**Memorandum of Understanding between**

**SCI-BUS and ER-flow**

[Background 3](#_Toc350174668)

[Article 1: Purpose 3](#_Toc350174669)

[Article 2: Joint Work plan 4](#_Toc350174670)

[Article 3: Timeline and Reporting 5](#_Toc350174671)

[Article 4: Communication 5](#_Toc350174672)

# Background

The **SCI-BUS** (SCIentific gateway Based User Support) project creates a generic-purpose gateway technology that provides seamless access to major European DCIs including clusters, supercomputers, grids, desktop grids, academic and commercial clouds. SCI-BUS elaborates an application-specific gateway building technology and a customisation methodology based on which user communities can easily develop their customised gateways. The developed gateway technology and customisation methodology will be applied to create application-specific gateways customised for various types of user communities including astrophysics, seismology, helio-physics, computational chemistry, bioscience, biomedicine, PireGrid SMEs’ community, Blender community, citizens’ web-2 community, DCI application developer communities, and business process modelling community. SCI-BUS develops business models to enable the commercial exploitation of the developed technologies.

**ER-flow** will build a European Research Community to promote workflow sharing and to investigate interoperability of the scientific data in workflow sharing. The project will disseminate the achievements of the FP7 SHIWA project, particularly the coarse-grained workflow interoperability based on the SHIWA Simulation Platform. It will target major research communities that use workflows to run their experiments on a regular basis. The project includes four major research communities: Astrophysics, Computation Chemistry, Heliophysics and Life Sciences. They will be supported to run experiments with the simulation platform. Beyond these communities the project will strongly collaborate with the National Grid Infrastructures through EGI.eu in order to identify and involve further major research communities which either already use workflows or which are perspective workflow users. The research communities will select workflows which can be used as pilot workflows in particular research area of a particular research community to demonstrate how to develop, use and share workflows. The project will port these pilot workflows to the simulation platform and publish them in a workflow repository. The pilot workflows first, will demonstrate how to use the simulation platform; secondly, researchers can use these workflows in their experiments; thirdly, they can modify them to create their own workflows. The pilot workflows will help to create a critical mass of workflows to enable workflow sharing inside and between research communities. ER-flow will collect and analyse requirements of the supported research communities towards interoperability of scientific data in the workflow domain. It will investigate existing protocols and standards that support this interoperability. The project will compile a study outlining the above mentioned requirements, protocols and standards and will make recommendations how to achieve interoperability of scientific data in the workflow domain.

# Article 1: Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to define a framework of collaboration between SCI-BUS and ER-flow (hereafter also referred to as “the Party” or the “Parties”). The Parties recognise, by this MoU, the opening of a wider and longer-term cooperation in activities which will bring visible benefits.

# Article 2: Joint Work plan

The parties contribute to enable the vision of providing European scientists and international collaboration for sustainable distributed computing services to support their work. In this broad context, the specific goals of the collaborations are:

1. Technology transfer
2. Dissemination

The specific activities to be carried out in the framework of the collaboration are[[1]](#footnote-1):

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| --- |
| **A.1 Technology transfer**  **Parties Involved:** SCI-BUS Technical Coordinator (Zoltan Farkas, SZTAKI), ER-flow Coordinator (Gabor Terstyanszky, University of Westminster)  **Description of work:** This activity offers an important opportunity to have requirements coming from workflow communities served by ER-flow into SCI-BUS and workflow communities of SCI-BUS, hence, influence the evolution of the support services, policies and procedures for gateway and workflow development, integration and sharing.  The SHIWA Simulation Platform (SSP) is based on gUSE/WS-PGRADE. SCI-BUS will provide ER-flow the latest releases of gUSE/WS-PGRADE portal, thus serving the sustainability of SSP for the ER-flow project. ER-flow will provide feedback and report user requests for SCI-BUS from the workflow user communities.  **Expected outcome:**   * M1.1: Exchange of training materials and documentation between ER-flow and SCI-BUS teams. * M1.2: Regular report from ER-flow user communities towards the SCI-BUS community about workflow based user experience and requirements. * M1.3: Fixes and new releases of gUSE/WS-PGRADE from SCI-BUS based on the ER-flow users’ feedback. |
| **A.2 Dissemination**  **Parties Involved:** SCI-BUS NA2 Leader (Elisa Cauhe Martin, BIFI), ER-flow NA2 Leader (Kitti Varga, SZTAKI)  **Description of work:** The objective of this activity is to maximise the impact of both SCI-BUS and ER-flow through the efficient coordination of dissemination. This will involve establishing contact points for communication channels and publications, as well as sharing time constraints relating to both parties. SCI-BUS and ER-flow will collaborate and help each other in the production of dissemination material and also disseminate the progress and results from the collaboration within their respective communities.  **Expected outcome:**   * M2.1: Advertise the start of the collaboration in each Party’s website with a dedicated static page and article or press release. * M2.2: Organise a joint summer school. * M2.3: Organise joint activities at EGI Community and Technical Forums. * M2.4: Final report on the main achievements, open issues and future plans related to the collaboration between SCI-BUS and ER-flow. The input must cover all of the activities that are defined in the Joint Work Plan section of the signed MoU. |

# Article 3: Timeline and Reporting

Both Parties will monitor the periodic review of the progress of the activities defined in Article 2 (Joint Work Plan), follow-up the milestones defined below and distribute reports to both Parties. Special meetings between the points of contact designated under Article 4 (Communication) shall be held, as often as necessary, to examine the progress in the implementing of this Agreement.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Activity | Additional Information |
| On going | M1.1 | Exchange of training materials and documentation between ER-flow and SCI-BUS teams. |
| On going | M1.3 | Fixes and new releases of gUSE/WS-PGRADE from SCI-BUS based on the ER-flow users’ feedback. |
| April 2013 | M2.1 | Advertise the start of the collaboration in each Party’s website with a dedicated static page and article or press release. |
| September 2013 | M2.2 | Organise a joint summer school. |
| September 2014 | M2.3 | Organise joint activities at EGI Community and Technical Forums. |
| September 2014 | M2.4 | Final report on the main achievements. |

# Article 4: Communication

The Parties shall keep each other informed on all their respective activities and on their progress and shall consult regularly on areas of offering potential for cooperation.

Each Party shall designate a “point of contact” that shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this MoU and for taking measures to assist in the further development of cooperative activities. Such points of contact shall be the ordinary channel for the Parties' communication of proposals for cooperation.

The primary point of contact for each Party is:

ER-flow: Kitti Varga, <kitti.varga@sztaki.mta.hu>

SCI-BUS: Zoltan Farkas <zoltan.farkas@sztaki.mta.hu>

Questions of principle or problems that cannot be solved at primary contact level are escalated to the SCI-BUS and ER-flow Coordinator.

# Memorandum of Understanding between SCI-BUS and ER-flow

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused their duly authorised representatives to sign two originals of this Memorandum of Understanding, in the English language.

The following agree to the terms and conditions of this MoU:

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| ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Peter Kacsuk  SCI-BUS Coordinator  MTA SZTAKI  ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date | ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Gabor Terstyanszky  ER-flow Coordinator  University of Westminster  ­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date |

1. Party leading the activity is underlined. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)