



Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration

## AARC TREE: Enhancing our Research Collaborations

even better research with secure collaborative authentication & authorization

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Nikhef Physics Data Processing programme and UM Dept. Advanced Computing Sciences

GÉANT Security Days 2024

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# Probably most well-known AARC result to this audience ...


**SIRTFI** REFEDS > SIRTFI

The Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity (Sirtfi) aims to enable the coordination of incident response across federated organisations. This assurance framework comprises a list of assertions which an organisation can attest in order to be declared Sirtfi compliant. Visit our [Wiki](#) to discover how your organisation can prepare itself for Federated Incident Response with Sirtfi.

REFEDS' [Sirtfi Working Group](#) has been active since 2014 and combines expertise in operational security and incident response policy from across the REFEDS community. Work to publish and implement the Sirtfi Trust Framework was supported by the [AARC Project](#).

Be  
Why should I join

## Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity

 **REFEDS**





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DATE 28 JULY 2022  
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TITLE / REFERENCE: COEXISTENCE OF SIRTFI v1 AND SIRTFI v2

### Coexistence of Sirtfi v1 and Sirtfi v2

original Sirtfi specification, herein Sirtfi v1, continues to be valuable and will not be deprecated with the introduction of Sirtfi v2. The Sirtfi v1 entity attribute value of <https://refeds.org/sirtfi> will continue to mean what it has always meant: an entity whose metadata contains this attribute has been attested that it meets the assertions of Sirtfi v1.

REFEDS' [Sirtfi Working Group](#) has been active since 2014 and combines expertise in operational security and incident response policy from across the REFEDS community. Work to publish and implement the Sirtfi Trust Framework was supported by the [AARC Project](#).

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <br><b>Benefits</b><br>Why should I join? What are the Benefits?<br><a href="#">Know More..</a> | <br><b>Sirtfi v 2.0</b><br>View the Sirtfi Framework<br><a href="#">Know More..</a> | <br><b>FAQs</b><br>Need help?<br><a href="#">Know More..</a> | <br><b>Sirtfi v1 and v2</b><br>Both are valid. See the details.<br><a href="#">Know More..</a> |
|--|--|--|---|

How does Sirtfi support research?

<https://refeds.org/SIRTFI>



- 2. A new assertion, [IR3], was added that requires security contacts of entities participating in Sirtfi to be notified when a security incident investigation suggests that those entities are involved in the incident.

But that is only part of a much larger, federated, story ...



slide inspiration: Licia Florio, NORDUNET



# Research Collaboration: an inherently-cross-domain issue .. and solution



Example from the LHC Computing infrastructure WLCG 

**170** sites

~**50** countries & regions

~**20000** users

just *how* many interactions ??



AuthN & AuthZ, as well as security & compliance should align with collaboration structures, and be **outward facing**: open, scalable, and multi-domain

people photo: a small part of the CMS collaboration in 2017, Credit: CMS-PHO-PUBLIC-2017-004-3; site map: WLCG sites from Maarten Litmaath (CERN) 2021

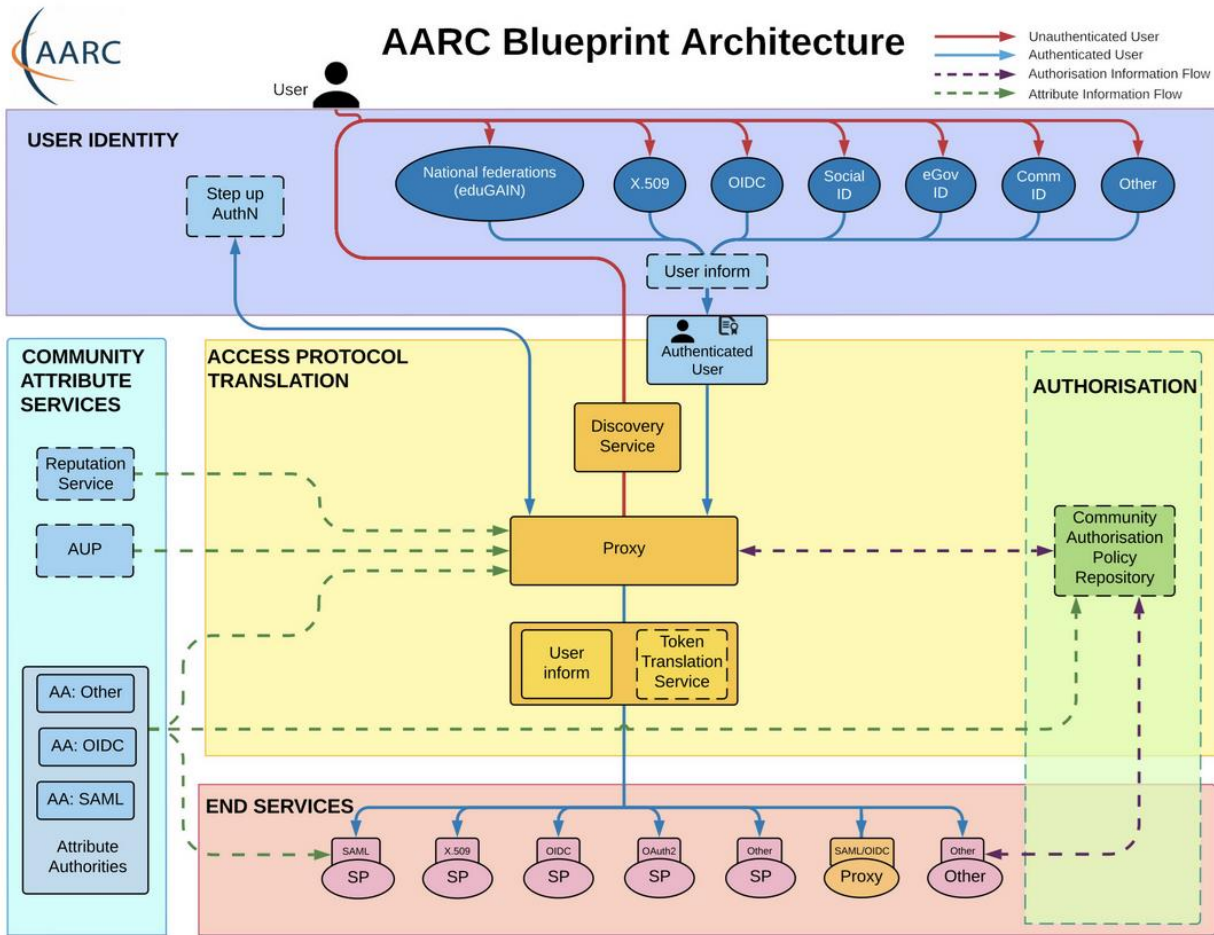
# Federated Identity Management and global collaboration

- Access services using **identities from their Home Organizations**,
- but **hide complexity** of multiple IdPs, federations, AA technologies
- with **one persistent identity**  
across all the community's services through **account linking**
- **Access services based on role(s)** users have **in the collaboration**.  
linking *not known* to your "SP" services, the IdPs – or to eduGAIN
- for both **web** and **non-web** resources
- Integration of **guest identity solutions**
- **support for stronger authentication assurance** mechanisms

