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Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
eInfrastructure



Magic

Middleware for collaborative Applications
and Global virtual Communities

Deliverable N° D5.4

Report on Worldwide User Communities Virtual Meetings and Seminars

Periodical Progress Report

MAGIC Deliverable: D5.4

Report on Worldwide User Communities Virtual Meetings and Seminars

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For more information on MAGIC, its partners and contributors please see <http://www.magic-project.eu>.

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DELIVERY ROUTE

	Name	Member/Activity	Date	Responsible
From	Tiwonge M. Banda	WP5 Leader	19-05-2017	UbuntuNet
Revised by	Tania Altamirano	WP5 member	23-05-2017	RedCLARA
Revised by				
Revised by				
Revised by				
Approved by	Florencio I. Utreras	CLARA/Coordinator	24/05/2017	RedCLARA



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
EU-LAC	Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean
NREN	National Research and Education Network
GSC	Global Science Community



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WP5 of the MAGIC project is devoted to creating and coordinating relevant research communities (Global Science Communities) comprising representatives from all possible world regions. The project is supporting communities in four thematic areas: e-Health; Biodiversity; Environment; and Remote Instrumentation, especially on the use of collaborative applications, and help them find funding opportunities for their joint research activities. Emphasis is also being placed on disseminating the collected information worldwide and specifically to the selected user communities.

This Deliverable D5.4 reports on virtual meetings and seminars of the Global User Communities. It directly relates to the activities carried out as part of Task 5.6, which is involved with animation of the communities. The communities held their opening conferences during the month of February 2016 and thereafter a series of events were held with the communities. The activities were both held virtually and face to face.

DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Requests for amendments to this document should be made to the authors, Tiwonge Banda, F&A Manager, UbuntuNet tiwonge.banda@ubuntunet.net and Tania Altamirano, Community Coordinator, RedCLARA tania.altamirano-lopez@redclara.net (both WP5) and copied to the Management of the MAGIC project: magic-all@listas.redclara.net



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose of the Document

This document, Deliverable D5.4, of the MAGIC project reports on the activities of the 4 Global Science Communities that are being supported by the MAGIC project. Four Global Science Communities were established towards the end of 2015 around the themes of e-Health, Environment, Biodiversity and Remote Instrumentation. The establishment of the communities was reported in D5.1 - Guidelines, objective, directives and strategic work plan of the MAGIC Global Science Communities. Some of the events of the communities, especially on Global Virtual Days on Priority Areas and on International Calls have been reported in D5.2 and 5.3.

1.2. Structure of the Document

The document consists of four major sections. This first section gives introductory information about the project and the deliverable, and an introductory outline of the content to the document. The second provides information about the opening conferences that were held for the four Global Science Communities. The Third presents the events of the communities focused on best practice and experience sharing. The forth section provides information about the closing sessions that the project had with community champions. The Conclusion is summarised in section 5. The last section informs the reader about where to forward possible comments.

2. OPENING CONFERENCES FOR THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITIES

As previously reported in D5.1 - Guidelines, objective, directives and strategic work plan of the MAGIC Global Science Communities, four Global Science Communities were established towards the end of 2015 around the themes of Environment, Biodiversity, e-Health and Remote Instrumentation. The first three priority areas were adopted from the ELCIRA project. The forth one was a special request from a community in Mexico working on remote instrumentation (shared laboratories, who were interested in scaling to a global level).

After establishment and identification of community Champions, opening conferences were organised for the communities. The opening conferences were held during the month of February 2016, each facilitated by the Community Champion. The events were promoted through the MAGIC website, the community spaces on Colaboratorio, partner websites and news channels. The purpose of the opening conferences was to provide a platform for the members of the community to interact, share experience and map the next steps with the work of their community.

