

## e-IRG Workshop in Brussels, 13-14 October 2010



*The next e-IRG workshop will be held in Brussels, Belgium, on 13-14 October 2010. The workshop will focus on e-Infrastructure governance. It will also address other key topics such as e-Infrastructure services, Energy and Green IT, Exascale computing and related software, Data Infrastructures, Authorization and Authentication Infrastructure, and Public-Private Partnerships. This e-IRG workshop is organised by BELNET, under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency.*

This time, the e-IRG workshop will diverge from the streamline of the recent years: it will include parallel sessions on key e-Infrastructure-related topics, allowing in-depth discussions and consultations with the different communities. In addition, the participants' feedback and workshop summaries will be used as inputs for the next e-IRG White paper that will be published in the beginning of 2011.

### Governance

"Governance of e-Infrastructures has become an important issue and deserves special attention from the e-IRG members, and beyond", says **Rosette Vandenbroucke**, e-

IRG delegate for Belgium and Be-Grid coordinator. "The growing importance of this topic is due to the various stakeholders that have an interest in e-Infrastructures: the users, the countries, the European authorities. There is also a strong request from all parties to go for sustainable e-Infrastructures delivering a first class service for everyone. Who should decide which infrastructures are needed and can be afforded? How to manage them? How to finance them? These are some of the questions the e-IRG workshop will address."

Governance will be the key theme of the second day of the workshop with two sessions chaired by **Frans de Bruïne**, a former Director in DG INFSO, focusing on management and international practices, and legal and financial issues.

### Parallel sessions on Green IT, e-Infrastructure services, data infrastructures and exascale computing

Four parallel sessions will be organised on the first day. This setup is meant to encourage simultaneous discussion of different topics, the outcome of which will be summarized at the end of the second day.

**Norbert Meyer**, e-IRG delegate for Poland, will chair a session on Green IT that will address issues related to energy saving. Green

IT has been selected as a topic for the next e-IRG White Paper.



*Rosette Vandenbroucke, e-IRG delegate for Belgium*

**Lajos Balint**, e-IRG delegate for Hungary, will organize the discussion on e-Infrastructure services. This session will tackle issues concerning service integration, quality, provisioning and cost. The advent of cloud computing and its potential impact on services will also be discussed.

**Dany Vandromme**, e-IRG delegate for France, will chair a session on data infrastructures. Data is getting more and more attention. However, scientific disciplines may not necessarily have the same data requirements regarding, storage, manipulation, or curation. There is also a need to clarify the relationship between data infrastructures, networks, and computing infrastructures.



**Sergi Girona**, e-IRG delegate for Spain, will chair a session on exascale computing and related software, in which the European situation will be discussed, as well as issues related to the relationship between hardware and software.

### PPP and AAI

In addition, two invited speakers will tackle the following key issues: **Anastasius Gavras** (EURESCOM) will give a keynote on Public-Private Partnerships for Future Internet, and **Diego Lopez** (redIRIS) will present the draft version of the AAI report produced in the framework of the e-IRG Blue paper.

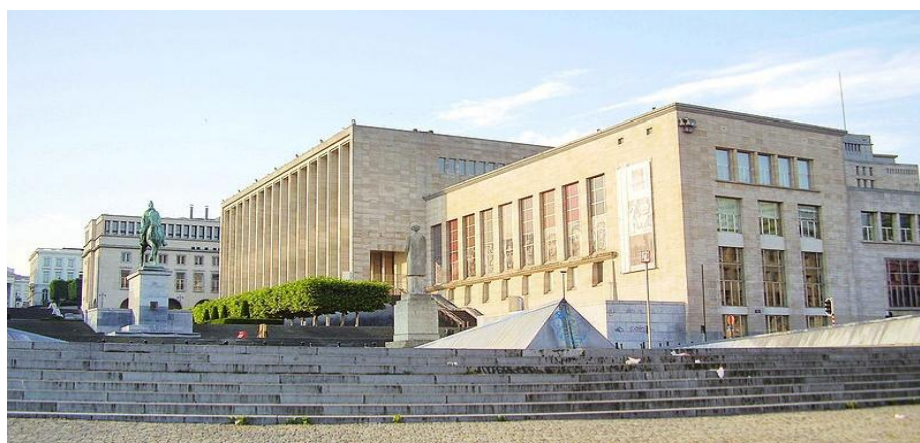
According to the European Commission, “the Future Internet Public Private Partnership (FI-PPP) aims to advance Europe’s competitiveness in Future Internet technologies and systems and to support the emergence of Future Internet-enhanced applications of public and social relevance. It addresses