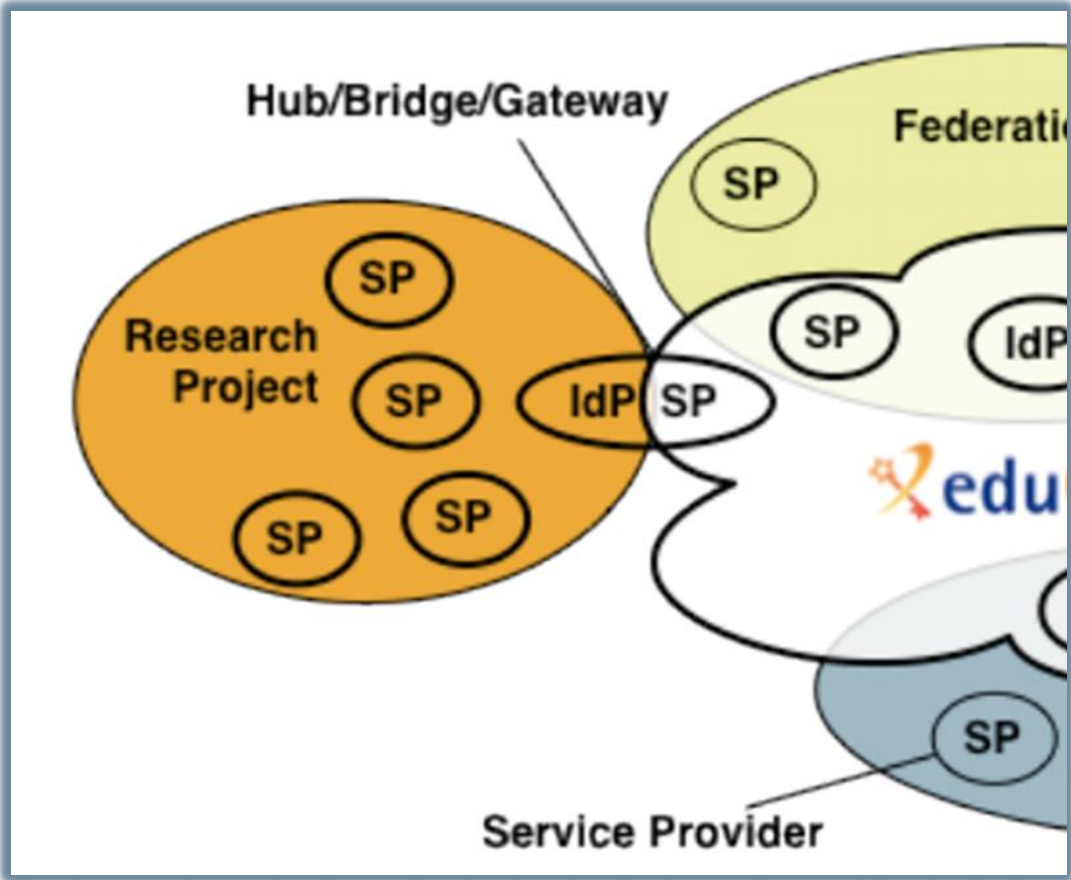




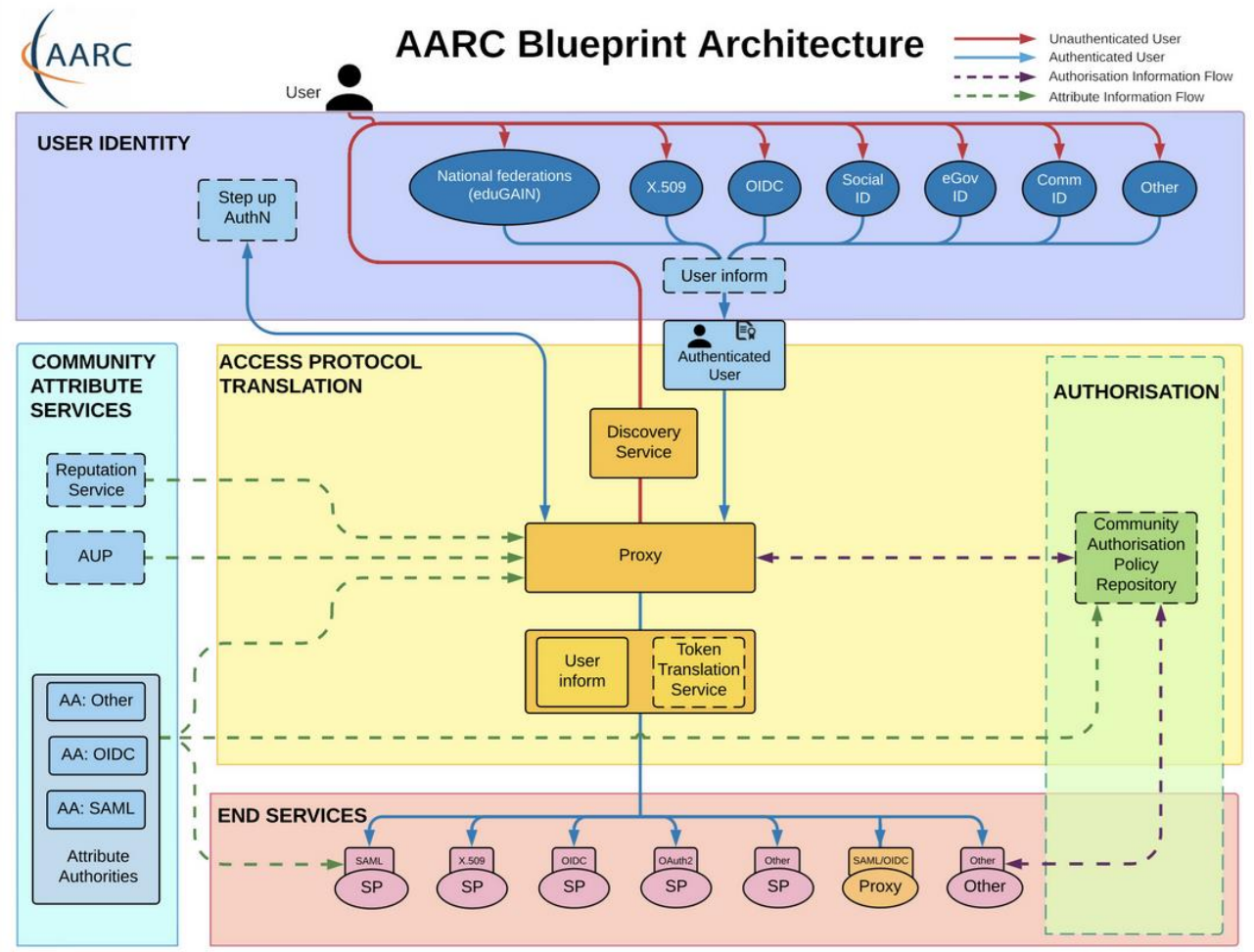
# AARC – ‘just eduGAIN is not enough’



# The IdP-SP proxy: a First-class Citizen



# Interoperability – more than just the nice colours



Not sure how to begin with the AARC Blueprint Architecture? There are plenty of guidelines available but it can be a minefield at first. You probably want to start by designing the high level approach of your infrastructure based on the AARC Blueprint Architecture. There are several general topics you should consider, such as Data Protection (AARC-G042) and Federated Security Incident Response (AARC-I051). Here you can find common questions matched to the relevant Blueprint Architecture component, along with links to guidelines that can help.