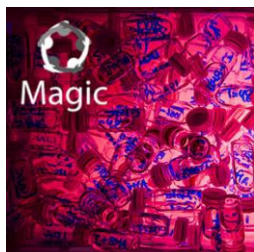


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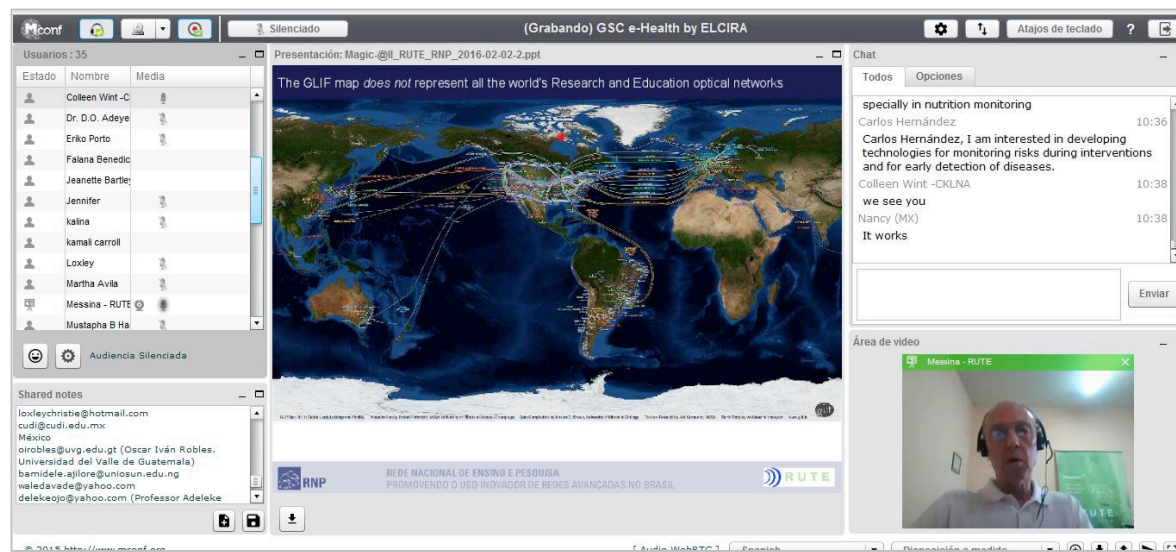
2.1. OPENING CONFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY ON E-HEALTH, 2 FEBRUARY 2016



The Opening Conference for the Global Science Community on e-Health was held on 2 February 2016, 2-4pm GMT via the community web conferencing room on Colaboratorio. The event programme featured a key presentation by Professor Luiz Messina, the community champion, titled: The State of Telemedicine in Brazil using NREN Network. The presentation focused on telemedicine activities that he has been working on in Brazil using the national research and education network (NREN) infrastructure. This was followed by a question and answer session, where participants discussed next steps of strengthening e-Health collaboration at global level. A presentation on Colaboratorio, the virtual platform was also given in order to give the members of the community a start on the platform.

The event was attended by 45 participants from across the world. The majority of participants came from the Osun State University, Nigeria where a room filled with faculty and students in the College of Health Sciences participated. The participants agreed as a way forward to launch a survey to determine common interests based upon which the next steps would be formulated. The survey was launched and the outcome was a proposal to develop Grand Rounds on the topics (this is covered later in the report).

Further information, including presentations and link to a video recording of the event is available at the event page, reachable at: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/634/>



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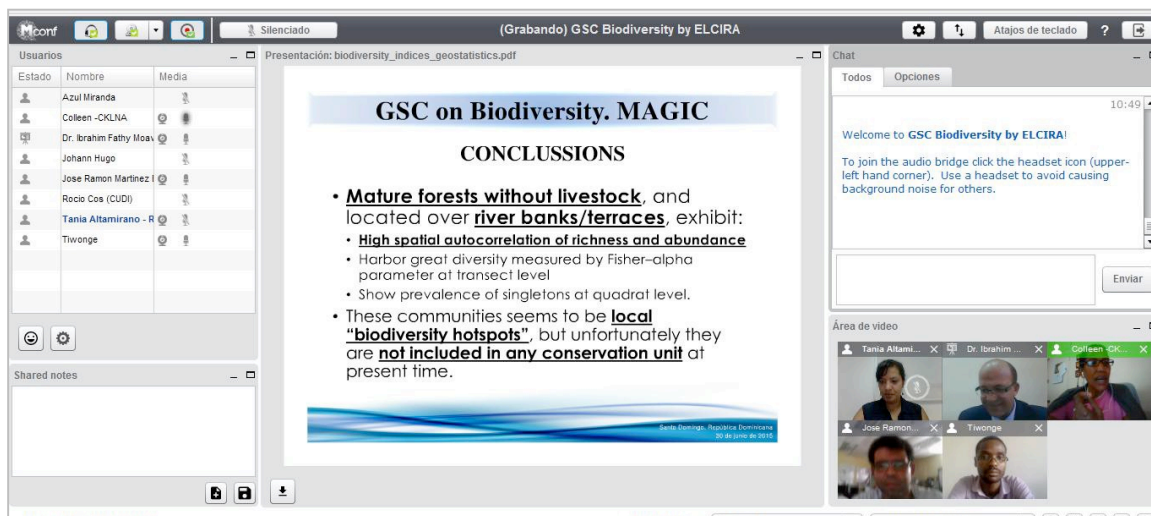
2.2. OPENING CONFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY ON BIODIVERSITY, 11 FEBRUARY 2016



