AARC Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration

Sitting under a broad-leaved AARC-TREE

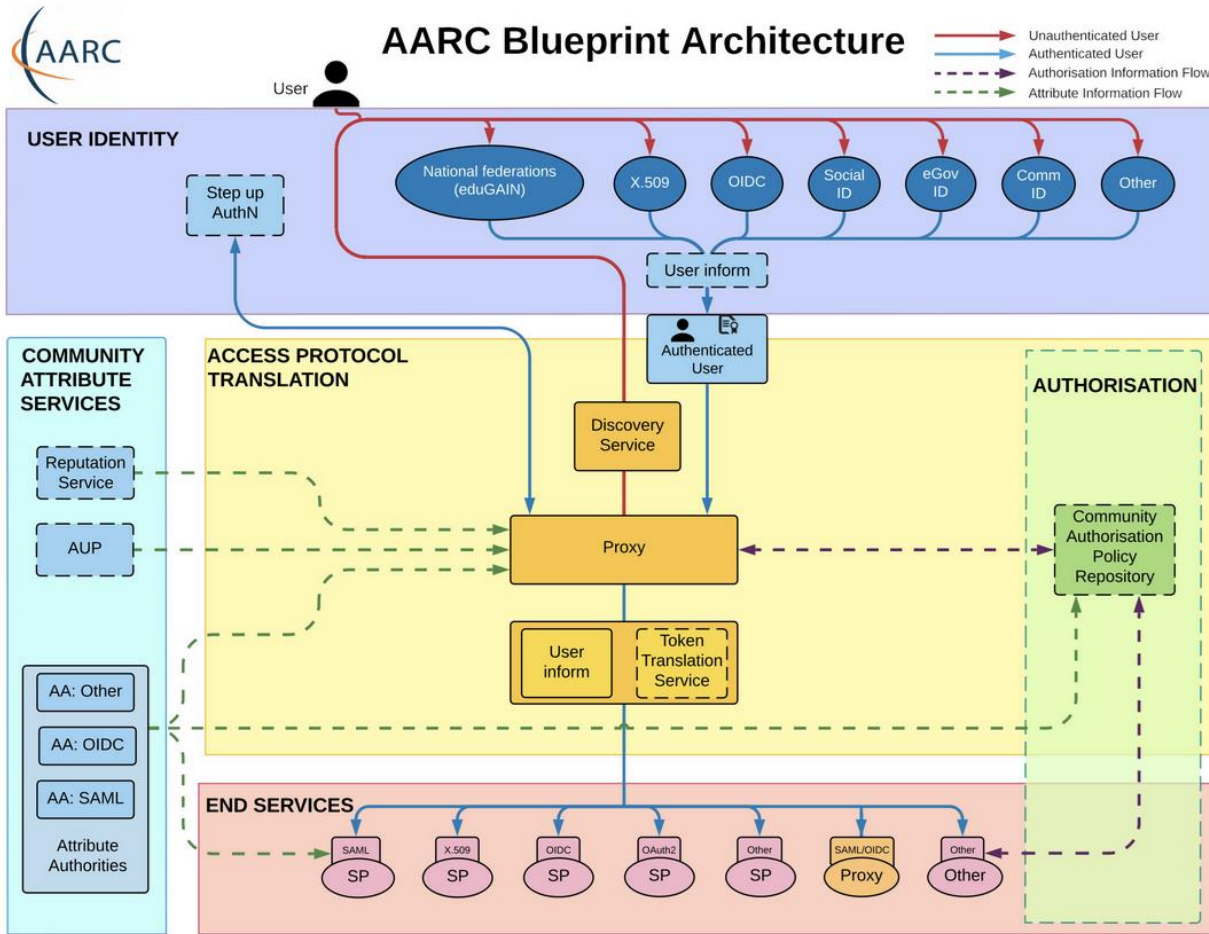making authentication & authorization for research collaboration even better

