

## PROPOSAL FOR A NEW GÉANT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) ON DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGIES

### General Information:

<b>SIG Name:</b>	<b>DLT - Distributed Ledger Technologies</b>
<b>Brief Description:</b>	<p>The SIG brings together NRENs and other interested parties with the aim to explore the usage of distributed ledger technologies (DLT) as well as distributed identity and Self Sovereign Identity (SSI) in the context of the research and the education community.</p> <p>The SIG will also explore collaboration and interaction with relevant pan-European initiatives, such as those managed by the European Commission and others.</p>
<b>Steering Committee</b>	<i>Steering Committee members for the SIG:</i> Gert De Braekeleer (Belnet), Niels van Dijk (SURF), Robert Ott (SWITCH)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Licia Florio (GÉANT)
<b>Topics / Keywords:</b>	Distributed ledger technologies, SSI, blockchain
<b>Supporting NRENs:</b>	Belnet, SURF, Srce, GARR, VR/SUNET, DFN, HEAnet, KIFU, SWITCH
<b>Support (Others):</b>	<i>Please list all other organisations / individuals that have indicated support for the SIG</i>

### Aims:

1. To provide a forum for gathering and exchanging experiences, ideas, and knowledge on the development, deployment, testing, and best practices related to Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs), distributed identity and SSI. To explore related technology such as software and hardware wallets as well as protocols and standards.
2. To engage the NRENs and other interested parties in the R&E community that are deploying DLT infrastructures and services that use distributed ledger technologies; and to offer them a forum to exchange experiences.
3. To promote collaboration between research and education networking organisations in Europe engaged with identifying specific use-cases and demonstrators to validate the usage of distributed ledgers, distributed identities, and SSI, both as an alternative technology to those currently deployed as well as in support of novel use cases.
4. To provide inputs, ideas and feedback that help participants in gathering information not only on the technology but also on business and GDPR aspects related to distributed ledgers.
5. To liaise with other relevant groups and stakeholders outside the NRENs that are adopting distributed ledger technologies, distributed identities and SSI.

- **Key Performance Indicators:**

*Duration: 18 months, with a review planned at M12.*

#	Planned Achievements	KPIs	Report Date
1	Collect and share information on DLT/ SSI initiatives in which SIG participants are involved or plan to engage with.	Online material (i.e. documents, infoshare, links to webpages) on the SIG wiki	M2 and ongoing work
2	Identify use-cases relevant for the group that involve distributed ledgers, distributed identity and SSI	3 use-cases gathered	M2 first use-case M4 other 2 use-cases
3	Collect more information on the diploma use case that is being investigate within the European Blockchain Service Infrastructure (EBSI).	Online material on the SIG wiki	M4 and ongoing work
4	Define demonstrators to run on the EBSI network that is being deployed at member state level and operated by different NRENS	2 demonstrators identified	M5 - 1st demonstrator identified and plan how to execute that  M6 - 2nd demonstrator identified
5	Review plans and KPIs for the SIG	Internal plan	M12
5	Recommendations for future work and for suitable areas that could be further explored in the context of the GEANT project	SIG recommendations	M17

## Background Information

The group has met three times and identified several actions. The initial discussion was triggered by [European Blockchain Service Infrastructure](#) (EBSI) led by the European Commission. As part of a consultation the European Commission approached GÉANT and a number of NRENS. Several NRENS are already engaging in the EBSI and operate blockchain nodes on behalf of their member states.

During the calls it became clear that NRENS are interested in better understanding opportunities that would be suitable for distributed ledger technologies and the implications for their current infrastructures, particularly in the field of Trust and Identity.

It was felt that this SIG will offer a discussion forum for NRENS and interested organisations and will also facilitate the communication with the relevant players as NRENS could be represented via the SIG.

## **Annex A: Standard Terms of Reference (DO NOT AMEND)**

### **1. Context and principles**

1.1 GÉANT Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are established under the auspices of GÉANT in order to create an open forum where experts from its community exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices about specific technical or other areas of business relevant to the research and education networking community.

### **2. Initiation**

2.1 A GÉANT SIG can be initiated by any member of the GÉANT community based on the following conditions and steps:

- at least 3 NRENS or other organisations support the creation of the SIG and are willing to actively participate;
- an initial Steering Committee (SC) of 3-5 individuals nominated by the supporting organisations is established by simple agreement of the requesting NRENS or other organisations;
- the SC informs GÉANT about the creation of the SIG by submitting the detailed Charter document;
- if GÉANT agrees, the new SIG has been created.

2.2. Once the SIG has been created, GÉANT will provide continuous support subject to yearly monitoring (also see 4.).

### **3. Operations, composition, and roles**

3.1 A SIG is to keep the strengths and interests of the community, to continue sharing and investigating within the spirit of openness and collaboration.

3.2 A SIG should act as a catalyst, organising virtual and face-to-face meetings, small workshops, training or BoFs co-located with other related group-meetings or relevant conferences.

3.3 Should the SIG produce any kind of results, these shall be made available in the public domain.

3.4 Participation in a GÉANT SIG is open to any clearly identified organisations or individuals, provided that the other SIG participants are sufficiently informed about their interest and intentions.

3.5 A SIG is collectively led by its SC (3-5 voluntary members) nominated by its participants and appointed by GÉANT for a two-year term of office that is interruptible and/or renewable.

3.6 The SC is responsible for the business of the SIG. The SC takes decisions primarily by consensus or by simple majority within the SC. If a decision cannot be made, GÉANT is responsible for the decision.

3.7 The SC is also responsible for producing brief annual reports to GÉANT about the progress of the SIG according to the pre-defined yearly plan and Key Performance Indicators.

### **4. Termination**

4.1 A SIG has no pre-defined mandate or expiration date, but its support, subject to yearly monitoring by GÉANT, can be terminated if one of the following situations occurs:

- the SC has fewer than 3 members for a 3-month period;
- the SC collectively requests the termination of the SIG;
- the yearly assessment results are unsatisfactory;
- any of the SIG participants, subject to detailed investigation by GÉANT, explicitly requests the termination of the SIG;
- GÉANT decides to terminate the SIG.

4.2 Appeals by any of the SIG participants can be submitted to GÉANT; these shall be resolved within 3 months.

4.3 After detailed investigations of the aforementioned situations and potential appeals, the decision of GÉANT about the SIG support is final.

## **5. Resources and support**

5.1 As long as the SIG is supported by GÉANT, GÉANT will provide the following services:

- mailing list(s) and public web archive(s) under the geant.org domain;
- maintenance of wiki page(s);
- website - on request and as decided to be appropriate by GÉANT;
- online survey tool - on request;
- social media, news, and annual report coverage – on request and as decided to be appropriate by GÉANT.

5.2 In the case of termination of GÉANT SIG support, the transition of services a), b), and c) to other providers is ensured by GÉANT.

5.3 Official minutes keeping, AV recording or other archiving is subject to discussion with the GÉANT employee assigned to support the SIG.

5.4 A SIG has no dedicated budget other than the expenses of GÉANT.

5.5 GÉANT may find internal or external funding sources (e.g., projects, commercial sponsors) to cover the expenses of SIG support, as appropriate.