

GRONINGEN DECLARATION NETWORK



GDN NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Advancing a Global Network of Networks
for Digital Credential Portability*

GRONINGENDECLARATION.ORG



THE
GDN
NETWORK



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the GDN Network	03
Message from the Board President	04
Message from the Executive Director	05
Strategic Plan Alignment (2025-2030)	06
Looking Back: 2025 Highlights and Achievements	08
MyOnline Services and Digital Hub	10
Communications and Amplification	11
Webinars and Knowledge Sharing	12
2025 Key Stats	13
Financial Statements	14
Looking ahead	15
Conclusion	16

Building a Network of Networks

"Connecting learners, institutions, and governments through trusted digital credentials."



About the GDN Network

The Groningen Declaration Network (GDN Network) is an international non-profit dedicated to advancing secure, ethical, and interoperable digital student data exchange, enabling academic and professional mobility worldwide.

Guided by its vision to build a **"Network of Networks,"** the GDN convenes global stakeholders—including governments, institutions, industry, and technology leaders—to collaborate on standards, practices, and innovation in digital credential ecosystems.



Message from the Board President

Dear **GDN Community** and **Partners**,

2025 marked a defining year for the GDN Network as we accelerated our transition from a convening-focused organization to a globally recognized catalyst for interoperable digital credential ecosystems.

A highlight of the year was our **Annual Meeting in Oslo**, which brought together a record number of participants from across the globe. This gathering reflected not only the growing momentum of the GDN, but also the strength of our community and our shared commitment to advancing learner mobility through trusted digital credentials.

Our work continues to reflect the core ambition of our Strategic Plan: to build a Network of Networks that bridges sectors, regions, and technologies. Through expanded partnerships, strong participation in our global convenings, and strengthened governance structures, we have reinforced GDN's position as a trusted convener and thought leader.

This year marked an important transition in our governance. We welcomed new members to both the Board and the **Strategic Advisory Council**, representing regions including Africa, Canada, the United States, Japan, Latin America, Europe, and China. This global representation strengthens our ability to reflect diverse perspectives and respond to the needs of an interconnected world. We are also especially pleased to welcome **the first student representative to the Strategic Advisory Council**, an important step in ensuring learner voices are embedded in our work.

We extend our sincere thanks to those Board and Council members who completed their terms this year. Their dedication, insight, and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the GDN's growth and impact.

The Board remains focused on strengthening governance, supporting strategic growth, and ensuring the organization is well-positioned for long-term impact.

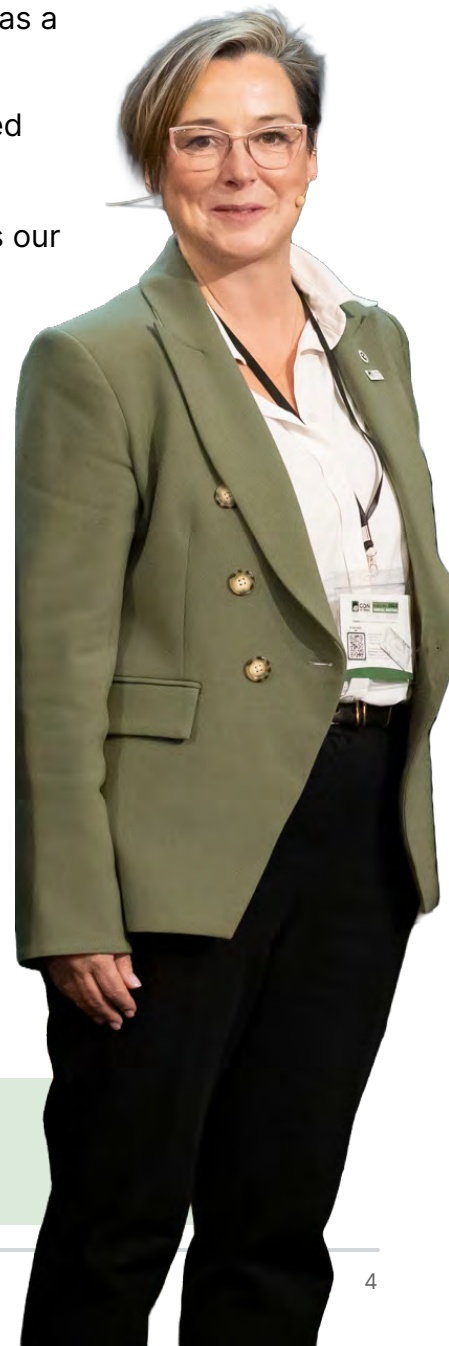
As we look ahead, we remain committed to enabling innovation while safeguarding the principles that define our work: privacy, learner-centricity, interoperability, and inclusivity.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director, staff, partners, and global community.

