35th e-IRG delegates meeting

Vilnius, Lithuania, 5 November 2013

Public Summary

Reports and News

e-IRG Chair and board: Sverker Holmgren summarised his activities as e-IRG Chair since the last meeting, which were mainly focused on the relation between e-IRG and ESFRI, the participation in the ICRI2014 program committee and the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group on Research Infrastructures.

European Commission: Anni Hellman reported that the Advisory Groups of Experts for the various areas of Horizon 2020 have had their first meeting shortly or will start early in 2014 and that due to the timing the input from these groups will focus on future work programmes. The Advisory Group on European Research Infrastructures has had their first meeting in October, which involved a fair amount of brainstorming, with good results. The next meeting of the group will be in April-May 2014.

Anni Hellman reported further that there is on-going work in the different ERA working groups and that the EC aims to streamline the various groups to ensure their effective use. Concerning the Digital ERA Forum Anni Hellman reported that due to the evaluation of the eIPF work and the simultaneous creation of the Digital ERA Forum it was decide to merge both groups into the Digital ERA Forum. The aim of the forum is to look into the implementation of the ERA and continue to act as a policy discussion forum. The mandate is different from e-IRG as its main focus is monitoring and discussion.

Anni Hellman reminded that the EC study on legal issues had been re-launched as the first time there were no tenders submitting offers and therefore she encouraged potential candidates to consider them. Anni Hellman reminded further that the FP7 call for proposals No. 12-FP7-INFRASTRUCTURE-2013-2 is closing on 3 December 2013.

Anni Hellman reported that during ICT2013 DG CNECT will be presenting all the draft Work Programmes and there will be networking sessions for each one of them. Regarding the e-Infrastructure part, there are four session: a general session including GEANT and Policy, and separate sessions on Data and Core services, HPC and, finally a session on VRE and skills. On the 15th of November the Work Programme will be discussed at the next Programme Committee meeting with Member States and ask for their approval.

ESFRI: The e-IRG Chair reported that the focus on the recent ESFRI meeting on 7-8 October was on the election of the new ESFRI chair and the prioritisation of ESFRI projects. At the end of the meeting, there was an opportunity to discuss the e-IRG White Paper 2013 and ESFRI-e-IRG collaboration. The e-IRG Chair stated that e-IRG was interested to bring such collaboration forward and do more common work.

Yannis Ioannidis (representing ESFRI) confirmed that e-IRG and the ESFRI-e-IRG collaboration was perceived very positively. He remarked that knowledge of e-IRG among ESFRI members had so far been limited. With the ESFRI projects starting to hit some walls on e-Infrastructures and with this initiative to explore relationships between ESFRI-e-IRG there seems to be more awareness now. A joint session between the

two groups was agreed to be held in Athens just before the ICRI 2014 conference, in the framework of which both groups are assembling. Yannis Ioannidis concluded that all in all there was positive feedback and higher awareness of e-IRG.

The e-IRG Chair stated that there was a decision at ESFRI to invite e-IRG representatives for the ESFRI Strategic Working Groups (WGs). The Strategic WGs are Health and Food, Social and Cultural Innovation, Environment, Energy, Physical Sciences and Engineering. There are also other WGs such as the ones on Regional Issues and on Innovation. It was decided that ESFRI first provides more information about these WGs.

The e-IRG Chair stated that e-IRG should also to invite ESFRI to participate to the e-IRG work. It was added that ESFRI people could provide requirements, challenges or experience in dealing with several White or Blue Paper issues. It was decided that e-IRG involves ESFRI members in its publications by sharing its ToRs and asking for expert participation.

Bulgaria: Anneta Karaivanova reported on their new national roadmap covering both e-Infra and RIs.

Croatia: Ivan Maric reported on the consultation process on their National Research and Education strategy that includes e-Infrastructures and data. Also, he reported about Ministerial Conference on the Western Balkans Regional R&D Strategy for Innovation (the Strategy) held in Zagreb where seven Ministers signed a Declaration in support of the Strategy. EC and World Bank sponsored the Strategy and it can be useful to other countries. It is envisioned that the Strategy and Action Plan will be integrated with the South East Europe (SEE) 2020 Strategy as its research pillar.

Spain: Juan Miguel Gonzalez Aranda stated that, besides national input, the regional dimension is also important. As an example ESFRI has a WG on regional issues, and a concrete example of inter- regional cooperation was the one between Spain and Portugal on IBERGrid. The use of complementary instruments such structural funds for Research Infrastructures was highlighted along with realistic approaches.

Other News: The e-IRG Chair reminded that the EC Communication on European Research Area calls for a series of actions among which is a Charter of Access for RIs to be done by ESFRI, e-IRG and the ERA stakeholders (5 parties including Science Europe, LERU, etc.). Recently ESFRI has produced a draft charter of access document that was presented in the last ESFRI meeting. e-IRG will be consulted in November and further discussions will take place during the ICRI 2014 week in April. e-IRG should work on the core of the discussions of the access issue, which covers both physical and data access.

