

The Value of Joining EGI.eu

EGI and EGI.eu goals

The purpose of EGI is to accelerate open science, research and innovation by: 1) Speeding up research processes which are data and compute intensive; 2) Making it easy for global scientific communities to collaborate; 3) Simplifying how data and results are shared, discovered and re-used.

This is achieved by: 1) co-developing technology and delivering services on top of national and community infrastructures; 2) providing access to experts that can help the community develop solutions and increase capacities; 3) Coordinating the integration of resources in Europe and beyond.

The mission of EGI.eu is to support and enable the EGI collaboration, providing coordination, support and internal federation services in support of the community's joint goals. It facilitates specialist functions such as policy and community engagement and ensures a consistent message to the broader e-Infrastructure community, providing community representation at a European and Global scale such as through the proposed Open Science Commons.

EGI.eu is a foundation under Dutch law. National Grid Initiatives or International Research Infrastructures join EGI.eu by paying a yearly fee and becoming "EGI.eu participants". This document briefly explains the services and value of EGI.eu participation, the resources this entails and the future direction of the organisation.

Services provided to EGI.eu participants (NGIs and EIROs)

EGI.eu provides a wide range of value generating services (some in collaboration with its participants). The catalogue of services evolves to meet changing needs, with recognised EGI.eu services such as federated operations augmented with new offerings such as community training provision and coordination, or brokering of resources and business model innovation. Management of the service portfolio is coordinated through a Services and Solutions board. The current service catalogue includes:

Core services

- Federated operations supporting High Throughput, Cloud and Data services
- Community administration and governance
- Funding access and support
- Federated coordination
- Communications, marketing and business development

Additional services

- Software portals
- Training and capacity development
- Marketplace and service brokering

These services then support participants in delivering Grid and Cloud computing, storage and other added value researcher-orientated services such as end user training and consultancy.

Value for EGI.eu participants

Area	Value	Benefit for EGI.eu participants (fee paying)
Strategy & Policy	Increase your visibility and relevance with funding agencies	Show funding agencies you are committed to cooperation, be highlighted as sector leaders, in European scale research and e-Infrastructures. Higher profile increases likelihood of funding in all proposals.
	Influence European-level policy on e-Infrastructure	Improve your access to policy makers, ensure your issues are considered, e.g. to H2020 work programmes, with the support of EGI.eu. Increase your policy impact as part of a pan-European collaboration. Ensure your efforts are aligned with other countries, simplify international collaboration and support transnational access.
	Improve your transfer of innovation to the private sector	Simplify your engagement with the private sector to achieve impact for your research and demonstrate resulting innovations. Be seen as more commercially relevant by funding bodies.
	Influence EGI service strategy to better support your users	Influence the evolving joint European service portfolio; check that it matches the needs of your local/national research groups.
Funding	Improve access to H2020 funding	Take a leading role in H2020 calls, benefit from the shared reputation of the EGI community, get invited to proposals directly or as a third party due to your EGI participation (such as VRE & CoE calls)
	Get privileged access to EGI-targeted funding	Be invited to specialised proposals only available to EGI.eu participants (e.g. EGI-InSPIRE and EGI-Engage)
	Access innovative revenue generation models	Benefit from new revenue generating activities, such as acting as an EGI subcontractor or participating in the 'pay for use' programme to receive money in return for resource access.
	See greater impact for your investment in e-Infrastructure	Pay only a small fraction of tasks that benefit you, and for each person month you invest, see major achievements based on all participants acting in a coordinated way to achieve change.
Skills Development	Improve the skills of your personnel through accessing community knowledge, expertise and training	Share knowledge with other EGI participants and increase your community skill levels through working with European experts in many areas, e.g. service management and data science.
Technical	Access common tools, services and processes to operate a federated infrastructure	Benefit from a suite of technical tools, internal services and management processes that support federated operations in support of High Throughput Computing, Cloud and Data services. Avoid building your own alternatives and facilitate simple cooperation.
	Promote your services in a shared marketplace supporting smaller and long tail communities	Get access to a common marketplace supporting a wide range of commodity services, supporting independent use by smaller communities and the long tail.
	Make your services more trustworthy and attractive	Be recognised for the quality and reliability of your services through being certified as EGI sites, and so increase the trust user communities have in your services.
Community Building	Improve your access to ESFRIs and emerging user communities	Use EGIs strong connections to user communities and ESFRIs to better serve their users. Recruit new users and maximise your European research profile.
	Connect your local users with international collaborations	Help your local research communities grow to a European or global scale. Enable their interaction with leading researchers to find collaborators and highlight their successes.

Value for researchers created by EGI.eu and its participants

Value	Benefit for research communities
Increase access to ICT resources to perform digital research	Researchers can access ICT resources at a pan-European scale, going beyond what is available locally and facilitating access to specialised.
Receive specialised support and re-usable applications	Access expert support teams spread across Europe to quickly deal with problems. Benefit from online databases of applications and virtual appliances.
Share, discover and collaborate more easily	Share data and collaborate with teams across Europe. Create new international collaborations and use common portals and platforms for seamless collaboration.
Improve your ability to find funding for your communities	Raise your profile with funding agencies and benefit from EGI.eu lobbying and access to calls targeted to EGI communities.
Influence new European services based on your needs	Ensure your needs are taken into account in the planning of new pan-European digital services and benefit from services targeted to your research domain.
Improve your digital research skills	Access the joint knowledge of the whole EGI community; get advice, consultancy and training opportunities to help you improve your research skills.
Raise your reputation and research profile	Raise your reputation through working in a community of world-class researchers. Benefit from professional marketing of your research results by EGI.

Financial resources

EGI.eu mobilises financial resources for the benefit of members and to be distributed to members.

EGI.eu has brought in considerably more resources for its participants than it receives

For example, during 2013, EGI.eu **mobilised €6.7M through the EGI-InSPIRE project alone** and participated in numerous other projects including community members, versus **€1.5M collected in fees**. Of the money mobilised, **€5.6M for projects was distributed to participants** and **€600K for global tasks**.

EGI.eu continues to enable access to H2020 funding for participants

Under Horizon 2020, EGI.eu continues to attract funding for participants, such as through the EGI-Engage project. Beyond projects coordinated by EGI.eu, participants are offered the opportunity to be included in other relevant projects, either as consortium members or as third parties, thus bringing additional funding with reduced investment in developing project proposals.

Future vision

As well as continuing to support the operational infrastructure, EGI.eu is consolidating its position as a trusted source of policy with the funding agencies and policy makers by contributing to shape the future of digital science. It anticipates the future shape of the e-Infrastructure and research domain in order to support participants and will continue to lead innovation in service delivery, revenue models, collaboration and digital science. These ideas recently led to the proposal of an *Open Science Commons* as a shared structure to integrate infrastructures and user communities, offering a more rational landscape of data, knowledge, services and infrastructure to users.



OpenScienceCommons

The Open Science Commons Vision:

Researchers from all disciplines have easy, integrated and open access to the advanced digital services, scientific instruments, data, knowledge and expertise they need to collaborate to achieve excellence in science, research and innovation.

EGI.eu has taken on the challenge posed to it by the EC, to provide leadership in the sector and bring together the many excellent but fragmented communities and infrastructures to a more coherent shared whole. Through these efforts, to be considerably expanded in 2015, EGI.eu is supporting the realisation of the European Research Area.