Sincerely,

Melanie Gottlieb

- Board President, GDN Network





Message from the Executive Director

“2025 has been a year of execution, expansion, and meaningful progress for the GDN Network.”

Dear Colleagues and Community Members,

We advanced the priorities of our Strategic Plan by strengthening global engagement, expanding our knowledge-sharing initiatives, and deepening collaboration across regions and sectors. Our **Annual Meeting in Oslo** represented our largest and most diverse gathering to date, reinforcing the importance of our shared work.

We also expanded our regional engagement through events such as the **GDN PCCAT Regional Meeting in Toronto, Canada**, and we are actively preparing for our **2026 Annual Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa** and our **UK Regional Meeting in Manchester, England**, reflecting our commitment to global inclusion and geographic diversity.

This year, we made important investments in the foundations that will support our long-term sustainability. We launched a **new website, refreshed brand and logo, and implemented a CRM system**, along with the introduction of **MyOnline Services and the Digital Hub**—new platforms designed to support smoother access to services for our signatories and patrons and to strengthen engagement across the network.

These platforms represent an important step forward in how we deliver value, connect our community, and scale our work into the future.

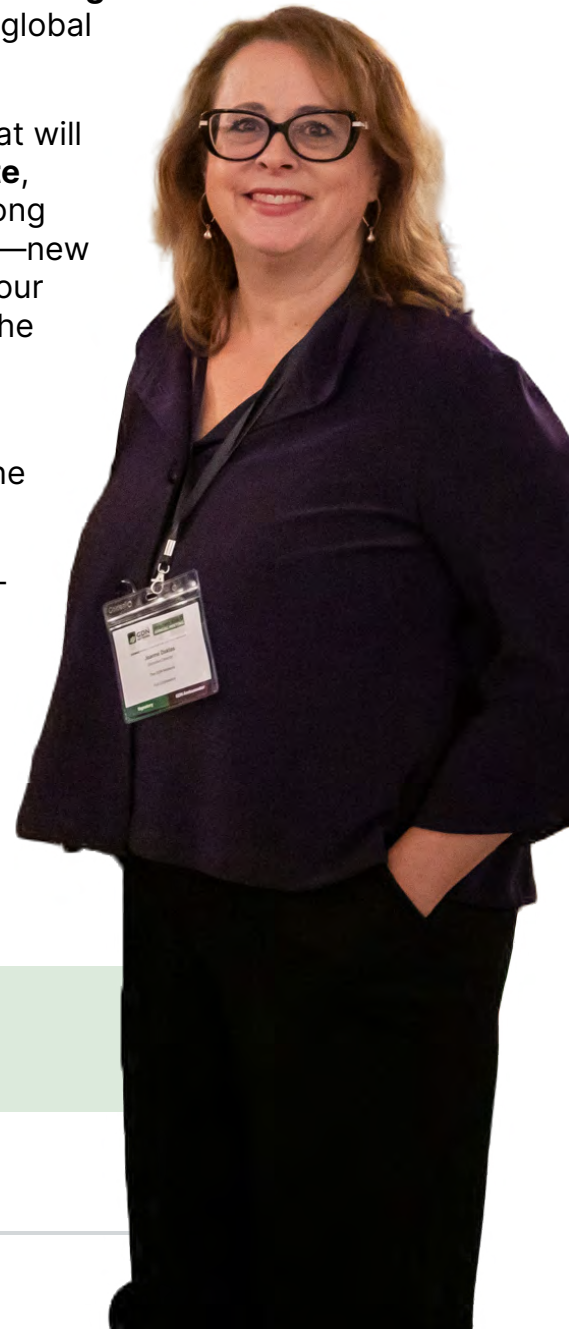
Equally important has been our role in amplifying collaboration—bringing together stakeholders to move from dialogue to action in advancing digital credential ecosystems.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Board, Strategic Advisory Council, members, partners, and especially the **GDN support team**, whose dedication and expertise continue to make this work possible.

