

**Public summary of the 65th e-IRG delegates meeting
On-line meeting, 27 May 2021**

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 disruption in the e-IRGSP6 activities from Ad Emmen's passing on the e-IRG website's functionality, and other management related issues was described.

The planning for the follow up support project (e-IRGSP7) was also discussed and Fotis Karayannis declared his interest to become a coordinator.

Reports from the Countries

The e-IRG Chair (Chair) invited the delegations to report on major points in their countries. 23 countries presented news.

Austria reported that the government decided to fund Quantum technologies and improve HPC from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) funds. Quantum Austria started. A new e-infrastructure on social sciences also started. Further updates concerned EuroHPC, EOSC, GAIA-X.

Belgium reported on the launch of the new Tier 1 Flemish Supercomputer, and the EOSC Association.

Bulgaria reported its plan on Open Science, Open Science Cloud, its national roadmap for RIs until 2027, and the hosting of a EuroHPC supercomputer.

Croatia reported new laws coming on science, a conference on e-Infrastructures, upgrades on networking, efforts to start a national coordination action and several national projects.

Denmark reported changes on the approved National Strategy on HPC, data and installations, upgrades on networking, as well as upgrades on the fibre connection to North America in the Nordic alliance.

Estonia informed on the preparation of the RRF funding, HPC participation in LUMI, and related regulation, and remote work in Estonia due to Covid-19.

Finland informed of new references and recommendations published, on its Open Science plans, on new calls for RIS, a new report on Landscape of infrastructures, and of its progress on Quantum computing and LUMI.

France shared news on the creation of COSIN national committee, the national EOSC committee, and RRF support for GAIA-X.

Germany presented news on NFDI, HPC national projects, the will to create a trusted national repository, and its GEANT related eHealth efforts.

Greece announced the creation of its digital vaccination passport, other digital governance efforts supported by GRNET and upgrades on GRIX Internet Exchange.

Hungary reported on its new HPC Competence Centre (CC), EuroHPC and Cloud developments, networking efforts, Quantum community news, and EOSC policy infrastructure.

Italy mentioned updates regarding ICDI, HPC and Quantum Computing that started to create a similar to ICDI forum, and the GARR-T Terabit network.

Latvia is working on its Open Science policy, Open Science/Open Access promotion within academia. Furthermore, Latvia joined EuroHPC and created a related CC.

Luxembourg reported its national HPC centre launching a call for projects.

Netherlands announced the start of a security operations centre, a new platform (Edusources) for open teaching, that it completed the Snellius national supercomputer creation process, and a NOSC



program that started.

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

Portugal reported on the new 6000km submarine cable connection to Latin America, its national computing and supercomputing efforts, on the CC, on space infrastructure in Azores, on the Digital Europe Programme legislation approval, and on CEF discussions.

Spain continued working on its e-Science network, and reported EOSC Association news.

Slovakia reported on a national Open Science program (COMIS), and on work on Cloud for Open Science.

Slovenia announced its supercomputer in Maribor which is a part of EuroHPC, the existence of a national consortium (SLING), a national CC and that HPC and needs network upgrades that are coming later in the year.

Sweden is expecting a decision for a new organizational structure on HPC and Data. It reported news on EOSC and EuroHPC.

Switzerland reported on issues regarding its participation to Horizon Europe and Digital Europe, and an update of the Roadmap for RIs.

Turkey reported on its Open Science and Open data initiatives progress, its plans for a Petascale supercomputer.

Report from the workshop

The Chair stated that the e-IRG PT workshop was very successful, with 165 participants in the e-IRG sessions. A set of statistics and feedback from the workshop was shown.

First day

25 May (1st session) 132 signed-up for this session and **99 people attended** one or more talks

Second day

26 May (2nd session) 106 signed-up and **69 attended** one or more talks

26 May (3rd session) 125 signed-up and **71 attended** one or more talks

The Chair stated that in the first session on EOSC there were more participants. So, EOSC has a traction. On the second session there were intense discussions, and in the last session there was quite a lengthy discussion, as there was no time pressure. The satisfaction survey result was that the overall impression of the attendees was somewhere between very good and excellent.

Activities under the Slovenian EU Presidency

The Chair presented the PC for the Slovenian EU presidency e-IRG workshop.

The Chair then presented the initial plan of e-IRG events for the Slovenian presidency:

- *Distribute evenly the e-IRG events every 3 months (to the extent possible).*
- *Fix as early as possible the e-IRG event dates and provide calendar invitations.*
- *The next e-IRG meeting will take place on the 28th of September in a virtual (online) format.*
- *Given that the e-IRG virtual events are very successful and well-attended it was agreed to continue to offer them virtually. Depending on the Covid-19 situation, it will be discussed later on, whether they should move to a hybrid format.*
- *The e-IRG workshop will take place on 1-2 December 2021 in a virtual (online) format.*
- *The e-IRG delegates meeting will take place on 9-10 December 2021, noon-to-noon as a physical event, as part of the Slovenian presidency and ESFRI events in the same week (provided that the Covid pandemic will allow physical meetings).*

- *The e-IRG Café will take place on 10 November at 11 CET – 1 hour (tentative).*

e-IRG White Paper 2021

The Chair reminded 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.* The title to focus first was selected to be:

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

A presentation on the status of the e-IRG White Paper 2021 was given.

The plan for the next steps was set and the review should be finished by the 21st of June. Effort should be made so that the document on first topic is concluded in the September meeting.

The Chair then introduced the second topic.

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

It was reminded that the term partnerships in this context is broader than the EU Partnerships, and that it refers to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), the European Data Infrastructure (EDI) with networking, supercomputing/HPC and Cloud infrastructures, and the expansion towards the public sector and industry.

The objective and ultimate goal of the second topic was analyzed in the meeting.

e-IRG Perspective

Rebranding e-IRG and e-IRGSP7

The Chair summarized the main decisions taken on the issue:

- *A stepwise approach on the future of e-IRG should be pursued, exploiting the current opportunities, and possibly creating further opportunities*
- *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. If needed, refining some of the support services can be also part of the rebranding.*
- *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. 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.*

The Chair then summarised some main points:

- *A proposal will be prepared for the e-IRG dedicated call. Fotis Karayannis will lead the proposal and interact with the EB and the delegates. The budget tables need to be updated, if possible, with more dissemination effort.*
- *The EB will undertake this re-branding process (proposal analysis), aiming to finalise it in time for the French EU Presidency workshop.*



Liaison with EOSC Steering Board

The Chair reminded of the previous related discussions and the need to establish a link with EOSC at the appropriate level (Steering Board-SB). All e-IRG members who are also members of the EOSC SB or the EOSC Association Board of Directors or are representing an organisation in the EOSC Association should come together and discuss how to best approach this issue.