The Global Science Community on Biodiversity held its Opening Conference on 11 February 2016 via the community web conferencing room on Colaboratorio. The event schedule included a presentation on MAGIC and Colaboratorio and a feature presentation on the Global Science Community on Biodiversity given by the community Champion, Professor Jose Ramon Martinez B, from the Martinez B., Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. His presentation focused on Biodiversity activities in his country and towards the end highlighted areas of potential global

collaboration and the need to hear what others were doing in their countries, which sparked a lot of interest. A follow up event was proposed where Dr Ibrahim Fathy Moawad of Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt was requested to share his experience.

Further information, including presentations and link to a video recording of the event is available at the event page, reachable at: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/639>.



The screenshot shows a web conferencing interface with the following components:

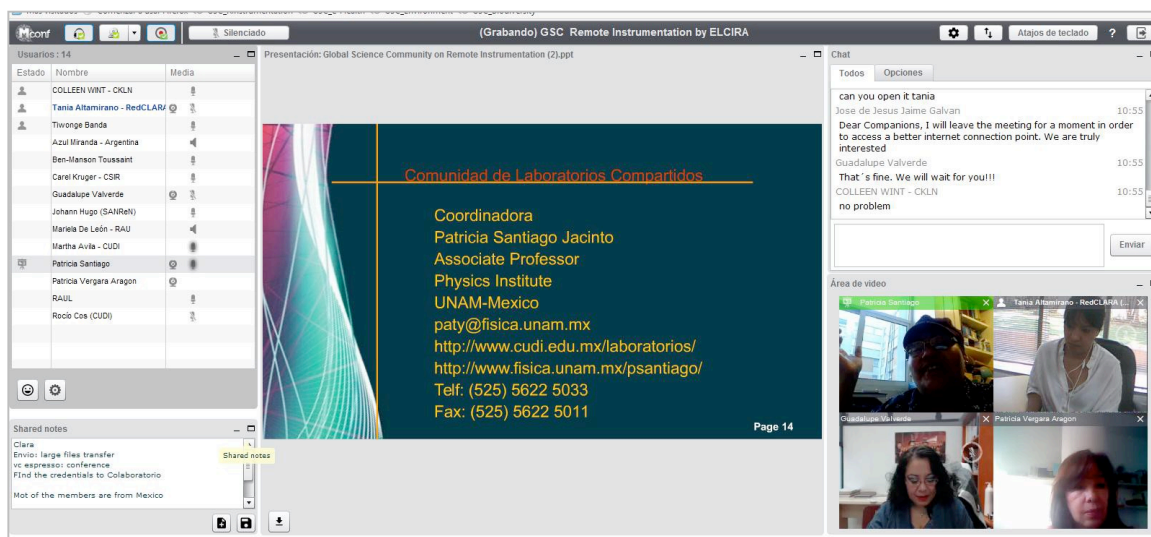
- Top Bar:** Includes a 'Silenciado' button, a title '(Grabando) GSC Biodiversity by ELCIRA', and a 'Atajos de teclado' button.
- Left Panel:** A 'Usuarios' list showing participants: Azul Miranda, Colleen-CKLNA, Dr. Ibrahim Fathy Moawad, Johann Hugo, Jose Ramon Martinez B, Rocio Cos (CUDI), Tania Altamirano - R, and Twonge.
- Center Panel:** A presentation slide titled 'GSC on Biodiversity. MAGIC CONCLUSIONS'. The slide content is as follows:
 - CONCLUSIONS**
 - Mature forests without livestock, and located over river banks/terraces, exhibit:**
 - High spatial autocorrelation of richness and abundance**
 - Harbor great diversity measured by Fisher-alpha parameter at transect level
 - Show prevalence of singletons at quadrat level.
 - These communities seems to be local "biodiversity hotspots", but unfortunately they are not included in any conservation unit at present time.**
- Right Panel:** A 'Chat' window with a welcome message: 'Welcome to GSC Biodiversity by ELCIRA! To join the audio bridge click the headset icon (upper-left hand corner). Use a headset to avoid causing background noise for others.' Below the chat is an 'Enviar' button.
- Bottom Right:** An 'Área de video' showing a grid of video feeds for participants: Tania Altamirano, Dr. Ibrahim Fathy Moawad, Colleen-CKLNA, Jose Ramon Martinez B, and Twonge.

