Public summary of the 64th e-IRG delegates meeting
On-line meeting, 16 March2021

The sudden and tragic loss of Ad Emmen, who was working for the e-IRGSP6 support project was reported. The e-IRG Chair went through the obituary prepared by the e-IRGSP6 partners and his partner in life Leslie Versweyveld. The participants were invited to hold one minute of silence, dedicating "some heartbeats" for Ad.

Reports and News

Report from the Support Project

The support project coordinator summarized the issues that came up with the loss of one of its members. The fact that Ad Emmen was the WorkPackage leader for the dissemination activities of the project, in charge of the e-IRG website, and the consequences his passing would have, were briefly explained.

The planning for the follow up support project (e-IRGSP7) was also discussed and the foreseen funding issues that are expected to arise were mentioned.

Reports from the Countries

The Chair invited the delegations to report on major points in their countries. **21** countries presented news.

Austria reported on its activities on EOSC, Go-FAIR, EuroHPC, and national funding calls.

Belgium reported on on-going national funding calls, on its Open Data Directive, as well as other activities on major RIs and STEM education and female participation.

Croatia reported on new laws on science being passed, national events on Open Science, infrastructure building, coordination at a national level developments and new projects.

Denmark reported on DeIC developments and its EOSC Association membership, the national actions on distance learning and Arctic Connect R&E fibre link to Japan and USA.

Estonia informed of the creation of the Education and Youth Authority, its e-infrastructure activities, and the EOSC Association membership details.

France shared its plans on future infrastructure for data, RI Roadmap update, e-infrastructure investment, and on the EOSC French participation on EOSC Association, as well as on the EOSC-Pillar and EOSC Future projects.

Germany presented news on the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI), on its EOSC involvement, on the national effort to link NFDI and GAIA-X, and on national e-health related activities.

Greece showed its new Governmental Security Policy up to 2025, its explosive growth on e-government services for the citizens, and its EuroHPC and EOSC involvement.

Hungary reported on its new HPC Competence Centre (CC), on the Quantum Computing and Quantum Communication developments, and on Open Science, EOSC and RDA news.

Italy mentioned its new network connectivity (dark fibre) project, the new supercomputer (Leonardo) co-funded by EuroHPC to be installed in Bologna, and its EOSC Association and ICDI news.

Latvia is preparing its Open Science policy, reported news on EOSC-Nordic, and the EuroHPC CC

being developed.

Luxembourg reported its national HPC efforts, and on its network upgrades to the NREN backbone and towards GEANT.

Netherlands announced its new national supercomputer "Snellius" and the recent developments on SURF with the integration of the related entities under SURF BV.

Poland approved its RI Roadmap and funded several RI projects, as well as HPC, Cloud and storage projects.

Portugal reported on its new supercomputer "Deucalion", on its Quantum communication infrastructure, and the Open Data Science program.

Spain started its e-Science network, made a call for Spanish Supercomputer researchers, and reported updates on EOSC.

Slovakia reported on its EOSC projects participation, EuroHPC membership, and the Roadmap for RIs.

Slovenia announced its supercomputer as part of EuroHPC, its plans for the Recovery and Resilience Facility funds related to science and its EOSC Association membership.

Swedenis preparing a new umbrella organization, it also reported on its participation on the LUMI EuroHPC supercomputer, on EOSC activities and on the Swedish national data service, DORIS. Sweden also reported on the new e-Infrastructure Commons activity by Chalmers University, the "Chalmers eCommons".

Switzerland reported on its EOSC Association participation, on being part of LUMI and EuroHPC JU, and its efforts to fully participate on Horizon Europe and Digital Europe.

Turkey reported on its EOSC and GAIA-X participations, on its interest on EduGain, and on its participation on EuroHPC through the Spanish consortium.

News from ESFRI

Yannis Ioannidis (ESFRI) gave a short report about ESFRI recalling its recent activities, including:

- The ESFRI White Paper[1], called "Making Science Happen" (Roadmap for RIs in the ERA), and the EC Communication "A new ERA for Research and Innovation"[2], which reiterated the role of the RIs and e-Infrastructures and acknowledged the ESFRI White Paper findings.
- ESFRI engagement with stakeholders: ESFRI is establishing a Stakeholder Forum to interact with related stakeholders. The first meeting is planned in December 2021 attached to the ESFRI Roadmap 2021 launch, hopefully in a f2f event. Also, open sessions attached to the ESFRI Forum meetings will be starting.
- ESFRI Roadmap 2021: The ESFRI Roadmap process is in full swing, and hearings are approaching. 18 proposals have been evaluated by the SWGs with the eNeeds dealt with by DIGIT. The progress on the Landscape analysis on e-Infrastructures prepared by the ESFRI DIGIT group was also reported.

Next ESFRI Chair: An election for the next ESFRI Chairis taking place in June. It was reminded that the current Chair's (Jan Hrusak) term has been extended until the end of this year, and the new Chair will be starting in January 2022.

