

The Sierra Research and Education Network (SLREN) Founded in July 2016.



*Connecting Sierra Leone to the global
Research and Education Network Community*



SLREN National Secretariat,
Njala University, Njala Campus,
Private Mail Bag, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: +232 (0)79 453322
Email: tsongu@njala.edu.sl
Website: <https://slren.edu.sl/>

BACKGROUND

Throughout the globe there has been a fast-growing trend for universities to organize their Internet access and connectivity to each other through centralized organizations called National Research and Education Networks (NRENs). These include GÉANT in Europe; Canary in Canada; Internet 2 & NLR in the USA; CLARA in South America. Similar regional RENs exist in the former USSR; Asia. In Africa, the UbuntuNet Alliance covers the Eastern and Southern belts and the West & Central Africa Research & Education Networks (WACREN) <http://wacren.net> for the West and Central Africa region.

In Sierra Leone, the status of NREN is in the early planning phase (Level-2). With support from the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), WACREN and key stakeholders in the Sierra Leone research and education community, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, telecom providers, donor agencies and colleagues from Liberia gathered in Njala University for a workshop to discuss the establishment of the SLREN on 26th April 2016. The successful event led to the adoption of the “**Njala Declaration**” to establish and develop the Sierra Leone Research and Education Network (SLREN). An interim Steering Committee was established with the mandate to operationalise the SLREN. The SLREN was officially inaugurated in July 2016.

LEGAL STATUS

The SLREN operates as a non-profit making organisation and draws its legal mandate from the Universities Act 2005 and the Corporate Affairs Commission Act No. 5 2009 Company Limited by Guarantee without a Share.

VISION

The SLREN's vision is to develop and leverage high quality information & communications infrastructure and services for the Sierra Leone research and higher education community for national development.

MISSION

The SLREN mission is to develop an advanced network infrastructure services, promote collaboration among the national research and education communities and build the capacity of the RENs community.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of SLREN is to promote the establishment of interconnections between national research and education communities using advanced technologies available, connect this network with other regional and continental networks, and provide services aimed at fostering collaboration between research and education institutions in Sierra Leone and the sub- region.

ACTIVITIES

1. Negotiate and secure rights in the name of its members with no authority to undertake obligations or liabilities in their name, unless so instructed by an explicit authorization from the members concerned;
2. Associate with and promote objectives of the West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN) and establish relationships with other associations, organizations and institutions with objectives similar to those of SLREN;
3. Establish and promote national focus groups to undertake research on matters of significance to the scientific, social and economic development of Sierra Leone;
4. Publish the proceedings of conferences and other research undertaken under the auspices of SLREN; and
5. Undertake any other activities aimed at advancing the objective of SLREN.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership to SLREN is formulated on the basis of Open Access, implying that all accredited tertiary institutions, colleges and schools in Sierra Leone are allowed to join under the same terms of conditions and without any restrictions.

SERVICES

- Operate a national gigabit backbone that connects campus networks to each other and to other RENs regionally and globally, and, through contracts with commercial operators, to the commodity Internet, ideally through a local Internet Exchange (IX), thus keeping local traffic local. If a local IX does not exist, SLREN could help establish one.
- Begin by leasing bandwidth from a local operator, and eventually, as the SLREN matures, lease and operate its own backbone links from dark-fiber and/or transmission circuit providers on an annual or IRU basis.
- Run its own NOC to monitor and report on network performance and manage incidents and fault resolution on the network.
- Ensure a security policy is implemented and maintained on the network.
- Offer discretionary services such as eduroam, edugain; videoconferencing bridging; Higher Education Management Information Systems (HEMIS).

ORGANISATION

The organs of SLREN shall be the General Assembly; the Board of Directors, the CEO, and the Secretariat. The details of roles and responsibilities are established in the bylaws/constitution of SLREN.

SLREN LOCATIONS

National Secretariat:

Njala University, Njala Campus, Njala
Tel: +232 79 453322
Email: tsongu@njala.edu.sl

Western Area:

C/O SLREN Committee Member
University of Sierra Leone
Tel: +232 78 612314 / +232 76 604716
Email: miriam.conteh-morgan@usl.edu.sl

C/O SLREN Committee Member
Milton Margai College of Education & Technology
Tel: +232 78 371174
Email: pauljsamba@gmail.com

Eastern Region:

C/O SLREN Committee Member
Eastern Polytechnic
Tel: +232 76 617229
Email: drmtlahai@yahoo.com

Northern Region:

C/O SLREN Committee Member
University of Makeni (UNIMAK)
Tel: +232 76 633769
Email: lmatharsoko@gmail.com

Designed and published by the Sierra Leone Research and Education Network, Sierra Leone