ESFRI

e-IRG sees the joint meeting with ESFRI during the ICRI 2014 not as an one-off event and thus the e-IRG Chair will propose to ESFRI to have an annual joint event (workshop or meeting). The secretariats of e-IRG and ESFRI are asked to synchronise calendars.

Roar Skålin, as the new e-IRG member in the ESFRI Implementation Group (IG), reported on the role of the group, which is to review the status of the 46 ESFRI roadmap projects. On the 8 October meeting there was discussion on the Charter of Access, focusing on two issues namely Intellectual Property Rights and who

should get access (free or otherwise). The IG also discussed the report on the Expert Group on Assessment. It has done a very good job and given concrete advice to RIs. Some was very critical but overall their input was valuable and fair. In the IG discussions on its role in the future, the main areas were the common issues among the four ESFRI clusters and e-Infrastructure/data issues which are in the core of all discussions. Their next meeting is planned for January 2014.

Coordination of European e-Infrastructures

The Chair summarised the e-IRG activities in this area, stressing that this issue was discussed several times in the past meetings, including representatives from the major e-Infrastructure initiatives. He added that no concrete outputs could be derived yet and that it is difficult to setup this e- Infrastructure commons. He noted that the major initiatives are also working on similar areas. Inspired by the potential upcoming merger of DANTE and TERENA it was decided to create a working group to facilitate discussions among the e-Infrastructure providers and consider how best to make progress. Kees Neggers stated that TERENA and DANTE have made big progress and collaborate smoothly and that others can benefit from understanding all the problems that were faced.

e-IRGSP4

The FP7 Call for "Coordination actions supporting policy development, including international cooperation, for e-Infrastructures" will close on 3 December 2013. One of its four areas is "bringing together national and pan-European e-Infrastructure and research infrastructures initiatives and stakeholders (in particular e-IRG and ESFRI) in view of better meeting common research infrastructure needs through e-infrastructure offerings". Gabriele von Voigt, University of Hannover has been appointed as the coordinator for the new support project, reported at the previous delegates meeting the framework of the proposal and received feedback from the delegates, which has been included in the draft proposal. The Chair repeated that communication at the secretariat level is needed and that a joint calendar is a first step. As the deadline is approaching quickly it was suggested that an open formulation on the cooperation at the secretariat level is included in the proposal.

e-IRG Action Plan

The only topic discussed was the action item on e-Infrastructure Policy Groups. Fotis Karayannis on behalf of the Support Project summarised the ToR of the document. He recalled that there are several groups that provide policy recommendations to the EC. In view of the upcoming Horizon 2020 programme there are also new advisory bodies forming or other merging. For a better understanding and cooperation it would be helpful to have an overview over the existing groups, especially under Horizon 2020. e-IRGSP3 with collaboration with the European Commission will start to generate an overview document, naming the different policy groups and give a short overview over their activities and inter-relations. The focus will be on active groups and other related initiatives which are relevant to e-IRG. The first version of the document will be drafted for the April Athens meeting and it will be finalized in the June meeting.

Social Media

Fotis Karayannis summarised the current e-IRG social media status. He stated that social media outlets have been gaining traction and have reached a first level of maturity. It was reminded that social media has an immediate feedback capability which lacks from the e-IRG website and a quick discussion can be established very easily. An analysis of the LinkedIn members showed that the vast majority of members are working for e-Infrastructure providers or projects.

Regarding Wikipedia an article about e-IRG has been prepared but up to now it was not possible to get it published as an alleged copyright infringement was reported (for an e-IRG document). This raises also the issue of the copyright of the e-IRG documents. Roar Skålin stated that the copyright issue is important and that on a license should be agreed, therefore the secretariat has been asked to propose a license for e-IRG documents that will be brought to the e-IRG EB.

Activities during the Lithuanian EU Presidency

The e-IRG Chair stated that there was a very successful workshop and that in addition to the participants present in person there were another 100 followers of the live stream. He thanked the local organisers for the successful workshop.

Activities during the Greek EU Presidency

Panos Argyrakis reminded the dates for the next meetings namely:

- e-IRG meeting, Tuesday 1 April 2014 (in parallel with the ESFRI meeting in the same venue). A joint ESFRI-e-IRG dinner may be arranged on that evening.
- Joint ESFRI-e-IRG meeting, most probably on Wednesday 2 April 2014.
- The ICRI 2014 conference will take place between 2-4 April 2014.
- The e-IRG workshop and meeting will take place 9-11 June (9-10 June the e-IRG workshop and 11 June the closed delegates meeting).