

24th e-IRG Delegates Meeting
Budapest, Hungary, 6 April 2011
- Summary Report -

The 24th e-IRG delegates meeting took place in Budapest, Hungary. During the meeting the setup of the e-IRG Action Plan was approved and several of its actions. A Task Force on Cloud Computing was established and it was also decided to start the public consultation phase of the White paper 2011. Other topics discussed at the meeting included the collaboration with ESFRI, the e-IRG strategy, the e-infrastructure Policy Forum, liaison with key e-infrastructure organisations and the consultation on the EC CSF Green Paper.

Report from the e-IRG chair and board

The new chair of the e-IRG **Gudmund Høst** welcomed the new representative from the EC **Pekka Karp** who is the successor of **Kyriakos Baxevanidis**. He summarized the first 100 days of his e-IRG chairing and proposed follow-up cooperations with ESFRI that is shifting from identifying new e-infrastructure towards the implementation and evaluation of existing e-infrastructures. He identified data management issues as a possible area for collaboration and suggested that some ESFRI projects can function as pilot for the evaluation of best practice recommendations. He said that further areas of common interests from e-IRG and ESFRI could emerge from the current e-IRG White Paper and e-IRGSP2 deliverable D4.3 on legal issues.

During a discussion about the e-IRG itself and its future strategy focus the delegates coincided to continue to act on the given mandate but to clarify the role of the ministerial delegates, especially under the consideration of the newly established e-Infrastructures Policy Forum.

Report from the e-IRG Support Program

Rossend Lurba reported about the starting phase of the third e-IRG support programme launched in December 2010 and presented the new team. e-IRGSP3 has prepared new dissemination material and has promoted dissemination collaborations with the major e-infrastructure initiatives, namely GÉANT, TERENA, EGI and PRACE, but also with other projects like e-ScienceTalk and EuroRIsNet. He highlighted the excellent result of the e-IRGSP2 project review and elucidated on the given recommendations for the next e-IRG support program but also for the e-IRG itself.

News from the Commission

Pekka Karp reported news from the European Commission especially the recent call and the preparation for the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) to which e-IRG has been requested to comment.

He informed the e-IRG delegates about the newly created e-Infrastructure Policy Forum to where solely governmental representatives are invited and which is intended as a complementary forum to the e-IRG. The installation of the e-IPF induced a discussion about its benefits and purposes.

The creation of multi-disciplinary calls was noted as still missing, but was seen as a quite challenging task for the EC.

News from the Member States

Dana Petcu informed the delegates that Romania has acquired an IBM Blue Gene supercomputer.

www.e-irg.eu

e-IRG secretariat
c/o Netherlands National Computer Facilities Foundation (NCF)
P.O. Box 93575
NL-2509 AN The Hague, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)70 344 0526
secretariat@e-irg.eu

Visiting address
Anna van Saksenlaan 51
NL-2593 HW The Hague
The Netherlands

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Sverker Holmgren and **René Belsø** informed the delegates that Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have jointly built a computing centre in Iceland to benefit from the low energy costs. This approach is seen as a pilot installation to lower the TCO of computing centres and is also seen as a political challenge.

e-IRG Action Plan

Rossend Llurba presented the status of the e-IRG action plan, which is an internal document of the e-IRG. The plenum approved the set-up of the Action Plan and the foreseen actions on Cloud Computing and Data Management as well as the actions on Infrastructures as a Service and the e-Infrastructure standards landscape.

Following the Action Plan a Task Force on Cloud Computing was initiated. **Rosette Vandenbroucke**, **Norbert Meyer**, **Imre Szeberényi** and **Dana Petcu** are the members of this Task Force, which will investigate the policy aspects of cloud computing.

e-IRG Collaboration and Liaison with other Organisations

The delegates concluded to intensify the liaisons with interested parties through the open e-IRG Workshops and ad-hoc meetings, but not to accept observers to the closed delegates meetings.

The request to participate in the Advisory Board of the US-EU policy dialog project was approved if the project is funded.

The Terms of Reference of the e-IRG Liaison Committee, which was initiated during the 22nd delegates meeting, were approved and it was decided that the e-IRG chair is also chair of the Liaison Committee. The members of the e-IRG Liaison Committee are **Gudmund Høst**, **Lajos Balint**, **René Belsø**, **Mirco Mazzucato** and **Kees Neggers**.

e-IRG Policy Papers

The e-IRG AAI position paper, which was initiated in 2009 and updated in the beginning of 2011 will be aligned with the e-IRG White Paper 2011 and then published.

The e-IRG White Paper 2011 was approved to be sent out for public consultation with a remark that the recommendations have draft status.

Rosette Vandenbroucke invited the delegates to provide reflections on the 2013 White Paper, since the process used for the 2011 White Paper leads to a quite long finalisation period.

FP8 Consultation

e-IRG will provide feedback to the EC Green Paper *"From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding"*. It was seen as beneficial for e-infrastructures if the e-IRG formulate their recommendations to the CSF.

The e-IRG workshop in Poznan

The next e-IRG workshop will take place in Poznan, Poland, on 12-13 October 2011 and the delegates meeting on the 14th October.

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e-IRG secretariat
c/o Netherlands National Computer Facilities Foundation (NCF)
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