

USER COMMUNITY BOARD (UCB) - TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this document is to set out the Terms of Reference, composition and operating arrangements of the User Community Board (UCB).



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II. DOCUMENT LOG

| Version | Approval Date | Approved By | Amendment |
|---------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 03/01/2011 | EGI.eu Executive Board | Initial version |
| 2 | 24/11/2018 | EGI.eu Executive Board | Updated version |



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1 TITLE

The name of the group is the User Community Board (“UCB”, hereafter also referred to as “the Group”).

2 DEFINITIONS

| Word/Term | Definition |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| VO | Virtual Organisation |
| VRC | Virtual Research Community |
| USAG | User Services Advisory Group |
| UCB | User Community Board |
| OMB | Operational Management Board |
| TCB | Technical Coordination Board |

3 PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The purpose of the User Community Board (UCB) is to be the focal point within EGI for identifying and resolving issues related to the largest user communities that are organized in Virtual Organisations (VOs). A Virtual Organisation is a group of people (e.g. scientists and researchers) with common interests and requirements, who need to work collaboratively and/or share resources (e.g. data, software, expertise, CPU, storage space) regardless of geographical location. Users with similar interests/requirements can join an already existing VOs or set up a new one.

The wider context of the User Community Board is illustrated in the following diagram:

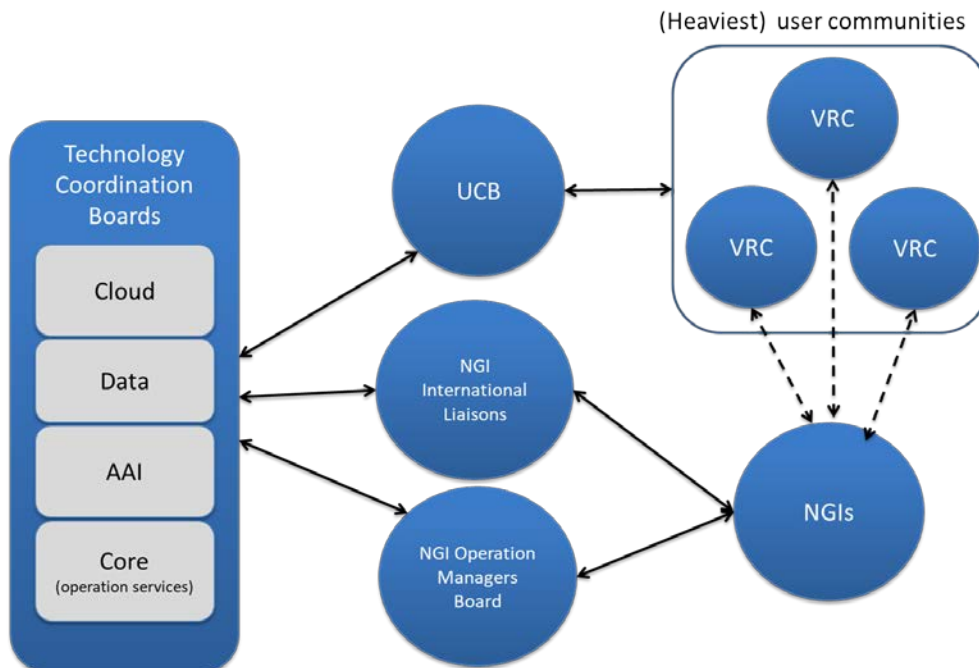


Figure 1 – Link between the UCB and the other Boards



Within the User Community Board, user communities can receive important updates about the status of already existing and upcoming EGI services, get information about relevant policies and procedures, and provide feedback on the human or technical services that they use from EGI to shape the infrastructure for their needs.

In practice, the Group provides a forum where:

- Community requirements and use cases can be captured and discussed to help EGI evolve and improve its services;
- Community-specific reusable setups and best practices can be promoted across disciplines;
- Changes in EGI services can be communicated towards user communities.

