

34th e-IRG delegates meeting

Vilnius, Lithuania, 12 September 2013

Public Summary

Reports and News

Anni Hellman (EC) reported that eIPF was renamed into *Digital ERA forum*. The main objective of the forum will be to take care of related ERA Communication actions, and thus preparing statements and recommendations for digital ERA. Another possible goal is to catalyse e-Infrastructure collaboration. Concerning the *Expert Advisory Group for Research Infrastructures* Anni Hellman said that the required balance of gender, geography and competence delayed the establishment of the group. At the time of the delegates meeting the Expert Advisory Group was formed out of 6000 volunteers and comprises 22 people plus the chairs of e-IRG and ESFRI. It is an advisory body mostly for EC DG CNECT C1 (eInfrastructure) and DG RTD B3 (Research Infrastructures), which will reflect on the future of H2020 in these areas. Anni Hellman recalls that the *Call for proposals No 12 – FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2013-2* was published on 3 September 2013 and will end on 3 December 2013. Furthermore Anni Hellman reported that no proposals were submitted to the *Study on seamless ERA of digital services for ICT-based e-Infrastructures*, which deals with legal issues and complements the work of the e-IRG task force on legal issues. Anni Hellmann announced the *Pre-ICRI EU-Australia event*, which will take place in Australia during 5-6 November 2013 (overlapping with ICT 2013) and the *International Conference on Research infrastructures (ICRI2014)*, which will take place in Athens in April 2014. The last point Anni Hellman tackled was the *Work Programme 2014-2015*, the draft is available for inter-service consultation and the Member States. The programme covers mainly the connectivity, computing and data areas along with the new professions and skills and virtual research. First calls will be published in December 2013, the projects are expected to start earliest in September 2014 as the funding will become available mainly in 2015. The total budget for e-Infrastructures will be in the order of 700M Euros for the 7-year Horizon 2020. The work programme reflects the needs from the communities.

Neither Alf Game as new ESFRI delegate to e-IRG nor Yannis Ioannidis (appointed member in the ESFRI/e-IRG informal Working Group) were able to attend the e-IRG delegates meeting. Therefore Anni Hellman was the one who reported from ESFRI stating that the prioritisation of ESFRI projects was heavily discussed within ESFRI, based on the project's progress. Another news is that ESFRI is expected to have a new chair by the October meeting.

Rosend Llurba summarized the activities of the e-IRG support programme, which are the support for the production of the White Paper 2013 and the preparation of the delegates meeting in Vilnius.

White Paper 2013

The *e-IRG White Paper 2013* is published in a short and a long version. A professional, technical author has prepared the short version. The content of the long version was pre-approved during the previous delegates meeting, whereas the approval of the short version was delegated to the e-IRG Executive Board.

www.e-irg.eu

e-IRG
e-Infrastructure
Reflection Group

e-IRG Secretariat
P.O. Box 93575
NL-2509 AN The Hague
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 344 0526
secretariat [at.] e-irg.eu

Visiting address
c/o The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
Java Building, Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300
NL-2593 CE The Hague
The Netherlands

The Chair propose to make efforts to be invited to other forums like the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and the European University Association (EUA) to present the e-IRG White Paper 2013.
Task Force on Legal Issues

The e-IRG Task Force on Legal Issues has contributed a chapter to the White Paper 2013. The TFLI has also completed its final report, which contains the text on legal issues in the White Paper plus attachments dealing with the separate issues. This final report was approved by e-IRG and it was decided that a publication of a dedicated recommendations document would depend on the progress of the related EC tender and the collaboration with TFLI.

Further coordination of ESRFI and e-IRG

On behalf of EC (DG CNECT and DG RTD) e-IRG and ESRFI installed an informal working group, which explores further possibilities for a joint cooperation. The working group identified the distinctness of the paths of both, e-IRG and ESRFI, and came to the conclusion that not a single advisory body will be able to cover the totality of pan-EU RI needs, and that furthermore new requirements have emerged to support research access to and use of a growing volume and diversity of data from RIs. The working group has produced an interim report, which stated that there is a need for an advisory structure capable of providing a common vision across all EU RIs requirements and needs of all users. The report also states that the current separate roles of ESRFI and e-IRG are barrier to achieve this. e-IRG has a broader scope, while ESRFI is focusing on the ESRFI projects. A more detailed examination of the “data challenge” in the context of the e-IRG/ESRFI interface would be more desirable before developing more detailed change proposals and proposed to e-IRG and ESRFI. To address this in the e-IRG workshop in Vilnius in a track with working title “Infrastructures in the Digital Age: the Data Challenge” is proposed. The next meeting of the informal e-IRG/ESRFI working group is scheduled for the 28. November 2013.

The e-IRG delegates discussed the cooperation with ESRFI and the main points are that e-IRG should engage more with ESRFI to bring forward the e-Infrastructure and the data aspect within ESRFI. Since ESRFI is different from the ESRFI projects, e-IRG should strive also for cross-representation and cooperation with the ESRFI cluster projects.

Coordination of European e-Infrastructures

The EIROforum report “A vision for a European e-Infrastructure for the 21th Century” and the creation of a service registry were discussed. The EIROforum report was generally appreciated as an interesting document and it was decided to invite the EIROforum representatives to present their plans during the next meeting. Additionally the establishment of an e-Infrastructure user forum was discussed. The creation of a service registry needs a lot of resources that neither e-IRG nor the support programme can provide, but during the discussion it was considered if e-IRG could initiate the creation of a service registry, whereas a more potent infrastructure provider will implement it. Finally it was decided to prepare further this topic and to have a proposal for an assignment.

Relations with other Infrastructure providers

e-IRG's relations with other e-Infrastructure providers like EGI, Dante, Terena, etc., which gave presentations during the e-IRG delegates meeting in Dublin, will continue as an open and serious debate during the upcoming e-IRG workshop in Vilnius.

EC Call FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2013-2 (INFRA-2013-3.1)

Gabriele von Voigt reported about the ongoing activities to establish the next support programme for e-IRG. Partners of the consortium are BSC (Spain), GRNET (Greece), LUIS (Germany), NWO and Genias (Netherlands), PSNC (Poland) and VUB (Belgium). To meet EC's desire to stimulate a deeper cooperation between e-IRG and ESFRI the proposal will include a dedicated work package on this.

e-IRG Action Plan

The e-IRG Action Plan has a new item on the creation of an overview of the different groups, which are involved in creating policy recommendations on the European level, as Rossend Llurba reported. The Terms of Reference will be presented during the next e-IRG delegates meeting.

Social Media

The e-IRG social media activities will be presented for feedback during the November meeting, providing a detailed picture over the e-IRG presence in social media and a differential analysis of the different followers (Twitter), friends (Facebook) and contacts (LinkedIn).

Activities during the Lithuanian EU Presidency

The e-IRG workshop in Vilnius will take place at the old campus in the city centre of Vilnius. It will start on Monday morning, 8:30, November 4th and will end at noon on November 5th. There will be two tracks "e-Infrastructure in the Digital Age: the data challenge" and "e-Infrastructure commons" and three informal workshops on social media, further e-IRG/ESFRI collaboration and e-IRGSP4 tasks.

Activities during the Greek EU Presidency

The delegates meeting in Athens will take place on Tuesday 1 April 2014, before the ICRI 2014 conference. A joint e-IRG/ESFRI meeting is planned to take place on Wednesday 2 April just before the ICRI starts. The second delegates meeting under Greek EU presidency will take place tentatively 9-11 June 2014.

AOB

Roar Skålin is the new e-IRG member on the ESFRI Implementation Group he replaces Leif Laaksonen.