

Minutes of 22nd EGI-InSPIRE PMB Meeting – 19 September 2013

Place: Segovia, Melia-Castilla Convention Centre, Madrid

Duration: 14:00-16:30

Editors: Catherine Gater, Claire Devereux, Steven Newhouse

Agenda and Material: <https://www.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=1779>

Attendees:

Person	Presence	Remark	Affiliation	Grouping
Ludek Matyska (LM)	Present		CESNET	CE
Mariusz Sterzel (MS)	Present		CYFRONET	CE
Luciano Gaido (LG))	Present		INFN	IT-RU
Isabel Campos (IC)	Present		CSIC	IBERGRID
Vincent Breton (VB)	Present		CNRS	FR-RO
Johan Montagnat (JM)	Present		CNRS	FR-RO
Sigve Haug (SH)	Present		SWITCH	DeCH
Dieter Kranzlmüller (DK)	Present		KIT-G	DeCH
Achim Streit (AS)	Present		KIT-G	DeCH
David Britton (DB)	Present		STFC	UK.NL
David Foster (DF)	Present		CERN	EIRO
Simon Lin (SL)	Present	Joined 14:35	ASGC	APGI
Jura Tarus (JT)	Present		CSC	NBIS
Kostas Koumantaros (KK)	Present		GRNET	SEE
Catherine Gater (CG)	Present		EGI.eu	EGI.eu
Steven Newhouse (SN)	Present		EGI.eu	[PD]
Claire Devereux (CD)	Present		STFC	[PMB Chair]
Roger Jones (RJ)	Present	Left 14:20	CERN	EAC

1. Welcome and administration

(discussion, 14:00 – 14:05)

- The PMB Chair opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.
- The meeting is quorate.
- Catherine Gater is appointed as note taker.
- The agenda is approved.
- Minutes for 26 June 2013 are approved without further comments.

2. Feedback and discussion from the EAC

(discussion, 14:05 – 14:15)

- The EAC commends the project on its progress since the last meeting
- The EAC notes concerns around the follow on funding under H2020 and funding for EGI.eu from Council fees
- NGIs and EC should be made fully aware of the consequences of non-payment or reduction of fees and of delays to the opening of calls.
- The EAC foresees impacts on the NGIs if EGI.eu is under-resourced, including loss of expertise and potential loss of users
- The EC projects that currently depend on EGI.eu should be documented
- Be creative about sources of funding e.g. capital funds
- Consider freezing the project in an 'operations only' mode
- The consequences of any loss of service and failures as a result of moving to this mode should be documented
- EAC records their appreciation of SN's contribution to the project

ACTION: EGI-InSPIRE Director to advise EC on projects depending on EGI.eu in an impact report

3. Action & Minutes Review

(discussion, 14:15– 14:20)

- 4738 Approach CERN on its willingness to support a transition for SAM
 - Review at the end of the mini project
 - CLOSE
- 4739 JRA1 and SA1 to develop a plan for the effort and resources needed to develop a working service in the next 18 months
 - CLOSE
- 5741 Survey to all partners on the project extension for PY5
 - Survey issued and results collated to be presented at the meeting
 - CLOSE

4. Response to 3rd EC Review

(discussion, 14:20 – 14:35)

- EC review text reviewed and actions identified for PMB, EGI.eu and/or Council and technical actions for project staff
- Remove inactive partners from the project and redeploy their resources
- Consider a project extension of 6 months or more
- Maintain strategic planning activities
- Continue to develop the business plan to protect EGI.eu
- Maintain and extend outreach to new communities through the human networks (including NILs) and DoW extension
- No response sent to the EC within the 30 day limit as no clarification of the review comments was needed on this occasion
- Agreement needed from the PMB on the proposed follow up actions

DISCUSSION

PMB discusses the role of the product development expert. External consultants can be time consuming and expensive to brief in some cases (IC). In other cases, soliciting advice on business development by an individual formerly in the grid field has given useful input (DK). Options are:

- to recruit to the role at the pay scale identified
- to allocate 3rd party funds in the DoW amendment for an external consultant
- seek advice from another EC project working in this area
- second an NGI member of staff for 6 months at 100% funding

DISCUSSION

PMB discusses sending a response that highlights the agreement of the PMB with the EC on the need for sustainability. The response should also outline the challenges that a delay in the closure of the first H2020 calls would cause.

