E) in Southern and Eastern Africa between 2011 and 2014 with our regional partners the UbuntuNet Alliance.
- AfricaConnect2 saw the collaboration between the three major RRENs within the African continent: the UbuntuNet Alliance, the West and Central African Research and Education Network (WACREN) and the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN).



What are National Research and Education Networks?

Mostly publicly funded

Provide dedicated, uncongested Internet connectivity and value-added services for knowledge institutions in their country, such as: universities, research centres, and libraries

Typically connected to a regional counterpart (RRENs)

African RRENs are linked to global research and education networks across the globe via its interconnection with GÉANT

These linkages facilitate collaborative research and innovative learning worldwide

There are over 120 NRENs worldwide with 38 in Africa

The AfricaConnect3 project

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Project Profile: AfricaConnect 3

Start date: 16 November 2019

Duration: 48 months

Funds: European Union Grant Contract

DCI-PANAF/2019/411-583/584/585/585

- **Budget: 37.5M EUR (80% EU funding, 30M EUR)**
  - Funding for connectivity, equipment and cloud: **23.2M EUR**

AfricaConnect 3 Activities and Work Packages

- **AC3 Governance and Coordination**
  - WP 0.1 Operational contract management
  - WP 0.2 AfricaConnect3 Clusters Meetings
  - WP 0.3 AC3 Project Management Boards (PMB)
  - WP 0.4 AC3 Consultation meetings (ACM)
  - WP 0.5 General coordination of AC3

AfricaConnect 3 Activities and Work Packages

- **WP 1 – Expand and Upgrade Research and Education Network and e-Infrastructures**
  - WP 1.1 Maintenance and Management of Regional Network
  - WP 1.2 Expansion and Upgrade of Connectivity for NRENs
  - WP 1.3 Cloud-based e-Infrastructure for African Open Science
- **WP 2 - Development of R&E Services and Applications**
  - WP 2.1 Service Outreach and Deployment Support
  - WP 2.2 Trust and Identity Services
  - WP 2.3 Proactive Cybersecurity for NRENs and their Digital Assets
  - WP 2.4 Federated Identity Management for Libraries

AfricaConnect 3 Activities and Work Packages

- **WP 3 – Research and Education Networks Capacity Building**

  - WP 3.1 Governance and Systems Review of UA, WACREN and ASREN
  - WP 3.2 Sustainability Plan
  - WP 3.3 Sharing of Best Practices between NRENs
  - WP 3.4 Capacity Building under the Africa Training Initiative
  - WP 3.5 Women Empowerment in the African NREN community

AfricaConnect 3 Activities and Work Packages

- **WP 4 - Advocacy for the role of digital tools in the transformation of Education and Research**

  - WP 4.1 Advocacy and Donor Engagement
  - WP 4.2 REN and User Engagement Conferences
  - WP 4.3 Engagement with AfriGEO and GMES in African Communities
  - WP 4.4 Project Visibility and Dissemination

Engagement with AfriGEO and GMES Communities

UbuntuNet Alliance

- will work with member NRENs and AfriGEO sites in Eastern and Southern Africa to get the AfriGEO sites connected to their local NREN
- During AC2, RCMRD in Kenya was connected to KENET

WACREN

- will support ASREN in gathering information relating to the needs of GMES/AfriGEO centres in terms of access, connectivity, data dissemination and other services in the WACREN region

ASREN

- Study and identify the needs of AfriGEO and GMES needs in terms of access, connectivity, data dissemination and other services
- Coordinate with RRENs and NRENs to get AfriGEO and GMES sites connected and to deploy eduroam and eduGAIN
- Promote the deployment of services and access mechanisms

Thank you

Any questions?

@AC3_News

AC3-Community

africaconnect3.net

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