



Implementation of the e-Infrastructures Commons

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Roadmap 2012: Outlines Europe's need for a single "e-Infrastructure Commons"

White Paper 2013: Further discussion and recommendations

Dublin Workshop May 22-23 – issues in the WP discussed

- European services on data
- Coordination of e-Infrastructures

Dublin Delegates Meeting May 24 – Content of WP endorsed by delegates

e-IRG EB Meeting July 8 – shorter, edited version approved

- http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/dissemination/e-irg_white_paper_2013_short_version.pdf

Aim of recommendations: a single “e-Infrastructure Commons” for knowledge, science and innovation

- open and accessible continuously adapting to the changing requirements of research
- open to new technological opportunities
- meet the challenges of implementing the EU’s 2020 Strategy.

Key elements of the e-Infrastructure commons:

- high quality e-Infrastructure services that are well managed and seamlessly integrated from a users' point of view.
- services that are flexible and can change dynamically, efficiently and in a future-proof manner.

Commons: Resources (including management system, governance etc) accessible to all members of a community.

Example: current Internet provides a common user interface and access mechanism to functionally common services provided by a huge variety of physical networks and inhomogeneous network management domains.

Why is this needed?

Researchers are often confused by the current complex e-Infrastructure landscape

- insufficient coordination, collaboration, and integration of e-Infrastructure services
- legal issues
- lack of “visibility” of European e-Infrastructure services
 - but high awareness by users of borders, interfaces, and technologies of the individual components
- Lack of business models for sustainability
- Lack of models for integration with commercial providers
- lack of coherence from many user communities

Establish the e-Infrastructure Commons through a joint and truly common strategic effort between users and primary strategic actors and suppliers.

- a common strategic vision should not form a barrier to innovation in any of the individual (existing) services.
- users need to become more directly involved in strategy, coordination and innovation activities
- users need be prepared and empowered to pay for e-infrastructure services.

Three distinct core functions:

- 1. Community building, high level strategy and coordination:** a single organisation with a central role for user communities
- 2. Service provision:** a flexible, open, and competitive approach to national, European, and global service provision; with advanced collaboration among the interested public and commercial service providers.
- 3. Innovation:** Implementation of major innovation projects through the best consortia including e-Infrastructure suppliers, industry, users and academia.

Strengthening the role of users

The position of user communities in e-Infrastructure governance will have to be strengthened:

- **Strategy:** Internal organisation to drive the long-term development
- **Service provisioning:** Use joint purchasing power to acquire services in a competitive market
- **Innovation:** support the specification and real life testing of new e-Infrastructure components.
- **Standardisation:** contributions to the process of setting and implementing the international standards

Provide a platform for strategy and coordination bodies of the various e-infrastructure components to discuss:

- Expanding the user base
- Avoiding Digital Divide
- Promoting sustainable business models
- Promoting effective structures for international governance
- Separating out business models for operations, support and innovation
- Promoting effective governance models, giving user communities of all types proper roles

International user communities need to organize themselves to be able to address the challenges in their future roles:

- drive the long term strategy for their e-infrastructure needs
- learn to use their purchasing power
- participate in and drive innovation of e-infrastructure services
- contribute to standards

International organizations of eRIs need to join forces and share their common challenges towards serving the European user communities, thereby avoiding as much as possible any duplication of efforts:

- outreach to and involvement of user communities
- services registry, discovery and provisioning
- financial, legal, business development and procurement issues

National governments need to:

- provide a basic funding level for national e-infrastructure
- empower and fund their national user communities, enabling them to influence the development and use of the national e-infrastructure
- remove existing national regulatory or political constraints for accessing public funded e-Infrastructures
- encourage their national e-infrastructure to collaborate and join forces with their counterparts in other countries and at EU level

- The EU** should strengthen the actions of the national governments by
- harmonizing European and international regulatory conditions
 - encouraging a sustainable e-infrastructure offering in Europe.
 - establishing a harmonised framework for the funding of e-Infrastructure innovation
 - empowering and funding European user communities to influence the development and use of European eRI

The EU should strengthen the actions of the national governments by

- promoting the use of Structural Funds for eRI development in less favoured areas
- striving towards harmonisation so that regulatory conflicts can be avoided, e.g. with regards to competition;
- providing clear guidelines for use and in the supply of e-Infrastructure services for private research;

Follow-up aspects in White Paper 2013

- e-Infrastructures in support of Open Science
- Data Policy Recommendations for Large-Scale Research Projects
- Big Data Access and Standards
- Cloud Computing
- Legal Barriers to Commercial Use of e-Infrastructures

Each topic comes with recommendations