

E-Infrastructure Commons

INTEGRATED SERVICES VIA INTEROPERABLE E-INFRASTRUCTURES



Input for '16/'17 work programme

SURF

Issues of attention (1)

Ease of use between national and European institutions:

Researchers (and increasingly students) are pan-European and ***expect*** to have the same services offered to them in the same way, HOWEVER:

- the service portfolios of the national infrastructure organisations (NRENs, NGIs, etc.) are different because of national priorities (researchers are cross-country and don't care about 'national' priorities);
- even if the service is there, it is offered in different ways, through different (purchase/acquisition) methods;
- being branded differently also obscures availability;

The work programme should stimulate service portfolio harmonisation and ways for (research) communities to foster availability of services for researchers, when nobody else in the region/country wants to do it.

Issues of attention (2)

e-infrastructure aims to be a general purpose infrastructure

The raison d'être for a horizontal infrastructure such as e-infra is that common requirements from the various user communities are handled more effectively and cost efficient, then if done per disciplinary pillar.

The work programme should strongly encourage the further innovation and development of generic reusable tools and services, such as common AAI, PID, service registry and discovery.

Issues of attention (3)

e-infrastructures need well organized user communities

European e-Infrastructures cannot innovate, develop and deliver services in vacuum. They need clear directions and involvement from well organized European user communities, that have sufficient mass and expertise to really have influence on service development.

The work programme should continue to encourage European user communities, such as ESFRI projects, to organize themselves with respect to formulating their e-infra requirements and eventually to position them to pay for those services.

Issues of attention (4)

Different levels of maturity

Transnational access of services for research communities requires strong building blocks in the form of well organized national e-infra organizations, that encompass all e-infra aspects (computing, data, networking).

The work programme should encourage the development of strong national e-infra organizations as building blocks for European e-infra coordination.

Issues of attention (5)

European research communities require European e-infra coordination

The currently existing European e-infra organizations, projects and initiatives all have issues around governance, sustainability, business models and inclusiveness, such as the involvement of (European) user communities and the role of private parties.

The work programme should strongly encourage the development of a European coordinating body for all e-infra components in which these issues are solved coherently; this should include a commitment to co-fund development of transnational services for the longer term.

Why not aim for 'GEANT Association' as the nucleus for this organization? And ... should we do away with the branding of the various e-infra projects/organizations ?