



## **REFEDS 2014 WORKPLAN UPDATE**

Nicole Harris

REFEDS Fall Meeting, Indianapolis  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**APOLOGIES: purposefully wordy slides  
so you can take them back to managers  
etc who want to know what the \*\*\*\*  
REFEDS does**

The mission of REFEDS is to be the voice that articulates the mutual needs of research and education identity federations worldwide. The group represents the requirements of research and education in the ever-growing space of access and identity management.

Above all else, REFEDS is a community of practitioners actively engaged in access and identity work within their home countries and supportive of standards-compliant developments to enhance international collaboration.

Only plan on a yearly cycle, meaning focus is on short terms requirements.

Supported by the organisation formerly known as TERENA, via REFEDS Coordinators.



## Current Sponsors



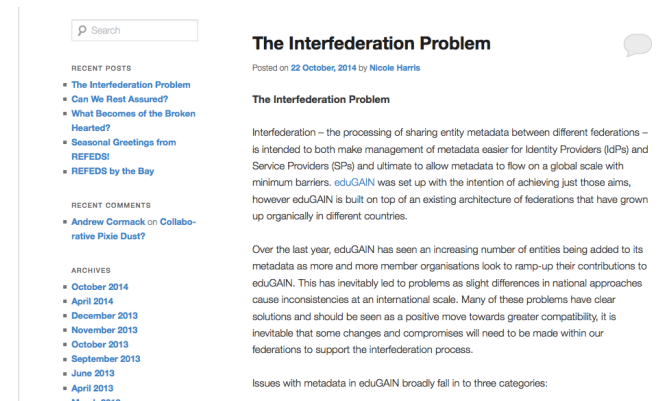
Nicole and Licia take the role of chair / coordinator. Decision is by consensus.

Six members nominated from the community. April 2013 – March 2015:

- Andrew Cormack (Janet) –second term.
- Valter North (SUNET)
- Miroslav Milinovic (SRCE)
- Thomas Lenggenhager (SWITCH)
- Mehdi Hached (Renater) – recently replaced by Jean-François Guezou.
- Ken Klingenstein (Internet2) – second term.

From March 2015?

- All the dull stuff, managing the meetings, calls, website, wiki, list, proposals, contracts etc.
- New wiki now mostly in place: [wiki.refeds.org](http://wiki.refeds.org).
- Continue to be on Kantara Board of Trustees.
- Blog: [blog.refeds.org](http://blog.refeds.org).
- Three main contracts:
  - Heather Flanagan, work on SCHAC
  - Ian Young, work on Metadata Query Protocol and Entity Category specs.
  - Yaco, work on SAML Metadata Editor in REEP.
- Coordinators: Nicole (approximately 3 MM a year) Licia (approximately 1 MM a year)



The screenshot shows a portion of the REFEDS website. At the top is a search bar. Below it are sections for 'RECENT POSTS' and 'RECENT COMMENTS'. The 'RECENT POSTS' section lists several articles, with the first one being 'The Interfederated Problem' by Nicole Harris, dated 22 October 2014. The 'RECENT COMMENTS' section shows a comment by Andrew Cormack on 'Collaborative Pixie Dust?'. Below these are 'ARCHIVES' for various months and years. The main content area displays the article 'The Interfederated Problem', which discusses the challenges of metadata management in federations and the role of eduGAIN.

- MAIN PURPOSE: can't move forward with more assurance until we have our baseline in place
- FOCUS: templates for Federation Operator Practice, in the same suite as the Federation Policy Template.
- Draft Metadata Registration Practice Statement available for input: <https://wiki.refeds.org/download/attachments/1605961/MRPS-templatev0.2.pdf>. Q: should this include metadata PUBLICATION?
- Draft Key Management Practice Statement being worked on – v. dependent on local practice: see comments on FOG list from WAYF et al.
- Next up: monitoring practice statement? Do we need this?
- Working with SIRTFI and VoT (presentations to come).

