

6.1.1.1 SSC Guidelines

The set of guidelines described in this sub-section is an initial proposal aimed to provide some structure with respect to the UCS layer in an SSC. It is assumed that an SSC is governed by its user community. The guidelines below only refer to those aspects of an SSC which are relevant to its relationship with EGI.

Establishment of an SSC

During the proposal phase, the EGI partners (NGIs and experts) will make specific proposals for initial SSCs and establish the User Forum and its Steering Committee.

Once EGI is established, the EGI Council will be responsible for evaluating proposals for new SSCs in consultation with the UFSC. Details and formalities regarding this process are outside the scope of this document.

General Rights and Responsibilities

The SSCs are assumed to have a European-level existence. An SSC must have a cohesive community behind it that is able to take ownership of the SSC and to drive its evolution.

Most SSCs will be created around scientific domains. However, an SSC may also be created to meet specific “functional” requirements (e.g. a Training SSC, or an SSC for new and small communities).

The SSC will have representation in the EGI Council, Middleware, Middleware Coordination Board group, and other appropriate bodies. SSCs are expected to feed their technical and non-technical requirements into EGI. The SSCs will also be able to interact with each other via the UFSC and other channels.

SSCs are expected to be "good citizens" of EGI and to follow the defined EGI policies (both security and operational policies).

The SSCs are expected to be (relatively) stable entities. The UCS layer in an SSC may be “re-adjusted” to meet the requirements of the user communities being served, and where an adjustment in personnel is requested, this will be negotiated with the UFSC and EGI Council. However, the SSC itself will evolve independently from this layer.

EGI may provide resources to the SSCs, in particular to support the central **UCS layer** of services (mainly manpower). EGI will also have a mechanism to provide seed resources for new communities, as discussed elsewhere.

SSCs will have access to resources. This includes mechanisms for making their own resources available and potentially (priority) access to centralised services, for example, help desks, central grid services, etc. This includes access to "community services" that are made available to the entire EGI user community such as operations support, middleware support, etc. SSCs will also have access to training and documentation.

SSCs will report facts and figures about their use of EGI in order to help EGI (and its funding agencies) understand the scope of the work accomplished with EGI.

SSCs are expected to operate transparently, allowing a clear view of SSCs activities and making the list of provided services available to the entire EGI community.

Typical UCS Personnel in an SSC

An SSC will have a high-level **User Forum Representative** who can nominate a deputy. For large SSCs, this individual is by default a member of the EGI UFSC.

An SSC will have a **Grid Planning Officer** who participates in EGI MCB meetings.

An SSC will have personnel for **User Technical Support** and similar tasks.

An SSC will have personnel for assisting with dissemination efforts and (web) content management.

An SSC might have a **Gateway Officer** to coordinate the development and maintenance of its Science Gateway.

Various user communities have already been approached, and several are producing hypotheses on specific SSCs.

	SSC	Central coord	Central body
User Forum		U-E-1, U-E-2, U-E-3	UFSC
Grid Planning		U-E-2,4	MCB
User Tech Support		U-E-5, O-E-4, O-E-14	distributed
Hi-level tools / Gateways		U-E-2.6	
Document / Training		U-E-7, U-E-8	SSC?
Front Desk		U-E-2.9	SSC?

Figure 1: Overview of activities performed by a possible SSC

In Figure 1, the international UCS activities are classified along 6 broad categories. The tasks within these categories are described later. It should be noted here that the central bodies indicated above do not necessarily exhaust the range of activities in their respective categories.

The category “High Level Tools” is very heterogeneous, therefore it is not clear if a central body should exist and what form it should take; it is recommended that the communities consider this issue themselves.

The classes of activities which are expected to be covered by NGI international tasks outside of SSC effort are:

- User Forum
- User Tech Support
- Some high-level tools (e.g. Application database)
- Training liaison
- Front Desk liaison

National training and front desk activities are not considered here, but are expected to exist at the national level.