

Governance models discussed at last e-IRG workshop



Rosette Vandenbroucke, e-IRG delegate for Belgium and organiser of the workshop, addressing the audience

Around 70 participants attended the e-IRG workshop organised at the Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels, on 13-14 October 2010, by BELNET under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union. The workshop focused on e-Infrastructure governance and also included parallel sessions on e-Infrastructure services, energy and green IT, exascale computing, data infrastructures, and keynotes on authorization and authentication infrastructure, and public-private partnerships for e-Infrastructures.

The e-IRG was much honored to welcome **Prof. S. V. Raghavan**, from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. Raghavan offered an overview of the current status of ICT in India, and presented the National Knowledge Network (NKN), recently established by the Indian Govern-

ment to connect all educational institutions. According to Raghavan, NKN will be a very important instrument of social change in India and will bring together Science, Technology, and Higher Education.

Anastasius Gavras from EU-RESCOM discussed Public-Private Partnerships for Future Internet, and presented the European Future Internet Alliance (EFIA), a European industrial led alliance facilitating research, development and innovation towards the Future Internet.

Diego Lopez from redIRIS presented the draft version of the AAI report produced in the framework of the e-IRG "Blue Paper". Lopez emphasized the need to accelerate the process of the continued convergence of different identity infrastructures, and that future pan-


European e-infrastructures and ESFRI projects define their access control policies and mechanisms from the beginning, and promote the application of standards methods for identity data integration with their services.

Efficient governance for an efficient research eco-system

Two sessions on governance were chaired by **Frans de Bruijne**, a former Director in DG INFSO.

Hervé Péro, Head of Unit Research Infrastructures within the Directorate General for Research of the EC, presented the European policy developments in the field of research infrastructures and the Innovation Union, a cornerstone of Europe 2020 strategy, and pointed out that European Innovation will be facilitated by new legal tools like, for instance, ERIC, which came into place in August 2009. Péro also presented data management as one of the major challenges research infrastructures face, and urged the scientific communities and the actors on e-Infrastructures to collaborate on this issue, in order to help the EU developing an efficient management of an efficient research "eco-system".

Steven Newhouse and **Mark Jabobs** described the governance models and practices in EGI and Lifewatch.



René Belsø, from the Danish Center for Scientific Computing, presented the evolving relationship between providers and users in Denmark and the Danish funding model in which money is allocated to the researchers (who decide where to invest it) instead of computer centres. According to Belsø, this has resulted in more efficiency. This represents one example, albeit an extreme one, of how to empower users and set up user-driven e-Infrastructures.

Kyriakos Baxevanidis, Deputy Head of Unit, GÉANT & e-Infrastructure, European Commission, DG-INFISO, addressed legal and financial aspects of e-Infrastructure governance in an international perspective. According to Baxevanidis, international agreements are easier to make when infrastructures are highly distributed. The EC, however, can play a catalytic role through the regulations (e.g. ERIC) and procedures and funding.

Uwe Schwiegelshohn (D-Grid GmbH) discussed financial and legal aspects of grid and cloud computing, and the concept of a “Broker corporation” interacting between the providers and the users.

Erwin Bleumink, SURFnet Managing Director, reflected on the e-Infrastructure ecosystems, its accompanying financing model and its requirements in terms of governance, emphasizing the need to have user-driven e-Infrastructures and investments in e-Infrastructures.

Outcomes of the parallel sessions

Four parallel sessions were organised on the first day of the workshop.

Dany Vandromme (e-IRG delegate for France) chaired a session on Data infrastructures in which the work of the e-IRG Data Management Task Force (DMTF) was presented, as well as a number of other data projects such as the GRDI2020 initiative which works on a 10-year vision for Global Research Data Infrastructures.

Energy and Green IT was also discussed by **Radek Januszewski** (e-IRGSP2/PSNC), together with a set of speakers addressing various topics such as the impact of energy prices on data centres, alternative energy sources, heat energy reuse, cooling methods, etc.

A session on e-Infrastructure services was introduced by **Lajos Balint** (e-IRG delegate for Hungary) and provided an overview of the wide range of e-Infrastructure services with respect to role, function, methods, tools, features, and possible future perspectives, with numerous examples focusing on NRENs. Special emphasis was put on the latest developments regarding completeness of coverage, complexity of structure, attempts of harmonisation, emergence of cloud techniques, and possible widening of the exploitation.

A fourth session focused on Exas-

cale computing and related software and was chaired by **Sergi Girona** (e-IRG delegate for Spain). Exascale computing will probably be available before the end of the decade. At the time where it becomes obvious that the apex of supercomputer research will not be limited to the United States, it is essential that Europe does not stay behind. The supercomputing community and the e-Infrastructure community in general have to decide on how to prepare the transition to exascale over significant technical hurdles, and to explain to the public, industry and policy makers how work towards exascale computing will benefit European economies, creating jobs, innovation, and cutting-edge research.

