

# Trust & Identity





# Introducing the Trust & Identity Incubator

The Trust & Identity Incubator introduces a new methodology in the GN4-3 project, to provide a container where new and potentially disruptive topics emerging in the area of T&I can be addressed and new technologies that currently have no place (yet) in the services ecosystem of GN4-3.

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The Incubator, which is run by Task 2 of WP5 (Trust & Identity) in GN4-3, will test and experiment with totally new concepts, as well as investigate new features for existing GÉANT services. Business case development for potential new services and developments that would improve data protection and privacy aspects are also in scope.

This approach is designed to provide a high degree of flexibility and to enable the task to react to new developments much faster than previously possible.

## Activities and Sprints

The Incubator will run a number of sequential cycles – or ‘Activities’ – typically lasting six months, during which a team focuses on a number of topics in parallel. The development process used for this engagement is a loose implementation of the Scrum development methodology.

Activities are divided into a series of ‘Sprints’ – time-boxed efforts during which a team works on a specific set of ‘stories’, that is, very high-level definitions of a requirement. Each sprint runs for four weeks after which its results are presented in a Sprint Demo. Completing the Sprint cycle six times concludes an Activity.

When an Activity comes to an end, its results are evaluated by an Incubator Advisory Board comprised of several senior members of the GÉANT Trust & Identity community, aided by a few subject matter experts from outside of GÉANT, including from Internet2, research communities and one NGO. Based on the board’s evaluation, a decision is made on how to best proceed with the Activity’s outcomes.

## The Incubator Pipeline

One of the challenges faced by the Incubator will be to remain relevant over the four-year period of the GN4-3 project. To this end, it will adopt an agile approach towards the items it is working on and keep a list of other potential activities in a ‘backlog’, known as the Pipeline.

Items are added to the Pipeline based on the recommendations of the Incubator Advisory Board at the end of an Activity. The board may also suggest new activities where they believe these to be relevant to the community. Finally, NRENs will also be able to submit new items directly.

The Incubator Advisory Board will periodically review the activities in the Pipeline, and the Incubator’s management will then decide which of

these to act on for the new cycle, taking into account both their level of priority as indicated by the board and the availability of resource and expertise.

The initial set of activities for the Pipeline was drafted based on the Trust & Identity Whitepaper written near the end of the GN4-2 project, as well as the work of GN4-2 that was handed over to the Incubator. These are:

- Community Tagging (aka Pixie Dust)
- Cryptech HSM - Preparation phase
- Discovery Pilot
- IdP as a Service Business case
- ORCID as IdP of Last Resort
- Second Factor Authentication – Distributed Vetting
- Shibboleth OIDC Extension.

## Sprint Demos Open to All

The Incubator aspires to be an open environment. To this end, it seeks whenever possible to engage other relevant stakeholders from the wider GÉANT community, as well as specialist working groups such as REFEDs. Additionally, the monthly Sprint Demos are open to all interested parties. The dates and times of the Demos will be published on the GÉANT Trust & Identity Incubator wiki pages.