

Table 1: VRC Coordination (NA2)

Work package number	NA2	Start date or starting event:				M01
Work package title	VRC Coordination					
Activity Type¹	COORD					
Participant number						
Participant short name						
Person-months per participant:						

Objectives

- Coordinate VRC activities
- Liaise with other EGI activities and EGI-related projects
- Liaise with NGIs about deployment of services and provision of resources
- Facilitate sharing of resources
- Develop and implement VRC policy and procedures
- Develop sustainability and exploitation plans
- Evaluate technical and scientific impact

Description of work (possibly broken down into tasks) and role of participants

The EGI user community is organized in to Virtual Research Communities (Specialized Support Centres (SSCs) in EGI jargon). The Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) represent a given community within EGI, acting as a liaison between the community and the various activities within EGI. Additionally, the VRCs are expected to act as a hub within the community, safeguarding the community's grid expertise and knowledge as well as coordinating grid activities within the discipline.

To fulfil these goals, the VRC needs to be a long-lived structure with appropriate plans for sustaining the community's use of the grid, exploiting the acquired knowledge, and liaising between the various community stakeholders.

A typical VRC will cover one or more Virtual Organizations. As one of the primary reasons for using the grid is the sharing of computing resources, the VRCs will encourage sharing of resources within the covered VOs and between those VOs.

To understand its effectiveness, each VRC will have to evaluate its technical and scientific impact. This analysis will be done periodically, in collaboration with EGI and other VRCs.

Phases

Phases: setup (plans), community building & coordination (sustainability plan), preparation for sustainability (status report/analysis).

Common Tasks

TMB meetings should ensure communication between the VRCs and allow them to identify common areas of interest. This may involve the setup of specific working groups.

Each VRC coordinator must review their description below and rewrite it keeping in mind

¹ Please indicate one activity per work package:

RTD: Research and technological development; COORD: Co-ordination; MGT: Management of the consortium;

SVC: Service activities

the stated objectives above as well as the general description. The length of each contribution should be 0.50-0.75 pages. The description should start with a brief description of how the VRC will be coordinated.

High Energy Physics

High Energy Physics (HEP) is a well-established VRC with a number of mature coordination bodies and regular conferences and meetings of users and/or service providers. This activity will work through such existing structures wherever possible, adding direction where required but retaining overhead to the strict minimum. As such, a quarterly partner review is foreseen through which the overall activities of the VRC and its relations with other communities and bodies will be reviewed. HEP covers not only the four main LHC experiments but also other communities corresponding to collaborations at CERN or other facilities. The sharing of knowledge and techniques across such virtual organisations, as well as with other VOs in different disciplines, will be given special emphasis, as will the development and implementation of a long-term sustainability plan – essential in a community where it is common for VOs to have lifetimes measured in decades.

Effort: any unfunded effort we quote implies timesheets and other overheads..

Life Sciences

Coordination goals

- Integrate the LSVRC activities with NGI activities
- Develop synergies between NGIs
- Develop complementarities
- VO coordination, resource allocation and monitoring of use

Coordination with EGI dissemination SSC, NGI and Regional grid infrastructure dissemination structures (IBRB, INFN)

Coordination and management of the services provided by the Biomed VO

- Update list of VO members
- Resource monitoring
- Activity monitoring
- Integration of resources operated by ARC in the biomed VO

Computational Chemistry and Material Science Technology

The main management challenges are likely to be related to the dynamic nature of the VRC. Ongoing deployment and integration work, associated with the need to integrate and support our scientific partners in exploiting the VRC infrastructure, requires substantial agility of decision procedures. The management is structured in a way to allow a good communication and flow of information within VRC as well as between VRC and EGI or NGIs. The entities composing management structure will involve

- VRC chair elected by VRC Management Board, representing CCMST VRC in EGI User Forum
- Local coordinators (one from each institute or research group)
- Front Desk responsible for a consulting

Grid Observatory

This section concerns the coordination of activities that are distributed amongst the

work packages and will be described in the corresponding sections. The GO does not raise major management issues concerning the exploitation of the infrastructure: it is expected that the computing resource usage due to online analysis will not be significant, especially with respect to other VRCs. Storage usage is expected to be more significant, but remains modest with respect to other VRCs. Thus, the GO VRC will feature a light management structure, with one coordinator per partner. Partner coordinators form the VRC Management Board (MB) that is responsible for the effective and timely achievement of the VRC goals as described in the WPs.