David Groep

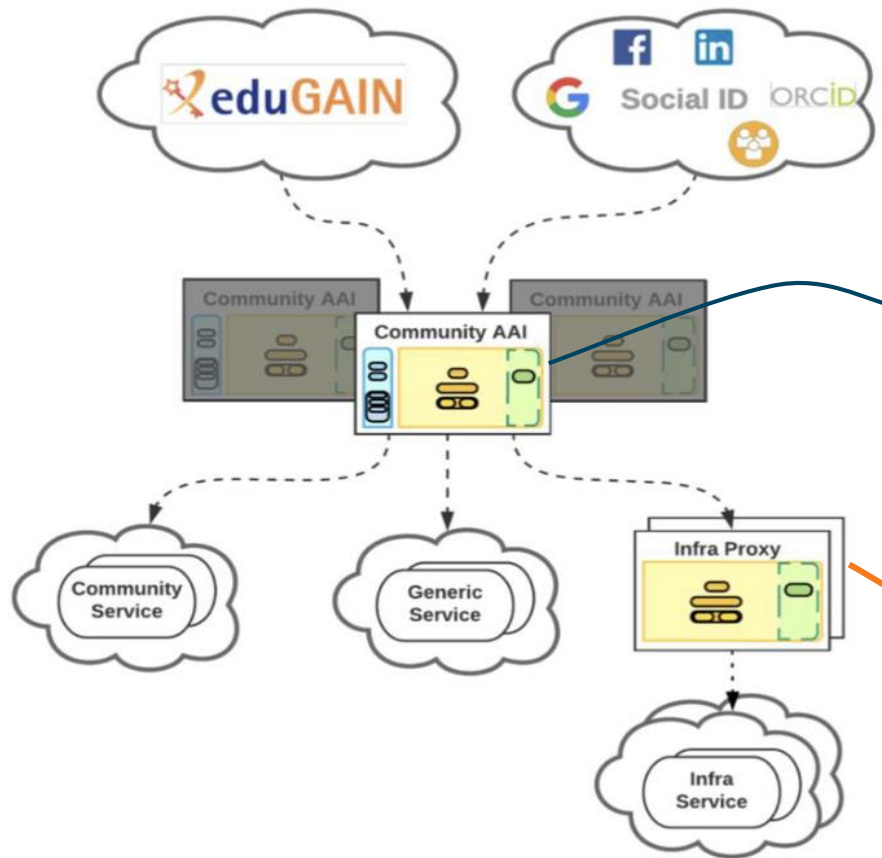Nikhef   Maastricht University

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

International Symposium on Grids and Clouds (ISGC) 2024
Taipei, March 2024

AARC – Authentication and Authorisation for Research Collaboration

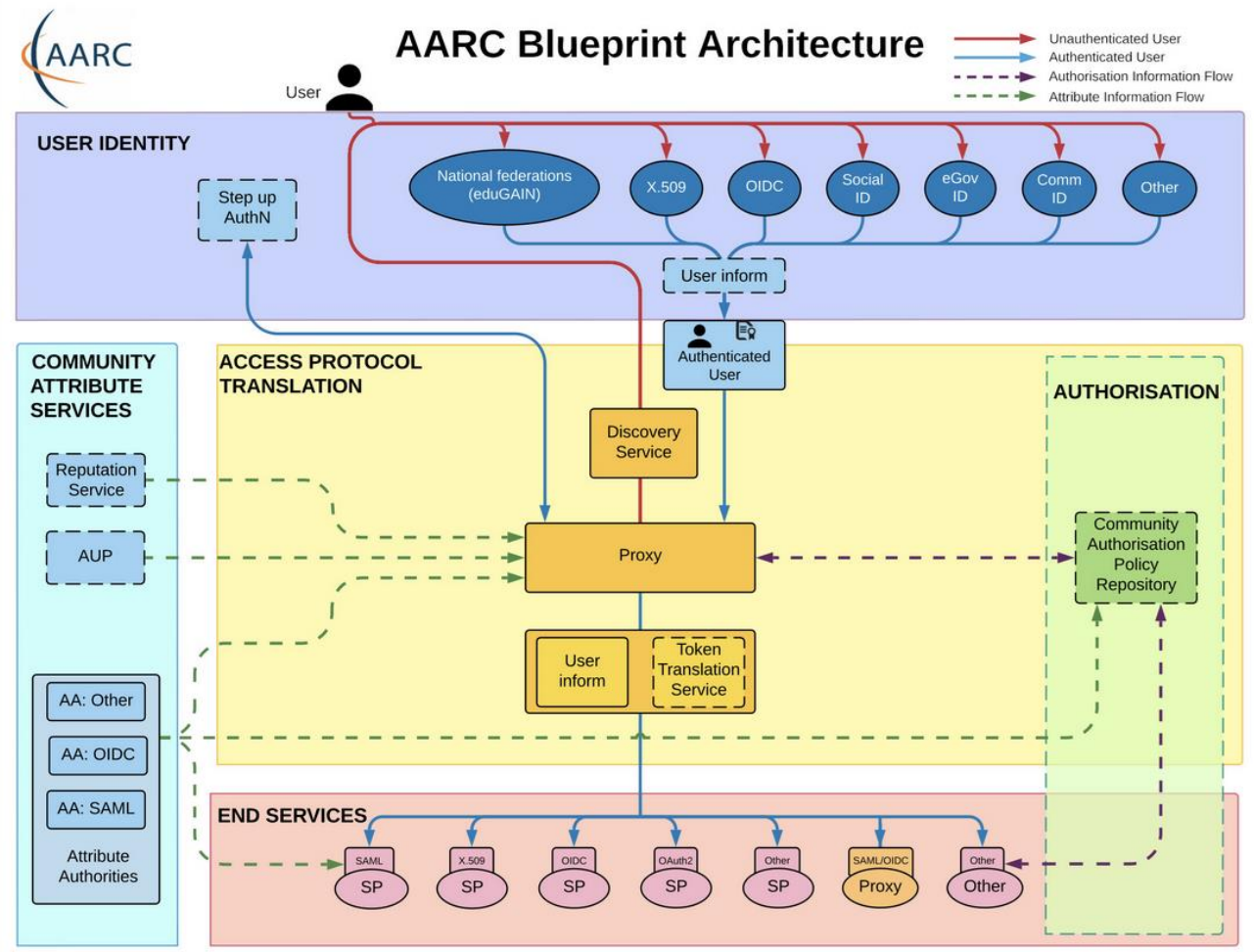# The Community AAI and the Infrastructure Proxy: definition

