eGee

Enabling Grids for E-sciencE

NGI Policy Workshop
Questionnaire responses summary

Fotis Karayannis

GRNET

EGEE'06 Conference
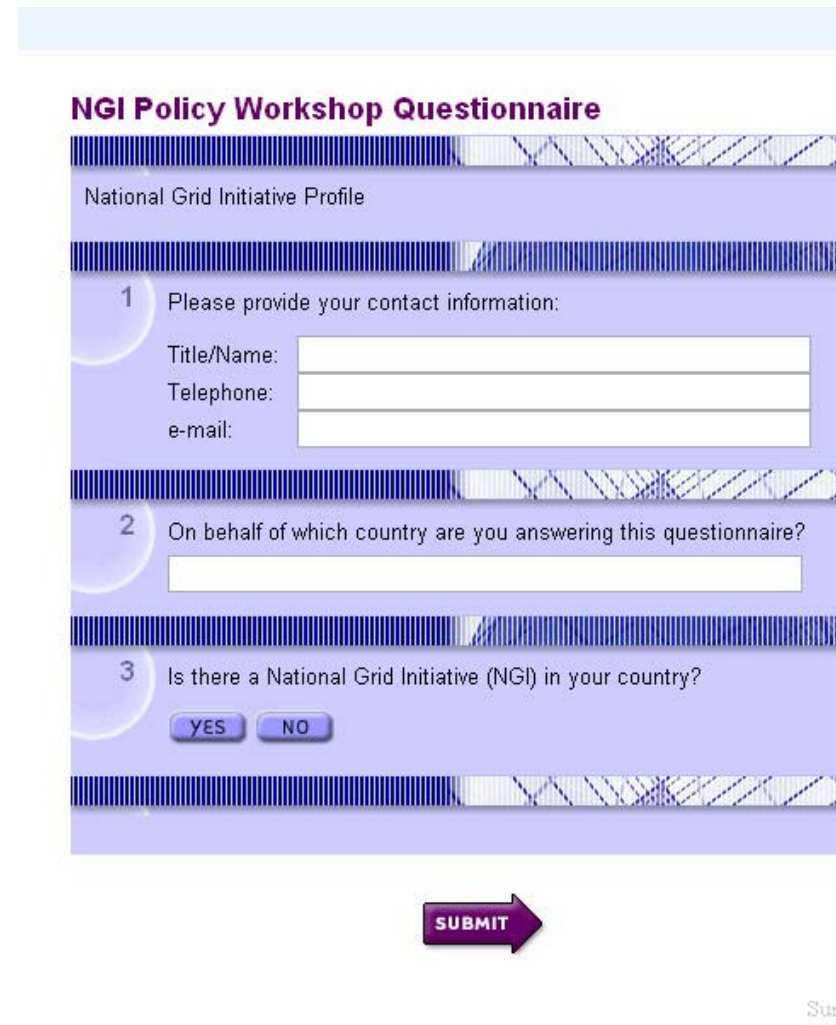
26 September 2006,

Geneva, Switzerland

- **Introduction**

- **Procedure**

- **Questionnaire overview**

- **Results**

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- **NGI questionnaire v8 http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB225MMZDBX92**

- **Used the zoomerang tool**
  - www.zoomerang.com
  - Proved not very helpful - Not many automatic statistics
  - Partly because some partners used a previous version of the questionnaire

- **Around 20 minutes to fill in**
  - depending on the selected path

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- **NGI questionnaire discussed at the EGEE PMB level**
  - PMB= Project Management Board, decision-taking body, where all federations represented
- **Initially developed by GRNET, leading the NA5 activity**
  - NA5= Policy and International Cooperation
  - Comments and contributions by PMB and NA5 members
- **List of recipients rules:**
  - IF NGI exists, THEN send it to NGI contact person, and carbon copy e-IRG and EGEE PMB (or alternate) members
  - ELSE send it to e-IRG and EGEE PMB (or alternate) members
- **List of invitations:**
  - All the recipients, plus:
  - EC
  - e-IRG Troijka
  - Major Research Infrastructure projects

