



Enabling Grids for E-science

# EGEE Contributions to e-Infrastructure policy work

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- **The overall theme of this talk is “Policy forums and EGEE”**
  - EGEE as a Support Organization
  - EGEE as a Host
  - EGEE as a participant handled mainly elsewhere in this review.
    - Standardization work, joint groups.
- **Practical, concrete Motivations for this activity:**
  - Remove policy level stumbling blocks that might slow down or prevent the work of EGEE and the collaborations it is involved in
  - Part of the overall effort to ensure that the project is not working in isolation.
- **Sub-Topics:**
  - EGEE supporting e-Infrastructures Reflection Group
  - EGEE hosting the first Concertation event on e-Infrastructures
  - Status, future challenges

- **The e-Infrastructures Reflection Group (eIRG)**
  - Mission: support easy and cost-effective shared use of electronic resources in Europe
  - 23 countries (government-appointed representatives), EU: 2 members
  - Stronger link with ESFRI in the future - 10-20 year roadmap.
- **The link with the eIRG predates the EGEE project**
  - Large part of the EGEE community has been involved since the beginning of the eIRG
- **Two major eIRG events during the “EGEE era”**
  - Dublin meeting, April 2004
  - Den Haag meeting, November 2004
- **Changes in the meantime**
  - Kick-off of the EGEE NA5 activity
    - Support for the eIRG a key component of the activity
  - Broadening the scope of the eIRG work.

- **Forum for information exchange between:**
  - Grid developers, service providers
  - Networking infrastructure providers
  - Funding agencies
- **The eIRG White Paper in central role in this exchange**
  - Gather a snapshot of the state of the art in the relevant key areas of Grid and networking infrastructure development
  - Use the writing process as a way to create a common understanding of the technology- and policy-related issues that need to be solved in the near future
  - Propose policy issues for member states for endorsement
    - Effect through funding policies, harmonization of bylaws of the computing centers,...
- **Create a high-visibility, well connected forum that will help to connect national and international policy discussions into a single dialog.**

- **Clarified roles**
  - Editor
  - Subeditors
  - Version manager, integrator
- **For the Den Haag version:**
  - Created a new structure to reflect the issues
    - Based on the discussion with the eIRG board, EU and the support team.
    - Refined the original roadmap.
  - Integrated text from previous versions only as needed
  - Above will be part of the recommended process in the future?
- **Process and the Support team likely a major contributing factor in the success**
  - Extremely tight schedule
  - End result met generally with approval.

- **Organized in Den Haag, 22-23 November 2004.**
  - Combined with the EGEE-2 project conference.
- **Participation from broad range of projects**
  - Over 200 Grid developers present at the event
  - EGEE adopted the role of a host:
    - Pre-event questionnaires asking for input
    - Session chair duties shared with other projects
  - Influenced the contents of the deliverable “European Grid project Synergy Roadmap”
- **Follow-up activity ongoing**
  - Invitation to join the technical working groups sent out on 21 January
  - Very open invitation
    - Participation is not limited to EU-funded or “European” projects.

- **Slightly isolated activity from the rest of the project**
  - Result of the quick ramp-up needed leading to the eIRG and Concertation events -> focus on external contacts
  - Mitigation plans: closer contact with other networking activities, broadening the contact interface of NA5 with other activities
    - Lateral contacts between NA5 and other networking activities (NA2/NA4) initiated.
- **Nature of the activity creates certain level of uncertainty**
  - The role and structure of the eIRG and concertation meetings is likely to evolve in the future.
  - Scheduling of the meetings is not controlled by the EGEE project.
- **Scoping issues with the policy work**
  - Which are the forums EGEE should get involved?
  - To what degree?
  - There is a wide array of European forums, with varying timescales and sized - what level of integration and consolidation to support, and how?

- **Important deliverables and steps for the next 9 months**
  - Deliverables
    - Progress report on International Cooperation Activities (Terena taking the lead), PM12
    - Next version of the eIRG White Paper, PM15
    - European Grid Project Synergy report, PM18
  - Steps
    - Support the launch of the cross-project Working Groups
      - *Technical support, facilitation*
    - Move gradually from the role of a host to the role of a participant
    - Facilitation in the Grid and Grid & Networking infrastructure concertation events.



- **EGEE has engaged on broad range of policy-level discussions**
  - Provides a service for the eIRG
  - Supports concertation activity with the whole Grid and networking infrastructures area
- **There are very few structural challenges remaining**
  - Sustainability of the eIRG support?
  - Defining the extent of involvement in the research oriented collaboration.
- **Most of the issues manageable in evolutionary manner**
  - Closer integration of the policy level networking activities with the main EGEE focus has been initiated.
  - Supporting the cross-project interaction and its consolidation
    - The role of the eIRG important in these efforts.