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Long-term grid sustainability

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Europe has invested heavily in developing Grid technology and infrastructures during the past years, with some impressive results. The EU EGEE Project (www.eu-egee.org), which provides a coordinating framework for national, regional and thematic Grids, has proved a vital catalyst and incubator for the success of establishing a working, large-scale, multi-science production Grid infrastructure that serves many sciences. As the Virtual Organizations established by scientific communities move from testing their applications on the Grid to routine and daily usage, it becomes increasingly important and necessary to ensure maintainance, reliability and adaptiveness of the Grid infrastructure. This is rather difficult with the usual (short) project funding cycles, which inhibit investment from long-term users and industry. The situation is in some ways analogous to that of scientific networks, where independent national initiatives led to common standards and ultimately the creation of the DANTE organization. A similar evolution needs to be planned now for Grids, i.e. National Grid Initiatives to guide Grid infrastructure deployment and operation at country-level and a central coordinating body to ensure long-term sustainability and interoperability.

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