



Public Summary of the 47th e-IRG Delegates Meeting

Bratislava, 14-15 November 2016

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

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:

- ICRI 2016 October 3-5, Cape Town.
- H2020 AG on European RI+e-RI October 27th, 2016 Brussels. Rosette Vandenbroucke (BE) participated as e-IRG representative.
- ESFRI WG on coordination of investments in e-infrastructure+ESFRI EB November 7th, Cologne.
- Informal meeting with Mark Parsons, Secretary General of RDA, November 15th, Bratislava.

News from the Commission

There was no representative from DG Connect.

The Chair invited Carmela Asero from DG RTD (Unit A6 Data, Open Access and Foresight) to introduce her unit. Carmela Asero explained that since 2015 the Unit has taken up the part of the work of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) policy, but also more broadly the Open Science part (Science 2.0). One key activity for their Unit is the EOSC Roadmap, which includes three main areas, namely Governance, Funding and Architecture. A related High-Level Expert Group (HLEG on EOSC) was setup to provide advice to the EC. The group published a report two weeks ago with a set of recommendations, which now need to be implemented. Close interaction with related stakeholders is needed, including the ones who are involved in the projects and ESFRI, and to learn more about the challenges and instruments. It is also important to identify gaps in funding and governance mechanisms, redesign the ecosystem for sustainability, including a legal basis, etc., so that EOSC can be seamlessly integrated in a more coherent way. The expected outcome is a seamless EOSC for EU researchers.

Report from ESFRI

A report was not available, as there was no official representation from ESFRI.

Collaboration with ESFRI and other initiatives

Updated e-IRG Guidelines Document for ESFRI proposers

For the ESFRI Roadmap 2016, e-IRG produced a Guidelines document for ESFRI proposers to help them to interpret the e-Needs questions. For the ESFRI Roadmap 2018 update, the questions have slightly changed and the Guidelines document needs to be updated accordingly.

e-IRG representative in the ESFRI Implementation Group

e-IRG has representatives in the various ESFRI Strategy Working Groups (SWGs) and the Implementation Group (IG). Roar Skålin, the current e-IRG representative in the ESFRI IG will leave e-IRG and thus a successor in the ESFRI IG has been nominated (Anna Wetterbom).





Connection with RDA

RDA has co-organized the e-IRG workshop with a focus on data under the Slovakian EU Presidency. There was also a session on RDA Group of European Data Experts (GEDE). Leif Laaksonen (Finland), Françoise Genova (France), who are both e-IRG and RDA, together with Peter Wittenburg, who is also leading the RDA GEDE group, have been part of the e-IRG workshop Programme Committee.

Impact of the restructuring of DG Connect

Restructuring of DG Connect

DG Connect was restructured and in Directorate C Digital Excellence and Science Infrastructure the e-Infrastructure related activities were split into two units: C.1 eInfrastructure and Science Cloud, and C.2 High Performance Computing and Quantum Technology. There are also other EC units in different DGs, including DG RTD, dealing with Open Innovation and Open Science, along with the Open Science Cloud, which are relevant to e-IRG. The EB has put together a small group, which together with the support project, will come up with the groups relevant to e-IRG. The work of the group reused the material prepared by the e-IRG support project in a previous request on related policy groups. In addition, the structure of DG Connect and DG RTD were presented together with their relevant Units.

ERA groups evaluation

A request on the usefulness of ERA groups, including e-IRG, arrived during summer to the Member States. The request was initiated by the European Research Area Committee - ERAC, formerly CREST. The feedback on e-IRG was summarised as follows:

“Eight delegations considered e-IRG to bring added value for ERA priorities and that the work should be continued. Three delegations considered the added value of e-IRG limited and that thus its work should be discontinued or merged with another group. The importance of the topic of e-IRG was highlighted by many of the participants of the inventory. It was mentioned that the existing dialogue between e-IRG and ESFRI could be reinforced in the future. Furthermore, the work of e-IRG currently has connections to the High-level Expert Group on European Open Science Cloud and the dialogue between these two groups should be enhanced. The independent nature of e-IRG and the limited connections with national administrations were considered to slow down the exploitation of the results of the work of e-IRG especially at national level”.