- **Part A (mandatory):**
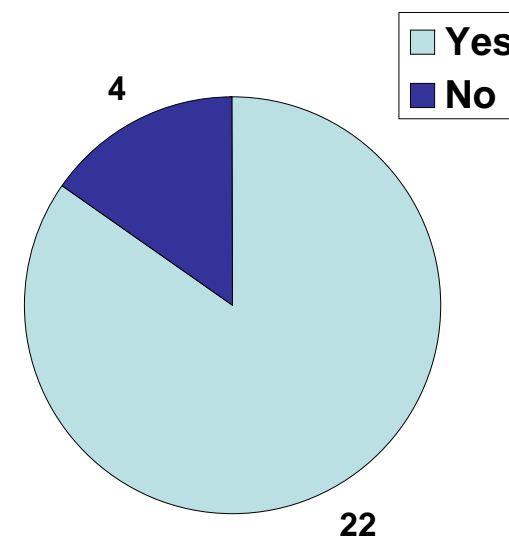 - NGI Profile + EGI perceived function set
- **Part B:**
  - Operational and other information
  - Relationship with National Grid Project
  - National Grid Strategy
- **Part C:**
  - National Grid Initiative Timeline
  - Application Support
  - Funding
- **Other information**

- **26 countries answered!**
  - Of which 17 EU Member States
  - Thus 8 EU Member States did not answer

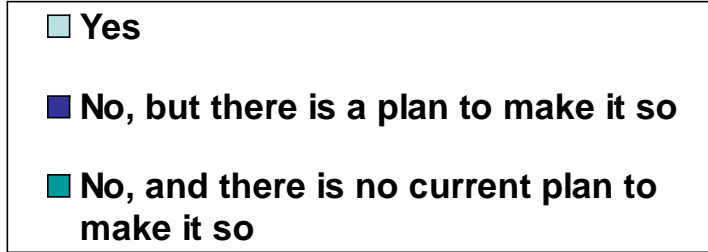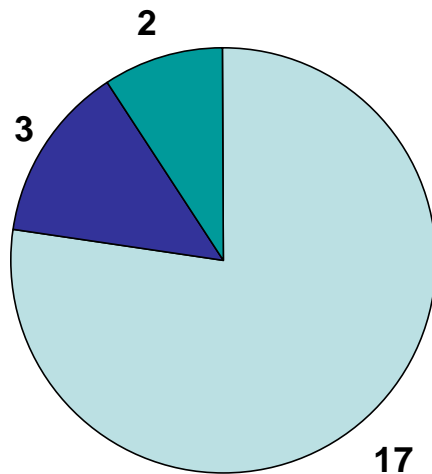**Enabling Grids for E-sciencE**

- **Austria**
- **Belgium**
- **Bulgaria**
- **Croatia**
- **Cyprus**
- **Czech Republic**
- **Estonia**
- **France**
- **Greece**
- **Ireland**
- **Israel**
- **Latvia**
- **Lithuania**

- **Norway**
- **Poland**
- **Portugal**
- **Romania**
- **Russia**
- **Serbia**
- **Spain**
- **Sweden**
- **Switzerland**
- **The Netherlands**
- **Turkey**
- **UK**
- **Ukraine**

- **Out of 26: 22 Yes, 4 No**

- **Of the 4 'no's**
  - One says that
    - There is not a big enough Grid community
    - There is no agreement on who will lead it
    - There is not enough political or funding support from the government
  - One says that
    - There is not a big enough Grid community
    - There is not enough political or funding support from the government
    - There is an NGI is in a planning stage
  - The other two are also in a planning stage, with no other reported difficulties

- **Note that NGI has a loose definition**

Yes
No

4

22

- Yes
- No, but there is a plan to make it so
- No, and there is no current plan to make it so

- **Of the 22 countries with NGIs**
- **17 have government recognition**
- **3 are seeking government recognition**

- **Is your NGI its own separate legal entity or does it only exist as part of another organisation?**

  – **Only 1** is its own separate entity

  – The other 21 are part of another organisation

An entity appointed by an official authority	X	X	X	X	X	X	X														
A funded national project	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
A memorandum of understanding	X	X																	X	X	X
An informal group that meets frequently		X						X	X				X								

- (You may select more than one answer)
- The most common form is **funded national project (11 hits)**
- Then entity appointed by an official authority **(7)**
- Some **other descriptions** given:
  - National programme funded by the Ministry of Science (belongs to second)
  - Part of Network funding (part of a funded national project)
  - A consortium of institutions (similar to MoU)
  - An umbrella for virtual organisations
 - An Agreement signed by member organizations (belongs to MoU)

