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| **Dirk Haex** | **NRENs as EOSC nodes and beyond - The Belnet paradigm** |
|  | **Dirk Haex is the Managing Director at Belnet, the Belgian NREN.** Dirk Haex has a diverse work experience spanning various roles and responsibilities. Dirk started their career as a Research & Development Engineer at Colruyt Group in 1998. Dirk then worked as a Communication System Engineer at AXI from 2000 to 2003, where they were responsible for LAN, WAN, and security consultancy missions. In 2003, Dirk joined Belnet, initially serving as a Senior Engineer and later becoming the Head of Networks. During their time at Belnet, they managed infrastructure projects, handled supplier negotiations, and acted as an escalation manager within the Major Incident Management Process. From 2015 to 2022, Dirk took on the role of Engineering & Operations Director at Belnet, overseeing 5 departments and leading Change Management initiatives. Dirk was also involved in the development and implementation of an Information Security Program. **Currently, Dirk serves as the Managing Director at Belnet, where they are a member of the Management Team and contributes to strategic decision-making.** |