42nd e-IRG delegates meeting
Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 17 September 2015
Public Summary

Reports and News

Report from the e-IRG Chair and Board

The e-IRG Chair Sverker Holmgren informed the delegates about the main activities since the last meeting. He had participated in several events including:

- ESFRI Forum meeting, June 12, Lisbon.
- e-IRG OAWG meeting, June 15, Amsterdam.
- ERA conference, June 22-23, Brussels.
- Meetings with the ESFRI Chair, June 30 (Visby) and July 16 (Oxford).
- ICRI2016 Programme Committee meeting, September 3, Brussels.

News from the Commission
DG RTD

Anni Hellman informed on the following activities of DG RTD:

- ESFRI Roadmap.
- The NCP information days on the RI Work Programme on 27-28 October in Brussels will be organised by the NCP support programme. The event on the 28th is for stakeholders and is open to attend. The aim is to stream this event.
- A specific information day for ESFRI projects is planned in 2016. The dates are not yet set.
- The 13th European week of regions and cities[1] on 12-15 October 2015 in Brussels has on 14 October a specific topic on Research Infrastructures as drivers of knowledge and innovation in European Regions that can be of interest from the national point of view.

DG CONNECT: Anni Hellman

HPC:

- The study on the progress of the European HPC strategy carried out by IDC finished in June and will be published end of September. There will be a specific dissemination activity on HPC announcing it at the same date of the Concertation meeting for FET-exascale projects and Centres of Excellence on 29-30 September in Rome.
- The commission is preparing a Staff Working Document (SWD) to report on the progress on the implementation of the HPC strategy, which is an obligation set by the HPC communication. This SWD will go through inter-service consultation and will be sent to the Council and Parliament by the end of 2015.
- As result of WP14-15, 8 HPC Centres of Excellence are starting. They are from various areas and very focused on simulations. Some have started in the beginning of September and the last one will start in November.

Policy:

- The Digital Single Market has an on-going European Cloud initiative. There will be a Communication on Science Cloud by the end of 2015.

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/opendays/od2015/index.cfm

- The CIS and MS consultations on WP16-17[2] finished. The work programme experienced some changes at the last programme committee meeting. The first deadlines of Calls are in March 2016. An information day will be on 3 December.

Communication:
- DG CONNECT launched the Platform Digital4Science [3] for discussions about e-infrastructure current issues, for questions and answers about e-infrastructure strategy, policy and activities, for communication amongst project groups (clusters of e-infrastructure projects) and for discussion about KPIs, TRLs, collaboration agreements etc. which are new features in the WP16-17 for e-infrastructures.
- A Digital ERA meeting will take place on 19 October in Lisbon.
- The ICT2015 Innovate, Connect, Transform event is on 20-22 October in Lisbon.
- DG CONNECT is directly linked to the following sessions at ICT2015:
  - 20 October 16:00 - 17:30 Strong ICT for a strong economy
  - 21 October 09:00 - 10:30 Open Science and Open Data for Innovation (session moderated by Anni Hellman)
  - 22 October 09:00 - 10:30 Multi-disciplinarity for Future Technology
  - 22 October 14:00 - 15:35 eInfrastructure WP16-17 launch (presentation by Augusto Burgueño)
- DG CONNECT has 3 booths in the EC Village Space at ICT2015 from 12:00 on 20 October to 12:00 on 22 October:
  - Open Science (e-Infrastructures). The theme is "Open Science for Innovation and Growth"; e-Infrastructure Services enable the Open Science Vision".
  - GEANT for Open Science with two projects: MD-PAEDIGREE and CARDIOPROOF.
  - OpenAIRE for Open Science.
- An eConcertation meeting will take place on 9 November. All H2020 projects for einfrastructure WP14-15 are invited.
- ICRI 2016 will be in Cape Town, South Africa on 3-5 October 2016.

Erik Fledderus mentioned that there is also an open consultation for the Charter for Access[4] for research infrastructures.

Leif Laaksonen said that around ICRI2016 there will be a full week of activities and side events.

The Chair asked about the relation between the Digital Single Market European Cloud Initiative and the Communication on the Science Cloud: is the European Science Cloud being discussed in this Communication? Anni Hellman answered that the Communication is part of the European Cloud Initiative where there is also a Science Cloud, but the Communication is wider than European clouding.