2.3. OPENING CONFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY ON ENVIRONMENT, 18 FEBRUARY 2016



The Global Science Community on Environment held its opening conference on 18th February 2016 between 1-3pm GMT. The event programme started with a round of introductions from the participants followed by a presentation on MAGIC and Colaboratorio. Then Dr David Smith, the Community Champion gave a key note presentation titled, Aspects of Caribbean Sustainable Development, which in the event stimulated discussion on next steps. The event was attended by participants from various parts of the world and included some participants that had not yet expressed interest in joining the global community.

Further information, including presentations and link to a video recording of the event is available at the event page, reachable at: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/640/>.



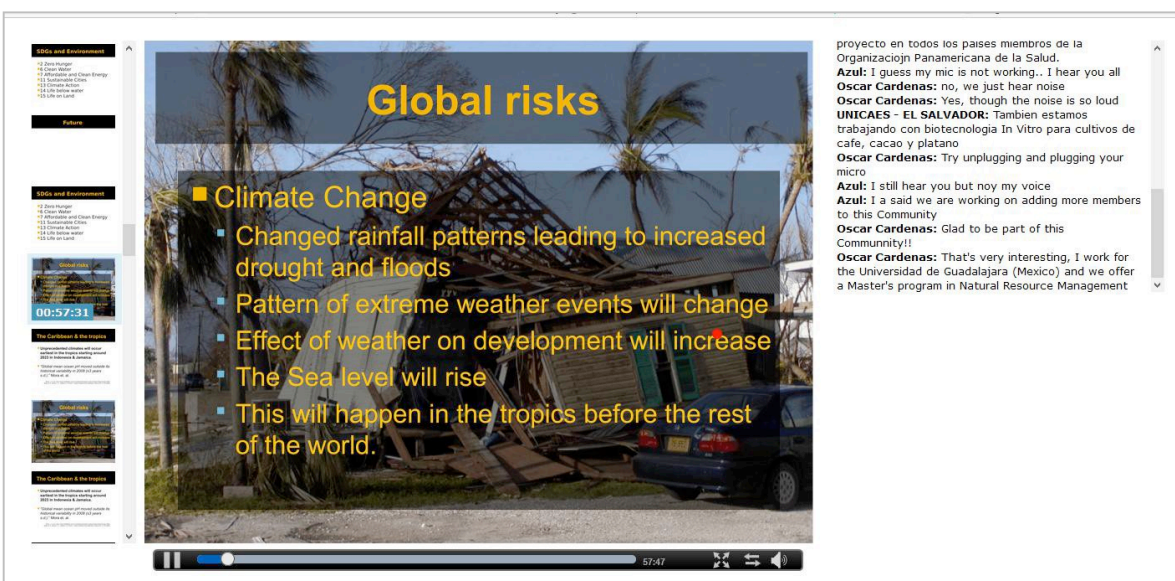
2.4. OPENING CONFERENCE FOR THE GLOBAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY ON REMOTE INSTRUMENTATION, 25 FEBRUARY 2016



The Opening Conference for the Global Science Community on Remote Instrumentation was held on 25th February 2016 via the web conferencing room for the community on Colaboratorio. The event generated a lot of enthusiasm among participants as many wanted to find out what it was all about. Some participants were drawn from the other Global Science Communities. Professor Patricia Santiago, the community champion gave a key note presentation for the community where she shared her experience and work carried out in the field of synthesis and Structural characterization

of advanced and nanostructured materials. The session also included presentations on MAGIC project and Colaboratorio it give the participants a general context. At the end of the session participants agreed to organise another session focused remote instrumentation as applied in health. The follow up event was held on 30th July 2016.

Further information, including presentations and link to a video recording of the event is available at the event page, reachable at: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/641/>



