

33th e-IRG delegates meeting

Dublin, Ireland, 24 May 2013

Public Summary

Opening and welcome

New delegates to e-IRG are Rosette Vandembroucke (BE), Pierre Bruyere (BE), Marijus Jurgutis (LT), Stanislovas Žurauskas (LT), Giuseppe De Pietro (IT), Enzo Valente (IT) and Anni Hellman (EC).

Reports and News

Kostas Glinos informed that there will be 14 to 16 Advisory Groups overlooking the Horizon 2020 programme areas each consisting of approximately 20 experts. These groups will help the EC discuss the work programme orientations before they are discussed with the Member States in the Management Committees. The Advisory Group on Research Infrastructures will also cover e-Infrastructures; its first meeting is planned to take place at the beginning of July. The members of the Advisory Group on Research Infrastructures are not chosen yet, invitations to the group will presumably be sent out in June.

According to Anni Hellman the EC (DG RTD) will provide a first progress report for the ERA in September 2013, which will go to the Council in October. Amid this year's many activities a survey for the implementation of ERA was conducted, the results of which are currently being analysed. For the digital ERA action the EC will work with e-IRG on the alignment of EU and Member States' strategies. Furthermore expertise from e-IRG could be applicable to the future study on legal issues. The Terms of Reference will state that the contractor has to work in coordination with e-IRG. Other ERA COM actions related input expected by the EC from e-IRG is on the Access Charter.

Kostas Glinos explained that the EC is composed of DGs and is a collegial body: all decisions are made by the College of 27 (in a few months 28) Commissioners. The Horizon 2020 Working Programme will go to the College of Commissioners and once they have decided, it will go to the legislators and the European Parliament. DG CNECT together with DG RTD take the outcome of e-IRG, e.g. White Papers into consideration. DG RTD is leading the ERA COM, but some of its aspects are driven by DG CNECT.

Bjørn Henriksen, representative from ESFRI, informed on the policy implications for ESFRI of e-IRG's Blue Paper on Data Management. A small working group reported in February to e-IRG and in March to ESFRI. Action is needed from policy makers defining roles, governance and transparent costs. Today, 48 Research Infrastructures are either implemented or still on the ESFRI Roadmap,

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and Cluster projects link ESFRI projects in clusters. The way forward is not to have islands but also to further coordinate the activities between the cluster projects. ESFRI will give general advice to both national funders and the EC on the needs for further coordination, especially on data infrastructure facilities, and will ask e-IRG to play an even more active role. A closer cooperation is needed between e-IRG and ESFRI, which is in line with the EC Communication of July 2012.

Anne Decourchelle, delegate from France, informed that in May 2013 France launched its first Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) "France Europe 2020". The SRA sets a national research strategy and includes specific actions for technology transfer and innovation. In the SRA, 9 societal challenges for research have been identified. Challenge 7 addresses Information and Communication Society, Proposal 4 to this challenge is to develop training and numerical infrastructures and includes strengthening the HPC infrastructure and developing cloud computing. The related action (Action #3) "numerical infrastructures to serve research and technology transfer" involves: access to HPC (follow-up HPC programme lead by GENCI and participation in PRACE), national academic clouds accessed through RENATER, academic training. The strategic plan for numerical infrastructures in Higher Education and Research aims to develop a national strategy and governance of numerical infrastructures with long term national coordination. A strategic Committee for e-Infrastructures and a high-level Council will prepare the positions and decisions of the Minister.

Yannis Ioannidis, delegate from Greece, reported on the ICRI Conference that will be held in Athens on 2-4 April 2014 during the Greek Presidency of the European Union. The Conference will follow the structure of ICRI in Copenhagen: plenaries and parallel sessions related to Research Infrastructures in general. A satellite pre-ECRI event will take place in Australia in November 2013.

Task Force on Legal Issues

The focus of the Task Force on Legal Issues was on the legal implications of commercial use of e-Infrastructures. Areas that have been identified are data protection, state aid, procurement, network regulation, access policies, and software licenses. The conclusions were:

- Data protection law (on personal data privacy) struggles with the current e-Infrastructure model and it is unlikely that commercial use will change that.
- Other laws permit use for commercial R&D (usually up to 50%) but the formalities are unclear. There are problems finding partners going for commercial use (PRACE has been considering it).
- Access policies and software licenses are barrier for the commercial use of e-Infrastructures. A plan and budget is needed to overcome these barriers.

Additional content issues were noted including:

- Personal data law (especially health data). The draft exemption for research is good but it is contested. The EU parliament will be going through a vote around June on a related legislation.
- Regulation of simulations (safety, health etc.). E.g. if we do simulations how does this map to the e-

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Infrastructure model?

