Report from e-Infrastructures coordination group

Coordination among European e-Infrastructures

Coordination Meeting with the e-Infrastructures and EOSC-A (virtual, 11.05.2023)
- **Stakeholders becoming increasingly important** for implementation of the ERA
- Important to have a **proper body** to be able to represent various stakeholders
- Current no such body for the e-Infrastructures available,
- Once the e-Infrastructure Assembly is established it is **very important that ESFRI is informed** so that the Forum can be **included in the list of ESFRI Stakeholders**
  - https://www.esfri.eu/stakeholders-forum
  - https://www.esfri.eu/esfri-stakeholders-forum-expression-interest
- **e-Infrastructures are different from the Research Infrastructures** in the sense that RIs often have a clearer research community connected to them
  → **General agreement** to form an e-Infrastructure "Assembly" from the responses received; details to be agreed among e-Infrastructures
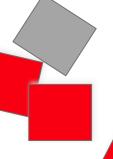
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Coordination Meeting with the e-Infrastructures and EOSC-A (virtual, 11.05.2023)

- the meetings that took place recently (also December ones) and the interest shown are a sign of **greater attention/interest for more structured cooperation and closer relationship among e-Infrastructures and also e-IRG**

- it is **mutually beneficial for e-IRG and the e-Infrastructures that there are these stronger connections to influence agenda/strategies of each other**

- role of e-IRG in the Forum would be a **neutral trusted party, possibly facilitating activities via the e-IRG secretariat**

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Responses from the e-Infrastructures - GÉANT:

▪ GEANT finds:

    a. the **convening power of e-IRG** and

    b. **the way the e-IRG membership is structured** very helpful

and therefore as a neutral body, we find **e-IRG is well-placed to facilitate conversation**.

▪ There are **many, many changes in the environment and we are only seeing the beginning**.

▪ We used to be a few e-infras rubbing along fairly easily.

▪ We are now in an environment, where we have **EOSC and EuroHPC, dataspaces, the EDICs coming up + all the new legislation and policy out of the digital decade, twin transitions, security union. Plus the funding fragmentation. We need to digest that** and I think we will all be set served **if we do some of this digesting together**.

▪ Having **e-IRG promote and support joined-up thinking is very welcome**.

▪ We also welcome the attendance of ESFRI.

▪ Equally, we would like to thank e-IRG in making an observer position available.

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Responses from the e-Infrastructures - EGI:

- EGI **support the proposed observers** (representative from the e-Infras and EOSC-A) **to e-IRG**,
- **Welcome the idea** proposed by Jana (ESFRI CHair) of **having the e-Infrastructure group represented in the ESFRI-EOSC joint task force**.
- **e-IRG represented in the e-Infrastructure assembly meetings as observer**, to streamline comms and alignment.
- **e-Infrastructure assembly complementary to e-IRG**, i.e. a discussion platform of the e-Infrastructure members, which provides an external contact point to this stakeholder group at EU level + to e-IRG itself.
- **offer our network of user communities and other relevant human networks as sounding board for policy topics** relevant to e-IRG and the other e-Infrastructures.
- The frequency of meetings of the e-Infrastructure group could be q**uarterly with agendas set up with the contribution of all e-Infrastructures**.
- **If e-IRG was available to provide secretariat support**, we would be happy to consider this opportunity.

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Responses from the e-Infrastructures: OpenAIRE

- **welcomes the collaboration with e-IRG** and is happy to:
- Support the idea of an e-Infrastructure group representative as an **observer** in e-IRG meetings.
- Involve an **e-IRG representative in the e-Infra assembly** with e-IRG having a **neutral/observer role**.
- to first try **quarterly meetings** (at least **one physical potentially coinciding with the eIRG physical meeting**) and adapt frequency as needed.
- Chairing of meetings: we could foresee a **rota of chairs from e-Infrastructures** who will be responsible for setting the agenda and keeping the minutes. **Agenda setting would be done with consultation from all, including eIRG**.
- we can bring representatives of our **respective communities in meetings** (or design actions to involve them), depending on e.g., success stories, good practices, new developments
- Depending on results, we can **revisit our plans/actions in one year**.

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Responses from the e-Infrastructures - **PRACE**:

- Very welcome to allow **observer from e-infrastructures and EOSC-A in e-IRG meetings**.
- For the **e-infra-assembly** we would prefer to have **e-IRG involved as manager / organisator with a neutral/ facilitating role.**
- it should be an e-infra-assembly and **not include per se other related initiatives and users.** However, these groups can be invited if needed.
- If the assembly would **meet twice a year** would be a good option. One as remote meeting and one F2F in conjunction with a e-IRG WS.
- I think **e-IRG secretariat could prepare a draft agenda** by asking for topics before the assembly.
- The minutes are always a pain, but needed, otherwise, you don't need to organise a meeting. We would like to **ask if the e-IRG secretariat could prepare the minutes.**

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Responses from the e-Infrastructures - EUDAT:

- EUDAT is continuously **positive** about maintaining the regular discussion across e-infras.
- Organising a lightweight e-infrastructure assembly still **requires some consideration** as the e-infrastructure landscape on an European level is changing. The increase in a number of **ESFRI** initiated research infrastructures that are more or less thematic e-infrastructures, the establishment of **EuroHPC** JU, and the **EOSC** Co-programmed Partnership has **totally reshaped the landscape**. Both the European Commission and Member States are for example, governing the latter two.
- Taking this into consideration we propose that the **role of EOSC Association as a coordinating body** and a meeting platform for e-infrastructures must be considered carefully before creating additional bodies.

News from e-IRG meeting

- The feedback from e-Infrastructures was discussed in the e-IRG delegates meeting this week (Tuesday, 20.6.2025)
  - **It is clear that all e-Infrastructures are positive and have accepted the creation of the Assembly**
  - **The main e-IRG decision is that it would be left to the e-Infrastructures to decide on actual structure and modalities and come back to e-IRG with the details.**
  - **This will be communicated to the e-Infrastructures next week**

Acknowledgement

Thank you!