Global risks

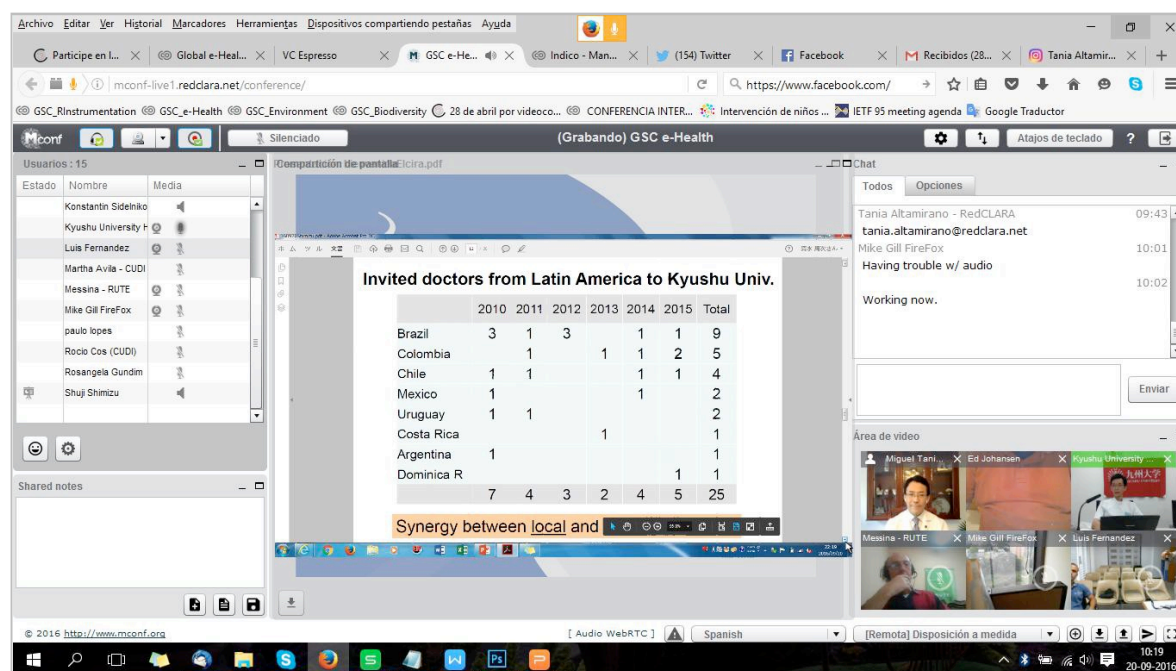
- Climate Change
 - Changed rainfall patterns leading to increased drought and floods
 - Pattern of extreme weather events will change
 - Effect of weather on development will increase
 - The Sea level will rise
 - This will happen in the tropics before the rest of the world.

proyecto en todos los países miembros de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud.
Azul: I guess my mic is not working.. I hear you all
Oscar Cardenas: no, we just hear noise
Oscar Cardenas: Yes, though the noise is so loud
UNICAES - EL SALVADOR: También estamos trabajando con biotecnología In Vitro para cultivos de café, cacao y plátano
Oscar Cardenas: Try unplugging and plugging your micro
Azul: I still hear you but not my voice
Azul: I a said we are working on adding more members to this Community
Oscar Cardenas: Glad to be part of this Community!!
Oscar Cardenas: That's very interesting, I work for the Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico) and we offer a Master's program in Natural Resource Management

3. BEST PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING EVENTS

With the four Global Science Communities launched, the project then moved on to animate the communities with activities. Initially, these events were planned to all be held virtually, but it was quickly learnt that for proper focus, anchorage and sustainability there needed to be community face to face meetings held back to back with major partner events. Therefore, best practice and experience sharing events were held in both virtual and face to face approaches.

3.1. GLOBAL E-HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS, 6 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER 2016



The screenshot shows a virtual meeting interface with a presentation slide titled "Invited doctors from Latin America to Kyushu Univ." The slide contains a table with the following data:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Brazil	3	1	3		1	1	9
Colombia		1		1	1	2	5
Chile	1	1			1	1	4
Mexico	1				1		2
Uruguay	1	1					2
Costa Rica				1			1
Argentina	1						1
Dominica R						1	1
Total	7	4	3	2	4	5	25

Below the table, the text "Synergy between local and" is visible. The interface also shows a list of users on the left, a chat window on the right, and a video area at the bottom right.

Within the health fraternity, grand rounds are held regularly as a platform for experience sharing, teaching and patient care. In collaboration with the e-Health Community Champion, Prof Luiz Messina, a call for presentation for the e-Health Grand Rounds was prepared and published in June 2016 where potential presenters were requested to submit proposals for presentations on the following topics (that were collected through a survey after the Opening Conference): eHealth (Health informatics, Telemedicine and Telehealth); Cardiology; Standards for Telemedicine and Health



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Informatics; and Child and Adolescent Health. Twenty-two abstracts were submitted and all of them were of high

The Grand Rounds were held during the months of September and October, each running for 2 hours. A total of 22 papers were presented. The presenters were from Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Japan, Mexico, Moldova, Russia and USA. The Grand Rounds were held as follows:

- eHealth I (Health informatics, Telemedicine and Telehealth), 6th September 2016
- Cardiology I, 13 September 2016
- eHealth II (Health informatics, Telemedicine and Telehealth), 20th September 2016
- Child and Adolescent Health, 27th September 2016
- eHealth III (Health informatics, Telemedicine and Telehealth), 4th October 2016
- Cardiology II, 11 October 2016



Global e-Health Grand Rounds

This series of virtual Grand Rounds is an opportunity to learn about the different experiences related to e-Health from around the world, contributing and sharing knowledge and exploring the possibility of collaboration.