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

Interoperability – more than just the nice colours

https://aarc-community.org/guidelines/

But it's getting more complex ...
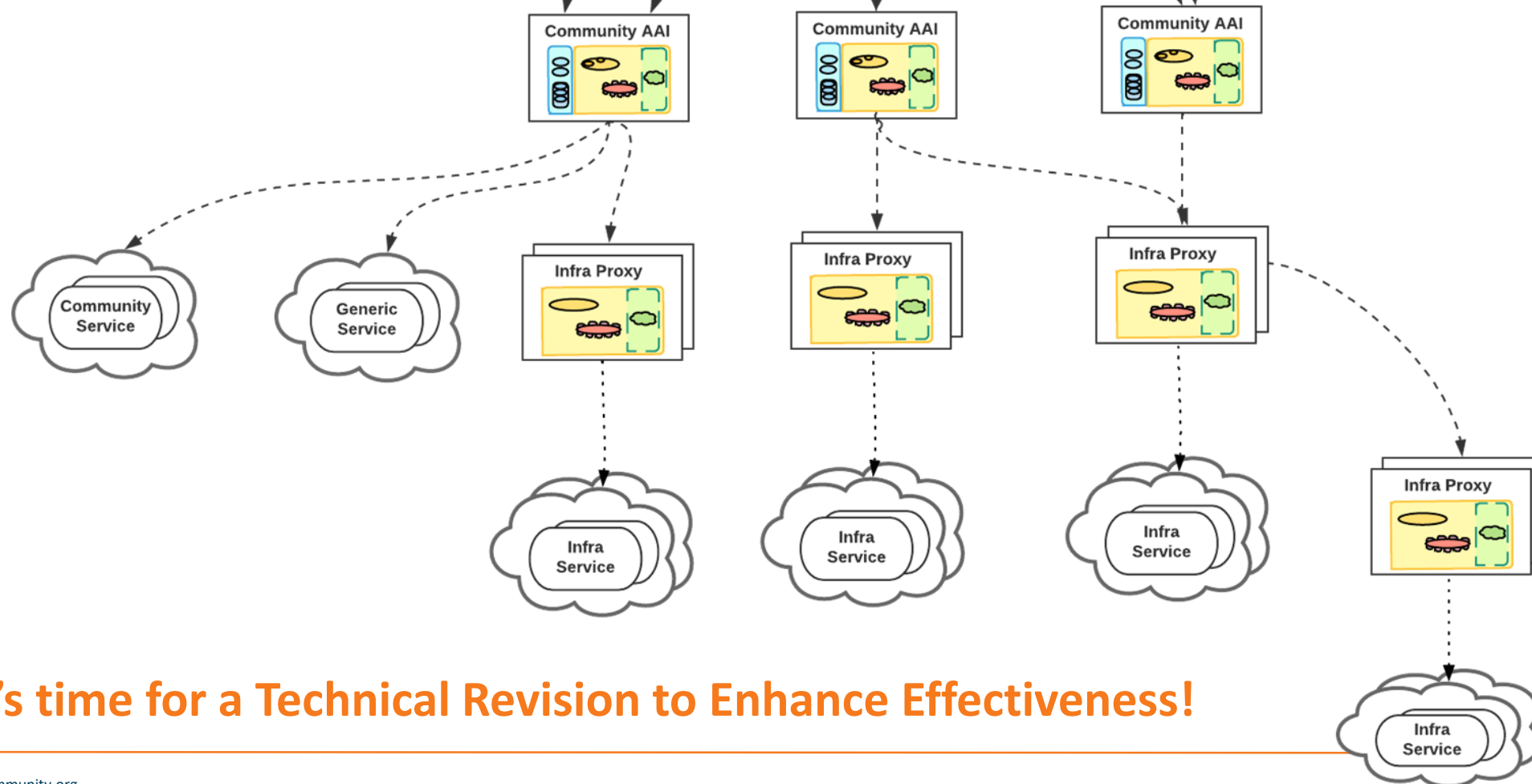
... it's time for a Technical Revision to Enhance Effectiveness!