News from ESFRI

Yannis Ioannidis reported that ESFRI is evaluating the proposals. This is being done by the Strategic Working Groups in which e-IRG delegates participate. Face to face meetings of the SWGs with proposers have started. Apart from scientific quality, there is a focus on showing maturity, sustainability, scientific work etc. The first conclusions will be discussed at the ESFRI meeting in Prague. The e-IRG contribution is very significant, both in terms of preparation as well as all the

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[2] https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/draft-work-programmes-2016-17
[3] See http://ec.europa.eu/d4science
[4] http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=access_ri

questions that the e-IRG has established from the beginning and the participation of the e-IRG members in the SWGs. This is well recognised and appreciated.

The mandate of the Competitiveness Council has been discussed at e-IRG ESFRI chairs level and a new joint working group is being formed.

A joint ESFRI e-IRG networking session will take place at ICT2015.

In March 2016 a half-day joint meeting ESFRI/e-IRG is being planned. The meeting will coincide with the ESFRI roadmap presentation event on the 10th.

Report from e-IRGSP4

A written report was included in the agenda package. Erik Fledderus said that SURF is also interested to participate in the next support programme. Gabriele von Voigt invited him to mail as soon as possible the expertise and persons to be involved.

Report of recent developments in the member countries

In the Netherlands a new permanent committee will draft a roadmap for research infrastructures. This committee has been established by NWO at the request from the Ministry of Science and Education. SURF is not participating in the committee but is in close contact particular for the role of e-Infrastructures and Erik Fledderus will point the committee to the various documents that have been issued by e-IRG and ESFRI.

The first supercomputer in Greece[5] is in full operation. It has been running for the last three months and it is the first time that Greece has a system visible in the top-500 list.

The Swedish roadmap to infrastructures has been published in English[6]. There is a strong focus on e-Infrastructures. Next year the Swedish government will release the next bill for innovation and science.

Germany has published a call on the process for a roadmap and for Research Infrastructures. The deadline is 15 January 2016.

Estonia has updated its roadmap and this is the basis for funding of infrastructures. It is available on the web in Estonian and English[7]. e-Infrastructures are also included in the roadmap. An investment plan for infrastructures will be available at the end of this year.

Norway has awarded in June about €200 million for research infrastructures. About €20 million is directly for e-infrastructure with a large focus on open data and sharing data. The update of the roadmap will be ready end of the year.

The Chair said that the process of countries for creating a roadmap and procedures for funding is one part of the mapping process about the impact of the national models. Collecting information on funding streams and coordination of investment at the national level is another part which might be a lot more difficult but e-IRG needs to look into it. He hopes that the trend continues that e-Infrastructures are included in the national roadmaps in a natural way.

Collaboration with ESFRI and other initiatives

The Chair summarised what has taken place with the Competitiveness Council invitation to ESFRI

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[5] http://greece.greekreporter.com/2014/07/04/greece-acquires-its-first-supercomputer
[6] https://publikationer.vr.se/en/product/the-swedish-research-councils-guide-to-research-infrastructures-2014/
[7] http://www.etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Eesti-teadustaristute-teekaart.pdf

to look at the mechanism for coordinating investments of e-Infrastructure. At the June Riga meeting it was decided that e-IRG should approach ESFRI to address this invitation together and a mandate was given to the Chair to continue the discussions with ESFRI on this collaboration. The Chair has discussed with the ESFRI Chair the ToR for a joint ESFRI e-IRG working group. The draft ToR has also been discussed and accepted by the e-IRG Executive Board and has been sent to the ESFRI Executive Board. The goal is to have e-IRG approval today and in the ESFRI meeting in Prague in October. A main point is that e-IRG and ESFRI are producing in a joint matter a response. Also in the draft ToR there is an indication that discussion, communication and collaboration with e-IRG and ESFRI could continue in the future.

On a question by Gabriele von Voigt the Chair said that the exact composition of the working group has not been set. It should be formed by national delegates from ESFRI and e-IRG and the e-IRG EB has concluded that it should be a balanced composition but that has not been discussed in the ESFRI EB yet. The e-IRG Chair is proposed to chair the working group.

Erik Fledderus asked what the interaction will be of the current working groups with this working group and in particular the effect of the results from the KPI working group. The Chair said that the KPI working group discusses instruments for how the commission work programme funding is evaluated and that there will be connections but he does not expect that the interaction will be strong. He expects a stronger interaction with the work on the impact of national strategies.