- Legal framework for Open Access (IPR, database rights etc.).

The main recommendations are:

- To legislators: clarify the application of existing laws to e-Infrastructures, and consider e-Infrastructures in the impact assessment of new laws.
- To operators: consider expanding access policies to permit commercial use of e-Infrastructures but ensure that the 'private' status of communications services is kept, review licenses and procurements to check for any barriers, and ensure that licences and IPR for bespoke software are clear.

The separate papers will be published as TFLI report.

White Paper 2013

The e-IRG White Paper 2013 is currently in the public consultation phase, which ends on July 7th. After the reaction of the chapters' Champions on the comments a professional technical editor will edit the document before it is published. The delegates gave the Executive Board the mandate to carry out the process to finalise the White Paper and to endorse and publish the document.

Coordination of European e-Infrastructures

The topic Coordination of European e-Infrastructures carries forward the discussion started in Amsterdam on the coordination of the components of European e-Infrastructures. The discussion should take into consideration the e-IRG White Papers main recommendation; to create a single e-Infrastructure Commons in Europe for knowledge, science and innovation that is open, accessible, adapting to changing requirements and that meets the EU2020 challenges. Its key elements are being of high quality, well-managed, and that flexible e-Infrastructure services are seamlessly integrated from a users' point of view. The approach to establish this e-Infrastructure Commons is through a joint strategic effort between users and primary strategic actors and suppliers. Users need to become more involved. They need to be empowered to pay for e-infrastructure services, which also implies responsibility and accountability.

Invited experts are Niels Hersoug (Dante), Steven Newhouse (EGI), Yannis Ioannidis (OpenAIRE), Thomas Eickermann (PRACE) and John Dyer (TERENA). The representative from EUDAT had sent a note. The presentations of the invited experts showed that there already exist quite a lot of contacts and collaborations between the entities. During the discussion the user involvement, a possible service registry and the need for sustainability were brought up; it was said that the discussion must not be on technical but rather on policy issues. It was also discussed what the role and direction of e-IRG and the e-Infrastructures will be and that the strength for working with e-Infrastructures must come from the national base and that such a link must be strong.

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Activities during the Lithuanian EU Presidency

The first delegates meeting under Lithuanian EU Presidency will be on the 12 September in Vilnius. The e-IRG workshop in Vilnius will be a 1½-day event on 4-5 November. The delegates meeting will be in the afternoon of 5 November. In this way it is combined with the ICT2013 event that takes place in Vilnius on 6-8 November.

Relations with other Infrastructure policy groups

The mandate of the eIPF is going to be evaluated (its initial phase of 2 years was a pilot phase) and another forum for the digital ERA is needed as request by the ERA COM actions. It was proposed that the new eIPF mandate should cover both Digital ERA and e-Infrastructures. The new forum will have mandate for policy information exchange rather policymaking. It is unclear if the new eIPF should also care about Open Access.

ESFRI is rethinking its own mandate and structure and its traversal role cutting across the projects. ESFRI is looking closely on how to adapt to the new landscape for infrastructures compared with 10 years ago. As e-IRG is also thinking its role through the new strategy this is the right opportunity to look at the links between ESFRI and e-IRG. The e-IRG chair got the mandate to approach the ESFRI chair to discuss the coordination opportunities.

The Digital Science area has been elevated to be recognised as a policy area in its own right.

EC Call FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2013-2 (INFRA-2013-3.1)

The EC has published a Call (“Coordination actions supporting policy development, including international cooperation, for e-Infrastructures”) with 4 actions. One of these actions will be for the continuation of the e-IRG support and to bring closer e-IRG and ESFRI. Gabriele von Voigt (Germany) will lead the consortium for the proposal as part of the upcoming call related to e-IRG support activities and linking ESFRI.

Process for the creation of e-IRG policy documents

A new Annex to the Terms of Reference is specifying the role of external experts who are asked to provide material or give comments. The main point is that the e-IRG delegates are responsible for the content and receive input from experts. The Terms of Reference for experts involved in the creation of e-IRG policy documents were approved.

Social Media

e-IRG will continue its social media activities with low-priority and re-evaluate them after the events during the Lithuanian EU Presidency.

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Submissions for the track 3 of the next e-IRG workshop are requested and it was decided to explore the issue of creating a service registry for e-Infrastructures in cooperation with e-Infrastructure initiatives such as the TERENA and its Task Forces, which are established to manage the portfolio of TERENA services.

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