



e-IRG Blue Paper

e-IRG work to address e-Infrastructure needs of the ESFRI projects

Thursday 17th June 2010 @ CSIC, Madrid

Neil Geddes, e-IRG Blue Paper working group Chair
STFC

e-IRG
e-Infrastructure
Reflection Group

Collaboration with ESFRI

ESFRI European Strategy Forum
on Research Infrastructures



- The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures - ESFRI brings together representatives of EU Member States and Associated States, appointed by Ministers in charge of Research, and one representative of the European Commission.
- The role of ESFRI is to support a coherent approach to policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe, and to act as an incubator for international negotiations about concrete initiatives
- ESFRI projects cover a wide area of sciences: E.g. from physics, energy and environment to social sciences and humanities
- <http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/>
- The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) was founded to define and recommend best practices for the (pan-) European distributed e-Infrastructure. Representatives appointed by Ministers in EU Member States, Associated States to the EU Research Framework Programme and the European Commission.
- The main objective of the e-Infrastructure initiative is to support the creation of a framework (political, technological and administrative) for the easy and cost-effective shared use of distributed electronic resources across Europe.
- <http://www.e-irg.eu/>

- **Scope:**
 - Examines ways in which **ESFRI Research Infrastructures** and their **users** can exploit e-Infrastructure services to satisfy their needs
 - Provides an **assessment of Europe's e-Infrastructure service portfolio**, and identifies the **opportunities** and **challenges** involved
- **Topics**
 - Overview of current e-Infrastructure services:
 - Network, computing, middleware, data: Towards service orientation!
 - e-Infrastructure Service Areas
 - Networking, Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting, Grid, Cloud and Virtualisation, High Performance Computing, Remote Access and Remote Instrumentation, Data infrastructures and persistent storage, Virtual Research Communities and collaboration, Generic Issues

- Invitation from ESFRI
- October 2009 eIRG Meeting
- November 2009 eIRG Meeting
 - Leif Laaksonen – Chairman, conclusions and overall coordination
 - Mirco Mazzucato - European e-Infrastructure as a service
 - Malcolm Atkinson/ Kimmo Koski – Data-infrastructure
 - Fiorenzo Scaroni – AAI
 - Lajos Bálint – Virtual research communities
 - Gabriele von Voigt – HPC
 - Mirco Mazzucato – Grid/Cloud/Virtualization
 - Norbert Meyer – Remote instrumentation
 - Kees Neggers – Networking
 - Rosette Vandenbroucke/Sverker Holmgren–ESFRI requirements
 - Support from e-IRGSP2
- December 2009
 - Neil Geddes asked to chair group

Timeline 2010

- January:
 - Draft skeleton with initial text and directions
- February:
 - Bi-weekly BP WG Conference calls (5th, 19th)
 - Meet with ESFRI EB
 - First full draft (much too long)
- March:
 - Face-to-face BP WG meeting, 2nd March
 - Interactions with e-IRG plenum, EEF, ESFRI-EB
- April:
 - Blue paper to the e-IRG plenum: April 9th, Feedback, but no meeting
- May:
 - e-IRG plenum feedback by 7th of May
 - WG: Preparation of pre-final version for eIRG and ESFRI EB
- June:
 - e-IRG plenum final comments in the Madrid meeting
 - Final version of the Blue Paper: 30th of June

Blue Paper Contents

- Topics
 - Mapping of ESFRI requirements to e-Infrastructure service areas
 - Generic Issues:
 - Business and Governance Models, Digital Divide, New user induction, Cost effectiveness, Green IT, Software issues
 - Conclusions
 - **Co-evolution of Research Infrastructures, e-Infrastructure and user requirements; sustained innovation**
 - **Active and direct user engagement**
 - **Internationalisation of Research**
 - **Exploitation of available services: Service orientation**
 - Next steps
 - Encourage engagement across user, developer and provider communities in e-Infrastructures
 - Address the barriers to engagement

Next Steps

- Draft to be discussed by eIRG this week
 - eIRG members encouraged to comment
- Formally sent to ESFRI before end of June
 - Possibly wider release – eIRG Decision
- Current paper is very broad and very generic
- Need input from ESFRI to identify specific issues
 - Additional cost of ICT to Research Infrastructures ?
 - Growing policy requirements on researchers ?
 - ???
- Broader input and comment welcome