

Global eduroam Governance

1. Introduction

The eduroam® service started originally as a pilot under the auspices of TERENA. TERENA, the holder of the eduroam® trademark, carries the responsibility for ensuring the correct and secure operations of eduroam at the global level. TERENA also supports the development of technical improvements to the eduroam service, and promotes the deployment of eduroam worldwide.

In Europe¹, eduroam has been rolled out in almost all countries, and is organised at the continental level as a 'confederation' that operates according to a well-defined set of rules. This is currently funded by the European Union through the GN3 (GÉANT3) project (April 2009 – March 2013). Outside Europe, the deployment of eduroam is growing; currently eduroam is being rolled out in Australia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and the United States, and more countries are expected to follow.

While the European eduroam confederation is governed by a set of strict rules, collaboration and coordination with other countries has initially been rather informal. Because of the wider deployment and growing use of eduroam, the community has requested to create a firmer basis for eduroam governance worldwide.

TERENA wants to base global eduroam governance on a number of simple principles. A first principle is that the global governance structure should be lightweight. Secondly, recognising the large variety in the organisation and funding of research and education (networking) in different countries and regions, rules imposed on the operations of eduroam should be restricted to technical and administrative requirements that are necessary to ensure the smooth and secure operations of eduroam worldwide. Thirdly, the eduroam operators should have the leading role in creating and maintaining the rules of the global eduroam governance. TERENA therefore wants to ensure that de-facto global eduroam governance is in the hands of representatives appointed by eduroam operators worldwide.

2. Some definitions

An *eduroam Identity Provider (IdP)* is an entity that creates and maintains user accounts for access to eduroam. An IdP is also referred to as the user's '*home institution*'.

An *eduroam Service Provider (SP)* is an entity that operates an access network on which eduroam users are admitted. An SP is sometimes referred to as the '*visited institution*' of the user.

¹ Here 'Europe' is understood to refer to the countries whose National Research and Education Networking organisations (NRENs) are partners in the GN3 project.

A *Roaming Operator (RO)* is an entity that is authorised to operate the eduroam service at a national or regional level. In many countries there is a National Research and Education Networking organisation (NREN) that acts as the RO of the country.

A *Confederation* is a cohesive set of Roaming Operators in a world region. Currently, a confederation has been established only for Europe. The National Roaming Operators in Europe are members of the European eduroam confederation, are bound by the 'European eduroam confederation policy' and are required to operate the eduroam service on the basis of the operational and technical requirements that are referred to in that document.

3. Compliance Statement

In order to be authorised to operate the eduroam service, a potential RO is requested to sign a 'Compliance Statement'. In world regions where Roaming Operators are members of a confederation and the confederation is authorised to commit its members, the Compliance Statement is signed by the confederation on behalf of its members.

By signing the Compliance Statement (or having their confederation sign the Compliance Statement on their behalf), ROs commit to ensure that they themselves, their confederation, their IdPs and their SPs comply with certain technical and administrative requirements.

The Compliance Statement signed by a confederation or RO forms the basis for confederations or roaming federations in other world regions or countries to peer with that confederation or the roaming federation represented by that RO.

4. Global eduroam Governance structure

The *Global eduroam Governance Committee (GeGC)* has the central role in the global eduroam governance structure.

The members of the GeGC are senior representatives of confederations and ROs worldwide. If a world region is represented by a confederation, the representatives from that world region are nominated by the confederation. If a world region is not represented by a confederation, then the ROs in that world region jointly nominate their representatives in the GeGC. The GeGC members are officially appointed by TERENA on the basis of these nominations.

In order to allow the GeGC to work efficiently and effectively, the number of its members will be kept small. Initially, the GeGC will have three members from Europe, two members from the Asia-Pacific region and two members from North America. When eduroam will be deployed in other world regions as well, the GeGC composition will change to reflect this. The GeGC composition will reflect the number of eduroam users and IdPs and SPs in different world regions. In addition, TERENA may appoint prominent eduroam experts as non-voting members of the GeGC. Members will be appointed for a two-year term of office; at the end of a term they may be nominated and appointed for a further two-year term.

The GeGC will aim to take decisions by consensus among its members; if consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be taken by simple majority.

The GeGC will carry out the following tasks on behalf of TERENA:

- To formulate the text of the Compliance Statement and any later revisions of the Compliance Statement that may become necessary because of changes in technology or in the eduroam environment. The GeGC will consult the ROs (through their confederations, where applicable) before finalising the text of a new version of the Compliance Statement.
- To collect Compliance Statements signed by confederations or potential ROs, and to recommend – after investigation of the recognition of each potential RO by the research and education community that it is expected to serve – authorising the members of the confederation or the potential RO concerned to operate the eduroam service.
- To recommend removing the authorisation of the members of a confederation or of an RO to operate the eduroam service if the confederation or RO concerned has not signed the newest version of the Compliance Statement within a reasonable period.
- To investigate complaints that suggest that a confederation or an RO acts in severe violation of the Compliance Statement. If in the judgment of the GeGC the confederation or the RO is indeed in severe violation of the Compliance Statement and the situation cannot be remedied within a reasonable period, the GeGC may recommend removing the authorisation of the members of the confederation or of the RO to operate the eduroam service.
- To advise TERENA, the confederations, the ROs, the IdPs and/or the SPs about the proper operations of the eduroam service and any changing requirements.

TERENA will:

- Appoint the members of the GeGC nominated by the confederation of a world region or nominated jointly by the ROs in a world region where no confederation exists; appoint eduroam experts as non-voting members of the GeGC.
- Adopt (new versions of) the Compliance Statement on the proposal of the GeGC.
- On the proposal of the GeGC, authorise the members of a confederation or an RO to operate the eduroam service, or remove the authorisation of the members of a confederation or an RO to operate the eduroam service.
- Provide a secretary to the GeGC, provide the email and postal mail address for the GeGC and maintain the repository of documents issued and received by the GeGC.
- Host and maintain the global eduroam website, and any necessary global eduroam mailing lists (including a mailing list that confederations and ROs can use to ask each other for advice on (operational) eduroam issues).