

## 36<sup>th</sup> e-IRG delegates meeting

Athens, Greece, 1 April 2014

### Public Summary

#### *Reports and News*

**e-IRG Chair and Board:** The e-IRG Chair Sverker Holmgren informed the delegates about the main activities since the last meeting. He had participated in several meetings and workshops related to ESFRI and its cooperation with e-IRG. Furthermore, he had participated in programme committee meetings for ICRI 2014, the e-IRG workshop and the joint e-IRG/ESFRI meeting.

The e-IRG Chair informed the delegates that on 08.04.2014 the Horizon 2020 Expert Advisory Group on Research Infrastructures including e-Infrastructures would meet and that he would represent e-IRG during this meeting.

**European Commission:** Anni Hellman explained the process of the preparation and implementation of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17 and the rationale for EU's approach to Research Infrastructures. Some of the challenges are to provide a long-term perspective, to efficiently and effectively use the national and EU funding and to support Horizon 2020. The process has been agreed with the Strategic Programme Committee on 5.2.2014. The actors involved include the Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups and Programme Committees and key stakeholders. During spring 2014, the EC will collect input and create consultation papers as the basis of discussions. The e-IRG Chair will be involved in the next Horizon 2020 Expert Advisory Group meeting on 8.4.2014. In summer 2014, a draft priorities/programming paper and draft scoping papers will be created leading internally to conclusions by 15.9.2014. In autumn 2014 further discussions of these draft papers will take place, a strategic programme will be written and the draft of the new Work Programme 2016-17 will start. After the new EC Commissioners enter begins their term, (the beginning of 2015), the Work Programme 2016-17 will be further detailed.

Anni Hellman reported further that the Expert Advisory Group on Research Infrastructures would meet the week after the delegates meeting and that there would be e-IRG and ESFRI presentations. The Advisory Group will be working on setting priorities for the Work Programme 2016-17.

**ESFRI:** Yannis Ioannidis explained that the status of the infrastructures in the ESFRI roadmap had been assessed: some projects are well advancing, some are on a good path but others are undeveloped. The ESFRI meeting, which takes place in parallel with the e-IRG delegates meeting, will decide which projects will be proposed for EC funding to the Competitiveness Council in May. ESFRI feels that a new roadmap is due. ESFRI is aiming to publish this new roadmap in 2016. Other important issues are the terms of accessing RIs (Charter of Access) and the collaboration with e-IRG.

**Austria:** The Ministry for Science and Research is no longer independent but part of the Ministry of Economy. Six universities in Austria have created an academic cloud.

**Bulgaria:** There have been some changes in the Ministry.

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

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**Estonia:** Update of the Research Infrastructure Roadmap is ongoing. The Estonian and Finnish networks have been connected by fibre.

**Finland:** On 14.3.2014, the updated Research Infrastructure Roadmap was published (only in Finnish). There will be financing for e-Infrastructures.

**France:** A change in the government expected. Meetings at ministry planned on organisation of data and one colloquium about data. A national colloquium on open science. By the end of the year, there will be a strategic roadmap for e-Infrastructures and all stakeholders (users, providers, industry) will be consulted.

**Germany:** It has left EGI. Hannover and Berlin bought together a Cray system that is being installed now.

**Greece:** In the last phase of forming the national Research Infrastructure roadmap. Several critical infrastructures to be included there. GRNET is in the process of acquiring a supercomputer.

**Latvia:** There is a national Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

**Lithuania:** Next year there will be a Research Infrastructure for scientific data.

**Luxembourg:** The process of restructuring the research landscape has almost been accomplished.

**Norway:** Decision to establish a new company responsible for e-Infrastructure. It will have larger responsibilities than the current company and 10 year financing. It will be a subsidiary of the NREN. The new Research Infrastructure Roadmap will be soon.

**Slovakia:** A computing infrastructure has been built with structural funds.

**Slovenia:** It is working on how to best use the Research Infrastructure.

**Sweden:** It has a new delegate. Currently on-going restructuring of the funding of e-Infrastructure, which is on hold for 1 year discussing especially the funding by universities now that the Wallenberg Foundation has moved their funding to projects. There is a new Research Infrastructure Roadmap in the pipeline.

