

# Enlighten Your Research: Supporting research locally and globally

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### Abstract:

#### “Enlighten Your Research: Supporting research locally and globally”

Enlighten Your Research (EYR) is an idea developed by SURFnet to engage research communities in using network resources to “enlighten” research. The original EYR project in 2007 was presented as a competition for the Dutch research community which focused on network resources, however, as more iterations of the program continued other e-infrastructure resources were made available, making the program more and more popular.

While the Dutch national EYR program<sup>1</sup> has been around for a decade, regional and global EYR programs have been developed recently to understand what international research communities need, and learn how the requirements for networks and compute change at different scales in collaboration with NRENs across Europe and the rest of the world.

The two most recent versions of EYR, in addition to the continuing EYR Dutch program, include EYR-Global and EYR for the Eastern Partnership Connect (EaPConnect) project.<sup>2</sup>

The EYR-Global project<sup>3</sup> was first released in 2013 with a large amount of success based on the breadth of research projects that needed international connectivity and compute. In 2015, another program was released, resulting in life sciences and astronomy projects that benefit from the NREN technical expertise. While the execution of these two projects are still underway, EYR-Global will be run again in 2018, with the NREN preparation work starting in mid-2017.

With the EaPConnect project, a regional edition of EYR is being piloted to help the eastern European countries connect with their researchers.

The EYR programs are a good example of how NRENs collaborate with each other, ICT departments, and other regional entities. Each kind of program follows a general two-step proposal process where researchers are asked to share details about their experiment or collaboration, their research goals and the networking resources they may require to

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<sup>1</sup> The Enlighten Your Research Dutch national project: <https://eyr.surf.nl/about-us>.

<sup>2</sup> The EaPConnect project: <https://www.eapconnect.eu/>.

<sup>3</sup> The Enlighten Your Research-Global project: <https://www.enlightenyourresearch.net/>.

improve their research. The first step of the process is a lightweight evaluation of draft proposals submitted by the researchers. The second step consists of a consultation round, followed by an evaluation of the final proposals, including the network and compute requirements. In consultation with the program organizers, researchers and the ICT support staff from their home institutions work together to connect their collaborators, experiment and other resources at varying scales. The NRENs, and in some cases participating e-research infrastructures, in return develop a plan for supporting these projects, including those that can be provided at no cost to the research collaboration.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss and compare the different versions of EYR, what has been learned from the different types of programs and how scale plays an important role in this analysis. The presentation will also discuss future plans for the EYR portfolio, including how to template the project for other NRENs, and the beginning of the next EYR-Global 2018. The 25-minute presentation will be an introduction to a proposed birds-of-a-feather meeting where the presenters plan to exchange feedback about the EYR programs and discuss how EYR can be useful to other NREN communities in the future--as an instrument for research support and engagement.

## **Biographies**

Mary Catherine Hester is a community manager for research at SURFnet, supporting the Dutch research communities and helping to facilitate network services for these communities. Previously, Hester has worked in the Science Engagement Group at ESnet, located at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She received her bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of California, Davis.

Sylvia Agnes Kuijpers is a community manager for research at SURFnet and the shared project lead of the Enlighten Your Research Global Program. At SURFnet, she is involved in outreach & support of the Dutch research community in collaboration with SURF and the SURF organizations SURFsara and the Netherlands eScience Center. She is also finishing her PhD in Cancer Research, at the Pharmaceutics Department at Utrecht University, The Netherlands.