ACTION: EGI-InSPIRE Director to draft a response to the EC review report on behalf of the PMB

5. *EGI-InSPIRE Extension*

(discussion, 14:35– 16:05)

- Treat PY5 as a new project
- Bridge key activities to align with follow-on projects, and continue activities that we will seek funding for
- Implement the review recommendations
- Key challenge is uncertainty in the funding through EGI.eu and the EC
- PMB should decide how much money to reclaim from partners underspent in PY4
- PMB should decide for how long to extend the project – 0,1,8 or 12 months
- Most partners want to be active in PY5 in at least some activities
- Funding for Core EGI activities – based on EGI.eu fees or EC funds?
- Overview of changes in each work package provided
- Core EGI activities continue outside the project
- NA2 continues with the fewer staff at EGI.eu with funding for NILs, NOMs and champions
- SA5 replaces some SA1/JRA1 elements in the areas of training, technical and outreach
- Optional extras include a DRI ERIC and a second round of mini projects

DISCUSSION

Contribution of 5% of resources to the resource pool may not suit NGIs who do not own resources e.g. UK (DB).

There are 12 partners in the federated cloud infrastructure, providing sites as a test bed. There are around 1000 cores participating. Some sites have only a few tens of cores, as do some grid sites within the production infrastructure.

DISCUSSION

SN: Project extension of 6 months should focus funds on bridging activities to H2020

CD: A longer extension risks failure to extend the funds as far as necessary, and failure to deliver tasks to users at the end of the project, which would affect EGI's reputation.

SN: Key support needed for an extension is from the Project Officer at the EC.

DF: Treating PY5 as a new project opens up discussion on what needs to change going into H2020, for example in the governance and funding structure. The indications from the EC are that they are looking for change from EGI, as they want to provide funds to other communities.

SN: Sustainability was included in the original DoW for EGI at the EC's request, as this was the purpose of the call. A core set of activities has been well defined to operate outside European funding, but this is dependent on committed funds from the NGIs and acceptance by the research community of the services offered.

CD: The Commission should be made clearly aware of what is sustainable without EC funding and what is not.

IC: Lobbying activities in Brussels should focus on securing EC funding for EGI in the same way as has been achieved by other communities and e-infrastructures.

PMB discusses the development of a grand vision and plan, to extend services beyond the HEP community. The PMB worked to develop the strategy deliverable D2.20 EGI Sustainability Plan in PY2. This strategic role now sits with the Council.

SN: 800K is needed per annum from participant fees to support EGI-InSPIRE staff at EGI.eu, 800K is budgeted to support the EGI core activities.

The PMB members provide opinions on a 6 months extension, to be verified by the CB members and Council as appropriate.

DECISION

The PMB requests that the Grand Vision be agreed and presented to the PMB as soon as possible.

The PMB agrees in principal to a 6 month extension, subject to approval by the CB groupings.

ACTION: CD to set up a Doodle poll on the length of the extension that is acceptable to PMB members.

6. *Project Staff at EGI.eu*

(discussion, 16:05 – 16:25)

- The Executive Board will propose to the Council to start the search for a full EGI Director at the meeting on 20 September.
- In the interim, the EB will propose to the Council on 20 September that Tiziana Ferrari be appointed as the EGI-InSPIRE Director
- Hand over of the role from SN to Tiziana is expected to take place on or after 1 October
- The EB will propose an Interim EGI Director to the Council on 20 September

DISCUSSION

The terms of employment for the new full EGI Director will be addressed by the search committee on behalf of the Council.

The adjustment of roles within EGI.eu, for example in operations, will be considered by the EB once the Interim EGI Director appointment is confirmed by the Council.

DECISION

The nominations for activity managers should be approved by the PMB and the PMB agrees that this will take place by email or telcon.

The PMB members present approve Tiziana Ferrari as EGI-InSPIRE Director, subject to approval of this proposal by the Council.

The PMB agrees that a CB meeting to formally approve the extension will be held once the new EGI-InSPIRE Director is able to provide detail on the DoW content.