The evolution of the MB by involvement of participants from other communities (Autonomic Computing, Computer Science, Grid engineering) is required. It is expected that a representation of these communities will be included in the course of the project. The strategic and organisational aspects of this integration are part of this task, while the selection of scientific themes is part of the GO SCC tasks Engaging the Autonomic Computing community and Engaging the Distributed systems community of NA3.

The MB will nominate an VRC Chair who will coordinate its activities and will represent the VRC in all instances where the GO VRC should be represented (including the EGI User Forum).

The GO VRC requires interaction with EGI and EMI, both at the operational level, in order to keep pace with the general development of the infrastructure, software monitoring resources, operational issues, and to evolve to a sustainable set of services. The Chair will interact with the EGI administration coordinators, the EMI management, and all other VRC coordinators.

Complexity Science

Project coordination and liaison with other VRCs and EGI is an essential task for the VRC. The coordination of the Complexity Science VRC will be performed by the CS VRC Steering Committee which will include representatives from each country that is member of the VRC. The Steering Committee will define a User Forum Representative, a person who will actively participate in the User Forum Steering Committee of EGI.eu, and a Grid Planning Officer whose responsibility will be to provide a more long term technical planning and who will represent the VRC in the Middleware Coordination Board.

To ensure that the required progress is being made at all times during the course of the project the VRC will hold regular monthly meeting conference calls in which the key personnel from each work package will participate. In addition, the organization of regular face-to-face meetings is also needed to ensure that Project aims are met.

AUTH will be responsible for the overall coordination of the Complex Science VRC. AUTH will be responsible for organizing the User support and CS VRC services and operations weekly meeting as well as the monthly conference call on Work Package Progress (12PM)

BIU, UNIPA, JLUG, UA and SU will (in rotation) organize and host a CS VRC Face to face meeting (3PM each)

Photon Science

Coordination of user relevant services for light sources; Communication with informal PS community organizations.

The typical users of light sources are using more than one facility. Therefore it's of great interest to harmonize access on all levels. Covering all the relevant issues is going too far for this project but having common and coordinated access methods to data and resources is very beneficial.

Communication with middleware providers, e.g. EMI etc; Communication with EGI

As each community, the Photon Science community has in particular with respect to the upcoming ESFRI projects different or special requirements for the middleware, for tools and for infrastructure in Europe like the networking. These requirements have to be communicated in a professional way to the relevant bodies. Photon science will actively participate and contribute to the EGI meetings and boards, if required.

Humanities

The Humanities VRC's main focus will be on community building and engagement, with the aim of becoming a hub for the nascent humanities EGI community. Its management and coordination activities, and links with other VRCs, will be organized accordingly. It will build and maintain strong links with the Digital Humanities (DH) community (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Humanities) and associated emerging e-Infrastructure work. Our main focus will be to present the opportunities arising from a European infrastructure towards the Digital Humanities community, and to represent the interests of the Digital Humanities community for European e-Infrastructures. H-VRC partners include the ESFRI projects DARIAH and CLARIN, and it will provide a point of focus for these organizations' EGI and other grid activities. The VRC will also ensure close liaison with relevant professional bodies such as the Alliance of Digital Humanities (ADHO), which has a very strong historic Europe-wide component, but also excellent links to comparable bodies outside the EU, especially the USA.

All Humanities VRC partner institutions have conducted an active policy of community engagement from the very beginning, and the VRC will utilize these. It has continued to direct significant effort at developing activities to support the established and emerging communities of users, and to develop exemplar materials that will engage other communities of users - including those who are enthusiastic but lack the resources and/or the knowledge to engage fully with e-Infrastructure tools and methods.

Deliverables (brief description and month of delivery)

Probably quarterly or semi-annual reports including the technical and scientific impact of the VRCs is sufficient. These reports should also include standard metrics if these are not provided automatically elsewhere.