

*The role of Local and Regional
coordination in the introduction of
eInfrastructures*

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From the invitation: “Keep it short and get to the point”

- *eInfrastructure enhancements will only succeed if we solve end-to-end issues:*
 - *Technical*
 - *Infrastructural*
 - *Methodological*
 - *Social / Human*
- *Local and Regional Coordination will be an essential ingredient for such end-to-end issues*
- *The sophisticated structure of Europe is uniquely positioned to achieve this multi-level coordination*

The Regional Level

- *Where appropriate, Regions will provide the “flexible meso-level” between the National and Local levels to catalyze rapid and effective take-up of eInfrastructure technologies and ways of working into specific areas and specific policy frameworks.*
- *Regions are a complementary vehicle to the effort to achieve the vision of eEurope.*
- *Groups of Regions acting in a coordinated fashion with a direct connection to key actors in Science, Technology, Health and Industry will enhance the benefits of introducing eInfrastructures*

The Local Level

- *Involvement of the Local Level, i.e. Cities and Metropolitan Areas, is essential in order to avoid First Kilometer Problems and provide the ultimate link to the Citizen.*
- *Not just technical, but also social, organizational, and interface to citizens.*
- *Typically, the type of competences held at Local level are different and complementary to those at the Regional level.*

Some examples to make it less abstract

- *Health care*
 - *Primary attention centers and hospitals are often operated by combination of Local and Regional agencies inside a National framework.*
- *Government*
 - *Increasing number of agreements to present a “unified window” for Citizen access to Local, Regional, National and EU services.*
- *Consumers*
 - *EU citizens still walk on the street ! Local and Regional levels can help catalyze innovative business models targeted with “local knowledge”.*

GridPorts: Regional Coordination of eInfrastructures and eScience

- *A GridPort is a concept specifically designed to enhance feedback between the growth of Grid Infrastructures and the development and deployment of eScience Applications at the Regional level.*
- *Coordination and cooperation between GridPorts through the Association of Regional GridPorts will lead to:*
 - *Coordinated growth of eScience communities in a scalable and timely way, avoiding the creation of an “eScience bubble”.*
 - *Compatible and cost-effective deployment and growth of Grid Infrastructures, avoiding unfulfilled expectations of new users.*
- *This idea is being incubated by the governments of the Four Motors for Europe (Baden-Württemberg, Catalunya, Lombardia and Rhône-Alpes) but will be open to all.*

Conclusions:

“Keep it short and get to the point”

- *The creation of eEurope will only succeed if we solve end-to-end issues in Technical, Infrastructural, Methodological, Social, Human and Citizen-contact domains.*
- *Local and Regional Coordination will be an essential ingredient for such end-to-end issues.*
- *The concept of Regional GridPorts and their Association is being developed as a complementary tool for coordination in science. It will serve as a laboratory to learn about general introduction of eInfrastructures.*
- *The sophisticated structure of Europe is uniquely positioned to achieve this multi-level coordination.*