21st e-IRG delegates meeting

Madrid, Spain, 18th June 2010

– Summary Report –

The 21st e-IRG delegates meeting was held in Madrid, Spain, on 18 June 2010. During this meeting, collaboration opportunities between the e-IRG and other organizations, and the statuses of the different e-IRG policy papers and actions in preparation were presented and discussed.

The meeting was opened by the e-IRG Chair **Leif Laaksonen**. **Victor Castelo**, e-IRG delegates for Spain, introduced **Luiz Rius**, from the Ministry of Science and Innovation, who gave the keynote address to the plenum on behalf of Director General Montserrat Torné.

Kyriakos Baxevanidis, from the European Commission, briefly presented the results of EC call 7 and some news on Work Programme 2011 and call 9 which includes items on research e-Infrastructures and e-Infrastructure service environments, community support (including for ESFRI roadmap initiatives), scientific data infrastructures, etc. He also presented the new Digital Agenda which is expected to steer the coming activities of the INFSO.

Several e-IRG delegates presented some updates on e-Infrastructure initiatives taking place in their own country.

e-IRG liaisons and collaboration with other organisations

Opening the e-IRG work to participation of important non-European stakeholders was seen as a very positive opportunity for the e-IRG. The chair suggested that e-IRG invites Indian representatives to give a presentation at the next workshop and also invites 1-2 members of the Indian delegation as observers to the next e-IRG delegates meeting. It was agreed that the external liaison activity with India (currently one of the most active) could serve as a pilot case for developing a modus operandi for e-IRG relationships with non-European stakeholders.

A general wish for stronger collaboration with ESFRI was noted by the plenum and the formalisation of the relationship with EEF was also discussed. It was decided that the approach with EEF should be formalised for the next event. The relationship with ERC, ESF and the EU Parliament were also briefly discussed.
Kyriakos Baxevanidis encouraged the e-IRG to take into account the Digital Agenda for Europe (which defines all the ICT-related actions in Europe for the next few years) when designing its future actions.

e-IRG Policy Papers and follow-up actions

The e-IRG Roadmap, the e-IRG Blue Paper and the next e-IRG White Paper were discussed.

The chair suggested building on the contents of the roadmap to design the future work plan for e-IRG. It was decided that the first version of this work plan would be presented at the next e-IRG meeting.

Neil Geddes, e-IRG delegate for UK, presented the progress made on the e-IRG Blue Paper on e-Infrastructure for ESFRI, outlining the process employed by the Blue Paper working group and collaboration with EEF in producing the content. The document should be delivered to ESFRI by the end of June 2010. It was noted that there was a clear demand from ESFRI for the Blue Paper document.

Leif Laaksonen opened the discussion concerning the next steps related to the White Paper, and presented the input document prepared for the Barcelona meeting. The approach in each of the topics was discussed. A case-based approach (i.e. including in the text concrete situations and problems the actions proposed by e-IRG would address) was seen as being likely to have a greater impact than presenting only generic principles (without concrete examples of opportunities or challenges recommendations aim to address). The topics were discussed in detail and aligned with the Blue Paper work and AAI position paper.

Dany Vandromme, e-IRG delegate for France, reviewed the results of the DMTF work before presenting a set of topics identified for potential follow-up actions, focusing on curation, sustainability and permanency, AAI, Governance and IPR issues, with data curation and sustainability to be possibly addressed by a task force. Two follow-up options were presented: a full DMTF-2 task force, or a restricted panel to prepare a document or a briefing to stimulate future data-related discussions. The optimal approach for the output was discussed (e.g. general issues vs. abstract specification for a data infrastructure) as well as the scoping of the themes.

The plenum decided to appoint a person to ensure that key issues were taken forward by producing a discussion paper. **Norbert Meyer**, e-IRG delegate for Poland, volunteered to lead the activity, focusing on issues of curation and sustainability. He will produce – in collaboration with Dany Vandromme – a brief overview of the planned actions to be presented in the next e-IRG meeting.

Fiorenzo Scaroni, e-IRG delegate for Switzerland, presented the position paper on AAI, focusing on motivation and ongoing activities in the area. In addition to mentioning IGTF, TERENA and REFEDS, the recommendations suggested that ESFRI projects' authentication and authorisation requirements should be defined as early as possible. It was decided that Fiorenzo Scaroni would lead the production of a new version of the AAI position paper by the end of the year to keep track of the developments in the AAI domain. This should also provide an opportunity to extend the analysis of the issue deeper into the policy domain.

Dates and themes for the Belgian e-IRG EU Presidency 2H/2010 were presented by **Rosette Vandenbroucke**. The e-IRG workshop will take place on 13th to 14th October at the Royal Library (see www.kbr.be, located near the central station). The workshop will be based on a model with parallel sessions. The e-IRG meeting will be arranged on 15th October.

The tentative priorities or topics of interest during the Belgian presidency are as follows:

- "Innovation Union", flagship of the Europe 2020 strategy
- Focus on Research, Development and Innovation
- Formulation of directives, fixing of political goals and the definition of indicators to measure the progress in the building of the ERA
- Free circulation of knowledge
- Role of the regions concerning development
- Research into the contribution of R&D to a sustainable society
- ITER project and prolongation of 7th Euratom Programme.
- Attention on European Space Policy
- Simplification of the administrative procedure in FP8

The Meeting was closed at 4.00PM.