the need to make public service infrastructures and business processes significantly smarter (i.e. more intelligent, more efficient, more sustainable) through tighter integration with Internet networking and computing capabilities” ([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/foi/lead/fipp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/foi/lead/fipp/index_en.htm)).

As far as the AAI report is concerned, a first version has been prepared during the first 2010 semester, a summary of which has been included in the e-IRG blue paper. The AAI report will be updated further, taking into account the feedback received during the workshop and beyond, and will be included in the next e-IRG White Paper.

The full agenda of the workshop is available on the e-IRG website (<http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-workshop-brussels-13-14-october.html>)

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Brussels!



*The Royal Library of Belgium will host the e-IRG workshop*

### Upcoming events

**e-IRG workshop**  
13-14 October 2010  
Brussels, Belgium  
[www.e-irg.eu](http://www.e-irg.eu)

**eInfranet Green ICT workshop**  
27-28 October 2010  
Espoo, Finland  
[www.e-infranet.eu](http://www.e-infranet.eu)

**Open Grid Forum (OGF)**  
25-29 October 2010  
Brussels, Belgium  
[www.grid2010.org](http://www.grid2010.org)

**e-Challenges**  
27-29 October 2010  
Warsaw, Poland  
[www.echallenges.org](http://www.echallenges.org)

**ISC Cloud'10**  
28-29 October 2010  
Frankfurt, Germany  
[www.isc-events.com](http://www.isc-events.com)

**8th e-Infrastructure Concertation Meeting**  
4-5 November 2010  
Geneva, Switzerland

**SC'10**  
13-19 November 2010  
New Orleans, USA  
<http://sc10.supercomputing.org>

**8th BELNET Networking Conference**  
19 November 2010  
Brussels, Belgium  
<http://www.belnet.be>



## ESFRI and e-IRG endorse "Blue Paper" on e-Infrastructure



e-IRG "Blue Paper" 2010

*In October 2009 ESFRI invited the e-IRG to produce a report, or Blue Paper, on e-Infrastructure services, enabling more efficient e-Infrastructure support for the science that is done by the ESFRI projects. The emerging trend of science as a trans-disciplinary phenomenon requires on the policy-level joint efforts from the enabling technology platforms experts and the developers of the pan-European and global research infrastructure organisations. This Blue Paper was delivered to ESFRI at the end of June 2010, and endorsed by the ESFRI plenum at the ESFRI delegates meeting, on Friday 24 September 2010.*

"I appreciate the close cooperation between e-IRG and ESFRI and look forward for an even more intensive and broadened cooperation in the next years"

says ESFRI Chair **Beatrix Vi-erkorn-Rudolph**. "I am happy that we now have endorsed the Blue Paper which provides the basis for concrete actions for including e-infrastructure issues in the ESFRI projects".

The e-IRG Blue Paper provides an assessment of Europe's e-Infrastructure service portfolio and trends, identifies the opportunities and challenges involved, and sets out policy recommendations for several key areas (such as networks, high performance computing, data management, virtualization, authentication and authorization). It focuses particularly upon common and shared infrastructure and services, and examines the ways in which ESFRI Research Infrastructures (RI) and their users can best exploit existing e-Infrastructure services to satisfy their needs. It also contains a short description of a selection of ESFRI RI projects with an emphasis on e-Infrastructure aspects.

"The Blue Paper represents one important step on the road towards better exploitation of the opportunities presented by advanced ICT and computing for the European research communities, as exemplified by the ESFRI Research Infrastructures (RI)", according to **Neil Geddes**, e-IRG delegate for the UK and chair of the Blue Paper editorial board. "The Blue Paper gives some idea of the scope of opportunities and

there is a lot to do to make concrete progress in priority areas. It is clear that the major requirement is to bring the communities together to improve their mutual understanding and collaboration."