On the question by Bob Day on the process to establish the working group the Chair said that the formal decision lies with ESFRI but will be taken in close collaboration with e-IRG. We can probably not wait formally until the November delegates meeting because the deliverable of this working group is already in April 2016.

Mini-Workshop – e-IRG Mission and Vision

The Mission and Vision, objectives and bylaws were discussed in a mini-workshop.

On the outcome of the discussion on the Mission and Vision the Chair said that a proposal for a new mission statement will be discussed in the EB and in the next delegates meeting with the aim to adopt it.

On the outcome of the objectives discussion the following additional comments were made:
- The Chair said that e-IRG should not be too humble, should be proactive and show ambition. His opinion on the fundamental question if e-IRG should act as a coordination platform, is that e-IRG should strongly facilitate and encourage that the initiatives are really coordinated but not by e-IRG itself.
- Anna Wetterbom said that her group proposed to strengthen the objective "Establish e-IRG as the main advisory body on e-Infrastructures internationally" by adding that e-IRG should act as a think-tank on e-Infrastructures while the objective on the collaboration platform can be removed. e-IRG should be proactive and knowledgably in thinking ahead on what it is aiming for and not coordinate what already exists.
- Anni Hellman said that her group also mentioned the follow-up of what happens with the proposals of e-IRG.

The Chair concluded from the discussion that strengthening e-IRG as an advisory body should really be the focus and that whether e-IRG should present itself as a coordination body needs further discussion. Other aspects that could be included in this objective are user needs and the collaboration with ESFRI. Furthermore e-IRG should follow-up what happens with e-IRG

proposals; what the visible impact is and how to make sure that the e-IRG achievements are really used in the best possible way. The Executive Board will create a new proposal for the objectives.

On the outcome of the bylaws discussion the following comments were made:

- Anni Hellman concluded that the main structure of the bylaws will remain the same.
- The Chair said that there were many suggested improvements to the bylaws and it is clear that a revised version is needed. It is very important that the bylaws formalise the relation between the e-IRG delegates and the responsible ministries or government of the member states. The e-IRG delegates should inform the appropriate body and make sure that the flow of information is a two-way flow.
- Bob Day suggested that the communication would rather go towards an "appropriate body" because there are different ways of doing things in the different countries. The key is that obviously the information is slowing down and it is important to get the right influences when needed. The Chair agreed that it has to be formulated in a careful way.

ERA Communication (COM(2012)) 392final

Anni Hellman presented the ERA priorities, summarised the ERA Communication and discussed the progress of the actions related to the e-IRG.

On the action "*Develop in cooperation with ESFRI, e-IRG and other stakeholders a Charter of Access setting out common standards and harmonized access rules and conditions for the use of RIs*" the status is that a Charter of Access[8] has been drafted by the EC together with ESFRI, e-IRG and ERA stakeholders. A final round of consultation[9] is ongoing until 11 October.

The action "*Define with ESFRI, e-IRG and other stakeholders common evaluation principles, impact-assessment criteria and monitoring tools which can be applied in regional, national and European programmes to help combine funds from different sources*" has been partly implemented for the update of ESFRI roadmap, and will also be covered by a topic of the Research Infrastructure part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017.

The action "*Work with e-IRG to promote the alignment of EU and national approaches to eRI development and use*" has been partly implemented through several e-IRG workshops, roadmaps and regular delegates' collaboration. The Competitiveness Council of 28-29 May 2015 tasks ESFRI to explore mechanisms for better coordination of Member States' investment strategies in e-infrastructures. ESFRI and e-IRG will form a joint ad-hoc working group to carry out this task which will further contribute to this ERA action.

The Chair said that while the actions are for the Commission the question is if e-IRG should be more proactive. This will be discussed in the Executive Board and possibly in the next delegates meeting.

On the question by Lajos Balint why the name ERA is still used since ERA changed into ERIA (European Research and Innovation Area) Anni Hellman said that the name of the communication remains ERA communication.

On the question by Lajos Balint on effective investment in and use of e-infrastructures Anni Hellman said that this means effective use of the money that is invested into them so that they are used as effectively as possible and that the e-infrastructures have been effective as much as

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[8] Available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=access_ri
[9] http://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/1st_Consultation_on_the_Charter_for_Access_to_RIs#

possible.

On the question by Norbert Meyer if the Commission wants to unify the identity system also for industry, Anni Hellman said that this is a big challenge and that there are two projects in this area.

