

From:
To: [COMP-BBGL](#)
Cc: [COMP STATE AID GREFFE](#)
Subject: HT.5766_Reply_from_other_organisation - GÉANT
Date: jeudi 10 février 2022 16:00:14

GÉANT wholeheartedly supports any action aimed at addressing the digital divide, especially in consideration of the complementarity of universal access with the nature of the resources and services that the GÉANT and National Research and Education Networks (or NRENs) community cater for. A widespread and unconstrained access to remote education, online libraries, scientific data resources, etc. is a most desirable target for the EU to grant to all citizens, irrespective of where their location is, country- or region-wise.

The GÉANT NREN community can play a strong, supporting role in this process, facilitating cost-free interconnections (peerings) with the operators that will act within the scope of new regulations – i.e. targeting the areas of market failures – regardless if they're public or private entities. This would allow the customers of these operators to get a better experience in accessing the already mentioned services and resources provided by the GÉANT user community, whether they're remote students or "citizen scientists", but also remote workers of the European R&E ecosystem – the latter aspect becoming especially important in relation to the deep changes to the workplace nature and structure, in the wake and the aftermath of the current pandemic.

Regarding the point 5.2.4 - Proportionality of the aid measure - we see this point as reflecting the current work of GÉANT and NRENs, who act in line with the principles of public procurement in such scenarios (119). It is also welcome to see that broadband electronic communications services can potentially be included as services of a general economic interest (SGEI's) (point 3(27)) by Member States within the compatibility assessment.

If you wish for any further discussion on the points above, please contact