- SCHAC – Schema for Academia: sorting out a legacy of mess after being gifted SCHAC from TF-EMC2. Heather will explain all.
- Metadata Query Protocol: protocol for retrieving sets of metadata. Work being led by Ian Young via RFC process: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-young-md-query/>.
- The Entity Category SAML Attribute Types: how to form entity categories. Work being led by Ian Young via RFC process: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-young-entity-category/>.
- Research and Scholarship Entity Category: revision 2 complete, in final week of consultation: <https://wiki.refeds.org/display/ENT/Research+and+Scholarship>.
- Hide from Discovery Entity Category: complete, in final week of consultation: <https://wiki.refeds.org/display/ENT/Hide+From+Discovery>.
- Code of Conduct: complete, in roll out.

- MET: Metadata Explorer Tool. Mostly moved to a new home, waiting for a new certificate. Still only works sometimes. Need to fix - perhaps link up with Federation Lab??
- REEP: all in place to use, although interface is less than helpful to end-users. Licia working on this with Yaco at the moment.



- FOG: Federation Operators Group. CLOSED to Operators only, need to have approval of 2 members to be allowed on the list:  
<https://wiki.refeds.org/display/GROUPS/FOG>.
- MARI: managing attribute release in interfederation use-cases. Needs to be kick-started or will drop:  
<https://wiki.refeds.org/display/GROUPS/MARI>.
- NON-REFEDS – SIRTFI: <https://wiki.refeds.org/display/GROUPS/SIRTFI>.

## Working-Groups Home

Created by Nicole Harris, last modified by Sigita Jurkynaitė on Oct 14, 2014

From time-to-time, REFEDS supports the activities of a small number of working groups aimed at either supporting dialogue amongst small sub-sets of people or to address specific goals. The REFEDS policy for working groups is as follows:

1. When a workplan item is agreed, REFEDS Participants will be asked if they wish to participate in a working group for that work item. Working Groups tend to be small, so consensus can be achieved quickly between participants.
2. A chair for the group is chosen from the REFEDS Participants.
3. TERENA provides facilities for the working group, including meeting support, wiki space, mailing lists and, where appropriate, funding.
4. An appropriate output from the group is produced. Currently, this is typically a draft white paper or a wiki page.
5. When the Working Group is in agreement, the chair shares the outputs with the wider REFEDS community with an open period for discussion and comment. This is typically a period of 4 weeks, but may be longer if appropriate.
6. After this period of time, the REFEDS Steering Committee signs off on the work item. Work is either written up as a formal white paper,

- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 in Vienna, Austria in conjunction with eduGAIN Town Hall, TF-MNM and European Trust and Identity Workshop: <http://identityworkshop.eu/tiki-index.php>.
- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, BoF, APAN meeting Fukuoka Japan.
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Annual REFEDS Main Meeting as part of TNC2015 in Porto, Portugal.

- Increasingly difficult to gain commitment for funding . Not efficient.
- Informal approach isn't working anymore.
- Will introduce a lightweight funding agreement – already in place with some of the existing sponsors.
- Will move to automatic generation of invoices.
- Want to formalise levels, but difficult – how differentiate?:

Category	Description	Units	Contribution 2014
Key GOLE Operator	Organisation providing a GOLE critical to connecting global communities. Typically has links to other continents.	6	EUR 6,000
GOLE Lightpath Operator	Organisation providing lightpath services to a country, territory or region. Typically operates a GOLE with multiple international links.	4	EUR 4,000
Lightpath Operator	Organisation providing lightpath services to a region within a country or territory. May or may not operate a lightpath exchange.	2	EUR 2,000
Lightpath User	University, research institute or other organisation utilising lightpath services.	1	EUR 1,000

- People wanted REFEDS to be independently wealthy so it was free and more representative. STILL TRUE??
- Organisations being asked for money in many different directions – complex.
- Current process is very open and gives very little to sponsors.
- Should we change that?
  - Charge for meetings unless you are a sponsoring organisation.
  - Close some documentation / services e.g. charge for use of entity categories or MET.
  - Steering Committee/ workplan focus only sponsoring organisations.
  - Maintain current model - how can we get more people in?

Impact of GN4 Trust and Identity Harmonisation and AARC?

More work on SCHAC and possibly eduPerson together??

Group management / VO management, check list work???

Interfederation-ready guidelines

Continue work on FOP, and work with SIRTFI / VoT

PR material for Service Providers on entity categories and other areas - HELP

new website