2024 Workplan

These are the proposed top-level areas for the 2024 workplan, drawn from proposals crowdsourced in late 2023 / early 2024.

- REF24-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management
- REF24-2: Specialist Working Groups
- REF24-3: Promotion and Communication
- REF24-4: Standards and Specifications
- REF24-5: REFEDS Services

REF24-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management

Lead: Nicole Harris

Aims:

- To progress REFEDS position as an important player within the access and identity management space internationally.
- To build on established relationships with GEANT project and other federation-related activities around the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK ITEMS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TO</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>END DATE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REF24-1A</td>
<td>Maintain and develop the REFEDS blog, wiki, and website.</td>
<td>As normal.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF24-1B</td>
<td>REFEDS annual meetings.</td>
<td>TNC and one other meeting (TBD)</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REF24-1C</td>
<td>Manage REFEDS contracts with third parties.</td>
<td>These are contracts with external parties that support REFEDS such as Spherical Cow Consulting.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF24-1D</td>
<td>Manage REFEDS Sponsorships.</td>
<td>Current sponsor list.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td></td>
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REF24-2: Specialist Working Groups

Lead: Heather Flanagan

Aim:

- To provide infrastructure and support for evolving ideas and areas in the REFEDS community.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>GOALS</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REF24-2A</td>
<td>FOG: Federation Operators Group</td>
<td>Peter Brand with support from Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>This is an ongoing discussion group and as such has no specific goals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF24-2B</td>
<td>SPOG: SP Operators Group</td>
<td>Laura Paglione</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>This is an ongoing discussion group and as such has no goals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF24-2C</td>
<td>edulD Operators Group</td>
<td>Marlies Rikken</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>An operator group for NRENs offering an IdP service that is not bound to a specific organisation, for example as an IdP of last resort and IdP for home organisations that don't manage their own. This is a place to discuss and exchange ideas and operational guidelines. A possible first outcome could be a position paper on how edulDs perceive themselves (what unifies the edulD?)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF24-2D</td>
<td>Metadata about Federations Working Group</td>
<td>Pål Axelsson</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>To find information about federations today requires that you go to each one of them you're interested in and manually gather the information or go to eduGAIN technical site and look for what is manually registered there. This working group discusses and (may) define a metadata extension that includes information and policy links plus contact information that is published in the federation metadata feed. This will allow others to aggregate this information, for example, in MET and the technical eduGAIN site. The solution should be federation technology agnostic, with examples for both SAML and OpenID technology federations.</td>
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**REF24-2E**  
**Browser Changes and Federation**  
Judith Bush, Zacharias Törnblom  
12/22  
12/24  
Provide input to APIs under development by the browser community to implement new privacy controls managed by the browser. In FedCM ("A privacy preserving federated identity Web API" - quote from GitHub) several browser vendors are working to ensure users can still use buttons for "Sign in with <third party IdP vendor>..." even as the privacy-preserving practices around third-party cookies etc. are rolled out - privacy practices that would inevitably break the current login pattern. This baseline will enable us to continue offering our R&E community federated access as long as we take part in its development, and adapt our community's critical software stacks.

**REF24-2F**  
**Update the MRPS**  
Alex Stuart  
01/24  
03/24  
The current Metadata Registration Practice Statement is out of date but is still used by eduGAIN candidates.

**REF24-2G**  
**Open Science Attributes**  
Benn Oshrin, Alan Buxey  
Supporting Open Science Through Attributes  
Programs such as the US Government’s Open Science initiative are likely to drive requirements for attributes beyond “researcher” and “member”. Resource Providers will need additional information about a person’s qualifications in order to determine access to their services. This work item intends to:

1. Capture use cases for open access/open science in order to identify the various classes of problems that will need to be addressed
2. Collate and compare existing community efforts that may be able to support these use cases and authorization decisions
3. Make recommendations for how the identified problems could be addressed.

**REF24-2H**  
**SeamlessAccess Trustinfo Metadata Working Group**  
Alex Stuart, Albert Wu  
01/24  
06/24  
Formalise SeamlessAccess trustinfo metadata as a REFEDS specification  
Trustinfo metadata has been developed by the SeamlessAccess team. A working document exists and code is in development (perhaps even deployed) in SeamlessAccess. This work item is to take the specification through the REFEDS standardization process, which should facilitate uptake by federation operators.

**REF24-3: Promotion and Communication**  
**Lead:** Nicole Harris

**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.

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<td>REF24-3A</td>
<td>Continue the monthly REFEDS Community chats. Topics for 2024 to include: working group updates, other topics as considered interesting by the community</td>
<td>Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
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<tr>
<td>REF24-3B</td>
<td>Maintain a liaison program between REFEDS Steering and FIN4R, FIN4L, and SeamlessAccess.</td>
<td>REFEDS Steering</td>
<td>02/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
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**REF24-4: Standards and Specifications**  
**Lead:** Heather Flanagan

**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.
### WORK ITEMS

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<tr>
<td>REF24-4A</td>
<td>Schema management</td>
<td>Schema Editorial Board with support from Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/24</td>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>Work will focus on maintenance, considering updates as requested by the community</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| REF24-4B   | Standardizing REFEDS standards | Nicole Harris and Heather Flanagan | 01/24 | 12/24 | There are areas of REFEDS specification creation that could use improvements specifically:  
  • to ensure that repeatables elements within specifications are standardised and worded in the same way for consistency and user support  
  • to create a standard way of editing and managing changes to specifications within working groups (e.g. github?)  
  This would help us step up as a standardisation body and give the sort of consistency seen in other areas. |

### REF24-5: REFEDS Services

**Lead**: Nicole Harris

**Aims:**

- To support the basic REFEDS infrastructure needs (website, wiki, and mailing lists).