Activities under the Portuguese EU Presidency

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[1]ESFRI White Paper | www.esfri.eu
[2]EUR-Lex - 52020DC0628 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

The Chair presented the current program of e-IRG May events for the Portuguese presidency:
e-IRG Workshop, 25.-26. May
Title: e-Infrastructures for Climate Change and Digital Transitions.
1st session: EOSC and data interoperability.
2nd session: Addressing climate change - the digital aspects.
3rd session: Going beyond: How policies can shape the development of Research Infrastructures for Europe's strategic autonomy.
e-IRG 2nd Delegates Meeting, 27. May
The Chair stated that the Programme Committees and e-IRG should always aim at combining the lessons learnt from the previous presidency in the next one and recalibrate the workshop.

Next policy document

The Chair introduced the point reminding the title/scope of the document: *Vision for an inclusive and holistic e-Infrastructure ecosystem for the European Research Area - Resilient and flexible e-infrastructures that serve data interoperability and federation.*
A presentation on the status of the White Paper was given. Two topics were prioritized. The updated ToR and White Paper skeleton were approved and circulated to the delegations, integrating comments from the December delegates meeting.
The two topics that will be treated in priority in 2021 are:

- Good practices of coordination and collaboration within and across e-Infrastructures and thematic research infrastructures.

- Realisation and enhancement of partnerships in the e-Infrastructure landscape covering the full spectrum, including EDI and ECI.

It was also agreed that there would be an effort to go through the national reports from the delegates minutes to identify further national practices that could be included. Following the review of the material, the support project has prepared a set of guiding questions for the specific countries/delegates and a first draft version.
Contributions on "Good practices of coordination and collaboration within and across e-Infrastructures and thematic research infrastructures" were received from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and there are on-going discussions with Croatia, Denmark, Norway/Nordic, while invitations were also sent to France, Hungary, and Sweden (following identified practices with interest).
Upon further discussions, it was agreed that the sustainability perspective should be considered: not only sustainability of infrastructure but also of people. This point should appear in the conclusions also.The purpose of the national infrastructures in the different country reports should be added. It was also noted that moving from grants to public procurement for EOSC may have some complications given the restrictions of public bodies participating in tenders. The e-IRG Café planned on the 29th of March will be used to continue the discussion on the White Paper 2021 and a next White Paper version will be prepared for this meeting.

Future of e-IRG

The Chair introduced the topic stating the current facts:

- There is a call for the next support project in the draft Horizon Europe Research Infrastructures Work Programme 2021-2022.
- The expected EU contribution is around 0.30 million Euros. There is no proposed duration, however it is stated that *"e-IRG will conclude its work in the transitional period of 2021-2022".*The start of e-IRGSP7 is expected sometime around the first quarter of 2022. Thus, there will be a funding gap between the end of e-IRGSP6 and e-IRGSP7. The e-IRG support will become best effort during this period.
- An important parameter in the call is that *e-IRG's "expertise should assimilate to the relevant operational entities in Europe".*
- The proposed work needs also to incorporate the necessary coordination efforts and resources with other relevant projects and the EOSC governance structure in the context of the EOSC Partnership.
- Access to the results should be also granted to the EOSC Association and its members.

e-IRG avoids overlaps with other bodies, as it covers distinct topics, much broader than EOSC, in-line with prepared documents on the "Value and prospect of e-IRG" and the "e-IRG mandate under Horizon Europe".

The idea of rebranding (and renaming) e-IRG from a reflection group to an e-Infrastructure Policy or Strategy Group should be taken forward in the next meetings.

A proposal to address the EC call on e-IRG support needs to be prepared as a first step. The assimilation to other bodies, e.g., going under ERAC, can take place in the next years, possibly also as part of e-IRGSP7 workplan.

Activities under the Slovenian EU Presidency

The Programme Committee (PC) for the e-IRG Workshop under the Slovenian EU presidency was composed, while some more delegates would be invited to join the Slovenian PC.

The Slovenian delegates would prepare some input on the plans for the e-IRG events under the Slovenian EU presidency for the next delegates meeting in May.

Liaison activities

Research Data Alliance (RDA)
There is an RDA Plenary meeting, the 17th Plenary Meeting, on 20-22 April.
https://www.rd-alliance.org/rdas-17th-plenary-meeting-registration

The RDA continues to support a wide range of activities.For instance the current Requests for Comments are:

- Sensitive Data Interest Group Charter
- RDA Data Usage Metrics WG Recommendations

Also, note the RDA/FORCE11/ReSA WG defining FAIR for Research Software, and planning to work on relevant metrics.

Other actions/topics include:

- The Global Open Research Commons IG
- coordination between regional (e.g. EOSC), thematic ORCs

- [WG on International Benchmarking](https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/global-open-research-commons-international-benchmarking-wg) that will:https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/global-open-research-commons-international-benchmarking-wg
  - Measure User Engagement
  - Compare features across science clouds
  - Review existing documents, for instance those produced by the EOSC EB FAIR and Sustainability WGs

An AISBL RDA EU legal entityhas been established in Brussels.
The point of integrating the activities and merging legal entities of related bodies (e.g., OpenAIRE, RDA, EUDAT) was raised as a point that e-IRG may reflect or strategize in the future.

EOSC Steering Board

e-IRG should liaise with the equivalent level of EOSC, which is the EOSC Steering Board. A liaison was deemed appropriate, although the EOSC SB is currently being setup. Further discussion can possibly take place in an e-IRG EB, to prepare the topic.