Mark your calendar

- September 6, 2016 - eHealth I
- September 13, 2016 - Cardiology I
- September 20, 2016 - eHealth II
- September 27, 2016 - Child and Adolescent Health
- October 04, 2016 - eHealth III
- October 11, 2016 - Cardiology II

Join the session through VC Espresso
<http://vcpresso.redclara.net/vc/ehealth>

 **For more information and REGISTRATION please go to:**
http://eventos.redclara.net/e/eHealth_Grand_Rounds


Magic

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The Grand rounds generated global interest at both presenter and participant level and created a rare platform where specialists presented their work. After each session, participants were called to complete a survey, results of which were all positive.

Further details about the Global e-Health Grand Rounds, including full presentations and links to video recordings are available at the event series web page, which is reachable at: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/713/>.

3.2. FACE TO FACE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The project organized five face to face community interactions aimed at fostering global collaborations with a local perspective. The events were held back to back with major regional events of partners as follows:

3.2.1. Global Science Communities, that 's MAGIC! IST-Africa 2016, Durban South Africa, 12th May 2016



MAGIC held a generic session at IST-Africa 2016 in Durban, South Africa, with the aim of promoting the four Global Science Communities. The 90 minute session was held back to back with the AfricaConnect2 session organised by UbuntuNet Alliance, GEANT, WACREN and ASREN (all partners in MAGIC). The session was attended by 40 participants, most of them from academia within Africa.

The session was facilitated by Colleen Wint-Bond of CKLN and featured two main presentations followed by a moderated discussion on Global Science Communities. The first presentation introduced the MAGIC Global Science Communities, whereas the second one was concentrated on Colaboratorio as a virtual platform enabling global collaboration of the communities. The project received positive feedback from participants and one thing that kept resonating was the challenge of connectivity in most African countries, something NRENs in the region and the AfricaConnect2 project are sorting out.

3.2.2. Pre-Conference Workshop on End User Engagement, UbuntuNet-Connect 2016, Entebbe, Uganda, 2nd November 2016



The second face to face event was held as a pre-conference event for UbuntuNet-Connect 2016 in Entebbe, Uganda. UbuntuNet-Connect is the annual conference of UbuntuNet Alliance, the regional network for Eastern and Southern Africa. The workshop was held against the background that there was a disconnect between most African NRENs and end user communities as the NRENs were not engaging the communities. This was impacting on the trickling down of the MAGIC project. To address this, the project engaged with NREN managers from Eastern and Southern Africa and some members from end user communities to try to identify the problem come up with possible solutions. It was realised that the NRENs were focused on building networks and did not have dedicated staff committed to engaging communities as was the case with their European peers. As a way forward, the NREN managers were encouraged to put in place deliberate effort in identifying and supporting communities.

Experience sharing at the workshop included lessons from RedCLARA, GEANT and NORDUnet all talking on how they interact with their communities of practice. Maximus Byamukama, a PhD student from Makerere University working in the field of environmental monitoring gave a presentation on a NORAD funded project, WIMEA-ICT, (Improving Weather Information. Management in East Africa for effective service provision through the application of suitable ICTs). The agenda also included presentations from sister H2020 projects Sci-GalA and TANDEM on how they were each interacting with their communities.



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3.2.3. Global Science Communities, the Biodiversity Case, e-AGE 2016, Beirut, Lebanon, 1st December 2006



The third face to face event was held at the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon on 1st December 2016 as part of e-AGE 2016, the annual conference for the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN). The event, which run for 90 minutes had a special focus on Biodiversity and was an extension of the Global Science Community on Biodiversity in the Arab States. The aim of the event was to grow the Global Science Community on Biodiversity in the Arab region and to share experience.

