



Understanding the REFEDS Work Planning Process

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REFEDS Community Chat for November 2022



REFEDS

STRATEGIC PLAN

About REFEDS

Established in 2005, REFEDS is a community-driven international group of thought leaders delivering cutting-edge innovative trust and identity solutions for research and education.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide an open collaboration hub for stakeholders in the Research and Education identity federation ecosystem to learn, educate, and build standards and best common practices for federations internationally.

TL;DR

- REFEDS works on an annual planning cycle
 - Goals for the year are normally short to medium term priorities.
- Planning happens in December
 - Ideas are crowd sourced and discussed at a REFEDS meeting.

The workplan is ratified by both the REFEDS Steering Committee and the REFEDS Sponsors.

What Makes a Good Workplan Item?

- Has interest and commitment from multiple stakeholders
- Can be accomplished in 1-3 years
- Offers guidance and standards
- Does not require ongoing operational support by REFEDS

Workplan Structure

- REF22-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management
- REF22-2: Specialist Working Groups
- REF22-3: Promotion and Communication
- REF22-4: Standards and Specifications
- REF22-5: REFEDS Services

REFEDS Coordination and Management

- Aims:
 - To progress REFEDS position as an important player within the access and identity management space internationally.
 - To build on established relationships with GÉANT project and other federation-related activities around the world.
- Includes
 - BoF's, meeting management, contracts, etc.

Specialist Working Groups

- Aims:
 - To provide infrastructure and support for evolving ideas and areas in the REFEDS community.
- Includes
 - FOG, Entity Category Support, Assurance, etc.

Promotion and Communication

- Aims:
 - To provide materials and support mechanisms to help federations promote effective approaches to IdPs and SPs.
 - To provide feedback on documents produced by other groups to support clarity of messages.
 - To reach out to target groups where specific messaging could be beneficial.
- Includes
 - Community Chat series, other webinars

Standards and Specifications

- Aims:
 - To provide support for the development of standards and specifications under the REFEDS banner.
 - To pilot specification work to support implementation requirements.
 - To put in place structures to ensure specification and schema sustainability.
- Includes
 - Schema management

REFEDS Services

- Aims:
 - To continue using MET and enhance where possible.
 - To support the basic REFEDS infrastructure needs (website, wiki, and mailing lists).
- Includes
 - MET support, communication infrastructure

Planning for 2023

- Are there areas where new policy or best practice guidance would help federations?
- Are there special interest groups that could form to help answer technical questions?
- What new technologies should federations be preparing for? What will that preparation look like?
- ...

Useful Links

- [REFEDS Strategic Plan](#)
- [2023 REFEDS Planning Documents](#)
- [REFEDS EOY Report for 2021](#)