**User Identity:**

- How should I integrate Social Media Identity Providers? AARC-G008
- How should users link accounts, and how does that affect Assurance? AARC-G009
- How should services indicate that they would like users to authenticate with multifactor authentication, and how should my proxy forward that information? AARC-G029

**Assurance:**

- How should assurance information of external identities be calculated? AARC-G031
- What can I say about assurance of identities from social media accounts? AARC-G041
- How is assurance impacted by account linking? AARC-G009
- How should assurance information be shared with other infrastructures? AARC-G021
- Which Assurance Profiles should I use, there are so many! AARC-I050

**Community Attribute Services:**

- How should attributes from multiple sources be aggregated? AARC-G003
- How should I express the home institute of a user? AARC-G025
- How should I express the identifier of a user? AARC-G026
- What are the best practices for running my Attribute Authorities securely? AARC-G071
- Which Acceptable Use Policy should I use to facilitate interoperability? AARC-I044
- How should I infer the affiliation of a user? AARC-G057

**Access Protocol Translation:**

- Which best practices should I follow for my Token Translation Services? AARC-G004
- How should I translate from Identity Federation information to X.509 certificates? AARC-G010

**Authorisation:**

- How should I manage authorisation information from multiple sources? AARC-G006
- How should group and role information be expressed to facilitate interoperability? AARC-G002
- How should resource capabilities be expressed? AARC-G027

**End Services:**

- My service needs to act on behalf of the user – how should I handle credential delegation and impersonation? AARC-G005
- My services are not web based, how can I use identities from the proxy? AARC-G007
- How should Services hint which IDP they would like users to use? AARC-G049
- Which Security practices should I follow? AARC-G014

**Proxies:**

- How can I ensure that my proxy is able to accurately claim that it supports best practices in Identity Federation? AARC-G015
- How should I express the home institute of a user? AARC-G025
- How should I express the identifier of a user? AARC-G026
- How should I express assurance information for users when interacting with another proxy? AARC-G021
- How can my proxy simplify the discovery process for end-users? AARC-G061
- How can my proxy route the user to the correct discovery service? AARC-G062

**What next? Are you looking for a kick start with your policies? Take a look at the Policy Development Toolkit which provides a set of templates.**

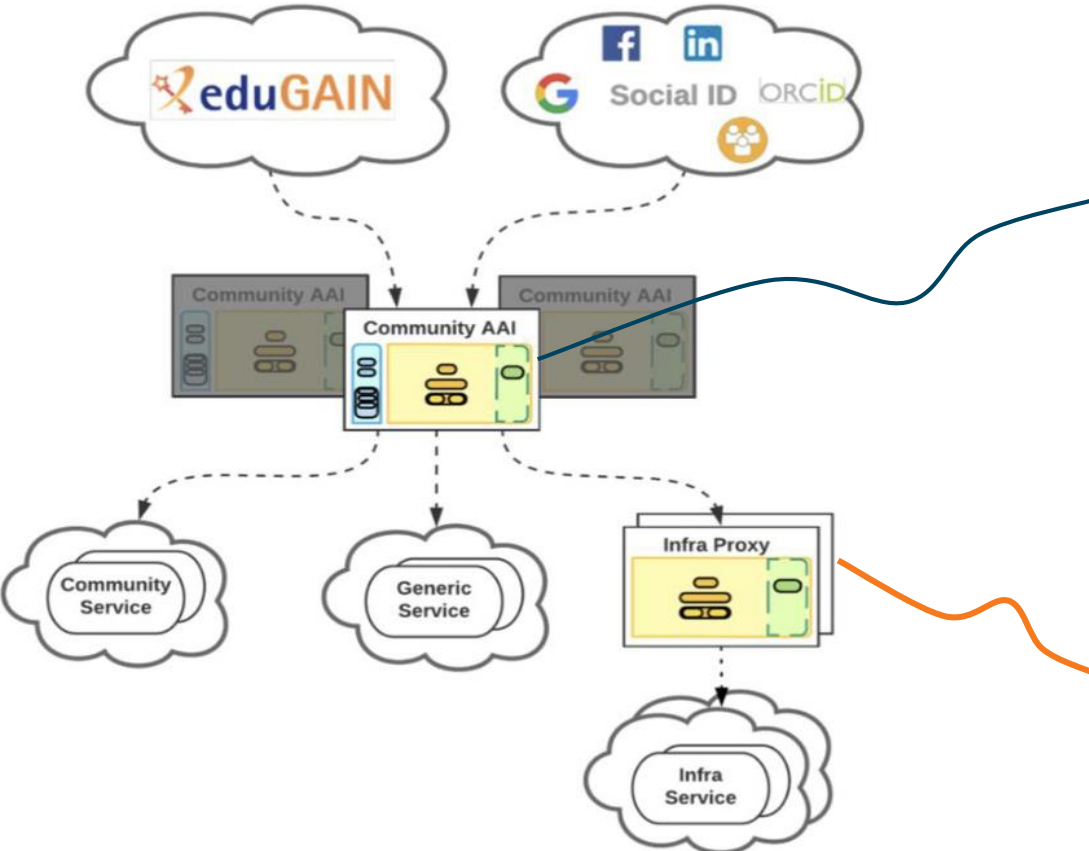
| Personal Data  | Protection Contact  | Services (abide by) | Services (abide by) processing personal data.   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Privacy Policy | Infrastructure Management (for general policy) & Services (for service specific policies) | Users (view)        | This can be used to document the data collected and processed by the infrastructure and its participants. Each service in the infrastructure, as well as the infrastructure itself, should complete the template. |
|                |   | Services (abide by) | This policy defines requirements for running a service within the infrastructure.   |
|                |   | Users (abide by)    | This is a template for the acceptable use policy that users must accept to use the Research Infrastructure. It should be augmented by the Research Community.   |

