Connecting the Academic network of Serbia to *eduroam*

Case study

A well worth idea

The Academic network of Serbia (AMRES) recognised *eduroam* as a well worth service to be offered to its members. Connecting to the *eduroam* confederation contributes to the Serbian academic community, as well as to adding the value to AMRES services. *eduroam* was perceived as a service aimed to ease the communication, the network access and the use of Internet for teachers, students, researchers and other AMRES member institutions' staff. On a larger scale, AMRES saw the service as a mean to help its members connect to the European academic community, subsequently helping them to feel as a equal part of it.

Structuring the work

The work was structured by tasks. Some tasks were carried out simultaneously in order to optimise the work. Tasks were as follows:

- Connecting AMRES to the *eduroam* confederation
- Preparing and adopting the *eduroam* national policy
- Including several AMRES member institutions in the AMRES pilot *eduroam* by connecting them as identity and/or resource providers
- Exploring the conditions and readiness of AMRES member institutions to take on the role of the *eduroam* identity and/or resource provider
- Procurement of the wireless equipment in order to help the institutions to successfully realise *eduroam* hotspots
- Organising trainings and workshops for potential resource and identity providers
- Connecting the identity and resource providers thus finishing the pilot phase
- Promotion of *eduroam* service

Realised tasks

So far, first five tasks have been realised.
AMRES was successfully connected to the *eduroam* confederation. This task included different work such as implementing federation top-level Radius servers, making national *eduroam* website, implementing monitoring for *eduroam* infrastructure etc. Monitoring of eduroam infrastructure is realised by using the network monitoring system ICmyNet.IS developed by Belgrade University Computing Centre (RCUB).

By using e*duroam* best current practice for a national roaming policy and examples taken from other NRENs *eduroam* national policies, AMRES team constructed AMRES *eduroam* national policy.

AMRES conducted a survey (in a form of a questionnaire) among its member institutions, in order to explore their readiness and conditions necessary for them, in order to serve as identity providers. Also, the aim of the survey was to determine whether they have appropriate database of user's electronic identities and means to maintain the quality of identity management.

AMRES applied for a donation for procuring the wireless equipment necessary for implementation of *eduroam* hot spots. The donation was successfully realised, acquiring five (5) wireless controllers, 180 access points to be distributed to four AMRES service centres (in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Kragujevac), which will serve as four main resource providers. The access points will be set up on AMRES member institutions' locations (universities, faculties, research institutes, libraries, campuses, student dorms...).

Next steps

In next tasks, AMRES is planning to start the initial cooperation with member institutions. This represent by the pilot phase of *eduroam* implementation which is already initiated. Upon the completion of the pilot phase, it is expected to incorporate the majority of AMRES members in the *eduroam.*

AMRES plans to organise a series of workshops and trainings, thus providing the know-how to its members. Also, AMRES plans to prepare *eduroam-in-a-box* for its members. By providing this tool, AMRES wishes to make the process of becoming an *eduroam* resource and/or identity provider as easy as possible, consequently helping its members to successfully become a member of the *eduroam* community.

Challenges

As the greatest challenge, AMRES recognised the need to help its member institutions to establish themselves as identity providers. The conducted survey showed that not all members have database of user's electronic identities. Hence, AMRES will extend help to them to realise these databases. Another challenge was the realisation of *eduroam* hotspots, since the majority of institutions did not have enough resources to act as resource providers. AMRES successfully answered the challenge by applying for the abovementioned donation. Also, AMRES is committed to creating the *eduroam-in-a-box* and giving its members the know-how by organising trainings and workshops.