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	Very Important - Should definitely be done by EGI	Quite Important - Should probably be done by EGI	No opinion	Not important - Should probably not be done by EGI	Unhelpful - Should definitely not be done by EGI
Coordination of infrastructure operations	12	9	4	1	0
Testing, certification and validation service for the infrastructure including its middleware	10	11	4	1	0
Managed resource centres that can provide initial resources for new user communities	6	9	8	2	1
Coordination of user and application support	6	8	5	6	1
Coordination of dissemination and training efforts	8	10	5	2	1
Representation of European Grid efforts on standards bodies	10	8	7	0	1
Representation of European Grid efforts in discussions with similar structures from other continents	13	8	5	0	0

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- **By adding "very important" and "quite important" three areas get a total of 21:**
  - Representation of European Grid efforts in discussions with similar structures from other continents (13+8)
  - Coordination of infrastructure operations (12+9)
  - Testing, certification and validation service for the infrastructure including its middleware (10+11)
- **Two areas get a total of 18**
  - Representation of European Grid efforts on standards bodies (10+8)
  - Coordination of dissemination and training efforts (8+10)
- **One 15:**
  - Managed resource centres that can provide initial resources for new user communities (6+9)
- **Last with 14 (and also six "should probably not be done by EGI"):**
  - Coordination of user and application support (6+8)

Other EGI functions proposed

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- **Relationship with other e-Infrastructures (GEANT/DANTE/NRENs or HPC centres)**

- **Policy issues**

- **Resource sharing mechanisms**

- **Interoperability work including m/w**

- **Support for data providers and integration and not just compute cycles and storage**

- **And a comment: The questionnaire forces the questions to be related to this particular EGI proposal. It is, however, not yet established that this particular EGI should be responsible. If the questions would have referred to a general European Grid Initiative, the answers would have been positive**

- **The question proposed NGIs and other resource providers, user communities and the European Commission**
  - This is perhaps even **more than necessary**
  - We see EGI composed only of NGIs plus a central coordinating body, the board of which should be also composed of NGI members. The user communities should be represented by the NGIs. Funding stakeholders are the national funding agencies plus the EC.
  - Definitely we should find a way how to engage other interested parties, e.g. **industry**, including **SME**.
  - There are a lot of other activities where **HPC centres** in Europe might be Involved, e.g. starting from hosting computer systems, playing the role of backup centres, utility computing, computing on demand.
  - Industry should be engaged as well
  - **National Funding Agencies**
  - The research community!
  - **NRENs**
  - Industry should be somehow involved

Legend:
- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- No Answer

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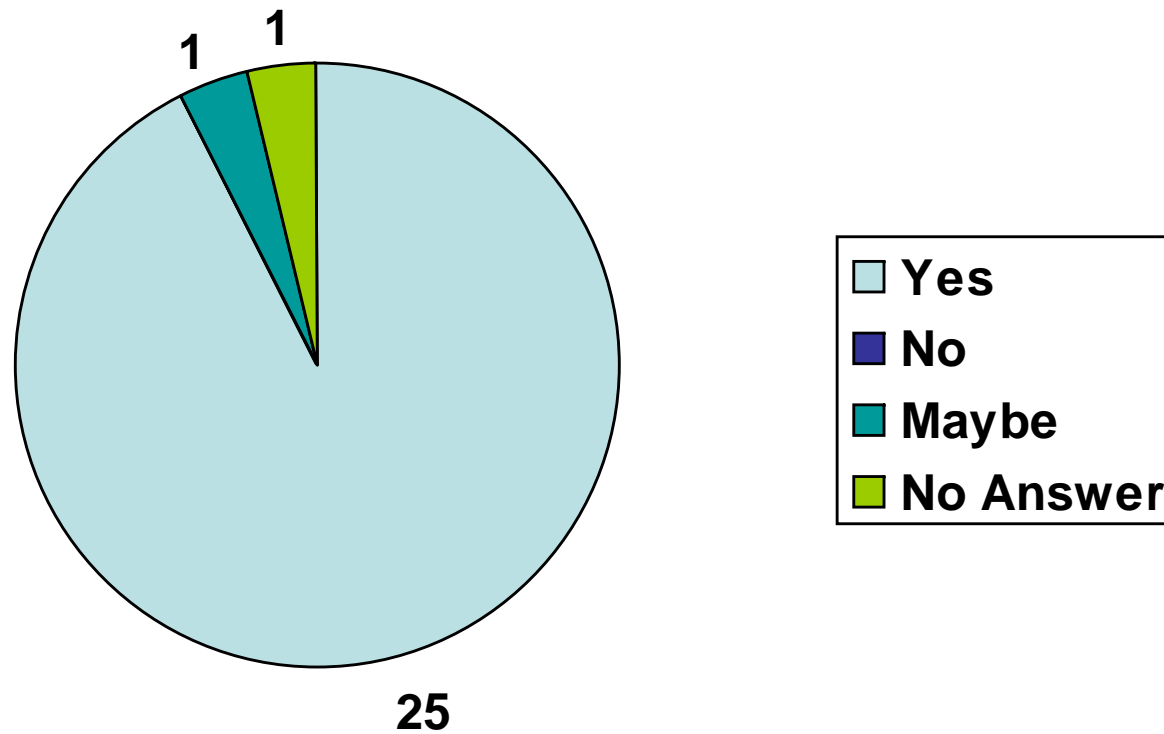
- Is there a national Grid project (as a horizontal or integration project)?
    - 17 'Yes', 9 'No'
- Of the 17 'Yes':
    - 12 of the 17 are sponsored by a government ministry
   - the target areas, in order of popularity, are:

1. Grid infrastructures (computing, storage, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
2. Grid applications	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
3. Dissemination	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		
4. Grid middleware	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
5. Training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X				

- Other target areas given were: operations; co-operation with industry; Grid Helpdesk and user board; work in progress t.b.d.

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- **Has your country produced a national strategy document in order to prove the need for investment by the government?**
  - 12 'Yes', 14 'No'
- **Of the 14 'No's:**
  - 7 (50%) say it is planned
  - 4 say the conditions are not ripe
  - Other comments:
    - it may be part of the next national Grid project
    - it's a work in progress
    - needs coordination between regional and federal au
    - it could happen in the future
    - several documents are in preparation now

- **Of the 22 NGIs**
  - 6 (27%) have the additional role of being an National Research and Education Network (NREN)
  - 3 more NGIs indicated close links with the NREN
  - 3 are also supercomputing centres

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- **How many applications projects is your NGI involved in?**

No. of applications projects

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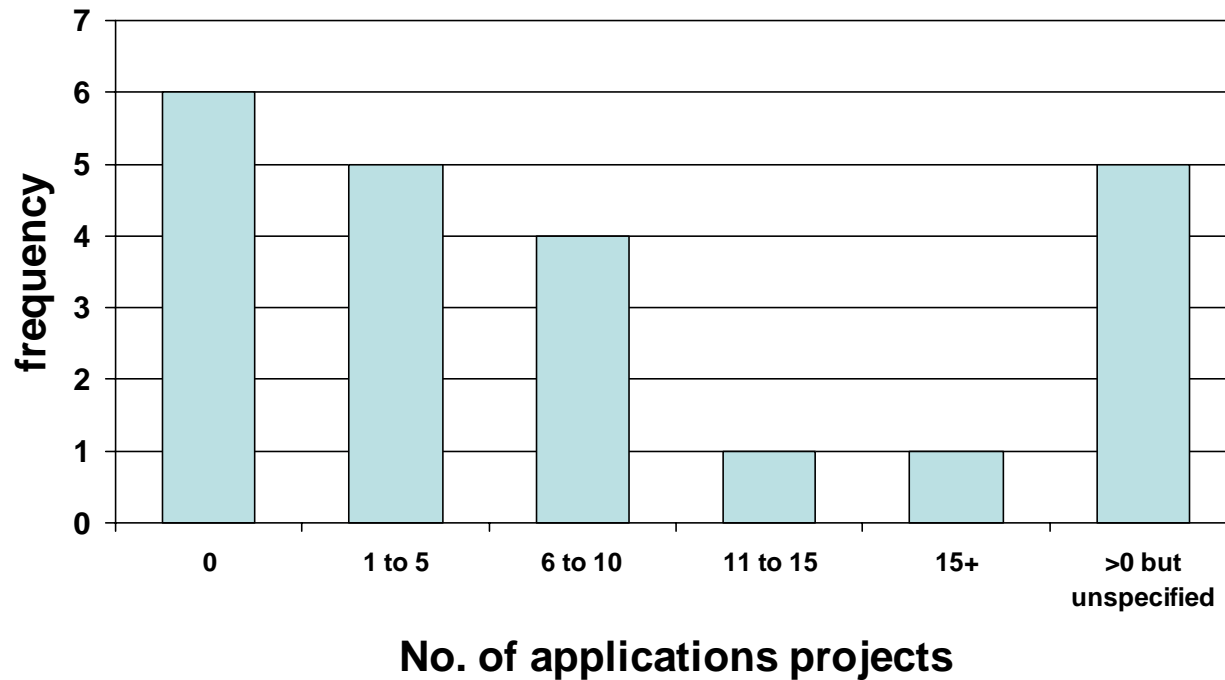
- **Which application areas are NGIs most commonly involved in?**
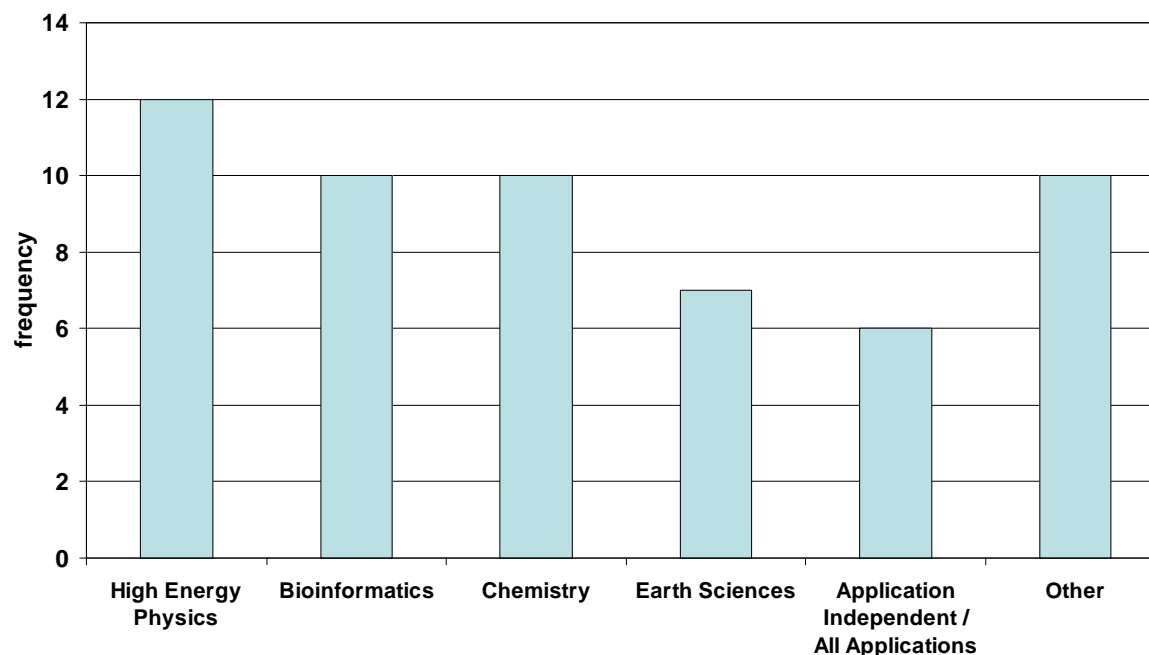