7. AOB

(discussion, 16:25 – 16:30)

The PMB thanks Steven Newhouse for his contribution to the project and wishes him the best in his future role.

7.1. *Date of next meeting*

- A Doodle poll will be issued by CD for the next meeting of the PMB, to take place before Christmas.

No further AOB items are announced.

Consolidated Action List

Id	Subject (PMB Meeting number)	Status	Action	Due
6074	Doodle poll on the length of the extension that is acceptable to PMB members	OPEN	SN	Next PMB
6073	EGI-InSPIRE Director to draft a response to the EC review report on behalf of the PMB	OPEN	SN	Next PMB
6072	EGI-InSPIRE Director to advise EC on projects depending on EGI.eu in an impact report	OPEN	SN	Next PMB
5741	Survey to all partners on the project extension for PY5	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4739	JRA1 and SA1 to develop a plan for the effort and resources needed to develop a working service in the next 18 months	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4738	Approach CERN on its willingness to support a transition for SAM	Closed	SN	Next PMB
5334	Provide more detailed analysis of NIL activity	Closed	SN	Next PMB
5333	Implement mini project funding decisions in next amendment	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4884	Review CRM and TM end of PY3 to reallocate effort to other activities	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4884	Review CRM and TM end of PY3 to reallocate effort to other activities	Closed	SN	Next PMB
3441	Dependency of users on weak NGIs and support for weak NGIs	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4322	Review format of the newsletter in response to NIL comments	Closed	SN	Jan 2013
4274	Contribution of Italian NGI to SAM development	Closed	MM	Next PMB
4275	Statement from the OMB on SAM development priorities	Closed	SN	Next PMB
3443	Russian JRU composition and payments	Closed	MM	Next PMB
4063	Define questionnaire to the NGIs related to future EGI Global Task provision and to collect results	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4062	Ask NGIs through the OMB to express interest in contribution to SAM development	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4061	Inform EMBL that all work is to be completed in PY3	Closed	SN	Next PMB
4060	Contact underspending beneficiaries about their plans for PY3 and PY4	Closed	SN	Next PMB
3360	ACE Replacement	Closed	DF	Next PMB
185	Establish NGI Dashboard (#1)	Closed	PO	Next PMB
867	Provide planning of different solutions for EGI-InSPIRE depending on EGI.eu financial situation until next PMB meeting (#4)	Closed	PO	None
3582	Revised DoW text to include a new federated cloud task in SA2	Closed	SN	End April
3580	Project review response document to be reviewed by the PMB	Closed	PMB	By 11/4/12
3445	Project support to the Federated Cloud Task Force	Closed	SN	1 March
3444	Strategy document	Closed	SN	20 Feb
3442	Analyse 1 st line ticket resolution	Closed	SN	28 March
3096	Report back on the CRM research by Ibergrid	Closed	SN	1 month
2878	Prepare revised DoW	Closed	SN	4/11/11
2859	Send notifications to other non paying partners that a response	Closed	SN	23/09/11

	within 30 days is required.			
2860	Send follow up email to Ireland to confirm that a response within 30 days is required.	Closed	SN	22/09/11
2852	Circulate an outline for the contents of a strategic overview that would meet the questions the Consortium would like to see answered to justify changes to the project structure.	Closed	DF	21/09/11
2851	Prepare a paper on consolidation of resources with justifications for the CB and a review summary for the Council.	Closed	PD	12/09/11
2513	Clarify with CERN what functionality is available in PPT	Closed	PD	1/06/11
1867	WLCG CB Chair - Roger Jones (Lancaster University - part of NGI but not the project, ATLAS) - PD to approach for position in EAC.	Closed	PD	30/04/11
1868	PMB will send contacts to PD before the end of April for the three remaining positions in EAC	Closed	PMB	30/04/11
1869	Outgoing PMB Chair will contact the council chair with this PMB proposal to allow PMB chair access to Council meeting as observer.	Closed	PMB chair	30/04/11
1975	Revise EGEE-III final review response document and recirculate	Closed	PD	1/5/11
1644	Develop a workshop proposal to increase engagement of EGI-InSPIRE partners and discuss about sustainability. <i>Propose to hold a workshop in Lyon to further develop D2.7.</i>	Closed	PD	13/04/11