With appreciation,

Joanne Duklas

- Executive Director, GDN Network



Strategic Plan Alignment (2025–2030)

The GDN's work in 2025 reflects strong alignment with its strategic priorities:

Advancing thought leadership through global dialogue, convenings, and knowledge-sharing



Expanding participation and strengthening global partnerships



Supporting research, collaboration, and practical implementation



Building a sustainable organization through governance, infrastructure, and operational maturity



GDN Strategic Plan 2025-2030



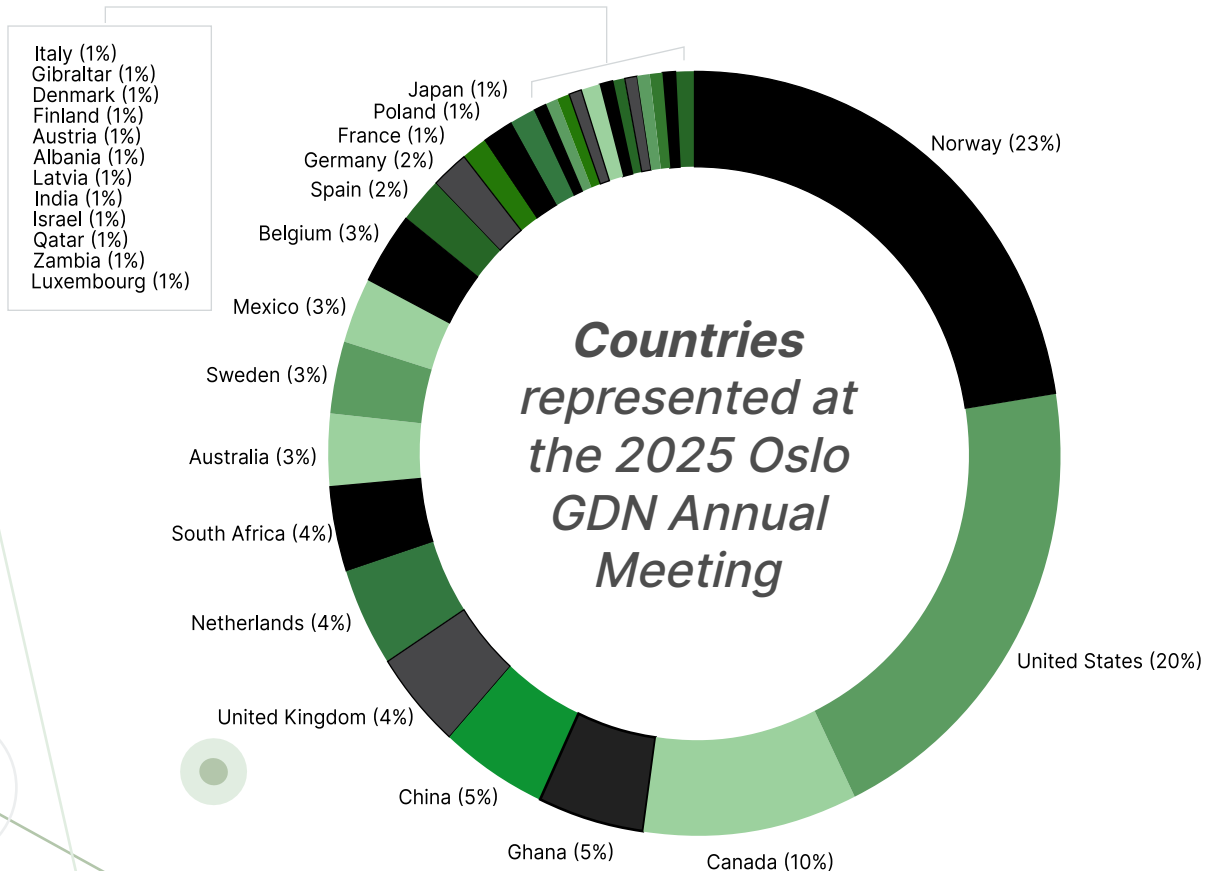


Looking Back: 2025 Highlights and Achievements

2025 was a year of growth, innovation, and foundational progress for the GDN Network.

Global Convenings and Engagement

- [Annual Meeting in Oslo, Norway](#) with record participation
- Regional and partner events, including the [GDN PCCAT Regional Meeting in Canada](#), and the June 2026 UK Regional Meeting
- Delegation visits and collaborative engagements across multiple regions



Annual Meeting - Norway, Oslo

175 participants from 29 countries gathered to advance the Network of Networks vision.

Regional Meeting - Toronto, Canada

113 participants from 8 countries met to shape the future of recognition pathways for global impact.



