

## FAQ– STUDENTS/YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

*FTP Lightning Talk Challenge is a programme for students and young professionals from GÉANT affiliated organisations. Participation can open the door to the most prestigious global R&E Networking Conference - TNC21.*



**What is GÉANT?** GÉANT is the pan-European network that delivers a high-performance connectivity and advanced services to more than 50 million research and education users across 40 European countries. GÉANT interconnects European national research and education networks (NRENs) with a high-bandwidth and highly resilient backbone and links them to over 100 countries worldwide enabling collaboration on projects ranging from biological science to earth observation and arts & culture. [\[GÉANT\]](#)

**What's an NREN?** A national research and education network (NREN) is a dedicated internet infrastructure and service provider to the research and educational communities within a country.

**What is TNC?** The TNC Networking Conference is the largest and most prestigious European research networking conference, with more than 800 participants attending this annual event. TNC brings together decision makers, networking and collaboration specialists, universities, as well as industry representatives. TNC21 will take place from 21 June - 25 June 2021 this year **fully online**. For further information, visit <https://tnc21.geant.org/>

**What is the FTP Lightning Talk Challenge?** The FTP Lightning Talk Challenge is a Future Talent programme (FTP) for young professionals to get their ideas on the TNC Lightning Talk presentations. Nominated by GÉANT project partners, participants undergo a series of training events such as webinars, individual support and coaching, to help master presentation skills.

These events are organised by the GÉANT Learning and Development team to increase the chance of their submissions to be accepted by TNC Programme Committee.

### **If I participate will I automatically go to TNC21?**

The FTP Lightning Talk Challenge is a training programme to help you deliver impactful presentations. All participants take part in the training. You still need to submit your proposal to the TNC Programme Committee. If your proposal is selected, you will be prepared for a superb delivery at the conference. Finalists receive full support for delivering their talk at the TNC. If your proposal is not selected you will still have an opportunity to showcase your learning with a recorded video presentation that could be published in the GÉANT channels.

**Why should I join?** The programme offers an excellent opportunity to show what you have been working on or what your ideas are to an international audience. It also brings great networking opportunities and many new friendships with other young professionals joining the programme.

**How can I participate?** To participate, you must be nominated by a [GÉANT Project Partner/NREN](#). To be considered for nomination, contact your local NREN directly or ask your university or college teacher. NREN details can be found on the [GÉANT member page](#). You can also send a message to [glad@geant.org](mailto:glad@geant.org).

### What are the requirements?

**Eligibility** This challenge is open to individual(s) who are registered at a course(s) at a university, college or learning provider affiliated with one of the GÉANT Project partners/NRENs, or to young professionals working at a GÉANT NREN.

**Nominations** All participants must be nominated by the operating NREN in a GÉANT Project Partner country.

**Abstract** Upon registration all proposals must include title, participant name, educational institution, short biography, five keywords, and short introduction of the idea (max. 500 words). Abstract must be marked [Topic title +FTP-student]

**Webinars** Participants commit themselves to attend the training and therefore must have access to a computer with a webcam to join the webinar.

**Presentation** Selected participants will be presenting at TNC21

**Language** High English language proficiency is required

**Social Media** All participants are invited to share their experiences on social media

**What's expected from me as a young professional?** If you register for the challenge you are required to:

1. submit your topic title
2. prepare and rehearse your Lightning talk and undergo the series of training events we organise for you
3. if accepted, present **online** at the Lightning Talk Plenary at TNC. Your presentation must be delivered in English and lasts max 5 minutes on a subject matter
4. be reachable and available during the programme period.

**What type of ideas can I submit?** The subject matter of each presentation could be any idea, project or research or innovation you have been working on that addresses a technical, economic, legal, security or environmental aspect in any IT and network field.

**When will the webinars take place and how can I join?** After close of registration nominated participants will be scheduled for 3 x Group Training Webinars of 60-90 minutes each. Webinars will run between March and April.

**When will I be notified if my proposal is accepted?** After a timely submission [11 March] you will be notified on the acceptance of your proposal by the TNC Programme Committee.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Step 1 Get registered by the local NREN before **28 February 2021**

Step 2 Take part in the group training webinars between **March and April 2021**

Step 3 Submit your proposal to TNC by **11 March 2021**

Step 4 You will be notified on the acceptance of your proposal short after 11 March

Step 5 If selected, receive further 1:1 coaching and take centre stage at TNC21 between **21 June - 25 June 2021**

### Have more questions?

Contact your local NREN or  
Email: [glad@geant.org](mailto:glad@geant.org)

All submissions must go to:

[Roberto.Sabatino@heanet.ie](mailto:Roberto.Sabatino@heanet.ie) .

Deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