**PDK**

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries



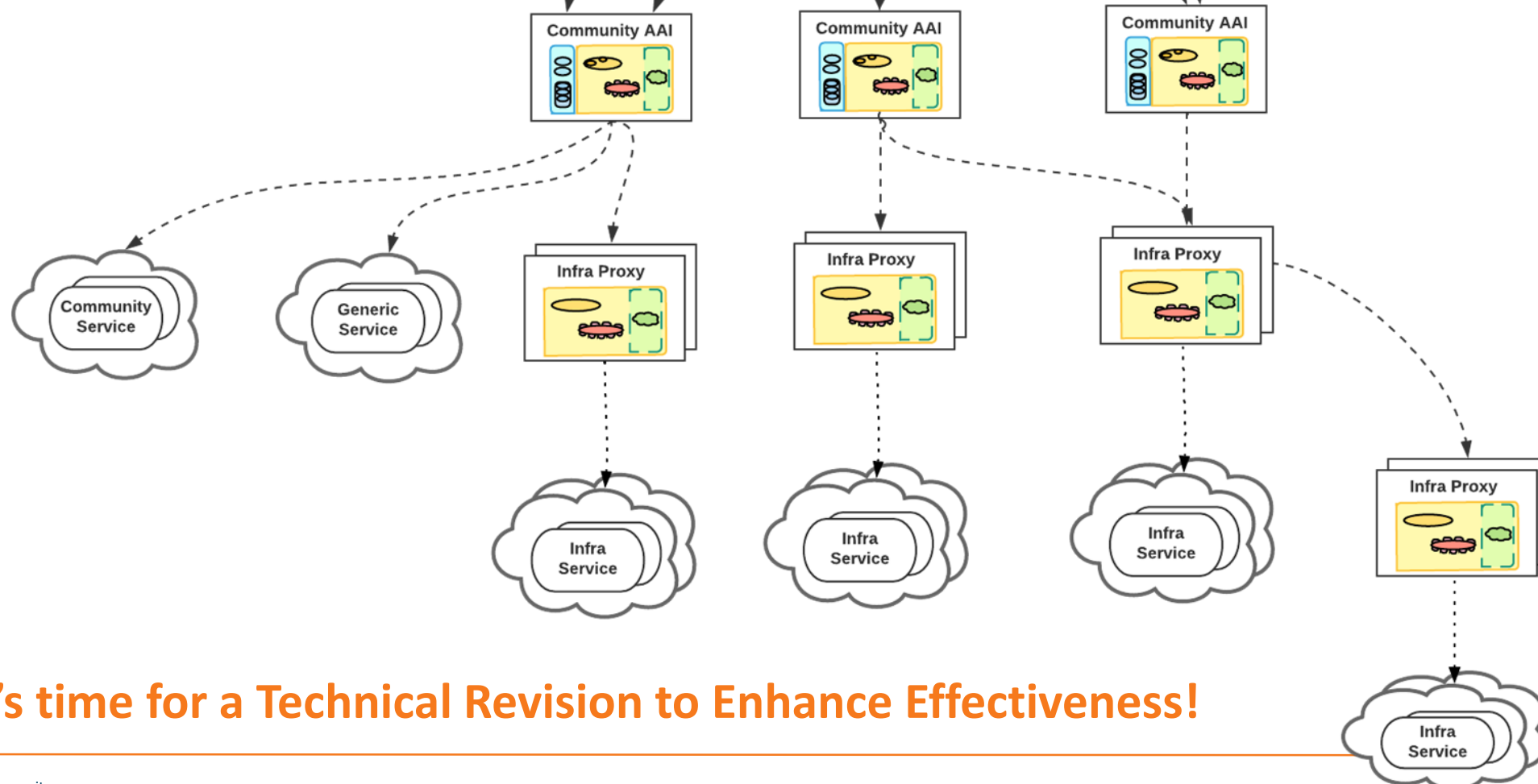
# The Community AAI and the Infrastructure Proxy – structuring elements



**Community AAI**  
 The purpose of the Community AAI is to streamline researchers' access to services, both those provided by their own infrastructure as well as the services provided by infrastructures that are shared with other communities.

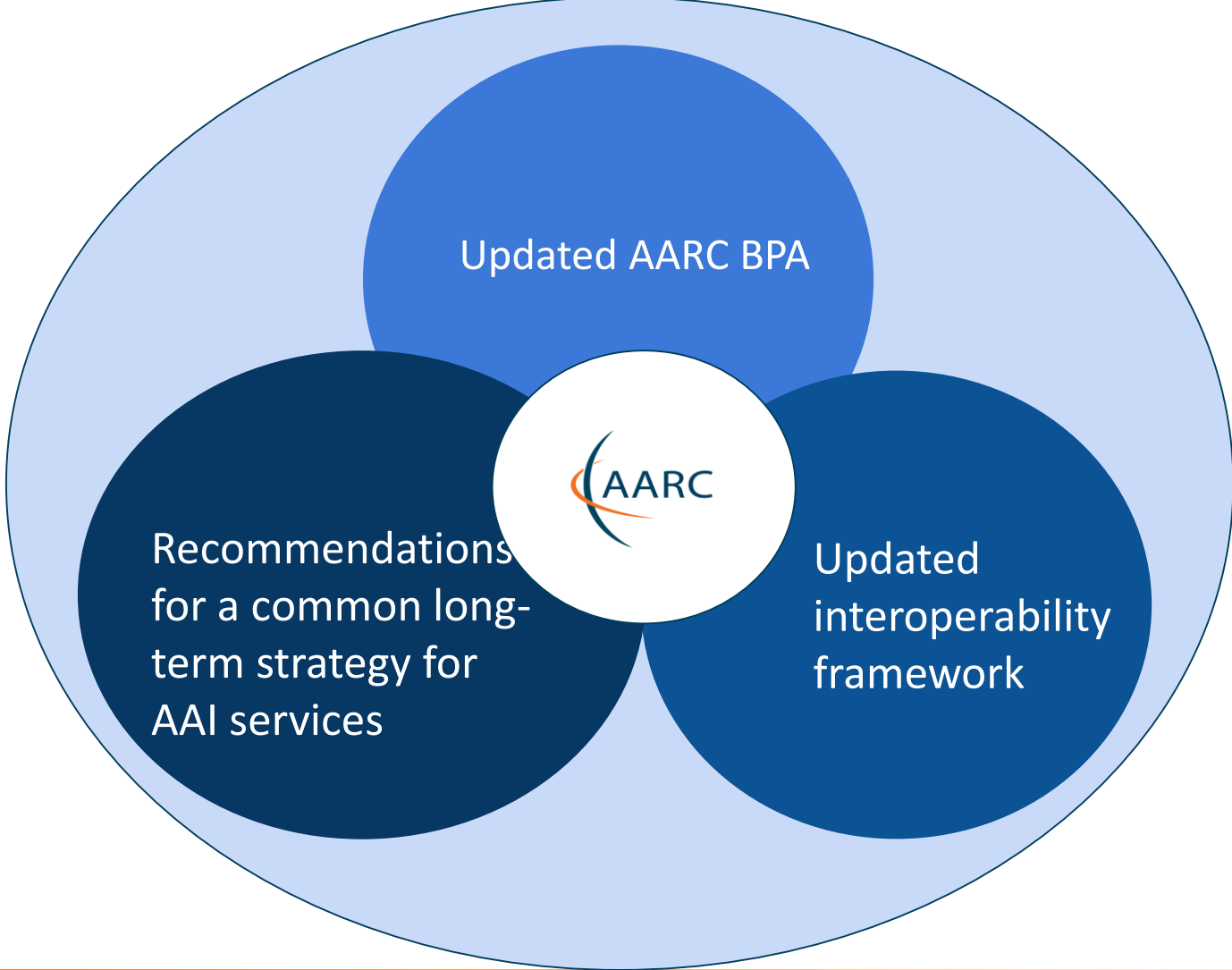
**Infrastructure Proxy**  
 The Infrastructure Proxy, enables Infrastructures with a large number of resources, to provide them through a single integration point, where the Infrastructure can maintain centrally all the relevant Policies and business logic for making available these resources to multiple communities

But it's getting more complex ...