What will AARC TREE bring?

Capture and **analyse** new authentication and authorisation interoperability requirements (that support integration use-cases across the thematic area) and **provide** a landscape analysis of AAIs services (including gaps) in the RIs represented in AARC TREE

Expand the number of research communities that can implement the AARC BPA and/or the AARC guidelines, by providing a validation environment and toolkits. At the same time support existing AARC communities in adopting new guidelines

Define and **validate** new technical and policy guidelines for the AARC BPA that address RIs use-cases. This will improve the integration of RIs across thematic areas and increase the ability of RIs to support emerging needs

Bring RIs, e-Infrastructures and relevant stakeholders **together** to align strategies to integrate new technologies, better interoperate and share resources across thematic areas and produce a compendium and recommendations for different stakeholders

AARC TREE Main Facts: Expected results

Updated AARC BPA

Recommendations for a common long-term strategy for AAI services

Updated interoperability framework
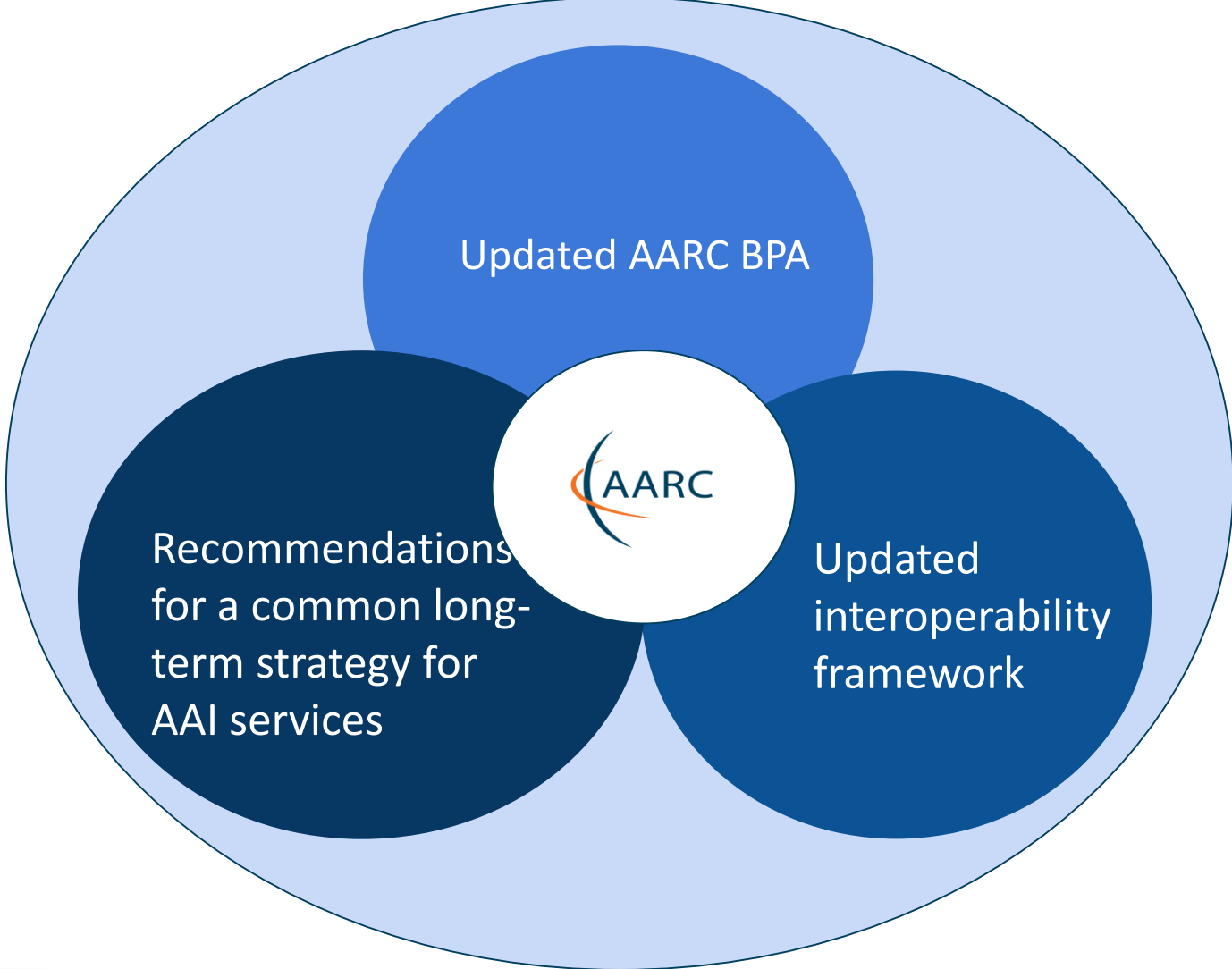
The AARC TREE in the Trust and Identity Landscape

