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GILDA: a Grid for dissemination activities

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Computational and data grids are now entering a more mature phase where experimental test-beds are turned into production quality infrastructures operating around the clock. All this is becoming true both at national level, where an example is the Italian INFN production grid (http://grid-it.cnaf.infn.it), and at the continental level, where the most strinking example is the European Union EGEE Project Infrastructure (http://www.eu-egee.org).
However, the impact of grid technologies on the next future way of doing e-science and research in Europe will be proportional to the capability of National and European Grid Infrastructures to attract and serve
many diverse scientific and industrial communities through serious and detailed dissemination and tutoring programs.
In this contribution we present GILDA, the Grid Infn Laboratory for Dissemination Activities (http://gilda.ct.infn.it). GILDA is a complete suite of grid elements (Certification Authority, Virtual Organization, Distributed Test-bed, Grid Demonstrator, etc.) completely devoted to dissemination activities. GILDA can also act as a fast-prototyping test-bed where to start the porting/interfacing of new applications with the grid middle-ware. The use and exploitation of GILDA in the context of the Network Activities of the EGEE Project will be discussed.

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