

e-Infrastructures as enablers of the 'fifth freedom'

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e-infrastructure

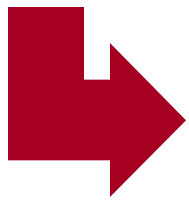


European Commission
Information Society and Media

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Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (part of the 'Lisbon Treaty') - Art. 179

“The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by achieving a **European research area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely** [...].”

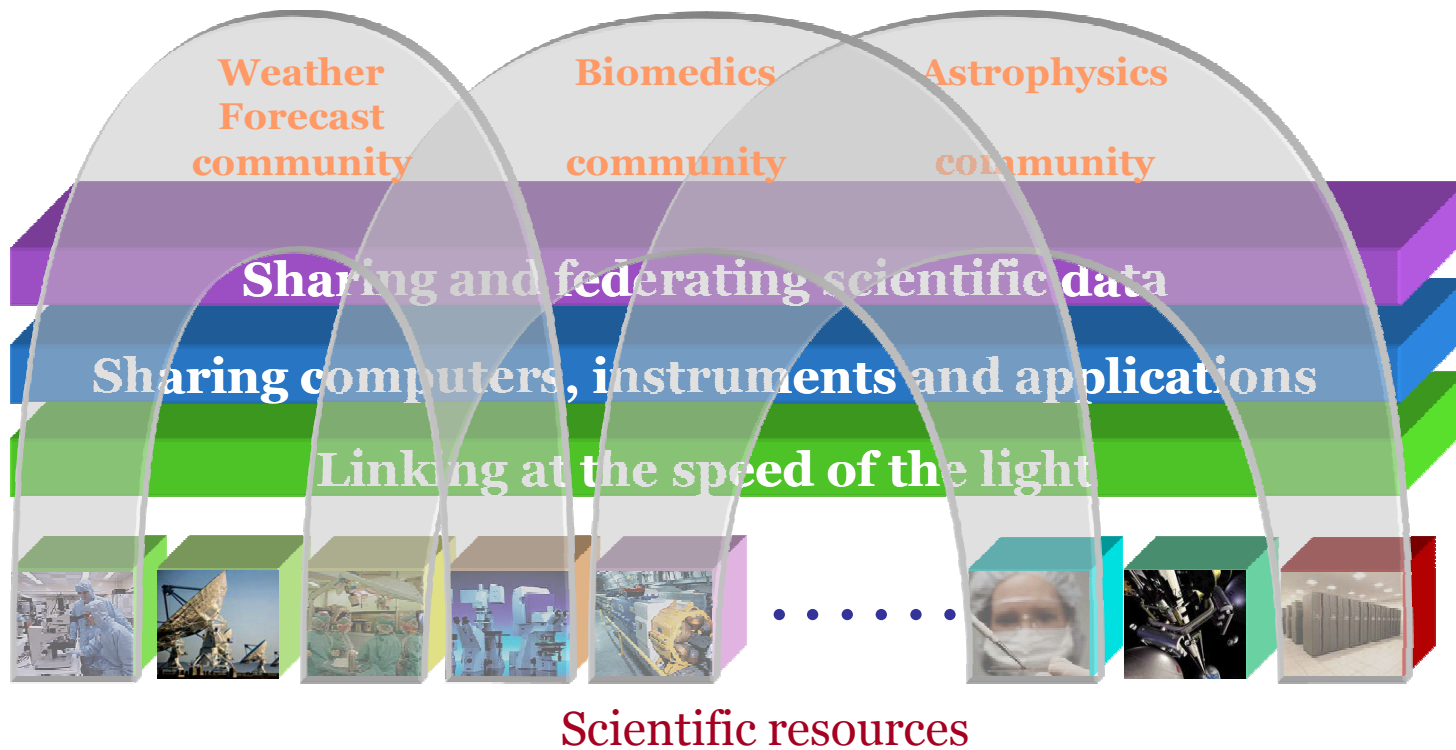


The '**fifth freedom**'; complementing the free movement of People, Goods, Capital and Services



e-Infrastructures for science

ICT-based ubiquitous research environments
for accessing and sharing scientific resources



Enabling role of e-Infrastructures

e-Infrastructures are an enabler of the fifth freedom as they allow to:

- connect the finest minds
- share and federate the best scientific resources
- build European and global virtual communities



Enabling role of e-Infrastructures

1) reinforce strengths

e-Infrastructures today are:

- already a key facilitator of the European Research Area
- the production-quality platform for thousands of researchers
- witnessing a significant increase of the potential user base (e.g. ESRFI roadmap projects)
- regarded as a world-class reference



Enabling role of e-Infrastructures

2) address weaknesses

e-Infrastructures today are:

- not meeting the needs of all research communities
- still presenting high entry barriers for many users
- not delivering seamless and integrated services across e-Infrastructure providers
- encountering legal and cultural barriers to unfold its full potential, e.g. in areas beyond e-Science



Conclusions

- The ‘fifth freedom’ is key in implementing the priorities of the European Union political agenda, e.g. the EU2020 Strategy
- e-Infrastructures are an enabler of the fifth freedom
- e-Infrastructures potential is undisputed but shortcomings need to be addressed

This EGEE 5th User Forum is an excellent opportunity for e-Infrastructure providers and users to engage in a productive dialogue that will contribute to the construction of a strong European Research Area



For further information

www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/e-infrastructure/



e-infrastructure