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
- This is 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@aarc-community.org
  https://lists.geant.org/sympa/info/aarc-na3

Technology

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

guidelines for **harmonising expression of community user attributes**
- **reduce inconsistencies** between implementations
- improve **interoperability** & **end-user usability** across research community communities and infrastructures
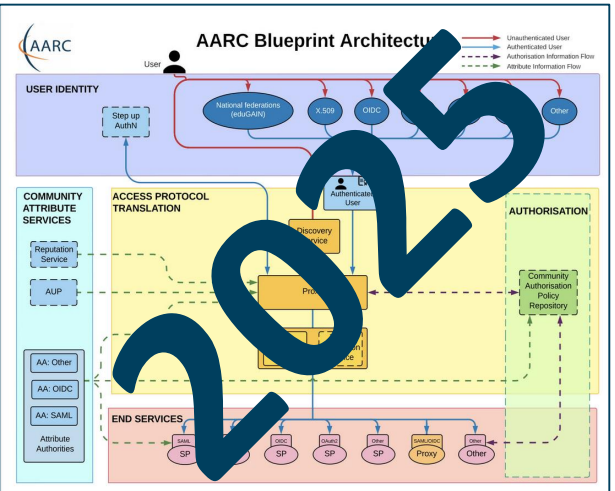
Extend AARC BPA
- improve **scalability**
- leverage emerging standards like **OpenID Federation**

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

Decentralised identities
- guidance for **digital wallets** linked to BPA

How to *express* community identity attributes?

- *"How to express the **identifier** of a user?"*
  → AARC-G026

- *"How to express the **groups and roles** of a user?"*
  → AARC-G069 (was AARC-G002)

- *"How to express **resource capabilities** of a user?"*
  → AARC-G027

- *"How to express the **home institute** of a user?"*
  → AARC-G025

- *How to express user **assurance** information when interacting with another proxy?"*
  → RAF & AARC-G021
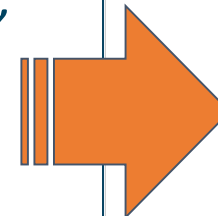
AARC-G056

AARC profile for expressing community identity attributes
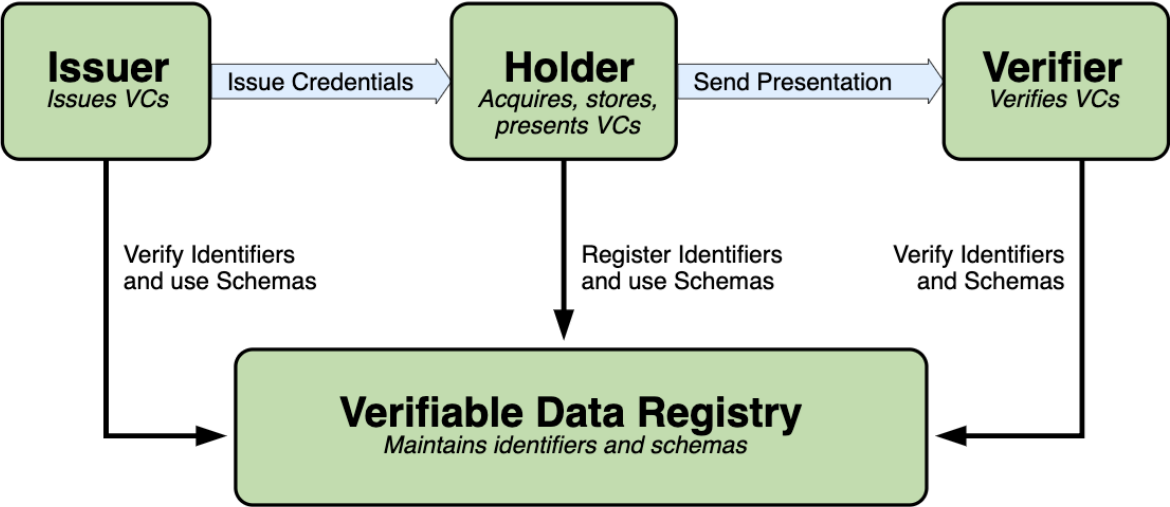
DRAFT

Abstract

This document defines a profile for expressing the attributes of a researcher's digital identity. The profile contains a common list of attributes and definitions based on existing standards and best practises in research & education. The attributes include identifiers, profile information, community attributes such as group membership and role information, as well as information about the authentication event and the identity assurance.