Knowledge Sharing and Community Building

- Continued delivery of a monthly [webinar series](#) featuring global experts
- Expansion of communities of practice and collaborative working groups
- Development of a comprehensive inventory of resources, including regional case studies, video library, blogs, and more

Governance and Leadership

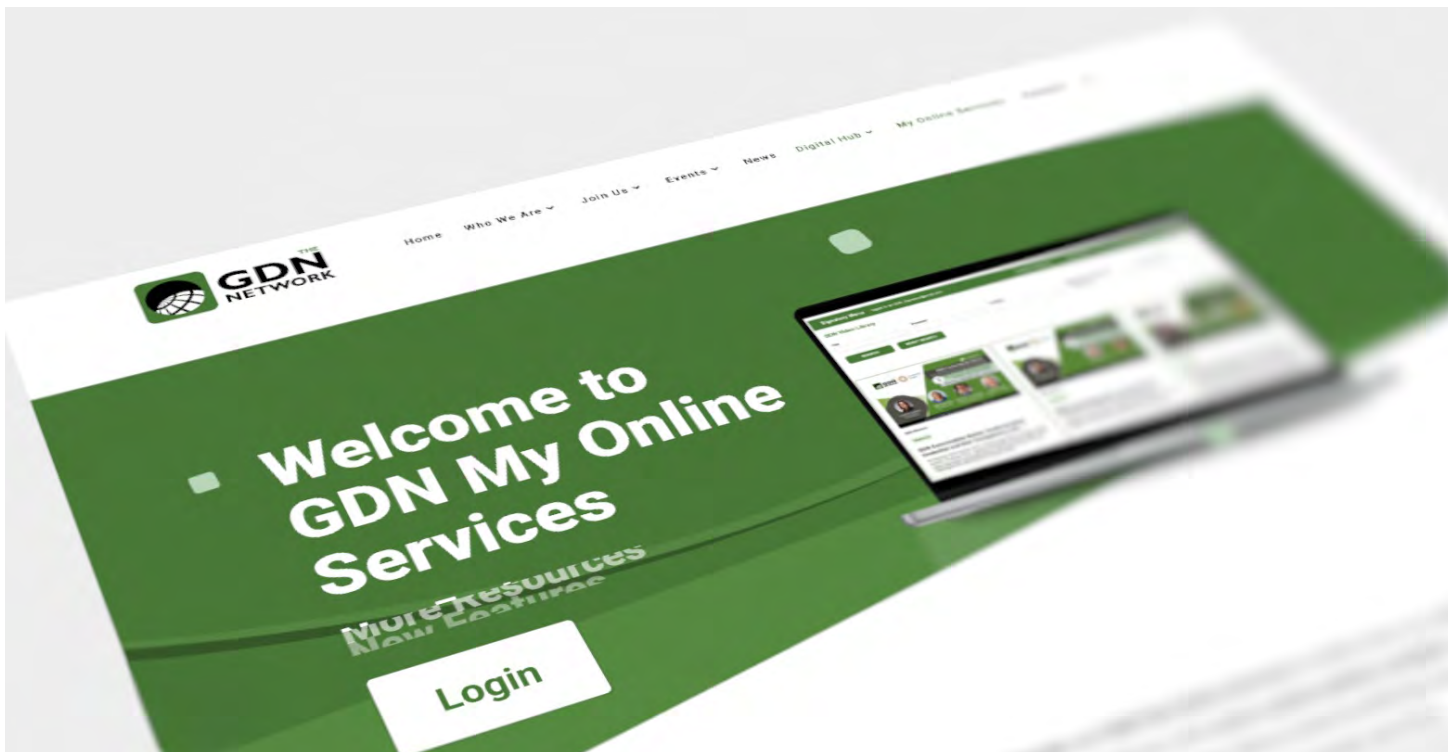
- Transition of Board and Advisory Council membership, with new members joining from across global regions
- Continued strengthening of governance through active engagement of the Strategic Advisory Council

Organizational Infrastructure

- Launch of a **new [website](#) and refreshed brand identity, including a new logo**
- Implementation of a **CRM system** to enhance engagement, operations, and long-term sustainability
- Introduction of [MyOnline Services](#) and the [Digital Hub](#) to support improved access to services and community engagement

Partnerships and Network Growth

- New and strengthened partnerships with global organizations
- Continued growth in signatories, patrons, MOU partners, and collaborators
- **Elevating the Student Voice**
- Introduction of a **new student award**, recognizing emerging voices and contributions in the field
- Inclusion of the **first student representative on the Strategic Advisory Council**
- Initiation of efforts to **secure donations and support** to expand student participation and ensure learner perspectives are embedded in GDN's work



MyOnline Services and Digital Hub

In 2025, the GDN launched [MyOnline Services](#) and the [Digital Hub](#) as part of its commitment to strengthening service delivery and engagement across its global network.

MyOnline Services

A centralized access point designed to support signatories and patrons with streamlined services, improved communication, and easier access to resources and engagement opportunities.

Digital Hub

A collaborative space designed to provide resources and tools, share knowledge, and support ongoing dialogue and innovation across the network. The Digital Hub enables the GDN community to engage more effectively, access curated resources, and participate in shared initiatives.