**Switzerland:** Since 1.1.2014 there is a state secretariat that merged four organisations. The Research Infrastructure Roadmap is in elaboration and includes e-Infrastructure. A new supercomputer in Lugano.

**The Netherlands:** e-Infrastructure is on the Research Infrastructure Roadmap but will not get funding.

**United Kingdom:** A new Tier-0 HPC system, Archer, launched. Putting together a Research Infrastructure Roadmap, which mainly focus on data. In Janet, there is an initiative to subsidise connectivity to industry.

## *ESFRI*

The Chair explained that 5 delegates have been appointed to the 5 Strategic Working Groups (SWGs) of ESFRI and that with the request from ESFRI's Innovation Working Group to appoint an e-IRG expert in that group and with Roar Skålin participating in ESFRI's Implementation Working Group there will be 7 e-IRG representatives in ESFRI Working Groups. The appointed delegates then reported their first experiences.

Arjen van Rijn has been in contact with Gelsomina Pappalardo, the chair of the SWG Environmental Sciences. He has learnt that many of the projects have in common that they are distributed and are dealing with data.

Françoise Genova reported that the SWG Physical Sciences & Engineering is fully engaged in work for the Roadmap. She sees her participation as a good position to pass information, to make clear that in a project you have to think about e-Infrastructure and to be able to provide feedback to e-IRG.

Roar Skålin reported that the main activity of the Implementation Group has been related to the Charter of Access.

Leif Laaksonen was appointed e-IRG representative to the ESFRI Innovation Working Group.

The delegates appointed in the ESFRI working groups together with the secretariat will produce a common presentation of the European e-Infrastructure landscape. The presentation will be distributed to the delegates and could also be sent for check-ups to the e-Infrastructures.

The delegates appointed to the different ESFRI strategic working groups together with representatives in ESFRI's Implementation Group and the Innovation Group form the overarching working group. The delegates approved the Terms of Reference to this group.

For the following joint e-IRG/ESFRI meeting the following issues/messages results from the discussion: awareness, clustering projects, use available e-Infrastructure, getting e-Infrastructure criteria in the roadmap discussion, joint agenda, joint meeting schedule, joint secretariat, joint workshop for delegates on data and Open Access Open Science discussion.

#### *Coordination of European e-Infrastructures*

In a preparatory action Bob Day and Arjen van Rijn together with the support project created the Terms of Reference for the e-IRG working group for the Coordination of European e-Infrastructures.

Bob Day presented an update on the TERENA/DANTE merger. The GÉANT Expert Group was clear in advising to move to the e-Infrastructure commons, however, without saying how to do it. Other reports (ASPIRE study, e-IRG White Papers) showed the need to integrate European-level e-Infra services and to develop existing governances to enable this. DANTE and TERENA started to explore restructuring of their organisations into a new single organisation, more inclusive and with a wider remit. An inclusive membership structure is proposed with voting members and associate members. The new organisation will not be restricted to NRENs but will have the ability to include e-Infrastructures across disciplines. In March 2014 the diligence report was accepted and it was agreed to prepare formal documentation to merge the governances. Future milestones are: review of formal documentation (May 2014), formal decision to proceed (June 2014), formal creation of the new organisation with single unified governance (October 2014) and afterwards integration of management and systems, etc.

Arjen van Rijn mentioned that in EGI a Task Force had been established whose Terms of Reference concern the merger of DANTE and TERENA. He had chosen not to interfere with the current delicate process and is glad that the new organisation is open. He sees the question of how to deal with industrial participation as an unsolved issue. It is important not to wait for the merger to settle down but already interact and have common work packages in Horizon 2020 projects (EGI, PRACE, EUDAT, DANTE, TERENA).

Bob Day explained that from the point of view of NRENs it makes sense to merge because there are now gaps and overlaps. How to bring other e-Infrastructures into it is a good question. This will only work if at national level similar activities take place and this will drive the European level.

