18th e-IRG delegates meeting,

Prague, Czech Republic, 17 June, 2009

– Provisional Report –

The 18th e-IRG delegates meeting was held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 17 June 2009. During this meeting, the e-IRG recommendations 2009 were reviewed and approved. The meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss, among other topics, the status of the e-IRG e-infrastructure Roadmap and of the Task Force on Data Management, as well as the editing process for the White Paper 2010 and the future of the e-IRG support services.

The 18th e-IRG delegates meeting began with a presentation from the EGI_DS Project Director, Ludek Matyska, on the status of the transition to EGI. Matyska presented to the delegates the EGI Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), i.e. the document covering the period up to the formation of the EGI.eu organisation and the establishment of the EGI statutes. The legal entity for EGI.eu was also discussed (the organisation will be initially registered as a Dutch foundation), as well as the progress made on the implementation of the new European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) supported by the European Commission. According to Matyska, this new legal form is likely to influence the final status of the EGI.eu organisation.

After formal approval of the agenda, and of the minutes from the previous e-IRG meeting, the delegates discussed the e-IRG BoF session that took place during the TERENA networking conference in Malaga, on the 9th of June 2009. The delegates emphasised that in the future, the e-IRG shall be represented at such events by its Chair or one of the delegates.

Konstantinos Glinos (European Commission) reported the latest developments related to the approval of the Work Programme for 2010-2011. A Concertation Event will be arranged in October, focusing on new projects from calls 4 and 5 (including open access pilot and data in general) and future challenges (consultation for the work programme for 2011 and beyond).

Approval of the e-IRG recommendations based on the White Paper

Issues related to the e-IRG White Paper 2009 were then discussed. The e-IRG recommendations were reviewed in detail, and approved after some final changes. The final e-IRG recommendation document can be found at:

http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/e-irg_wp_recomm_2009_a5_web.pdf

The e-IRG e-Infrastructure Roadmap, next steps

Matti Heikkurinen (e-IRG Roadmap chief editor) presented the rationale for appointing a roadmap editorial board. Naděžda Witsanyova (Czech e-IRG delegate) emphasised on the possibility to strengthen collaboration with ESFRI, including for the roadmap, which may require re-examining the role of the editorial board.

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Konstantinos Glinos (EC) also raised the question of how the e-IRG roadmap could best answer the Commission's wish to receive concise, coherent visions for the future, especially from the following groups:

- e-Infrastructure service providers
- e-Infrastructure users
- Industry (in a broad sense, e.g. infrastructure as a platform for innovation)
- ICT technologists

The following delegates were then appointed to the e-IRG roadmap editorial board:

- Leif Laaksonen (chair)
- Sverker Holmgren (Sweden)
- Kees Neggers (The Netherlands)
- Mirco Mazzucato (Italy)

Kyriakos Baxevanidis (EC) highlighted that the e-Infrastructures provide a horizontal platform cutting across all ESFRI vertical working groups. In this context the e-IRG roadmap is considered complementary and should be strongly synergetic with the ESFRI roadmap. Therefore, more interaction between the e-IRG and the ESFRI working groups should be pursued in the future.

The e-IRG task force on data management, interim report

Dany Vandromme (French e-IRG delegate) presented the interim report of the Data Management Task Force (DMTF). He noted that the three subgroups appointed provided significant contributions to their respective topics. The execution of the consultation process during the summer was discussed, and it was decided that the groups consulted should cover a broad range of experts. However, rather than advertising this as an open consultation, the invitation to comment on the document should be channelled through the delegates. It was noted that during the review process, attention should be paid to ensure that the document clearly supports the recommendations. The future work building on the DMTF report should also look into governance issues. The final version of the report will be approved in the next e-IRG and ESFRI meetings in the autumn.

Next steps for the e-IRG support services

After presenting the plan for the next e-IRG support services (e-IRGSP3), and mentioning that NCF volunteered to coordinate the proposal preparations and to lead the support project, Patrick Aerts (Dutch e-IRG delegate) was appointed as the coordinator of the e-IRGSP3 proposal preparations, with the mandate of attempting to increase the involvement of new parties in the support project and to report the results.

The plenum also appointed the following delegates to constitute the advisory board for the proposal preparations:

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- Gabrielle von Voigt
- Rene Belsø
- Sergi Girona

Discussion and possible actions to be taken in order to secure the processing of the next e-IRG White Paper, scheduled for 2010

The end of the meeting focused on how to improve the process of preparing the future e-IRG White Papers. Several ideas were discussed, such as shortening the overall production of the White Paper, preparing intermediary documents and quality checkpoints, getting the delegates more involved at every stage of the process, organizing some of the e-IRG meetings as topical events focusing on a specific topic, etc.

The Chair then thanked the Czech presidency for its excellent work during the presidency, and closed the 18th e-IRG delegates meeting.

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