The Group is a body with the responsibility to:

- Maintain a high level steer on user community support services.
- Coordinate the collection of feedback from the user communities. This feedback can contribute to driving the technological design of these services.
- Broaden the support offered by EGI to the user communities.

The membership of the Group will include high-level representatives from structured user communities represented in the form of Virtual Research Communities (VRCs), such as WLCG and the various ESFRI projects, as well as representatives from other projects collaborating with EGI when necessary.

The responsibilities of the VRC representatives will be to:

- Advise the EGI.eu Director on strategic and managerial issues concerning the evolution of EGI.eu's user facing services and production infrastructure.
- Gather feedback from the user community relating to the quality of the production infrastructure and prioritise issues requiring management attention for resolution through the Operational Management Board (OMB).
- Gather, define and prioritise requirements relating to new functionality in the production infrastructure or the user facing operational tools. These requirements are to be passed on to the OMB and Technology Coordination Board (TCB) for their integration into their respective roadmaps and eventual delivery.
- Provide high-level objectives to the appointed programme committee chair and selected local organising committee chair on the format and content of the meeting.
- Improve the cohesion of the VRC activities through coordination between the different projects and VRCs.

The UCB is therefore tasked with maintaining a high level steer on user community support services and the broader support offered by EGI to the user communities. The UCB has no involvement in the day-to-day activities of the user-community services. Detailed technical discussions are delegated to the User Services Advisory Group (USAG) [R1].

4 AUTHORITY

- The Group is authorized by the EGI.eu Council through the EGI.eu Executive Board to investigate any activity within its Terms of Reference.
- The Group will comply with the Policy Development Process [R2].
- The EGI.eu Council and the EGI.eu Executive Board are the governing bodies of the Group.

5 COMPOSITION

5.1 Membership

The UCB consists of:

- The EGI.eu Chief Community Officer:
 - Giuseppe La Rocca, EGI.eu Technical Outreach Expert.
- The EGI.eu Technical Secretary:
 - Diego Scardaci, EGI.eu Senior User Community Support and Outreach Officer.
- Members of the Group. For all members of the Group, the following information is required:
 - Name and Surname.
 - The organization they are affiliated to.
 - Voting rights.
 - Whether they are elected or appointed or ex officio (i.e., member in virtue of holding another office). If elected, the eligibility of members and how voting will be conducted. Terms of office should be clearly stated.
 - The term of office (refers to the length of time the person will hold the group membership).

The list should also specify whether members of the group are treated as individual experts who do not formally represent any constituency or if their actions imply automatic approval by their organisation. The list of members and deputies is maintained on the UCB wiki (see Section 6.2).

5.2 Chair

The EGI.eu Chief Community Officer is appointed and renewed by the EGI.eu Technical Director.

5.2.1 Duties

The duties of the Chair include:

- Scheduling meetings and polling group members for agenda items.
- Running the Group meetings according to the agenda and time available and ensuring that minutes are taken and published.
- Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action or definite outcome.
- Review and approve the draft minutes before distribution.
- Inviting specialists to attend meetings when required by the Group.
- Act as general point of contact for the Group.
- Ensuring that the produced documents are presented for approval and adoption and that once approved these are published and made available in the document repository.
- Ensuring that the Group meets the various demands placed on it to produce and maintain policy and advice. This will include negotiation with EGI management, members of the Group and other stakeholders to agree priorities and timelines commensurate with the effort available to the Group.
- Participation in appropriate international standards bodies, e.g. OGF, to encourage the definition of standards-based frameworks, best practice and to encourage the adoption of common policies and/or standards.



- Reporting to the EGI Policy Development task leader as required.

5.2.2 Term of Office

The terms of office for members of this group are predominantly defined as being the duration of the position held by the individual within EGI or their respective organisation.

5.3 Secretary

The EGI.eu Technical Secretary is appointed and renewed by the EGI.eu Technical Director.

