



e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) Task Force on Sustainable e- Infrastructures (SeI)

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Background (1/2)

- At the fifth e-IRG delegates meeting in London December 2005, Kyriakos Baxevanidis (EC) presented the preliminary EC proposal for budget allocation for European e-Infrastructures in FP7
- Current EC budget allocation for European e-infrastructures creates challenges because of the limited resources, duration, and support of the projects. The current instruments have difficulties accommodating permanent service provisioning.
- The recommendation accepted by e-IRG delegates at the meeting in London to support the development and maintenance of eInfrastructures in Europe is as follows:
- "The e-IRG recognises that the current project-based financing model of Grids (e.g., EGEE, DEISA) presents continuity and interoperability problems, and that new financing and governance models need to be explored - taking into account the role of national Grid initiatives as recommended in the Luxembourg e-IRG meeting. The e-IRG will establish a Task Force to take up this issue.
- In order to facilitate international collaboration the e-IRG wishes to reaffirm the importance of the national eInfrastructure initiatives that aggregate on a national level relevant e-infrastructure activities."

Background (2/2)

At the e-IRG delegates meeting in London December 2005, it was decided:

- to set up an e-IRG Task Force for Sustainable e-infrastructures, following the recommendations from the e-IRG delegates during the meeting.
- This Task Force works directly under the e-IRG troika (representative for the previous, present and upcoming Presidency of EU) and reports back to the e-IRG delegates.
- The results of the Task Force will be communicated to the e-IRG delegates at the Linz e-IRG Workshop (10 - 11 April) for feedback.
- The function of the Task Force is to create a statement for submission to the European Commission and the membership countries before the end of April, after discussions and approval by the e-IRG delegates.

Task force addresses the following questions:

- Establish the Terms of Reference for the eIRG Task Force on "Sustainable e-Infrastructures", including the Membership and participation in the discussion of the Task Force.
- Develop a strategy to answer the following questions:
 - What impacts do e-Infrastructures have on the research process in general and on which areas in particular?
 - What is needed in terms of policies and funding to be sustainable over the long term?
 - What can be done to increase the acceptance and convenience of non-e-Infrastructure-enthusiasts?
 - How to integrate industrial efforts and SMEs into sustainable e-Infrastructures

The initial task force members are:

- Leif Laaksonen (Appointed TF Chair and e-IRG Troika member)
 - Victor Alessandrini
 - Bob Jones
 - Mirco Mazzucato
 - Anne Trefethen
 - Klaus Ullmann
- + Dieter Kranzlmüller and help from the e-IRG support group (Michiel Leenaars)

How to make e-Infrastructures sustainable

- **Recommendation I:** increase the life time of e-Infrastructure projects.
- **Recommendation II:** ensure e-Infrastructures are inclusive and open.
- **Recommendation III:** establish mechanisms to coordinate and pool investments.
- **Recommendation IV:** e-Infrastructures must inter-operate and adopt standard services and protocols.
- **Recommendation V:** increase capital investments in e-Infrastructures.

Increasing efficiency and impact (1/4)

- To *strengthen the integration* of industrial efforts and SMEs into sustainable infrastructures in this context, industry has to be seen as both a potential user and a major partner for service provision.
- Clear policies have to be established for access from industrial research projects in pre-competitive domains, industrial production projects accessing innovative technologies or deploying innovative strategies and industrial production projects with occasional exceptional requirements (critical computing on demand).

Increasing efficiency and impact (2/4)

- Infrastructures need to remain state of the art; therefore new technologies should be evaluated and introduced continuously.
- In order to make investments in R&D more efficient, the take up of new technology in production infrastructures should be improved by *appointing e-Infrastructure providers as stakeholders* in relevant R&D efforts.

Increasing efficiency and impact (3/4)

- To accelerate and expand the adoption of e-Infrastructures attention must be paid to their ease of use.
- *Investing in improving the usability* (e.g. by hiding complexity and increasing interoperability) will broaden their user base, adding significant value to the science community and increasing European competitiveness.

Increasing efficiency and impact (4/4)

- The new opportunities presented by distributed infrastructures requires *increased training and an improved skills base* for the research community, which also needs to form part of any national or European strategy for e-Infrastructure.
 - This will require further advisory and guidance services that collaborate across Europe[1].
1. The proposed e-IRG Task Force on Training and Education should look into this and make in due time necessary recommendations to support these activities.

The procedure:

1. The delegates are invited to provide their written comments for consideration until Tuesday, April 18.
2. Based on these comments, an updated version will be provided until Friday, April 21.
3. The e-IRG delegates are invited to approve this version via EMail to the e-IRG Chair until Friday, April 28, 12:00 CEST.
4. At 12:00, the e-IRG chair submits the document on behalf of the e-IRG to the e-IRG representatives of the European Commission for consideration in FP7.

Thank you!

Questions and comments?