... it's time for a Technical Revision to Enhance Effectiveness!

# AARC TREE Main Facts: Expected results





# The AARC TREE in the Trust and Identity Landscape



## AARC Engagement Group for Infrastructures

The forum of e/r-Infras that operate an AARC BPA complaint AAI. It's a closed group on purpose as we want to get feedback from the hands on group. They approve the AARC guidelines.

## Technical WG

- Led by Nicolas and Christos
- Where technical guidelines are discussed
- Anybody can join the discussion:  
<https://lists.geant.org/sympa/info/aarc-architecture>

## Policy WG

- Led by Dave and David
- Supported by EnCo and IGTF
- Anybody can join the discussion:  
[policy@aacrc-community.org](mailto:policy@aacrc-community.org)  
<https://lists.geant.org/sympa/info/aarc-na3>

# Evolve the BPA to address the more complex (and the simpler) worlds

**Guidelines for expression of community user attributes**

- reduce inconsistencies between implementations
- improve interoperability & end-user usability across research community communities and infrastructures

**Extend AARC BPA**

- improve scalability
- leverage emerging standards like OpenID Federation

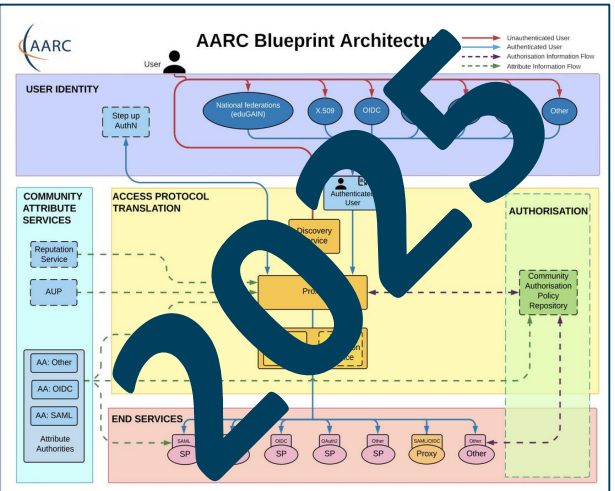
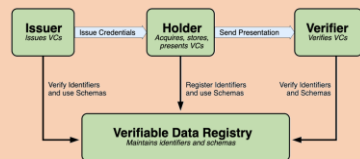
**Authorisation guidelines**

- best practises to enable efficient & effective sharing of federated resources



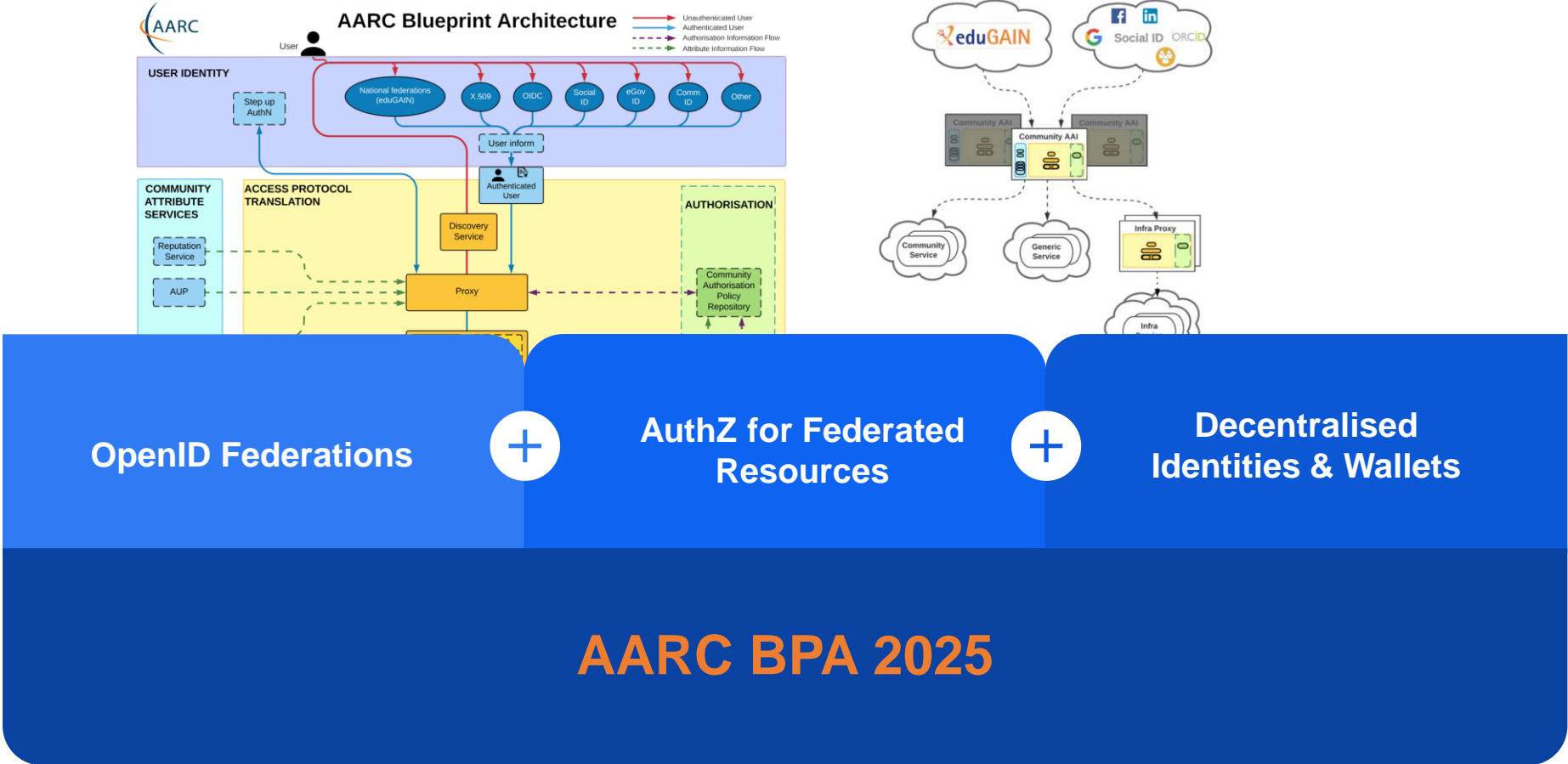
**Decentralised identities**

- guidance for digital wallets linked to BPA



# AARC Blueprint Architecture 'BPA2025'

## AARC BPA 2019

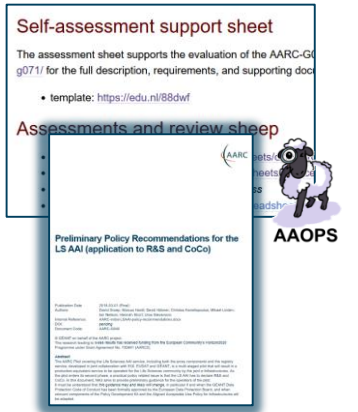




# Policy and good practice underpinning the AARC Blueprint BPA

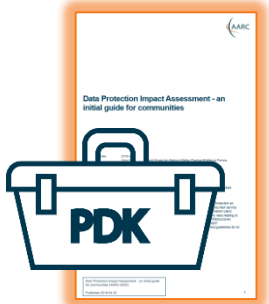
## Infrastructure alignment and policy harmonisation: helping out the proxy