Together, these platforms enhance the GDN's ability to deliver value, support its members, and scale its impact. The organization looks forward to continuing to grow and evolve these tools in the years ahead.



Communications and Amplification

The GDN significantly strengthened its global visibility and engagement in 2025 through coordinated communications and outreach efforts.

Digital Engagement

- Expansion of webinars and online programming
- Growth of digital content, including recorded sessions and knowledge resources
- Increased accessibility through centralized platforms

Global Outreach

- Enhanced presence at international events and forums
- Increased engagement across social and professional networks
- Strengthened messaging aligned with the Strategic Plan

Partnership Engagement

- Deepened collaboration with institutional, governmental, and industry partners
- Increased participation across regions, contributing to a more connected global ecosystem

11*New patrons***13***New signatories***6***New MOU partners***250+***New LinkedIn followers*



Webinars and Knowledge Sharing

The GDN continued its commitment to knowledge exchange through a robust webinar series and collaborative programming.

- Monthly webinars featuring global experts and practitioners
- Integration with broader communities of practice and strategic initiatives

Topics addressed

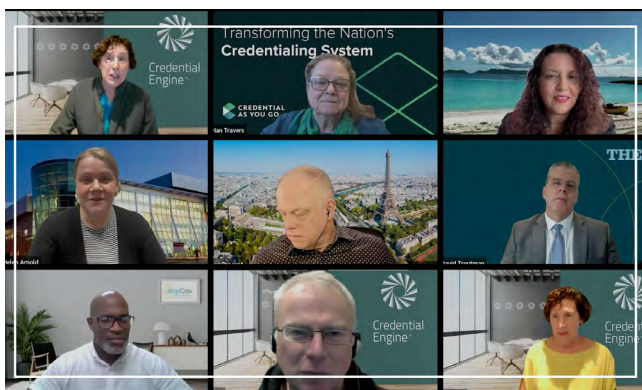


01
Digital Credentials, Trust & Recognition Ecosystems

02
Credential Transparency, Standards & Interoperability

03
AI & Emerging Technologies

04
Admissions, Transfer & Mobility



16

Webinars hosted

750+

Registrants

4

Thematics

16

Panel volunteers

2025 Key Stats

Annual Meeting - Norway, Oslo

175 participants from 29 countries gathered to advance the Network of Networks vision.

Regional Meeting - Toronto, Canada

113 participants from 8 countries met to shape the future of recognition pathways for global impact.

11
New patrons

13
New signatories

6
New MOU partners

250+
New LinkedIn followers

16
Webinars hosted

750+
Registrants

4
Thematics

16
Panel volunteers





Financial Statement 2025

INCOME

Income	€331,581
--------	----------

EXPENSES

Management and administration

Manpower expenses	€168,126
-------------------	----------

Office expenses	€14,952
-----------------	---------

Travel and congress expenses	€83,893
------------------------------	---------

General expenses	€3,312
------------------	--------

€270,283

Balance before financial income and expense	€61,298
--	----------------

Interest and similar expenses	€-6,703
-------------------------------	---------

Result	€54,595
---------------	----------------

Appropriation of the results

Other reserves	€54,595
----------------	---------

This financial profit and loss statement was approved by the GDN board in June 2026 after a formal review by the organization's auditing firm, Aabee Accountants.



Looking Ahead

Building on the progress of 2025, the GDN Network is well-positioned to continue advancing its mission and strategic priorities.

Key areas of focus

Preparing for the **Annual Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (2026)** and future annual and regional meetings



Expanding global partnerships and participation

Strengthening research, collaboration, and implementation initiatives

Continuing to invest in sustainable infrastructure and operations



Further developing **MyOnline Services** and the Digital Hub



Enhancing opportunities to integrate and elevate the student voice

2025: A Pivotal Year for the GDN Network

A Year of Progress, A Future of Opportunity



Conclusion

2025 represents a pivotal year in the evolution of the GDN Network. Through strengthened governance, expanded global engagement, and investments in sustainable infrastructure, the organization has taken meaningful steps toward realizing its vision of a connected, interoperable global ecosystem for digital credentials.

The momentum achieved this year positions the GDN to continue driving collaboration, innovation, and impact in the years ahead.

Seamless

Privacy Compliant

Quality Assured

Interoperable

For any questions, contact

Joanne Duklas

Executive Director, The GDN Network

execdir@groningendeclaration.org

More information:

www.groningendeclaration.org

www.linkedin.com/company/groningen-declaration-network

GDN Welcome Package

<https://linktr.ee/thegdnnetwork>



**THE
GDN
NETWORK**