



Public summary of the 44th e-IRG delegates meeting

11 March 2016
Novotel, Amsterdam

Reports and News

Report from the e-IRG Chair and Board

The e-IRG Chair Sverker Holmgren informed the delegates about the main meetings/events where he was present or invited, including:

- ICRI2016 PC meeting, 4 December, Brussels.
- ESFRI Forum meeting, 8 December, Brussels.
- Video meeting of the Area Experts for EINFRA-12-2017, 10 February.
- Expert Advisory Group on RI+eRI, 26 February, Brussels. Rosette Vandenbroucke was appointed by the EB as substitute for this meeting. This is the principal group to initially provide strategic advice for WP18-20. The Advisory Group has been divided in subgroups each to discuss a topic (data, sustainability, innovation). The first internal documents will be ready soon. The output of each workgroup will be short.
- ESFRI WG on investment strategies for e-Infrastructures, 8 March, Brussels.
- e-IRG Workshop, 9 March, Amsterdam.
- Meeting of the EBs of e-IRG and RDA, 10 March, Amsterdam. It was mentioned that e-IRG could be a way to convey RDA discussions and results to national organisations. It was suggested to include an RDA presentation, or to have even more substantial involvement of RDA, in the next workshop.
- ESFRI Launch Event, 10 March, Amsterdam. The presentation made clear that e-IRG had a role in the Roadmap. This is a step forward towards a coherent European Roadmap for RIs and e-Infrastructures.
- PLAN-E meeting with Robert-Jan Smits (DG RTD), 10 March, Amsterdam (the Chair participated as NeGI/NordForsk representative). PLAN-E wants e-IRG to endorse a Software Sustainability Initiative.

Following the round of nominations among the e-IRG Delegates, the following persons were nominated by the EB as area experts for the evaluation of the proposals for the call EINFRA-12-2017 "Data and Distributed Computing e-Infrastructure for Open Science":

Rosette Vandenbroucke (F), BE, e-IRG delegate,
Fotis Karayannis (M), GR,
Sverker Holmgren (M), SE, e-IRG Chair,
Françoise Genova (F), FR, e-IRG delegate,
Rosa M. Badia (F), ES.

reserves:

Dana Petcu (F), RO,
Brian Vinter (M), DK,
Andres Steijaert (M), NL,
Ville Savolainen (M), FI.





News from the Commission

DG CNECT

Anni Hellman informed on the following activities of DG CNECT:

- Work is now being done on the ToR for the Area Experts. The group will be chaired by John Womersley. The Area Experts will get an overall picture of the proposals. Their work will start beginning 2017. The group will identify gaps, overlaps and give suggestions to harmonise the proposals. They will not evaluate and give the points for the proposals.
- An infoday on the EOSC will be organised together with DG RTD.
- An ICT proposers day is planned for the end of September in Bratislava.
- Coordinating (together with the e-IRG Chair) the data topic of ICRI2016.

DG RTD

Philippe Froissard informed on the following activities of DG RTD:

- Long-term sustainability of RIs requires interaction with the Member States. After a mandate of the Council (end of May) he will come back to e-IRG to discuss a draft action plan of ESFRI and e-IRG together. The timeline is to discuss the draft with the Member States end 2016 and adopt it during the Malta presidency.
- The Charter of Access was officially published yesterday. It is an ongoing process and e-IRG will be involved in its updates.

Collaboration with ESFRI and other initiatives

ESFRI Working Group on investment strategies in e-infrastructures

The Chair explained that ESFRI has created an ad-hoc working group with a time-limited mandate and has asked the working group to provide input and draft recommendations to ESFRI on how to address the Council decision. This working group draws also on the competence of e-IRG.

The timeline is:

- Step 1: Recommendations (alternative scenarios) on the short-to-medium term strategy for investments in HPC.
- Step 2: Further recommendations on coordination of Member States' investment strategies also in other fields of e-infrastructures, including recommendations on governance and life-cycle management structures.
- Preliminary findings (focused on HPC) presented in Q2 2016.
- Final report submitted to the Council in Q4 2016.

e-IRG bylaws, mission and vision

Mission and vision

The mission and vision was approved at the November meeting in Luxembourg.

