



Convening Call to Action

Paving the Way to a Better Future Together

This document provides an initial roadmap to support the GDN Annual Meetings and convenings. It is intended to help set the stage for galvanizing active participation and engagement in **advancing concrete discussions** that consider the diversity of our community and learners and that result in **decisive action towards real change**.

With GDN Network convenings, webinars and collaborative activities, we seek to **deepen a shared understanding** of the different contexts around the world, **build knowledge** regarding digitization opportunities and best practice, and **explore and contribute to initiatives and actions** for moving a Network of Networks forward that is based on learner centricity, respect for privacy and local autonomy, interoperability, open standards, and innovative digital architecture.

In all its efforts, the GDN Network seeks to inspire use of innovative technology and approaches that align with its statutes, ethics, and goals. It does this while respecting institutional and geo-political autonomy and authority and in alignment with the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and UNESCO's normative instruments such as the [Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education](#). In doing so, the GDN Network aims to enable greater inclusion and access for citizenry to education and employment through recognition of their credentials.

By working together with participants from around the world who participate in its convening activities, the GDN Network seeks to **raise all boats** and **enable bridge building** between the rich history and traditions of the past towards a new and expanded future for the learner mobility space.

The GDN Vision for Collaboration

The Network's vision for **collaboration is cross-sector and cross-border**, thus creating the potential for interoperability through open architectures, open standards, and principled approaches to adopting or building digital solutions for learning and employment access and mobility. We believe that working together will accelerate progress in and across geo-political boundaries. We also believe that many participants in the GDN Network maintain common goals so see strong alignment and potential for expanded collaboration and convergence of opportunities and dialogue.

Sharpening Our Collective Focus

The following discussion questions are suggested as themes for weaving through many of the sessions that are typically offered through the GDN Network convenings. Each is presented here to spark focused conversation and to catalyze innovative thinking and change both locally and globally.

What does success of a Network of Networks look like for learner mobility?

What operating principles are necessary antecedents to enable this success?



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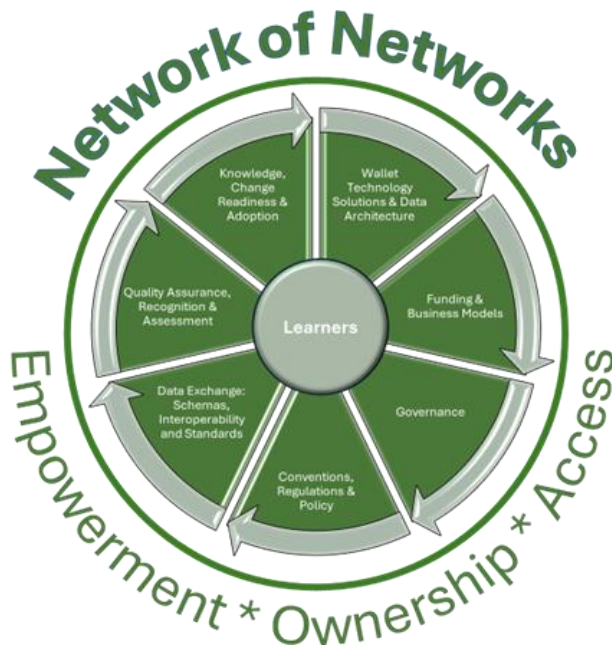
Are there existing challenges, including awareness and knowledge gaps, business models, legislation, and adoption issues, that might be relevant and that are impeding credential exchange and digitization? What have been the lessons learned to date from exemplars and promising examples?

What is needed to address these challenges and enable informed collaboration? How can we work together to support meaningful change?

What are some meaningful next steps for the GDN Network and its community to advance this change conversation?

Setting the Stage

The Groningen Declaration Network holds several convening opportunities, webinars, and activities to advance credential digitization, recognition, and mobility as a support to lifelong learning and maintains a long history in delivering on its mandate. Each fall, it holds an international convening which brings together thought leaders from around the world to advance conversations, research, and activities in the credential and data mobility space to support lifelong learning goals, including for recognition. Each activity is strategically considered and represents an intentional effort to **catalyze national and trans-national credential sharing and digitization capacities** across multiple dimensions in support of learner mobility and lifelong learning.



By working together across the dimensions of the digital credential ecosystem, the GDN Network's aspirations include inspiring an interoperable and seamless Network of Networks for credential exchange to advance opportunities for learner mobility and lifelong learning.



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Through these many opportunities, the GDN Network global community comes together to learn and engage in deep listening as a compliment to their local initiatives and efforts to establish evidence informed roadmaps for moving forward.

The practical outcomes of these convenings and webinars include knowledge building, connecting experts, and creating a context where **intentional Calls to Action and collaborations** occur. The broader intention also includes working in partnership to support advancing access and to help organizations, institutions, governments, and corporations work across boundaries on solutions that support cultural and social mobility.

The GDN is proud of the regional, national, and international efforts it has inspired since it began and remains excited about supporting even more change.

The GDN Community

The GDN Network is made up of an international community that includes vocational institutions, higher education institutions, government, industry partners, not-for-profit organizations and associations, and experts and researchers in the fields of recognition, learner mobility, and technology. It is a diverse group of thought giants from around the world who are experts and well positioned in their communities to lead and influence change.

Overarching Next Steps

After each Annual Meeting, the GDN Network intends to identify and publish the thematic contributions, learnings, recommendations, and calls to action that emerge. The information collected will help to identify key priorities for the GDN moving forward, validate current work, and inspire further research and activities. It will also contribute to future knowledge building opportunities, convenings, and webinars as we work collaboratively to create advanced supports for learner mobility in the credentialing space.

It is expected and understood that conversations during these events will also inspire near projects with their own focused next steps. We encourage the GDN Network community to build into these an intentional focus on the [GDN Ethical Principles](#) as we work in partnership to develop a better future for learners of today and tomorrow.

Questions? Ideas? Opportunities?

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