Decentralised identities

- Provide guidance on the use of decentralised identities and digital identity wallets
  - Explore Distributed Identifiers, Verifiable Credentials/Presentations & trust frameworks
- Support the EU Digital Identity Wallet (EDIW) initiative

https://www.w3.org/TR/vc-data-model/

AARC Blueprint Architecture 'BPA2025'!

AARC BPA 2019

OpenID Federations + **AuthZ for Federated Resources** + **Decentralised Identities & Wallets**

AARC BPA 2025
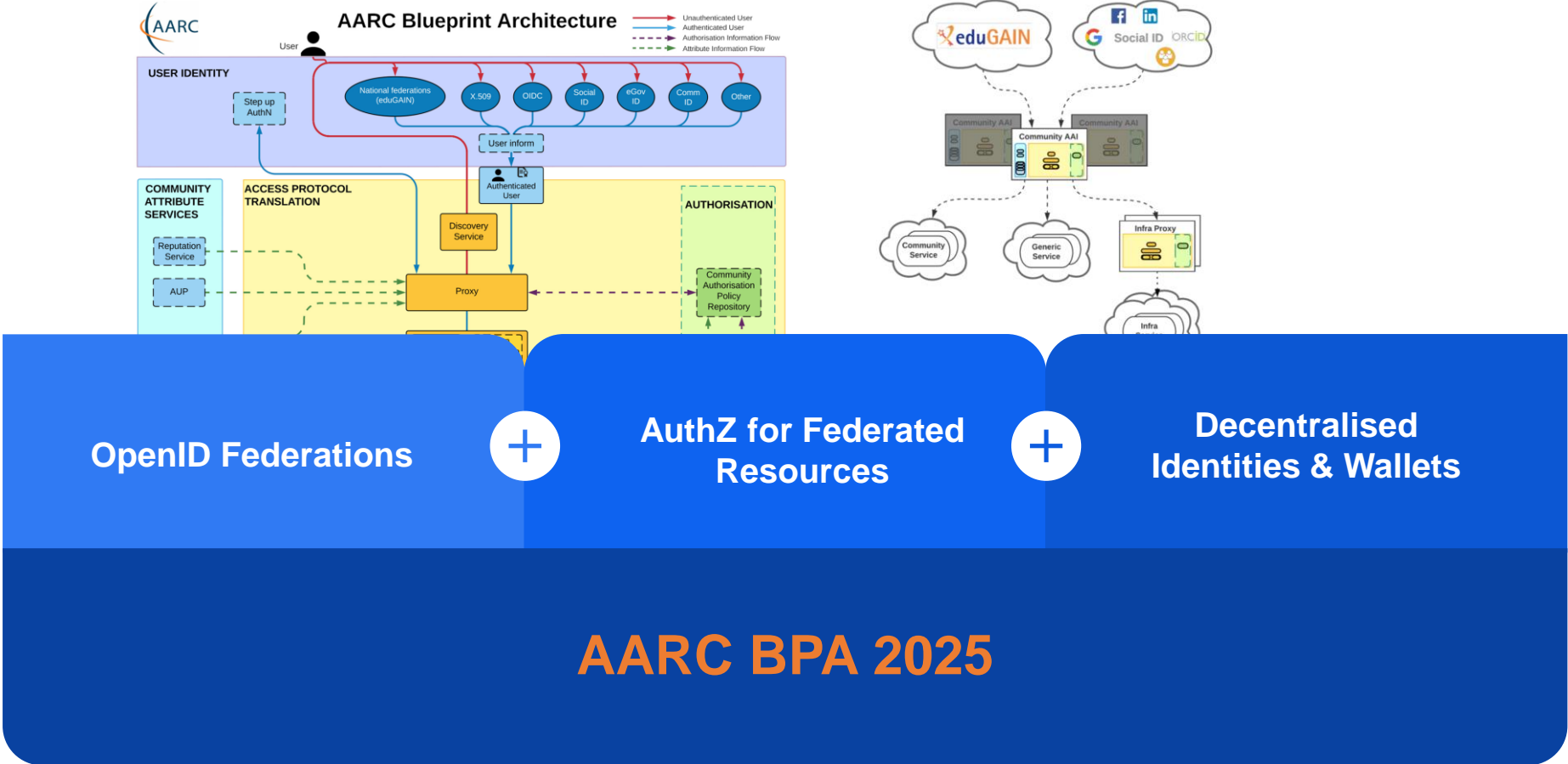
Policy and good practice harmonisation

Current PDK is targeted at *large and structured* communities – and quite complex