The session included seven presentations, three of which were feature presentations on various topics in Biodiversity. A prominent member of the Global Science Community, Dr Ibrahim Fathy Moawad from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt participated in the event and shared his experience. Besides, the MAGIC and Colaboratorio presentations, the core thematic presentations were:

- The flora of Lebanon at your fingerprints by Rhea Kahale, Project Manager, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon
- Biodiversity Informatics: Scientific Data Management by Ibrahim Fathy Moawad, Associate Professor, Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, Ain Shams University, Egypt
- Mapping Potential Responsible Hunting Areas in Lebanon by Manal R. Nader, Director, Institute of the Environment, University of Balamand, Lebanon

Presentations and a video recording of the full session are available on the e-AGE 2016 website at: <http://asrenorg.net/eage2016/?q=content/program>.



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3.2.4. Supporting Campus Libraries to embed NREN Services and e-Infrastructure, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 27-28 March 2017

WACREN, as part of the TANDEM project found that one of the best approaches of engaging communities of practice was through National Focal Points who work closely with the NREN on one hand and the communities on the other. WACREN quickly realised that the initiative would be more rewarding and effective if each institution had a Focal Point and the best persons suited for this purpose are librarians. WACREN therefore organized a workshop for campus librarians in West and Central Africa and invited MAGIC to share experience.

The workshop was held on 27-28 March 2017 as a pre-conference event at WACREN 2017, the annual research and education networking conference in West and Central Africa. MAGIC contributed to the workshop with presentations on Colaboratorio and an introduction to Global Science Communities, encouraging the librarians to disseminate. As a result, a short training session on Colaboratorio was held with some librarians that wanted to use the platform for organising their own communities.

Further details of the event, including links to presentations are available on the event website at: <https://indico.wacren.net/event/50/>.



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3.2.5. e-Infrastructures for Worldwide Collaboration: assessing the present and road mapping the future, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, 28-29 March 2017



Work Package 5 also coordinated the planning and organisation of a Joint Workshop with sister projects TANDEM and Sci-GALA again as a pre-conference event at WACREN 2017. The event was held under theme: e-Infrastructures for Worldwide Collaboration: assessing the present and road mapping the future, on 28-29 March 2017. The aim of the workshop was to share community engagement experience and map the way forward in terms of sustainability of the efforts.

The joint workshop was held in form of both panel discussions and presentations. Each of the three projects gave an overview of how it carried out its interaction with communities, then on the second day a moderated discussion ensued on how best to sustain the engagement with communities as the projects were drawing to the end. As a way forward the joint workshop concluded that Regional Research and Education Networks were best placed to continue the work of coordinating end user communities at global and regional levels, while the effort at national level would be sustained by NRENs supported by focal points where they exist (both national and/or institutional).

Further details of the event, including links to presentations are available on the event website at: <https://indico.wacren.net/event/51/>.

3.2.6. Caribbean MAGIC: Enhancing Collaboration in Research and Education, Bridgetown, Barbados, 10-12 April 2017



Work Packages 5 and 2 joined hands and organised a 2-day technical and 1 day community event focused on the Caribbean region on 10-12 April 2017. The event combined the Global Science Communities of Environment and e-Health and discussed issues that border on the two subjects. The event was held at Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, with local coordination by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES). The objectives of the Enviro-Health session were:

- introduce the collaborative tools and platform, Colaboratorio
- share potential funding opportunities for collaborative initiatives
- present and share research findings, project initiatives on relevant climate change, water and resultant healthcare issues in the Caribbean
- stimulate greater collaboration of these communities of interest and practice through global contacts and the technological platforms and tools provided by the MAGIC project
- develop collaborative project and/or research ideas based on concerns or gaps and tailored to potential funding



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Collaborating to globally connect researchers and academics

Building on the success of the ELCLARA project, RedCLARA –with partners from Africa, Arab States, Asia, Europe, Latin America and The Caribbean- is leading MAGIC, a cooperation project which aims to significantly improve the ability of researchers and academics around the world to collaborate together.

General Objective

To establish a set of agreements for participating world regions to consolidate/complete middleware for a marketplace of services and real-time applications to benefit global science communities.

Specific Objectives

- To enable mobility and seamless access to services by:
 - promoting the establishment of identity federations connected to eduGAIN;
 - creating awareness of privacy and security issues;
 - increasing uptake of resources;
- To enable the provision of collaboration tools and services among WRENs based on WREN run applications made available via a worldwide application market;
- To seek consensus on interoperability of real-time applications and work towards the adoption of standards such as those proposed by the Global CEO Forum;
- To foster the collaborative work of Global Science Communities by actively promoting the participation of researchers in European Commission Calls, etc.