5.3.1 Duties

Duties of the Secretary include:

- Assisting with the logistical details of meetings (be they face to face or phone/video).
- Support agenda preparation.
- Taking and distributing minutes at the Group meetings.
- Preparation and development of policy paper.
- Assisting with the provision of, management and maintenance of document repositories and web(s) and wiki(s).

5.3.2 Term of Office

The terms of office for members of this group are predominantly defined as being the duration of the position held by the individual within EGI or their respective organisation.

6 OPERATING PROCEDURES

- The topics and issues to be addressed can be specified either by the EGI management, or by the Group itself.
- Any stakeholder of EGI also has the right to suggest topics for new policies and procedures or propose revisions for old policies that may require updating. These requests should be submitted to the Chair of UCB who will discuss with the Group during a subsequent meeting of the group. The decision whether to accept this request or not will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and feedback will be provided to the original requestor.
- The Group deliberations happen by face-to-face meetings, phone/video conferences or via the Group mailing list.

6.1 Communications and Meetings

- All the members of the Group must subscribe to the mailing list and should use it as primary written communication channel (see Section 6.2).
- The Chair/Secretary should make sure that all the updates concerning the group's meetings, agenda and minutes are posted on related group's Wiki pages (see Section 6.2).
- The Group will meet (face to face or phone/video) as often as the work requires but this will be at least twice per year, at least one of which will be face to face (ideally during the annual EGI technical forum).
- Whenever possible, the agenda together with reports and documents that relate to the Group will be forwarded to members in sufficient time to enable consideration prior to meetings.

- Accurate minutes will be kept of each meeting of the Group. The minutes of a meeting shall be submitted to group members for ratification at the next subsequent meeting of the Group.
- Editorial sub-groups will be created, as required, to make efficient progress on drafting and/or revising policy documents. The leader of such a group will decide how frequently this needs to meet.

6.2 Communication Channels

| Communication channel | Reference |
|------------------------|---|
| The Group mailing list | ucb-discuss@mailman.egi.eu |
| Main wiki page | https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/UCB |
| Meetings and minutes | https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/UCB#Meetings_and_Minutes |
| Documents | https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/User_Community_Board#Documents |

6.3 Decision Making

- Wherever possible, UCB will arrive at proposed draft policy documents and/or advice by clear consensus, as determined by the Chair.
- A voting process will only start if consensus cannot be reached in a reasonable time or if at least two voting members of UCB call for a vote.
- A vote during a face-to-face or phone/video meeting will only be valid if a quorum of at least 50% of the voting members is present. If this quorum is not available during the meeting, then voting can be carried out by e-mail.
- Voting members who consistently fail to participate in UCB meetings and deliberations for 12 months or more will be classified as “inactive” and will not count in the calculation of quorum.
- A decision is adopted if more than 50% of the voting members cast their vote for a proposed decision.
- The Chair does not vote, but has a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- If the Group’s recommendations are adopted by majority vote, minority positions will be recorded and reported.
- The Group may by majority decision refer matters for decision to the Director on issues where a consensus cannot be achieved.

6.4 Reports

The UCB will report back after each meeting to the TCB, OMB as well as the UCST, NGI Support Team and the EGI Helpdesk.

7 EVALUATION

The Group will produce an annual report to the Governing Body, in line with best practice that will be defined, which sets out how the Group has met its Terms of Reference during the preceding year. The minutes of the group will be formally recorded and available to the Governing Body.



8 RELATED MATERIAL

This section to be updated as required:

| Name | Location |
|---|---|
| [R1] Terms of Reference - User Service Advisory Group | https://documents.egi.eu/document/121 |
| [R2] EGI.eu Policy Development Process | https://documents.egi.eu/document/169 |
| [R3] EGI-Engage Description of Work | https://documents.egi.eu/document/2439 |

9 AMENDMENT

These Terms of Reference can be amended by mutual agreement of the UCB members through consultation and consensus. The amendments must be approved by the EGI.eu Technical Director. The UCB members will review its Terms of Reference on an annual basis as a minimum.