Objective: support the diverse and different policies needed now

Infrastructure alignment and policy harmonisation: helping out the proxy (started)

- 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 (starts in Q4 2024)

- 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 research user communities by **co-creation with FIM4R**, through policy workshops validating the restructured policy framework … together with the new BPA

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

AARC Blueprint Architecture

Community membership management directories and attribute authorities
- integrity of membership
- identification, traceability
- site and service security
- network protections
- assertion integrity

> Trust marks and expression
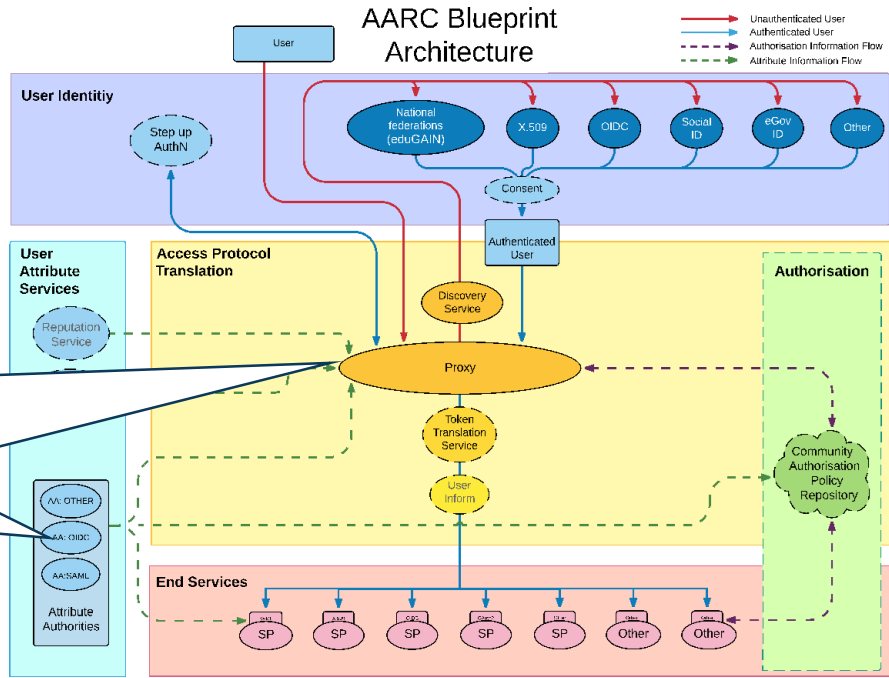
But when proxies are proxying proxies, can we proxy the trust?

Agree to a

common baseline

… an approach that was successful previously!

*… set of (one or more) guidelines that represent a widely agreed and jointly-developed **operational trust baseline** for infrastructure membership management and proxy components. Supplemented by policy guidance on how to connect sectoral federations with **more specific** policies. Driven by your (FIM4R, WISE, EOSC, …) feedback, and those of current 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 I present their Terms and Conditions, and their privacy policies, so that the users
  - only see the T&Cs and notices for services they will access
  - this does not to need to be manually configured for each community
  - is automatically updated when services join

as well as for community and dedicated proxies:

- when new (sensitive) services join, who needs to see the new T&Cs?

- can we communicate acceptance of T&Cs to services even if 'we' are small and 'they' are large?
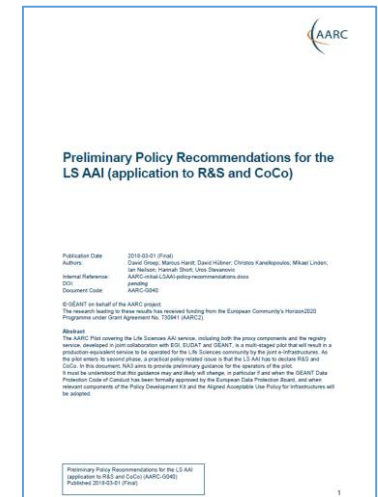
beyond AARC-G040

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

With Fewer Clicks to More Resources!

Helping out the community – a simpler policy toolkit for communities

What we heard and observe:

"small to mid-sized communities do not have the resources to maintain a bespoke community management policy"

Leaves both communities and operators of membership management services unclear about trust assurance level of members - current templates in toolkit too complex and prescriptive

Membership Management Policy	Infrastructure Management	Research Community (abides by)	This policy template defines how Research Communities should manage their members, including registration and expiration.
Acceptable Authentication Assurance	Infrastructure Management	Research Community, Services (abide by)	This is a placeholder for the Infrastructure to determine rules for the acceptable assurance profiles of user credentials.

- community consultation on the 'minimum viable community management' – we are here!

- template and implementation guidance (FAQ) on community lifecycle management

- how to implement the community management in the (EOSC) AAI services

We'll see more diverse sources of identity & assurance anyway

Most reliable (and most 'available') source of assurance may be the European government identity ecosystem.