Task Force and working group reports

Task Force on the impact of national models

The Chair said there is not a ToR but a list of questions which have been put together by the support project. He invited the delegates to provide comments to these questions.

Erik Fledderus said that there were a number of very interesting links. Especially the link to the ESFRI national roadmaps.

The Chair proposed to establish a small Task Force that can work together with the support programme and the national delegates to make sure that the information is collected and provided.

Task Force on Long Tail of Science

Rosette Vandenbroucke informed that the Task Force started its work in September as was promised. Françoise Genova is working on the document on data. Wolfram Horstman is working on the computing part and has asked Tiziana Ferrari to contribute. Françoise Genova has sent the first input for the data part with general reflections for open science and data for the whole community. It looks into the more isolated scientists or very small communities besides the ESFRI and other large projects. Big Data is not the only issue, there is many small data that should be looked after. Some large communities, e.g. astronomy, have both big data and long tail of science data. The topics are not yet fixed but the idea is to start with a comparison of the characteristics of big data and long tail of science data. Some other points will be covered in the data part. The data and computing will be described apart. There is also large interest from the library community that has many points in common with the research data.

The Chair said that if the line of action is agreed to create a guideline document on the preservation of data then the work on the long-tail of science would fit and be an underlying document for this guideline document. This message has to be transferred clearly and there has to be an agreement.

Rosette Vandenbroucke asked if the document will be a guideline or a Task Force report. If it is a Task Force report is it internal or not? The Chair said that at this point it will provide input for the guidelines that will be externally available. At this moment it is an internal document. The same is the case for the Task Force on data analytics and computing.

Yannis Ioannidis mentioned that both topics have been the subject of extensive work during the past 10-20 years and that will also be the case in the next 10-20 years. In order to have impact the work by e-IRG should bring something different from what already has been done and give a modern perspective. He advised the Task Force to look into what has been done e.g. funded by the particular EC units and other sources.

The Chair said that there is no deadline for this action line so the work can be done in a very careful way.

Task Force on Data Analytics and Computing

No report from the Task Force due to the absence of Sergi Girona.

Working Group on the evaluation of the e-Infrastructures and development of related KPIs

Erik Fledderus informed that this working group has only recently been established. The EB meeting during the lunch break has clarified the scope in which results will be delivered to the EC. First it is important to receive more comments on the ToR. Anni Hellman has sent a few ideas and a list of persons that can be approached.

The Chair said that one issue that came up with the ToR already, was that it should make clear that it addresses KPIs in relation to EC funded projects.

On the question by Erik Fledderus if the discussion on effective/efficient addresses only projects that make use of the KPI's or also projects that are working in the field of renewal of e-infrastructures the Chair answered projects that develop and that renew e-Infrastructure. Anni Hellman said that the starting point for the EC is that the operational projects integrate into the e-Infrastructure landscape, that there are KPIs and good monitoring of their success. Because they are sustainable e-Infrastructures funded partly by public money we should be able to have them comparable and measurable.

Bob Day said that the objective in the ToR is a long way from what was discussed earlier on the objectives of e-IRG. He would like a period of reflection on what is actually needed to be done.

The Chair said that it is fair to look critically at the issues that have been brought up. The ToR should be clear from the beginning. He invited the working group to discuss the formulations in the ToR and come up with a new proposal for the Executive Board.

Erik Fledderus said that the ToR has been sent and is in the commenting/review process.

Anni Hellman noted that the timeline for the support project proposal is not flexible.

Erik Fledderus said that the timelines are quite strict and quite supportive.

The Chair proposed to ask the working group to start its work now and first to look at the ToR and propose some modifications to the Executive Board.

Overarching Working Group

Arjen van Rijn proposed to collect the experiences as members of the ESFRI Strategic Working Groups both on the process and procedural level. Do the questions asked, the answers given, the hearings or the role in that process and all the content of what has been delivered really give us a better picture of the e-Infrastructures demands of ESFRI projects? The goal could be to present the results, the gathering of experiences and the lessons learned at the Dutch workshop in March. And of course it fits very well as a concrete input to the ESFRI-e-IRG working group document.

Panos Argyrakis supported the idea to collect the experiences, difficulties, misunderstandings etc. and to send this input to Arjen van Rijn to enable him to create a generic proposition in which no specific projects are mentioned.

The Chair said that this output from the Overarching Working Group is very valuable, also for the ESFRI Roadmap 2018. It should also be presented to ESFRI, possibly at the joint meeting.