Granted by the EC Horizon 2020

EU Contribution: 1,388,972€
START: May 1st 2015
END: 2017

Members

- RedCLARA (Latin America) - Coordinator
- GEANT (Europe)
- RENATA (Colombia)
- RNP (Brazil)
- SURFnet (Netherlands)
- BEUNA (Chile)
- CEDIA (Ecuador)
- CUDEI (Mexico)
- RENAITER (France)
- GRNET (Greece)
- CESNET (Czech Republic)
- UbuntuNet Alliance (S&E Africa)
- WACREN (W&A Africa)
- ASREN (Arab States)
- TEINPCC (Asia-Pacific)
- CAREN NCC - NITC (Central Asia)
- NIFI (Hungary)
- CSIR (South Africa)

What is a Global Science Community - GSC?
A group of experts (researchers and/or academics) from different parts of the world with a common interest, working together on activities, sharing best practices, knowledge and experiences.

Their activities provide opportunities to learn and share knowledge and experiences related to their thematic area of interest, and explore collaboration possibilities. Each MAGIC GSC thematic area is led by a champion - an expert advisor in that field.

GSC are currently...

- Benefitting from MAGIC providing information on global funding opportunities for endusers and communities.
- Developing of a set of Worldwide Virtual days to foster collaboration at a worldwide scale on the GSC topics.
- Running H2020 Virtual information days to promote participation in international calls.
- Getting training material for the use of MAGIC's provided applications for collaboration.
- Convening virtual meetings and seminars.

How to participate in a GSC?
To be part of the activities you need to be registered in the Colaboratorio platform and join the Community you are interested in.

Colaboratorio is a platform developed by RedCLARA to support and promote the collaboration of scientific and academic groups initially intended for users in Latin America.

For more information please write to the GSC team leader, Thorgeir Sævi, at thorgeir.saevi@ubuntunet.net.

MAGIC Project: <http://magic-project.eu/>

**With effort, collaboration and
commitment, a community becomes
a strong tree that bears good fruit**



The first 2 days of the event were technical and concentrated on eduoam and eduGAIN with the idea of ensuring that IT staff were able to support the needs of their research and academic staff. The participants were drawn from the Caribbean region. The training was facilitated by Brook Schofield of GEANT. At the end 2 days the participants highlighted the need for an organisation to play the role of coordination at regional level in the roll out of services. This is the gap that was left with the discontinuation of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN).

The last day, which was dubbed Environ-Health brought the two communities of Environment and e-Health to discuss common subjects. The session was officially opened by Dr Janice Cumberbatch, the Assistant Director of CERMES, and Mr. Marc Thill, Head of Cooperation at the European Union in Barbados brought greetings, and highlighted the Horizon 2020 framework programme as a collaborative funding opportunity that is open to participation from across the world.

The presenters were, Dr. David Smith, from the Institute for Sustainable Development, UWI, Mona, Ms. Crystal Drakes, Research Associate, CERMES; Dr. John Charley, Coordinator of Computer



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Science, Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics, UWI and Climate Studies



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Group; and Dr Heather Harewood, Clinical Public Health Specialist, Faculty of Medical Science, UWI, Cave Hill.

Further details about the event including presentations with their recommendations can be found at the event website: <https://eventos.redclara.net/indico/event/794>.

4. CLOSING SESSIONS

In the final week of the MAGIC project, closing sessions were held with Community Champions with the aim of obtaining lessons learnt and challenges faced. While the champions praised the global Science Communities as a global unifying force and platform for experience sharing, they were able to quickly point out the following as challenges of working in a virtual global environment:

- a) Language – it is not easy to collaborate globally in one particular language as many find themselves disadvantaged and not able to properly express themselves. A way needs to be found to overcome this.
- b) Connectivity – to better collaborate virtually good connectivity is a necessity. However, it is clear that many countries, especially in Africa still face connectivity challenges and as a result cannot effectively participate. There is hope that this will be overcome soon with projects like AfricaConnect2.
- c) Lack of e-collaboration culture – to many the culture of collaborating electronically is not there. People are still glued to traditional means of working and few are willing to collaborate. This needs to change.

On a positive side, there is a general consensus that the Global Science Communities helped bring people from various parts of the world to share experience and learn from each other.

5. CONCLUSION

The MAGIC project has shown that despite challenges of collaborating in a global environment, it is possible to do so. Lessons have been learnt as presented in this deliverable. It is clear that for such global efforts to be sustained, regional research and education networks must play a coordination role in supporting of the communities with the hand of their national counterparts. Virtual events alone are not enough for sustained activity especially that it is not all regions that are well connected. Regular thematic face to face events are good as well to ensure human interactions and relationship building.



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