- Step-up to at least substantial level can now readily be done 'at home' by users through their national eID schemes

- Joint work on eIDAS, Erasmus Student Mobility, and more makes this more accessible

- Better attainable than relying on home institutions?

… but:

- what to do with non-European users?

- how to link the identities together
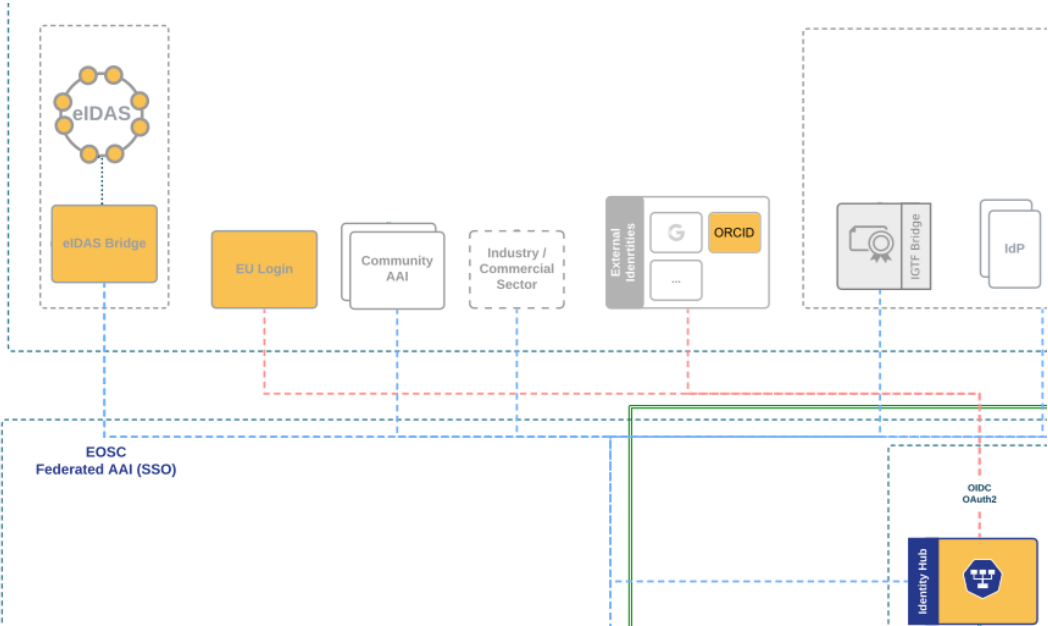
All About Enabling Research – FIM4R & communities are the driving factor

Also in AARC-TREE we target a "co-creation process" with the research communities:

- support FIM4R to increase the reach of workshops in the next 2 years

- community review *and* your ideas and input on both policy and architecture

- start from the high-level requirements and broad community input

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

Involving the user community from start to finish

Dedicated work package to collect requirements from (new) communities

Landscape analysis of AARC BPA adoption

- Conduct an AARC BPA **adoption survey** among the RIs,
  online survey accompanied by the arranged conversations with the individual RIs

- Collect information on current deployment of AARC BPA AAIs and adoption of guidelines

Result: **Landscape analysis of AARC BPA adoption (around December 2024)**

Use cases requirements & consultations

- Design and create survey (including technology and policy questions)
  based on FIM4Rv2 paper, Evolution, EOSC AAI TF requirements

- Engage FIM4R, AEGIS, EOSC AAI TF, National Ris, EU data spaces to capture requirements

- Discus with our ESFRIs to get expectations & requirements via consultations, workshops etc

Result: **Use cases requirements described in a white paper (target Q1 2025)**

Handover to Compendium

Adoption and validation

Pilots

- Validate the guidelines
- Technical feasibility
- Cross RIs

Start with:
- **WISE AUP and Privacy Notice across RIs**
- **OpenID Federations**

Validator suite

- Including online validator service

- **Validators to test implementations of guidelines**
- **Online validation service available to all**
- **Collaboration with AEGIS to test participating RIs**

Engage partners

- Get feedback
- Feasibility
- Technical correctness

Continuous cycle!

- *Collect* feedback from outside the project
- *Provide* feedback to technology and policy

Compendium and Recommendations

In the '2ⁿᵈ year' of climbing the tree (April 2025 - February 2026)

Publish the **compendium of AARC best practices**
and **deliver recommendations** for a common long-term strategy
for AAI services in pan-European Research Infrastructures in Europe

- based on the use case input ☺
- promotes proposed approach from architecture and policy activities
- iterate with the infrastructures at large to produce the final version

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!

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?

davidg@nikhef.nl

AARC

https://aarc-community.org