Objectives

The objectives were discussed and several modifications were agreed. The updated objectives can be found at: <http://e-irg.eu/mission>.



Bylaws

The bylaws were discussed and several modifications were agreed. The updated bylaws can be found at: <http://e-irg.eu/bylaws>.

Consultation of EC Work Programme 2018-2020

The next steps of the process towards the adoption of WP18-20 include a stakeholder consultation in the first half of 2016 to gather input on the challenges to be addressed by the Work Programme. The Member States will be consulted in the period April-September 2016. The Strategic Priorities will be ready in October 2016 and elaboration and adoption of the work programme will start in November 2016.

The gap analysis for RIs, and how this gap is addressed in WP18-20 was presented. Follow-up funding actions are expected to ensure implementation, operation and long-term sustainability of the ESFRI and other world-class RIs. Also, efforts supported by previous Work Programmes to create a single and open European space for online research will be sustained and aligned to the wider policy context of the Digital Single Market and the European Cloud Initiative. Innovation in the RIs and in their supplier and user industries will be stimulated through further opportunities for PCP-PPI, support of strategic agendas of technical infrastructures and co-innovation. There will be follow-up support for training staff of RIs too. Follow-up actions can also be expected to reinforce European policy for RIs and facilitate strategic international cooperation.

The *scoping paper* bridges the political priorities, the gathered evidence, and the operational work programmes. It provides information on the context, gap analysis, stakeholder consultations, advisory group reports, and translates these into priorities and broad outlines for calls including potential focus areas. The scoping paper does not pre-define topics and actions. *Focus areas* are a key concept for strategic programming. Resources and effort will be focused on key areas of political relevance and societal concern to provide better solutions and achieve higher impacts.

The more detailed timeline for WP18-20 is:

- January: Strategic Foresight document approved,
- 1 April: Gap analysis completed,
- 9 March: AG chairs (first meeting),
- 1 June: AG reports delivered to the services,
- June (date TBD): AG chairs (second meeting),
- 17 June: Stakeholder consultation completed and first draft scoping papers completed (including draft focus areas),
- 21 June: R&I DGs meeting,
- 5 September: Focus areas identification completed,
- 14 October: Final draft scoping papers endorsed by the PC configurations,
- Mid Sep to early Nov: Discussions in the strategic PC,
- Mid Nov: Overarching document endorsed by the strategic configuration.

e-IRG will provide written input to the questions of the e-Infrastructure on-line consultation before 1st of June.

There will be a panel discussion on the outcome of the consultation and e-IRG offered to be prepared to take part in these activities.



e-IRG Policy Efforts

e-IRG ESFRI Collaboration

The experience of the e-IRG involvement in the ESFRI proposal evaluation will be presented at the joint ESFRI/e-IRG meeting.

e-Infrastructure Commons Future / e-IRG Roadmap WG

The vision on the e-Infrastructure Commons had been discussed both in the Roadmap WG and in the KPI WG.

e-IRG must now take position on how it can contribute to the EOSC. Thus, the Roadmap should explicitly discuss the EOSC and other cloud initiatives. The timeline for the Roadmap is to have one or two more face-to-face meetings and to have the text available for comments before the next delegates meeting.

Interaction with the European Commission

The KPI working group had several discussions and a good face-to-face meeting. The working group took the e-Infrastructure Commons as starting point and examined projects that provide KPIs. The working group has defined several perspectives to look at KPIs and has also looked at the functionalities. The output of the working group will be available for discussion at the June meeting.

Scientific Data

The draft of the Task Force Report on the Long-tail of Data will be updated and two parts will be added.

The Executive Board was mandated to either endorse a partial result that can already be used or to decide that it will be postponed to the June meeting.

Activities during the Dutch EU Presidency

The next e-IRG delegates meeting will start on Monday 20 June at 12:00 and end on Tuesday 21 June at 14:00. The delegates dinner will be Monday evening.

AOB

Gabriele von Voigt gave an overview of the route25 proposal and the e-IRGSP5 proposal to be submitted to H2020 calls.