

**1) Will your cluster/team attempt to form one or more SSCs associated with the EGI?**

Yes

**2) If not, why not?**

**3) If so, please provide the following for \*EACH\* of the proposed SSCs:**

**a) *Its name.***

Grid Observatory

**b) *Its scope (mandate).***

The Grid Observatory SSC collects, publishes and analyses data on the behaviour of the EGI infrastructure. Its aim is to develop a scientific view of the dynamics of grid behaviour and usage.

The GO SSC will

- Maintain a publicly accessible repository of grid traces
- Collaborate with EGI operations and management to contribute to grid middleware improvement in reliability, stability and performance.
- Foster interaction between Computer Science research (Machine learning, autonomic computing, distributed systems) and production grids.

**c) *The list of leading institutes/persons, including the amount of human resources that will be dedicated to the SSC by those leading institutes/persons.***

- Operational ie providing a significant amount of FTEs
  - Institut des Grilles (LRI and LAL) 3 FTE (including PhDs).
  - ...
  - ...
- Networking and expertise ie providing limited, but expert input, for analysis & interpretation
  - ...
  - ...

**d) *The list of institutes/persons that will be providing computing resources.***

Université Paris-Sud, possibly Lyon IN2P3 Computing Center. Due to its specific role, the GO requirements for computing resources are limited, but needs some long-term secure storage facilities.

**e) *The proposed organization of the cluster, including the relationships between institutes, persons, Virtual Organizations, EGI.org, and the NGIs.***

In the long term, the GO should evolve in two directions: the repository should become a sustainable SSC service one hand and a networking activity with research on the other hand. The French NGI could be in charge of the service (with contributions from the UK NGI). The networking activity will be supported equally by the NGIs of the participant institutions. In the beginning, the cluster will be a network of the partner institutions.

The GO cluster requires interaction with the future EGI, both at the operational level, in order to keep pace with the general development of the infrastructure, software monitoring resources, operational issues, and with EGI.org both for EU-level actions, and to evolve to the intended long-term structure.

**f) *The required funding for the cluster along with a plan for securing that funding.***

- Some support (part time) at the operation level is required.
- Funding for the development and extension of the repository will be directed to the NGIs, in particular the French one, which has recently labeled the French grid in the “Très Grands Instruments” programme.
- The research activity will be funded by applying to relevant academic, regional, national and international calls, as has already been done.

**g) *A plan for the evolution from the current cluster/team organization to the proposed organization, including time scales for the major steps in the evolution.***

A significant part of the funding for the Grid Observatory is already provided by external programmes. The goal is to continue with this method. Opportunities for permanent staff (probably part-time) might open in the next 2-years period following the French “initiative nationale de prospective sur les grilles de production”, which is part of the development of the French NGI.