ERA groups evaluation

The new e-IRG Chair starting on 1 January 2017 Gabriele von Voigt presented some thoughts on how the visibility and effectiveness of e-IRG may be improved. As delegates represent the views of their national governments/ministries, they have to interact regularly with them. In addition, e-IRG delegates should exchange more information on their national e-Infrastructures, their governance, KPIs, roadmaps and way towards EOSC. And some delegates can be invited to present their cases in the e-IRG workshops. An action plan for the next 2-3 years can also help. And relevant working groups can be created on strengthening e-IRG.



At the discussion, the following points also came up:

- e-IRG needs to be more receptive to changes and adapted to the new e-Infrastructure environment. As an example, the data component is now very strong and a link with ESFRI.
- e-IRG needs to discuss new ICT policy topics and be able to react and reflect quickly.
- Collocating events to maximise added-value and cut down costs is always appreciated.
- A two-page summary of the topics e-IRG is working on needs to be kept up-to-date, so that delegates can inform their ministries and other stakeholders.
- e-IRG should also work closer with industrial e-Infrastructure stakeholders.
- e-IRG should present its work to the RI PC and a joint event or dinner with the RI PC members could be organised at the framework of their meetings in Brussels.

e-IRG Policy Efforts

e-IRG Roadmap

The e-IRG Roadmap 2016 was endorsed at the delegates meeting in September and was then sent out for public consultation. The initial deadline for the public consultation was November 10th. The e-IRG support project prepared a presentation on the comments received. Comments and suggestions will be included in the current version and the Roadmap will be finalized by the end of the year.

Evaluation of e-Infrastructures and the development of related KPIs

At the last e-IRG delegates meeting in September the European e-Infrastructure initiatives provided their feedback to the KPI document. A summary document of the received inputs has been produced. The document should be completed before the next meeting, preferably by late January or February.

The e-IRG KPI document should focus more on the framework, the process and recommendations to identify KPIs (than the actual KPIs). It must also come up with categorisations and higher-level/aggregate KPIs for evaluating the performance and impact of the Commons and the EOSC. As the goals may differ for the different stakeholders, the goals of the document have to be very clear. The document will act as the framework for the upcoming projects, namely e-IRGSP5 and eInfraCentral to take over and come up with lower-level KPIs.

Guidelines document on "Best practices for the use of e-infrastructures by large-scale research infrastructures", e-Infrastructure Commons Future / e-IRG Roadmap

ESFRI has launched its Roadmap 2018 process at the ICRI 2016 conference and in this context, the e-IRG Guidelines document "Best Practices for the use of e-Infrastructures by large-scale research infrastructures", which provides recommendations to the proposers, needs to be updated. The document should thus be ready by the end of December.

Guidelines document on Long-Term Preservation of Scientific Data

The updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for the working group was presented. The document can start as the other e-IRG policy documents will be concluded soon.

e-IRG Action Plan

The Action Plan has been updated and displays e-IRG activities based on the four e-IRG action



lines (namely interaction with EC, interaction with ESFRI, the Commons, and data aspects). The topics and actions have been already discussed, besides the next e-IRG White Paper.

Activities during the Maltese EU Presidency

The first Delegates meeting during the Maltese EU presidency will take place on 9 March and the e-IRG meeting and workshop on 8-10 June 2017.

The venue and timing of the e-IRG delegates meeting in March will be The Victoria Hotel on Thursday, 9 March 2017, 9:00–17:00. The venue and timings of the e-IRG workshop and meeting will be as follows: San Antonio Hotel, e-IRG workshop, Thursday, 8 June, 9:00 until Friday, 9 June, 12:00 and e-IRG delegates meeting: Friday, 9 June, 13:00 until Saturday, 10 June, 13:00.