The Role of Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in developing local content

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AfREN

- Forum on research and education networking in Africa
- Convened annually by AAU as part of the Africa Internet Summit (AIS)
- First meeting hosted by AfNOG at AfNOG 2006 in Nairobi
- Focus:
  - Collaboration
  - Sharing of best practices
  - Policy development
  - New and innovative applications and services
- Vision: interconnection of the 3 regional RENs that cover the continent: UbuntuNet Alliance, WACREN, ASREN
ASREN, UA, WACREN

- **ASREN**
  - 22 potential members in the Middle East and North Africa
  - Some countries have joined; ASREN reaching out to the others

- **UbuntuNet Alliance**
  - 14 members
  - Many operational NRENs
  - Connected to GEANT
  - Implementation of AfricaConnect

- **WACREN**
  - 22 potential members
  - 8 established NRENs
  - 3 NRENs close to operation: GARNET, NgREN, snRER
ASREN proposed topology

- ASREN
- DANTE/London
- Morocco CNRS
- Palestine PALEN
- Algeria - ARN
- Other ASREN
- Ankabut
- Internet
- Géant
- Internet2
WACREN proposed topology
RENs and content development

- Universities and research centers are traditional content developers
  - Books
  - Lecture notes
  - Theses
  - Research reports
  - Publications

- NRENs are to provide high performance networks for:
  - Access, creation and dissemination of knowledge
  - Sharing of resources
  - Collaboration

- Important for RENs to include non-academic content providers such as museums, public/community libraries, etc.
Examples of current initiatives

- **el4Africa**
  - Objective: to boost research, technological development and innovation of African e-Infrastructures
  - Africa Grid Science Gateway as demonstrative platform to show lighthouse applications ([http://sgw.africa-grid.org](http://sgw.africa-grid.org))

- **CHAIN-REDS**
  - Objective: support scientific collaboration across different e-Infrastructures to allow virtual research communities to access and use worldwide distributed resources (computing, storage, data, tools, applications, services, etc.) - [http://www.chain-project.eu](http://www.chain-project.eu)

- **DATAD**
THANK YOU!

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