An efficient e-Infrastructure is an essential facilitator of research and innovation and is vital for the European Research Area (ERA). To fulfill this role, it requires close cooperation of all the actors involved. The Blue Paper acknowledges the importance attached to this by both ESFRI and the e-IRG, and illustrates the growing collaboration between these two groups, aimed at identifying and removing existing barriers to exploitation.

According to e-IRG Chair **Leif Laaksonen**, "The Blue Paper is an important outcome of the good collaboration between the two groups. The e-IRG and ESFRI are prepared to transform the common findings stemming from the Blue Paper into concrete actions supporting the ESFRI Roadmap projects in contributing to the European Research Area."

The Blue Paper is a public document available on the e-IRG website: [http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/eirg\\_bluepaper2010\\_final.pdf](http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/eirg_bluepaper2010_final.pdf)

## In the spotlight: SIENA

**SIENA brings DCIs, standards bodies, and policy makers together at the EGI Technical Forum to begin a collaborative Roadmap on interoperable eInfrastructures.**

Beginning last June, the SIENA project (Standards and Interoperability for e-Infrastructures Implementation Initiative - [www.sienainitiative.eu](http://www.sienainitiative.eu)) supports Grid and Cloud standardisation efforts to meet the interoperability challenges of Europe's e-Infrastructures highlighted in the Digital Agenda for Europe. Its primary output, the "European Roadmap on Grid and Cloud Standards for e-Science and beyond", is a collaborative effort that brings together the Distributed Computing Infrastructure initiatives (DCIs), standards development organisations (SDOs), policy groups, scientific user communities, and the European Commission in order to help facilitate the constantly evolving infrastructures for research and public services. SIENA has worked with these groups during an interactive session at the EGI Technical Forum in Amsterdam (14-17 September 2010). The discussion brought up several key issues, mostly related to

raising standardisation interests in a diverse network of eScience users, as well as the potential convergence of Grid and Cloud standards in the context of eInfrastructures.

Europe's massive research infrastructures reach out towards several scientific communities. But when it comes to standardisation, which actors should be reached? Scientific end users? System administrators, application integrators, or specialised developers? With the High-Energy Physics (HEP) community, this interaction is often facilitated because most users play multiple roles. However, when reaching out to additional scientific user bases, each particular stakeholder must be targeted. It is only through this kind of engagement that accurate user requirements can be implemented in an increasingly interoperable eInfrastructure planning.

Another item on the agenda was the further development of Grid and Cloud standardisation against the backdrop of the global financial situation. While governments around the world strive to reach a careful balance between ICT

spending cuts and maintaining a cutting-edge public sector, a scenario of further convergence between Grid and Cloud standardisation efforts could help their support of resource-intensive research, as well as market stimulation for private sector innovation in common fields. This would require collaboration on an international level (including between similar standards bodies) to keep interoperability efforts compatible.

SIENA's "European Roadmap on Grid and Cloud Standards for e-Science and beyond" works to meet these challenges in its 24 month mandate. A first, invite-only workshop takes place on 27th October, 2010, and an initial report will be released in Q1 2011.

### **GridBriefing Annual Report 2010**

The GridTalk project has released its GridBriefing Annual Report 2010 which brings together eight articles covering key issues for the e-infrastructure community, such as eHealth, EGI and ESFRI project requirements, with an introduction from the EC. The report can be downloaded at [www.gridtalk.org/briefings](http://www.gridtalk.org/briefings).

### More information

[www.e-irg.eu](http://www.e-irg.eu)  
[www.e-irg.eu/support](http://www.e-irg.eu/support)



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The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group Support Programme 2 (e-IRGSP2) provides a comprehensive support framework for the work of the e-IRG until the end of 2010. The e-IRGSP2 is supported by the European Commission through the 7th Framework Programme, and has seven partners: CSC, NCF, GR-NET, ETL, AUEB-RC, GENIAS BV, and PSNC.