- **Operational Trust** for Community and Infrastructure BPA Proxies
- Increase acceptance of research proxies by identity providers through **common baselines**
- Review infrastructure models for **coordinated AUP, T&C, and privacy notices**, improving cross-infrastructure user experience (users need to click only once)



## User-centric trust alignment and policy harmonization: helping out the community

- Lightweight community management policy template
- Guideline on cross-sectoral trust in novel federated access models
- Assurance in research services through (eIDAS) public identity assertion

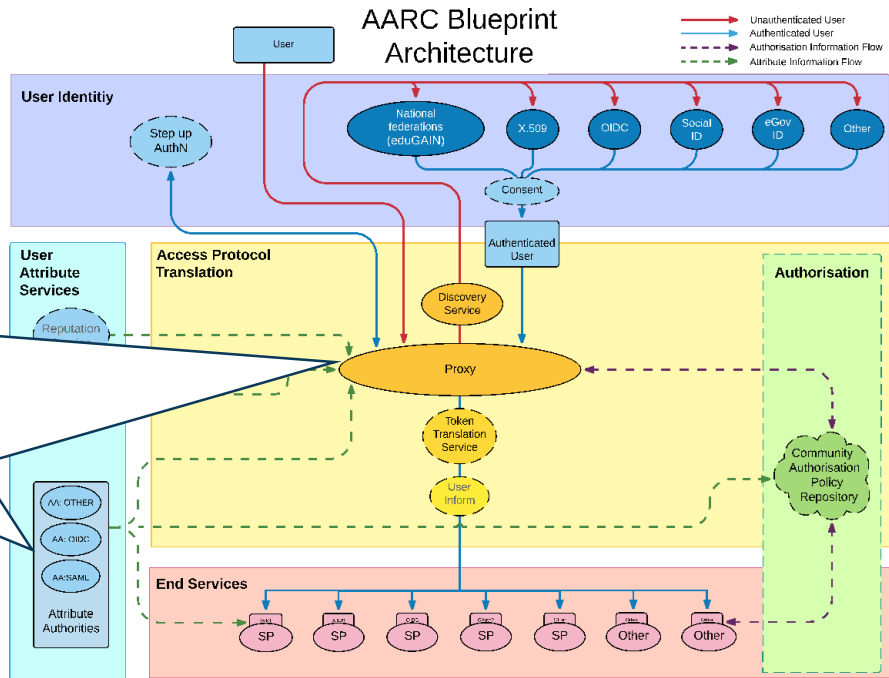


Anchored in the researcher user communities by **co-creation with FIM4R**

# AARC G071 is there to help, but do we 'get the trust across'?

**Membership management service, attribute authorities, and proxy/token translator**

- integrity of membership
- identification, traceability
- site and service security
- network protections
- assertion integrity
- > Trust marks and expression



But when proxies are proxying proxies, can we proxy the trust?

Agree to a **common baseline**

... an approach that was successful previously!

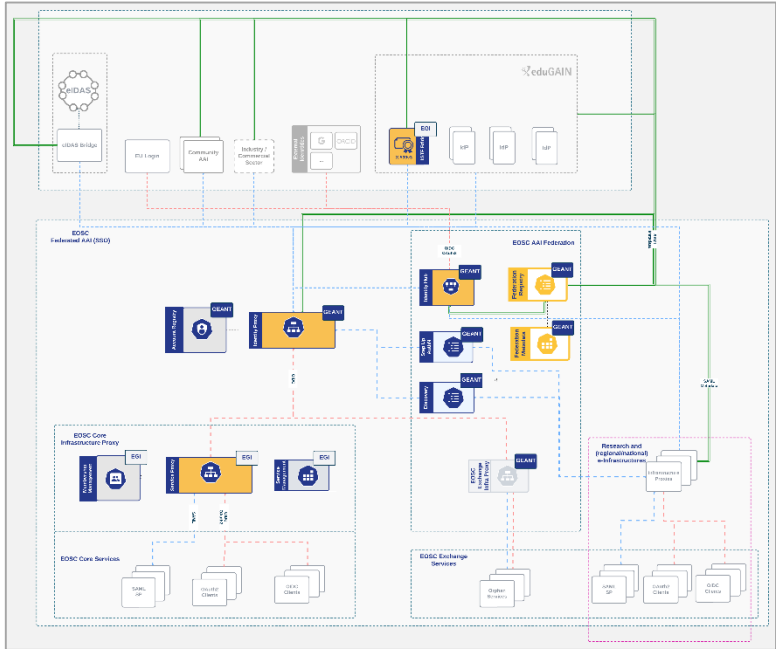
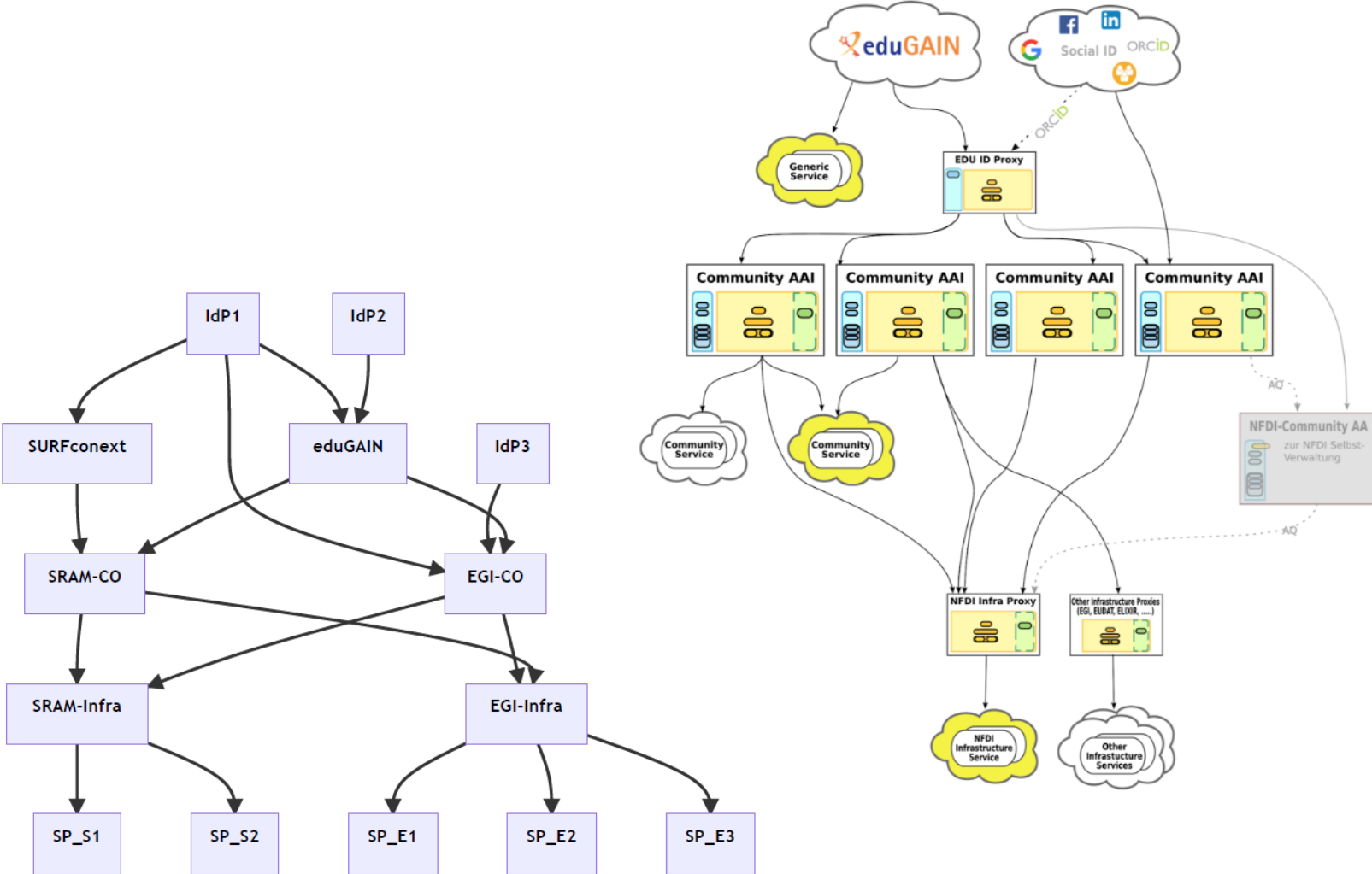
**Self-assessment support sheet**  
 The assessment sheet supports the evaluation of the AARC-G071 for the full description, requirements, and supporting documents.  
 • template: <https://edu.nl/88dwf>