- But most striking was the variety of 'other' application areas:
  - fusion (x2), cosmology, robotics, graphical modelling, health sciences, knowledge representation, medicine, web search engine, optimisation of traffic routing, computational mechanics, nano-technology, astronomy, astrophysics, space research, materials, virtual laboratory, support for equipment, physics of natural phenomena, marine science

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- **19 of the 22 NGIs replied to questions about their financial status. Of these 19:**
  - 7 had sustainable funding; 12 did not

- **For the 7 sustainably funded NGIs:**
  - annual funding ranged from 0.3 to 2M euros with a mean of 1.2M
  - and all 7 were expecting additional sources of funding
    - National funds, regional funds, EC projects incl. EGEE

- **For the 12 non-sustainably funded NGIs, some reasons were offered:**
  - 3 have sustainable funding arrangements under consideration or in progress
  - another 3 do not feel Grid technology is sufficiently developed or established as a generic infrastructure in their country

- **No sustainable funding guaranteed**

- **Sustainable funding guaranteed**
  o annual funding ranged from 0.3 to 2M euros with a mean of 1.2M
  o and all 7 were expecting additional sources of funding:
    - National funds, regional funds, EC projects incl. EGEE

7

12

- **No sustainable funding guaranteed**
  o do not feel Grid technology is sufficiently developed or established as a generic infrastructure in their country

- **No sustainable funding guaranteed**
  o but sustainable funding arrangements under consideration or in progress