

e-IRG Workshop in Madrid



Over 70 participants attended the e-IRG workshop in Madrid, on 17 June 2010. The workshop was organised by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) and the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

Even if the Icelandic volcano affected the initial plans, it did not prevent the workshop to attract participants nor speakers – most of which rescheduled their own agenda on short notice to attend the new event in Madrid.

A very interesting period for European e-Infrastructure

Luis Ruiz, from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, and **Kostas Glinos**, from the European Commission, opened the workshop by reflecting on the national and European experiences of e-Infrastructure and the role it plays in society. At European level, “a very interesting period is just beginning”, Glinos said. Besides the opening of the new funding cycle (FP8) in 2013 for e-Infrastructure projects, the EU 2020 agenda, and in particular the Digital Agenda which sets actions and guidelines



to maximise the social and economic potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), are likely to be reflected in the coming calls and projects. According to **Leif Laaksonen** (e-IRG Chair), e-IRG will continue, through its workshops, to be the forum for discussion on the future of e-Infrastructures, and to strengthen the dialogue among all the e-Infrastructure actors.

In a session focusing on lessons learnt from the major e-Infrastructure projects, **Francesc Subirada** presented the current status of the PRACE initiative and re-iterated the crucial role HPC plays in boosting European competitiveness in science and engineering. **Steven Newhouse** reported on the first steps of the European Grid Initiative (EGI) which aims to provide a sustainable production e-Infrastructure in Europe. The EGI initiative was also discussed by **Jesús Marco** who presented the Spanish and Portuguese initiative to join efforts in EGI by creating a federated NGI called Ibergrid.

Steven Newhouse also presented the results of the recent survey conducted by the European e-Infrastructure Forum (EEF) on ESFRI projects requirements for pan-European e-Infrastructure resources and facilities. **Neil Geddes**, e-IRG delegate for the UK, introduced the e-IRG Blue Paper. In October 2009 ESFRI invited e-IRG to produce a report on e-Infrastructure services, to be used as input for the 2010 update of the ESFRI roadmap. The e-IRG Blue Paper will be formally delivered to ESFRI at the end of June 2010. It provides an assessment of Europe’s e-Infrastructure service portfolio and trends, and sets out policy recommendations on several key areas.

Uses and users of the e-Infrastructure

The second session of the workshop was entirely dedicated to use cases of the e-Infrastructure. Ensuring optimal use of the e-Infrastructure has always been one of the highest priorities on the e-IRG agenda. **Ramon Soriguer**



from CSIC showed how the e-Infrastructure is used to monitor the Doñana Biological Reserve in Andalusia. **Fernando Liello** from the University of Trieste, Italy, presented the European project AugerAccess which seeks to enable remote access to the Pierre Auger Observatory in Argentina to study cosmic rays. **Antonella Fresca** presented the DC-NET project which is building a new data and service e-Infrastructure for research in the field of Digital Cultural Heritage. **David Fergusson** from the National e-Science Center of the University of Edinburgh addressed the issue of training the users to best use the e-Infrastructure, and presented the lessons learned from the EGEE project. All the presentations showed how important the e-Infrastructure is for many user communities, often supporting very different uses and practices.

e-Infrastructure in Latin America and the Mediterranean region

The third session focused on e-Science and e-Infrastructures in Latin America and the Mediterranean region. **Raul Ramos** presented the EELA-2 and GISELA projects supporting European and Latin American scientific collaborations. **Florencio Utreas** gave a general overview of e-Infrastructures in Latin America focusing on the RedCLARA network which interconnects the national advanced academic networks from Latin America among themselves and with networks in Europe, the Unit-

ed States, Asia and the rest of the world, thus linking scientists, academics and researchers in the region with the global scientific community. **Federico Ruggieri** presented the e-Infrastructure projects in the Mediterranean area, namely Eumedconnect2 and Eumedgrid-support, providing connectivity and commodity computing facilities and linking the related user communities with Europe and beyond.

Preparing the future: Managing and funding the e-Infrastructure

The workshop ended with a round table on managing and funding the e-Infrastructure. **Matthew Scott** (DANTE), **Karel Vietsch** (TERENA), **Francesc Subirada** (PRACE) and **Steven Newhouse** (EGI.eu) were invited to reflect the practices and experiences learnt in their respective areas and projects. Several issues were raised such as Member States representation and voting rights, legal frameworks, user involvements and participation.



Going GLOBAL. The GLOBAL project provided a remote access to the e-IRG workshop in Madrid. Florencio Utreas gave his presentation on e-Infrastructure in Latin America from his office in Chile, and several questions were asked by participants from all around the world, including from Africa. According to Juan Quemada, coordinator of the Global project, “an average of 25 sites followed the event and we can estimate the number of remote participants between 50 and 60”. If you have missed the e-IRG workshop in Madrid, please visit the Global Plaza website to watch the video: <http://globalplaza.org/spaces/e-irg/events/open-e-irg-workshop>

In the closing summary **Matti Heikkurinen** (e-IRGSP2) listed some of the themes brought to the foreground by the workshop. Integration seemed to be a common theme, with Europe looking into common approaches with other geographical regions and e-IRG Member States aligning their national agendas with the Pan-European one. Clear need to simplify the user experience in the basic e-Infrastructure usage scenarios was also often mentioned, even if there is an ongoing trend towards more complex palette of implementation technologies used to provide the e-Infrastructure services.

Leif Laaksonen closed the workshop and thanked all the participants and the excellent support from the Spanish presidency that made rescheduling of the workshop possible. He also thanked the team from GLOBAL project that made it possible to observe the e-IRG workshop through a webcast.

