Participation in the AARC2 project

About AARC

The goal of the AARC [1] project is to design an integrated AAI (built on federated access) to enable users (using their existing credentials) to seamlessly access e-infrastructure services and to offer support actions to increase the penetration of federated access. These supporting actions include training and policies and best practices harmonization.

Continuing the AARC work: AARC2

The AARC board together with the AARC current consortium have agreed to submit a proposal under the Horizon2020 call "User-driven e-infrastructure innovation" point (3) [2]. This call offers an opportunity to continue the AARC work beyond the current agreement for another further two years (2017-2019).

As the call suggests, the work on the AARC follow up project, AARC2, should focus on user-driven innovation and pilots based on existing e-Infrastructures to respond to user-community challenges. AARC2 should therefore focus on:
1. finalising the work commenced in AARC and exploring challenges that may arise by deploying and integrating the blueprint architecture and the relevant policies into existing e-Infrastructures;
2. working together with the user-communities to pilot use-cases related to the usage of federated access and the adoptions of the recommendations from AARC;
3. To continue the training and outreach work to support the deploying of AARC results as well as to continue on the basic federation training as needed.

In line with the EC guidelines on the Technology Readiness Level (TLR), AARC2 will not engage in new research; all research work will build on existing developments and services. For more information on the TLR please refer to the EC blog post: https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/content/einfrastructures-wp2016-2017-are-you-ready-trls

An editorial board to help with the preparation of the proposal for AARC2 is being created. Proposed members for this group are:
- The current WP leaders (see Annex I);
- Ann Harding to ensure coordination with the work on T&I in the GN4-2 project
- Peter Solagna (EGI) to ensure coordination with the EGI-Engage project
- Romain Wartel (CERN), Dave Kelsey (STFC) and Mikael Linden (CSC) to represent the communities' perspective and links to other e-Infrastructures (ie EUDAT).

The AARC2 editorial board will of course seek feedback by the current AARC partners, as well as by the other relevant stake holders.

Requirements for the consortium partners

At the time of writing, it is proposed that AARC2 follows the same structure as AARC, in terms of work packages structure, (see Annex I) and that current work package leaders not to be replaced. However, some changes may be needed during the preparation.

It is also recommended that the core of the current consortium is preserved and that the link with the user communities strengthened (for instance with the support of a community forum, to complement the FIM4R) to implement the requested user-driven approach.

AARC2 should also allow new partners with the right skills to join, bearing in mind that the size of the consortium cannot grow unlimited in light of budget consideration (which should be remain about 3M euros) and project management aspects.

The following consideration to prioritise requests from new partners will apply:
- the presence of user-community partners is critical for AARC2; communities with a clear use-case that would benefit from AARC2 and also addressing a wider community will be preferred.
- User-communities will be preferred, taking however into account that the consortium should remain such to balance between communities needing support for their use-cases and 'expertise' needed to execute the work.
- Organization with a strong tight and/or with experience in supporting international research collaborations will be preferred.
- Organization that a have a good delivery records will be preferred;
- To avoid manpower fragmentation, small amount of manpower will not be allocated, unless it is agreed upfront that effort will be allocated for a specific and limited task.
- Organisations that want to be involved in AARC2 without committing manpower will be asked to write a letter or support or to sign an MoU with AARC rather than joining the consortium.

Next Steps

Organisations interested in participating in AARC2 (including existing partners) should send an email to Licia Florio (licia.florio@geant.org) by the 31st of December 2015. The email should include the following information:
- Motivations for participating in AARC;
- Expertise they can bring in, in relation to AARC main goals: finishing the work initiated by AARC, fostering adoption and deployment of AARC results in user-driven approach and in line with what e-Infrastructure can sustain.
- Communities they represent and how they would complement the existing consortium;
- Names of the proposed people that would be carrying out the work and their skills.

The request will be reviewed by the editorial board (and approved by AARC-board) by Mid January 2016.

Annex I

The proposed structure for AARC2 is the following:
- A networking activity on "**Project Management" (NA1**) to support the overall management of the project. WP leader Licia Florio (GEANT)
- A Networking Activity on **"Training and Outreach" (NA2)** to support the deploying of AARC results and to continue the train the training module as needed. WP leader Alessandra Scicchitano (GEANT)
- A Networking Activity on **"Best Practices and Policies Harmonisation" (NA3)** to continue the existing work of AARC and support the deployment of AARC results in existing e-Infrastructures. WP leader David Groep (Nikhef)
- A Joint Research Activity on "**Integrated architectures for R&E AAI" (JRA1**) to address the integration aspects of the blueprint architecture and its components into existing AAIs. WP leader Christos Kanellopoulos (GRNET
- A Service Activity **on "Integrated architectures for R&E AAI" (SA1)** to pilot the results coming from AARC on policy integration and architecture as well as emerging international user-community requirements. WP leader Paul van Dijk (SURFnet).

References

[1] AARC website: https://aarc-project.eu/

[2] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/2120-einfra-22-2016.html