**Assessments and review sheet**

- WLCG - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1...>
- UK-IRIS - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1...>
- eduTEAMS (Core AAI platform) - in progress
- SURF SRAM - <https://docs.google.com/spread...>



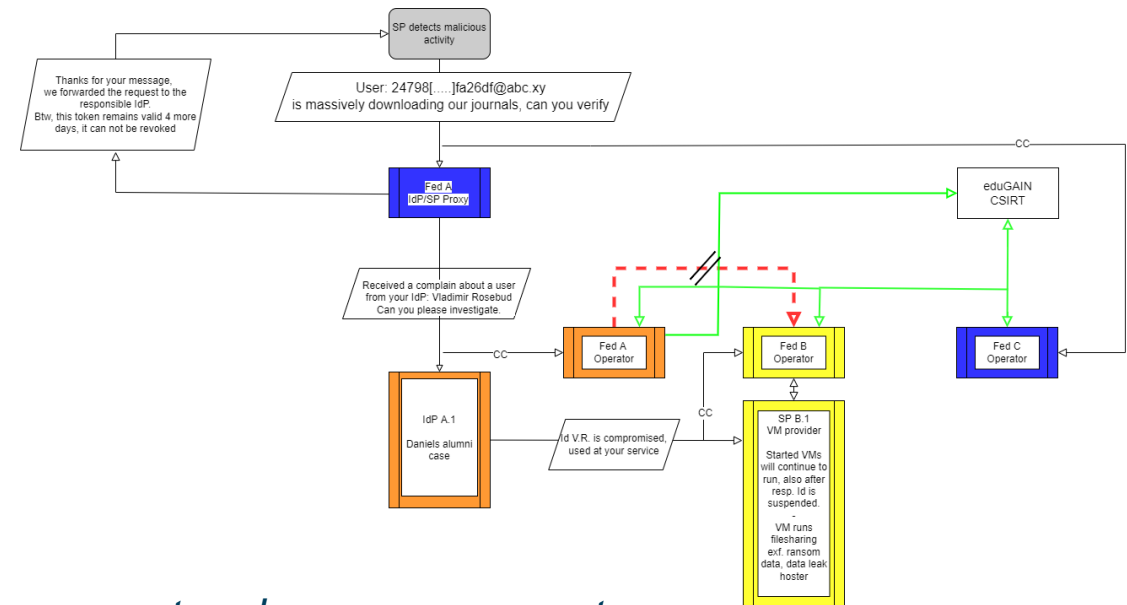
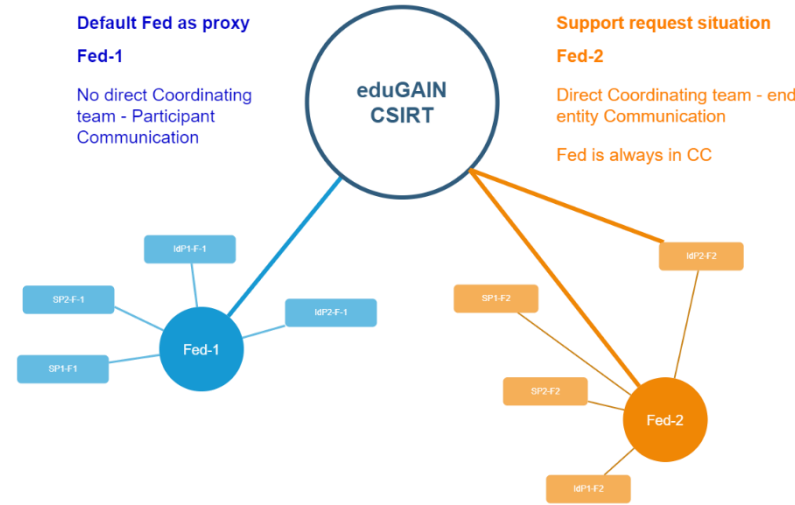
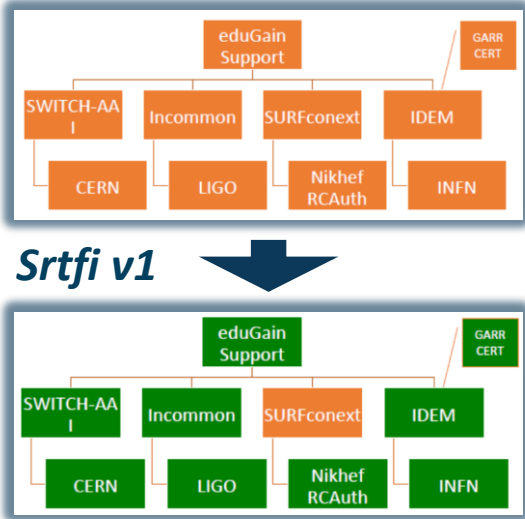
# Our federated world is growing more complex



Images: SURF SSRAM and EGI by Maarten Kremers, NDFI AAI (Marcus Hardt), EOSC AAI for the EOSC Core and Exchange Federation for the EOSC European Node by Christos Kanellopoulos, Nicolas Liampotis, David Groep (June 2023 version)



# Response and traceability across IdP-SP Proxies and the limits of Sirtfi



Guidelines for a joint **operational trust baseline** for membership management and proxy components, supplemented by policy guidance for sectoral federations with more specific policies where needed

- ‘How can we **convey the trust in what is in and behind the proxy?**’
- ‘How to provide **timely traceability** between services and identities through the proxy?’