All the presentations of the workshop can be downloaded at the e-IRG website: www.e-irg.eu

e-IRG supporting the shared use of e-Infrastructure as part of the ERA



The e-IRG organised a Birds of a Feather (BoF) Session at the TERENA Networking Conference (TNC 2010) in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Tuesday 1 June 2010.

The BoF Session examined the policy findings of the e-IRG and their importance for the European research Area (ERA). Even though the session competed with four other parallel sessions, it was attended by 20 people from 13 countries (in 3 continents).

Kees Neggers (SURFnet and e-IRG delegate) presented the e-IRG and the key policy papers it produced in 2009-2010: the White Paper 2009, the Data Management Task Force Report 2009 (jointly approved by e-IRG and ESFRI), the Roadmap 2010, and the Blue Paper 2010 for ESFRI.

The first topic discussed after the opening presentation was Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI). It has now become clear that implementing AAI in applications, i.e. “domestication of applications”, is an important,

transatlantic issue. The issue has been raised within e-IRG as part of the broader AAI discussion.

The second topic of discussion was the actual impact of the recommendations of the e-IRG at national Ministerial level. Several participants illustrated with examples from their countries that the e-IRG policy papers are important for setting up the national policy and that the relevance of the e-IRG as a policy body keeps on growing.

In the second presentation, **Lajos Balint** (NIIF/Hungarnet, e-IRG delegate) summarized the background of the European Research Area (ERA). A member of the ERA Board (ERAB), Balint referred to the first annual ERAB report and elaborated further on how the recommendations of the e-IRG on e-infrastructures support the goals and the mission of ERA.

The discussion then focused on the way to convey the message to politicians. It was recognised that challenging common long-term goals and synchronisation of the activities to reach these goals were of key importance. Also new mechanisms to fund and exploit e-infrastructures, including Public-Private Partnerships, will need to be surveyed in more detail and evaluated with regard to their potential impact on innovation.

The presentations by Kees Neg-

gers and Lajos Balint can be downloaded at the e-IRG website (<http://www.e-irg.eu/publications/external-e-irg-presentations.html>). The ERAB paper is available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/erab/publications_en.html

Upcoming events

TeraGrid'10

2-5 August 2010
Pittsburgh, USA
www.teragrid.org

EGI Technical Forum

14-17 September 2010
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.egi.eu/EGITF2010

Future Internet Symposium

20-22 September 2010
Berlin, Germany
www.fis2010.org

ICT 2010

27-29 September 2010
Brussels, Belgium
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/ict/2010/index_en.htm

EuroRIsNet Conference

28 September 2010
Rome, Italy
www.euroris-net.eu

e-IRG workshop

13-14 October 2010
Brussels, Belgium
www.e-irg.eu

SC'10

13-19 November 2010
New Orleans, USA
<http://sc10.supercomputing.org>

In the spotlight: e-ScienceTalk

Talking science – e-ScienceTalk to follow in the footsteps of the successful GridTalk project

For the past two years, the GridTalk project has blogged, videoed, written, twittered and generally talked its heart out, all in the name of grids.

From 1 September this year, the GridTalk project will become the e-ScienceTalk project – the same high quality writing, the same eye catching design and innovative websites but with an even richer pool of stories to draw from.

The new project will continue to bring you success stories from the grid front line, but will also broaden its remit to cover the wider world of e-Infrastructures and distributed computing in all its forms – desktop grids, networks, data repositories, high performance computing, cloud computing and more.

Catherine Gater, Project Coordinator for e-ScienceTalk says, “With the start up of the European Grid Infrastructure and the blurring of boundaries between

grids, clouds, supercomputing networks and volunteer grids, a clear consistent source of information aimed at non-experts is now more important than ever.”

e-ScienceTalk will run until April 2013 and will bring together five partners with wide ranging experience in communication: Queen Mary University, London, CERN in Switzerland, and Andre-Pierre Olivier from the GridTalk project, now joined by EGI.eu of the Netherlands and Imperial College, London.

Like GridTalk before it, e-ScienceTalk will reach out to policy makers in government and business, to the scientific community and to the general public. e-ScienceTalk will continue to publish its GridBriefing reports on the key policy issues underpinning grid and e-Infrastructure development in Europe and will also support the European e-Concertation meetings. The Grid-Café, GridCast and GridGuide suite of websites will cover new topics and explore novel web technologies, as well as integrating more closely with GridPP’s Real Time Monitor to combine live views

of grid activity with the human aspects of computing. The ever growing weekly publication, International Science Grid This Week (iSGTW) will bring news and events to the e-Science community.

Where will these success stories come from? From the flagship pan-European projects such as EGI-InSPIRE, EMI, GÉANT and PRACE-1P but also a whole host of smaller and emerging projects. e-ScienceTalk is keen to hear from all e-Infrastructure projects with an interesting tale to tell and will work to expand our audience beyond Europe to the US, to Asia and to Latin America.

The e-IRG Support Programme 2 (e-IRGSP2) has enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with GridTalk, contributing to its GridBriefing reports and to the dissemination of up-to-date information on e-Infrastructure policy issues. e-IRGSP2 will be keen to further develop this relationship with eScienceTalk in order to advance knowledge on e-Infrastructure and to promote the work of e-IRG.

More information

www.e-irg.eu
www.e-irg.eu/support



e-IRG secretariat

P.O. Box 405
FI-02101 Espoo, Finland
Phone: +358(0)9 457 2281
secretariat@e-irg.eu

The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group Support Programme 2 (e-IRGSP2) provides a comprehensive support framework for the work of the e-IRG until the end of 2010. The e-IRGSP2 is supported by the European Commission through the 7th Framework Programme, and has seven partners: CSC, NCF, GRNET, ETL, AUEB-RC, GENIAS BV, and PSNC.

