

23rd e-IRG delegates meeting
Brussels, Belgium, 16 December 2010
- Summary Report –

The 23rd e-IRG delegates meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium on 16 December 2010. The election of the new e-IRG Chair, e-Infrastructure visions towards FP8 and the current status of the White Paper were some of the items discussed in the meeting.

Participation in projects

A discussion took place on e-IRG participation in proposals and projects. The conclusion was that in principle e-IRG should be independent of any project, although e-IRG should be participant in discussions with projects that are in its domain. Indirect representation through organisations and advisory group participation was seen as feasible options to direct proposal participation.

News from the Commission

Kyriakos Baxevanidis (European Commission) presented the e-Infrastructure visions towards FP8, focusing on Digital Agenda, Youth on the Move and Innovation Union as flagship initiatives addressing the Europe 2020 goals. It was noted that the impact of R&D investment would be especially critical in the current challenging economic situation. The European Digital Agenda is the policy framework that is especially relevant to e-IRG.

The tentative FP8 timetable anticipates public consultation of several policy papers in the early 2011. In this public consultation e-IRG input would be very important and welcome. The financial framework proposal is expected by mid 2011, with the first calls of FP8 expected end of 2013.

The main conclusions on Research Infrastructures (RIs) of the report on the interim evaluation of FP7 by external experts were presented. According to the report, access to RIs was seen as an area where there is scope for further improvement but where also additional funding is required. The role of the e-Infrastructures was recognised as implementing a different logic that can overcome many of today's constraints concerning the access to RI.

The report recommendations are focusing on the need for further coherence between policies (Capacities, Structural Funds, Education etc), the further boosting of the RIs at the end of FP7 and beyond, and the development of further synergies between RIs and training actions as well as the use of RIs by third countries and industry.

Report of cost estimation exercise

Fotis Karagiannis (e-IRGSP2/AUEB-RC) presented the initial results of the cost estimation exercise performed by the e-IRGSP2 project regarding EGI. In the estimation exercise the costs of participating NGIs were modelled and compared to commercially available resources (different Amazon EC contract models). In general the exercise was seen as a good first step, trying to address a very important question.

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Selection of the e-IRG Chair for the 2011-2012 term

Rosette Vandenbroucke presented the outcome of the work of the search committee after the previous meeting. **Gudmund Høst** was proposed as a candidate by Germany. No other candidates were identified.

In his candidate presentation, **Gudmund Høst** characterised himself as a “*professional bureaucrat*”, and emphasised that he saw this as an asset that benefits e-IRG through efficient use of available resources, smooth running of the meetings and production of output documents of high quality. He also mentioned collaboration with other stakeholders, such as ESFRI, and identifying their key needs that e-IRG can address as a starting point.

After a brief discussion Gudmund Høst was chosen as the e-IRG chair with a unanimous decision.

Leif Laaksonen was thanked for his excellent service as the chair during the last four years. It was also noted that **Kyriakos Baxevanidis** is going to leave e-IRG membership as he will take the responsibility of the deputy head of the unit “ICT for sustainable growth” and that **Matti Heikkurinen** will leave the e-IRG secretariat at the end of the year.

e-IRG action plan

Matti Heikkurinen (e-IRGSP2/ETL) presented the status of the e-IRG action plan. It was concluded that the action plan is a document specific to e-IRG and can be seen as providing additional continuity on the executive level to complement the activities lead by each of the EU presidencies. After some discussion it was decided that there is a clear need for an e-IRG action plan and that the current version will be used as basis for further work by the delegates and e-IRGSP3.

e-IRG White Paper

Rosette Vandenbroucke led the discussion about the current status of the new e-IRG White Paper and gave a brief overview of the status of the different parts.

As a general comment, it was observed that a White Paper document should anticipate changes and propose ways to react to them. This means taking a risk, but it makes the document more interesting and increases the visibility of the work of e-IRG.

Overall mid-February was still seen as a feasible goal for the version of the White Paper that would go into public consultation.

Collaboration of the support programme with other organisations

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between e-IRGSP2, e-IRGSP3 and the e-ScienceTalk projects and the proposal for a MoU between EU-IndiaGrid and e-IRGSP2/e-IRGSP3 were noted as issues to be taken up by the e-IRGSP3 projects and the new e-IRG chair.

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Migration to e-IRGSP3 for 2011 - 2013

Patrick Aerts (NCF) reported on the kick-off meeting of the e-IRGSP3 project on the 15th of December. The e-IRGSP3 project leader is Rossend Llurba and the location of the secretariat will change to The Hague. The key contact point for the secretariat will be Naomi Messing, and the support for e-IRG board will be transferred from Matti Heikkurinen to Rossend Llurba.

Future e-IRG events

The events during the Hungarian EU Presidency are planned tentatively on the following dates:

Workshop:	Budapest, April 4 th – 5 th
1 st delegates meeting:	Budapest, April 6 th
2 nd delegates meeting:	Budapest, June 1 st

Suggestion of themes: future internet, Blue Paper themes, Hungarian presidency topics, Structural funds and e-Infrastructure, ESFRI projects and their interests and Balancing of the excellence and cohesion in the e-Infrastructure.

The dates and locations of the Polish EU presidency events remain:

Workshop:	Poznan October 18 th – 19 th
1 st delegates meeting:	Poznan, October 20 th
2 nd delegates meeting:	Warsaw, December 9 th

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