In the discussion following it was noted that the governance should be made flexible to include other communities. It was also decided to stress in the Terms of Reference the innovation aspect, to mention that progress relies on national structures and to make clear that not only ESFRI projects are addressed.

The e-IRG delegates agreed on the composition of a group consisting of Bob Day (networking), Arjen van Rijn (distributed computing), Mark Asch (HPC) and Leif Laaksonen (data) to draft e-IRG's high-level document for the set-up of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-17.

#### *ERA – Charter of Access*

The e-IRG Chair Sverker Holmgren reported that Rosette Vandenbroucke and he participated in the preparatory workshop on the document "Charter of Access to Research Infrastructures" and that the EC has asked ESFRI and e-IRG to provide comments on the last draft of this document. Rosette Vandenbroucke explained that the Charter of Access to Research Infrastructures was an EC document that defines guidelines and principles but that has no legally binding. A basic assumption in the document is that there is no distinction between Research Infrastructures and e-Infrastructures. The e-IRG delegates commented that it would be easier if the document would only address physical access and that the added value is that the document tries to simplify. Furthermore it was appreciated that the document mentions more sides, e.g. access to telescopes and access to data.

The e-IRG working group led by Rosette Vandenbroucke will prepare a response to the Charter of Access document. If so requested by ESFRI, this will be a joint response.

#### *Roadmap 2014*

The e-IRG Roadmap will be updated to a living document. This update process will be proposed at the June delegates meeting in Athens.

A White Paper focusing on current issues will be produced. The overarching working group will be the Editorial Board for this White Paper. The support programme will create the Terms of Reference for the White Paper.

#### *e-IRGSP4*

Gabriele von Voigt explained that the proposal for the e-IRGSP4 project had been positively evaluated and that the consortium had been invited to a negotiation meeting that will take place right after today's delegates meeting.

#### *e-IRG Action Plan*

Rosend Llurba explained the changes to the updated e-IRG Action Plan: addition of a new e-IRG led action (Roadmap 2014) and a e-IRGSP3 led action (e-Infrastructure Policy Groups), removal of completed actions (White paper 2013 and Task Force on Legal Issues). The updated Action Plan was approved.

Fotis Karayannis reported that feedback received from the EC has been incorporated in the updated Terms of Reference for the support action 'e-Infrastructure Policy groups'. The updated Terms of Reference were approved.

### *Licensing e-IRG Publications*

The delegates agreed to adopt the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) for e-IRG documents. It was decided that the e-IRG support programme will decide how long to go back in time with licensing e-IRG documents.

### *Activities during the Greek EU Presidency*

Panos Louridas presented the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) and explained this license. The delegates agreed and proposed that the support programme should decide how long to go back in time with licensing e-IRG documents. It was decided that e-IRG documents will adopt the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY) for further e-IRG documents.

### *Social Media*

The written report by Fotis Karayannis summarised the current e-IRG social media status. As of 24.3.2014 LinkedIn has reached 147 members and 30 discussions (in the Vilnius meeting it was 129 members and 20 discussions), Twitter has reached 109 followers and 213 tweets (in Vilnius it was 76 followers and 73 tweets), and Facebook has reached 45 likes (had 31 likes in November). A new article will be submitted to Wikipedia.

### *Activities during the Greek EU Presidency*

It was reported that the joint e-IRG ESFRI meeting would be held on 2.4.2014 before the start of the ICRI 2014. The e-IRG workshop will be from 9.6.2014 in the morning until 10.6.2014 at noon. A programme committee prepares the contents of the workshop. The 37th delegates meeting will start on 10.6.2014 afternoon until 11.6.2014 around noon.

### *Activities during the Italian EU Presidency*

The first e-IRG delegates meeting under Italian EU Presidency will be held on Monday 15.9.2014 in Milan at a University location. The e-IRG workshop will be in Rome on 10.11.2014 (whole day) and 11.11.2014 (until noon). The e-IRG delegates meeting will be also in Rome on 11.11.2014 (afternoon) and 12.11.2014. On 13-14.11.2014 there will be a RI workshop on Cultural Heritage in Rome.