Mini-Workshop– e-IRG Roadmap

Erik Fledderus informed that a mini-workshop was held yesterday. The setup of today's workshop was discussed before and a questionnaire to receive information from the delegates was distributed.

Marcin Lawenda presented a short summary of these questions and the received answers.

Erik Fledderus said that it is important to have a roadmap but it should have quality which means that the delegates have to invest time in it. Also the roadmap should not present a compromise but show the dilemmas that everybody is facing and for which everyone is providing different answers. The audience at European level as well as at national level is important and very much influenced by each other.

The delegates were distributed in 4 groups and each group discussed the same set of questions. The outcome of the discussions was briefly reported by the note takers of each group.

Erik Fledderus invited more delegates to join the roadmap working group and Anni Hellman volunteered. The next steps will be to suggest the structure of the roadmap and create a storyline defining the heart of the roadmap in maximal 5 pages. The ambition of the working group is to continue working and to have available at the November meeting the roadmap structure, agreement on its raison d'être and on the method to create it, and candidate topics with explaining text.

It was decided that there is going to be a roadmap and the proposed procedure to have a document in November was approved.

Policy Documents

Second Guidelines Document - long-term preservation of Research Data

Rosette Vandenbroucke said that the draft ToR should be adapted as result of today's earlier conclusion that the output of the Task Forces on data analytics and long tail of science should feed into this second guidelines document. She proposed that the support programme will create a new version of the ToR that follows the timeline that has been set and includes a more collaborated procedure on how to actually accomplish the second guideline document, including the TF documents. The ToR can be discussed at the Executive Board and approved at the November meeting.

e-Infrastructure Commons Definitions

The Chair said that we have now a draft of a short summary of the e-Infrastructure Commons. One purpose of this draft is to act as the basis for discussion at the next workshop. It has also been asked for in a lot of settings. He proposed to accept today this summary as a basis for a continuous discussion.

Anni Hellman asked whether we should continue discussing about the Commons as such. For the mission statement it was also proposed that the Commons as an aim is less tangible.

The Chair said that this might be a good document to start the discussion and that the outcome might be that it is not a definition of the e-Infrastructure Commons, but the definition of the mission and vision of the e-IRG that we are really looking for.

Arjen van Rijn sees a natural evolution here; a term that fits its purpose. He urged not to make the failure to change one vague term for another. He still thinks that the Commons has brought a lot of valuable insight and movement into the right direction.

Anni Hellman agreed that the concept is very good and a lot of important work has being done. That work should not been shadowed by the kind of concept of the Commons. Rosette Vandenbroucke said that the word has been used in the title and that we used it in the document and on the web, so we should be a bit consistent with ourselves.

The Chair concluded that we take this document as input for further discussion.

e-IRG Action Plan

Rossend Llurba presented the updated e-IRG Action Plan. It will be updated with the input provided by Anni Hellman on the two first actions. Jan Wiebelitz suggested to adapt the Action Plan and include the 4 action lines. There were no further comments and the action plan was approved.

Activities during the Luxembourg EU Presidency

Antoine Barthel informed that the logistics and public transportation details will be published soon on the website. The location of the events is 30 km from Luxembourg City centre.

The starting time of the delegates meeting on Monday 23 November has not been decided yet. This will be discussed at the next EB meeting[10].

Antoine Barthel presented slides with the programme of the workshop[11]. The title of the workshop is "The Building Blocks of the e-infrastructure Commons". Registration at the workshop will start on 24 November at 11:00.

Activities during the Netherlands EU Presidency

Arjen van Rijn informed that the e-IRG workshop will take place on 9 March 2016 (afternoon) and on 10 March 2016 (morning) at the Amsterdam Science Park. The theme is the Progress of the e-Infrastructure Commons (integration and interoperability, funding and revenue models).

The ESFRI Roadmap launch will be on 10 March 2016 (afternoon) at the Royal Academy (KNAW) in Amsterdam.

The first delegates meeting will be on 11 March 2016 (morning) in Amsterdam. The joint e-IRG – ESFRI meeting is planned on 11 March 2016 (afternoon).

AOB

None was put forward.

Closing

The Chair thanked all participants and in particular Luxembourg for the hospitality.

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[10] The starting time will be 10:00.

[11] The programme is available at http://e-irg.eu/workshop-2015-11-programme