These various presentations on key e-Infrastructure-related topics allowed in-depth discussions and consultations with the different communities, and will provide an important source of input for the next e-IRG White Paper that will be published in the beginning of 2011.

All the presentations are available on the e-IRG website at <http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-workshop-brussels-13-14-october.html>

Outgoing Chair Leif Laaksonen reflects on 4-year Chairmanship of e-IRG



Gudmund Høst (Left) and Leif Laaksonen (right) shaking hands during the 23rd e-IRG meeting in Brussels

On 16 December 2010, the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) elected a new Chair, Dr Gudmund Høst (The Research Council of Norway). Dr Høst is replacing Dr Leif Laaksonen (CSC – IT Centre for Science, Finland) who has been chairing the e-IRG since 2006. Outgoing Chair Leif Laaksonen is reflecting on his past years involvement in the evolving e-Infrastructure arena.

“It has been a great pleasure and honour for me to chair the e-IRG during the past four years” says Laaksonen.

“The e-Infrastructure landscape has been rapidly evolving and it has been a very challenging – but also fascinating – task – to reflect on it, together with the e-IRG delegates.”

“The move towards a more service oriented e-Infrastructure, the constitution and stabilization of the HPC and Grid layers and the new emphasis put on sustainability

are one of the changes that have occurred recently, and to which the e-IRG has contributed.”

“The past few years have been very productive for us with the release of a number of important policy documents with high quality overview and recommendations in the area of e-Infrastructures, including the e-IRG White Paper, the e-IRG Roadmap and the e-IRG ‘Blue Paper’ to ESFRI”.

“Thanks to its network of national delegates and the strong relations with other international initiatives, the e-IRG has been able to benefit from a wide range of expertise and I am absolutely confident that it will continue to act as a high-level platform, contributing to the development of a sustainable e-Infrastructure ecosystem”, Laaksonen adds.

“I would like to thank all the e-IRG delegates who have made

this possible, and also tell them how privileged I have felt to work with so many diverse and talented people, many of whom have become friends over the years. It has been also very pleasant to work with the various presidencies of the European Union and with the European Commission, in particular with Kyriakos Baxevanidis who has been very active in all of the e-IRG work and discussions.

“Finally, I would like to congratulate the new Chair and wish him all the best for his term. It is a demanding position but also a very exciting one!”

Upcoming events

Path to Cloudscape III

15 February 2011

Brussels, Belgium

www.sienainitiative.eu

International Symposium on Grid Computing (ISGC)

21-25 March 2011

Taipei, Taiwan

e-IRG workshop

4-5 April 2011 (tbc)

Budapest, Hungary

www.e-irg.eu

DEISA-PRACE Symposium

13-14 April 2011

Helsinki, Finland

www.prace-project.eu

Support of e-IRG continued by e-IRGSP3



Members of the e-IRGSP3 team during the project kick-off meeting in the Hague, the Netherlands

The e-IRG Support Project 3 (e-IRGSP3) was officially launched on December 1, 2010. The project, which follows the successful e-IRGSP2 project, will continue to provide full operational support to the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) and increase awareness of its work and results during the next three years.

“We are in the luxurious position that the new support project (e-IRGSP3) overlaps during one month with the e-IRGSP2 project and that many of the partners in e-IRGSP2 will continue to work in e-IRGSP3. Therefore we have both a jump start and are able to

provide continuity”, says Rossend Llurba (NCF), Project Director of e-IRGSP3.

The partners in e-IRGSP3 are NCF (The Netherlands), CSC (Finland), BADW-LRZ (Germany), LUH (Germany), GRNET (Greece), PSNC (Poland), Genias (The Netherlands) and TUBITAK ULAKBIM (Turkey).

The e-IRGSP3 kick-off meeting took place in The Hague on December 14 and 15, 2010 and was attended by 15 representatives of the eight partners in the project. Two important topics were addressed at the meeting: how to

make the transition from the e-IRGSP2 to the e-IRGSP3 project smooth while providing continuity to the e-IRG community; and how to organise the support framework for the actions that the e-IRG has planned for the near future.

The role of the e-IRG has grown over the years. An important action plan has just been prepared by the e-IRG delegates and will shape its future activities for the coming months. “This action plan will have to be matched by appropriate support activities”, says Llurba. “The e-IRGSP3 will build strongly on the achievements of e-IRGSP2. We can reuse many best practices, tools and procedures that were already in place. In addition, we will be able to increase our policy support activities thanks to the new partners that have joined the consortium”.

For more information on the e-IRGSP3, please contact: Rossend Llurba (r.llurba@nwo.nl).

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More information

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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, GRNET, ETL, AUEB-RC, GENIAS BV, and PSNC.