Based on requirements from FIM4R, WISE, and the proxy operators in AEGIS.

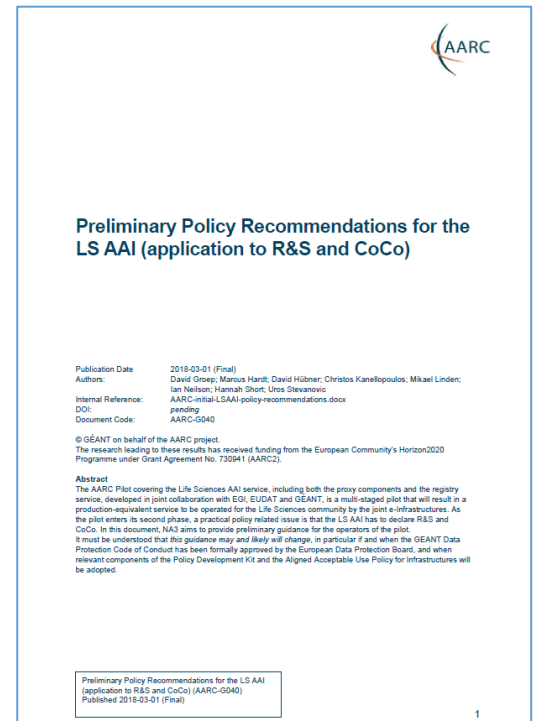
# Proxies have their own challenges as well: AUPs, T&Cs, Privacy notices, ...

## For large 'multi-tenant' proxies

- some subset users in some communities use a set of services – how to present their Terms and Conditions and their privacy policies, so that users
  - only see the T&Cs and notices for services they will access
  - this does not need to be manually configured for each community
  - is automatically updated when services join

## For community and dedicated proxies

- when new (sensitive) services join, who needs to see the new T&Cs?
- can we communicate existing acceptance of T&Cs to downstream services?



*beyond AARC-G040*

What is an acceptable user experience in clicking through agreements?  
What is effective in exploiting the WISE Baseline AUP? What do researchers need?

**'with fewer clicks to more resources'**

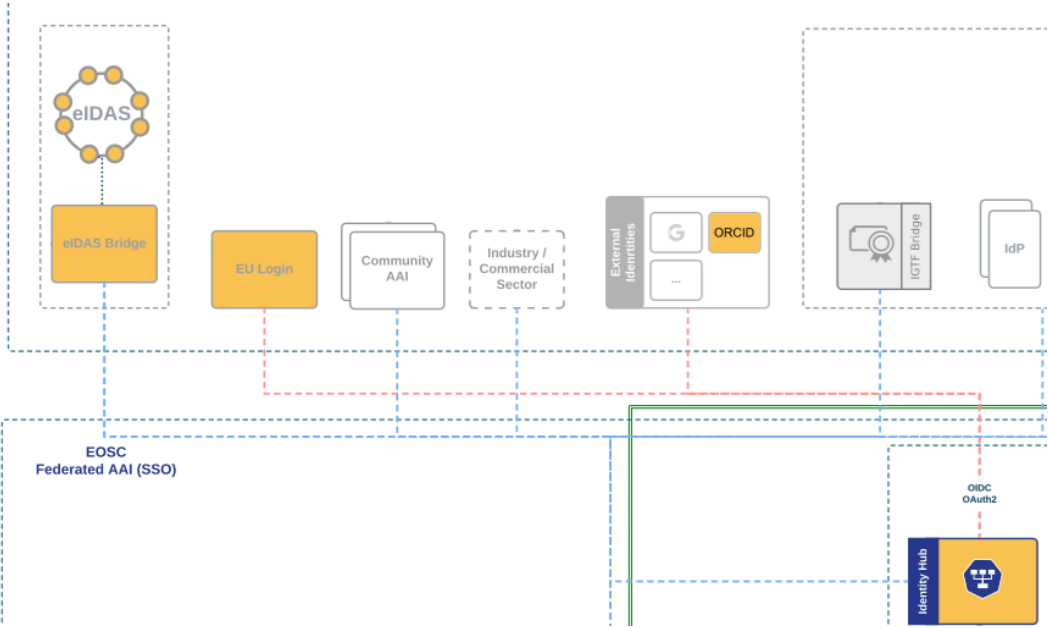
# And .. we'll be seeing more, and diverse, sources of identity assurance

An 'available' persistent source of assurance may be the (European) government-ID ecosystem

- step-up to at least *substantial* level can now readily be done 'at home' by many users through their national eID schemes
- Joint work on eIDAS, Erasmus Student Mobility, and more makes this more accessible
- step-up-as-a-service as a fall-back (like in .se)
- better attainable than relying on home institutions?

... but:

- what to do with non-European users?
- how to link the identities together





## All about enabling research: FIM4R & communities are a key factor

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Also in AARC-TREE we target a “co-creation process”

- support FIM4R to increase the reach of workshops in the next 2 years
- community review, ideas, and input on both policy and architecture
- start from the high-level requirements and broad community input

whatever we build must be *usable and available* by researcher communities first of all, and align to interoperability standard and open, collaborative research goals

**Really a global activity: we want to engage everyone, in AARC TREE and beyond**

## Compendium and Recommendations

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**Key result in the '2<sup>nd</sup> year' (April 2025 - February 2026) is the **Compendium****

**'compendium of AARC best practices' with recommendations** for a common long-term strategy for AAI services in pan-European Research Infrastructures in Europe

- based on the use case input and researcher requirements
- promotes coherent and interoperable architecture and policy
- **iterate and validate** with the infrastructures at large

*describe the road that collaborative research infrastructure AAI will take!*



Image generated by Adobe Firefly 2 with the text prompt  
“image of a broad-leaved lemon tree with a person sitting  
below it leaning against the trunk in the sunshade”

**Let's climb the AARC TREE together:  
work with us on our joint security challenges!**

Thanks to the AARC Community, including folk from whom I re-used graphics and material in this overview. In random order: Licia Florio, Nicolas Liampotis, Christos Kanellopoulos, Marina Adomeit, Janos Mohacsi, Ilaria Fava, Slavek Licehammer, Dave Kelsey, Ian Neilson, Marcus Hardt, Mischa Salle, Hannah Short, and Maarten Kremers.

# Thank you

## Any Questions?

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<https://aarc-community.org>

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