17th e-IRG delegates meeting,

Prague, Czech Republic, 15 May, 2009

– Summary Report –

The 17th e-IRG delegates meeting was held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15 May 2009. It took place at the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, shortly after the e-IRG workshop. The 17th e-IRG delegates meeting provided the opportunity to discuss three important documents in preparation (the e-IRG White Paper 2009[1], the recommendations document based on the White Paper and the e-IRG Roadmap), as well as the e-IRG agenda for the forthcoming Swedish EU Presidency.

This 17th meeting welcomed several new e-IRG delegates, participating to the event for the first time. It can also be noted that a large number of delegate mandates were renewed by the ministries of the member states, which confirms the high amount of attention the e-IRG attracts at governmental level in Europe. After the formal approval of the Prague meeting agenda, and of the minutes from the previous e-IRG meeting in Paris (8/12/2008), the discussion on the new e-IRG White Paper, the e-IRG candidate recommendations and the e-IRG Roadmap began.

Discussion and approval of the proposed e-IRG White Paper, and e-IRG candidate recommendations

Fotis Karagiannis (White Paper chief editor) presented the latest draft of the e-IRG White Paper 2009. He pointed out that there had been a very lively and constructive discussion on the topics covered by the White Paper. The White Paper presents a multitude of views and needs from multiple stakeholders, such as policy makers, e-Infrastructure service providers and user communities. In order to avoid losing the momentum generated, it was decided to publish the White Paper as an "e-IRG working document", i.e. a document expressing the views of the different stakeholders working on the relevant topics and not necessarily those of the e-IRG.

Due to the difficulties of capturing all the richness of the input provided during the White Paper process, a discussion about a new editing process for the next White Papers will be included into the agenda of the next e-IRG meeting. Devising a strategy to manage and reap the benefits from increased interest in the document will also be combined with further reflection on how to improve the dissemination of the White Paper 2009 for reaching more efficiently the intended audience.

After the White Paper discussion was completed, Fotis Karagiannis introduced the candidate recommendations document based on the White Paper. The final version of this document will define the e-IRG's formal position and concrete calls for action based on the White Paper. To ensure that the presentation and details of the recommendations are optimally suited for influencing

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[1] During this meeting, it was decided to rename the White paper 2008 to White paper 2009, taking into account the date of publication of the document.

member state policies, it was decided to appoint a delegate for each set of recommendation to finalise this work.

It was also decided that the final version of the recommendations would be discussed by the delegates before and during the next e-IRG meeting, to be held in Prague on 17 June, 2009.

The e-IRG Roadmap status

Matti Heikkurinen (e-IRG Roadmap chief editor) presented the status of the e-IRG Roadmap. The relationship between the White Paper 2009 and the Roadmap 2009, combined with the new approach adapted to conclude the work related to the e-IRG recommendations meant that the focus on the roadmap during the meeting was moved from the discussion on the schedule and details to the discussion on the strategic plan for the e-IRG Roadmap

During this discussion on the candidate Roadmap recommendations, it was noted – in light of the very successful workshop just before the meeting[2] – that these recommendations could leverage even more the broadening collaborative activities with ESFRI. The importance of a link with ESFRI activities was re-iterated, and expert groups – such as preparatory phase projects mentioned in the ESFRI roadmap[3] – were seen as particularly well-positioned to comment on the long-term development of the e-Infrastructure.

The e-IRG activities during the Swedish EU Presidency

Sverker Holmgren (e-IRG vice-chair) presented the plans for the Swedish presidency. In terms of cross-cutting themes to be analysed during the Swedish presidency, increased involvement of the e-Infrastructure users, transparent authentication, authorisation and accounting were mentioned. The next e-IRG Workshop will be held in Uppsala, on 14-15 October 2009.

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[2] http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/prague_workshop_report.pdf
[3] http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/roadmap.htm