

**EGI-Engage**

Long tail of science platform deployment report

M5.1

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Abstract

This document contains the release information and the technical usability review of the long tail of science platform, the portal: access.egi.eu

The goal of the portal is to provide a zero-barrier access point to EGI services for the individual users or the small groups of researchers.

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**DELIVERY SLIP**

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**TERMINOLOGY**

A complete project glossary is provided at the following page: <http://www.egi.eu/about/glossary/>

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**Executive summary**

This milestone records the release of the long tail of science platform, and its deployment as a prototype service for the EGI individual users and small research groups.

The platform reduces the barriers for new users in terms of requesting specific credentials for EGI, and of requesting resources.

The deployed services are a user registration portal, access.egi.eu, where users request access to the LTOS pool of resources, and where the requests are authorized and membership are managed, and an attribute authority that is queried by the services to retrieve the authorization status of the user trying to access the services.

The platform is complemented by science gateways, a catch-all VO, and a pool of dedicated resources, which are out of the scope of this document. With all these enabling components, users of the long tail of science, do not need to worry about entering a VO, or having their own VO approved and supported, neither users need to worry about credentials. The platform should guide the users from the first contact to the actual submission of their tasks.

# Introduction

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tool name** | *Access.egi.eu* |
| **Tool url** | *https://access.egi.eu/start* |
| **Tool wiki page** | *https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/LToS* |
| **Description** | *The long-tail of science refers to the individual researchers and small laboratories who - opposed to large, expensive collaborations - do not have access to computational resources and online services to manage and analyse large amount of data. This EGI platform allows individual researchers and small research teams to perform compute and data-intensive simulations on large, distributed networks of computers in a user friendly way.* |
| **Customer of the tool** | *Indivudal researchers and small research groups. NGIs exposing their services through the platfom* |
| **User of the service** | *Individual researchers or small research groups with limited* |
| **User Documentation** | *https://access.egi.eu/start* |
| **Technical Documentation** | *https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Long-tail\_of\_science* |
| **Product team** | *Cyfronet* |
| **License** | *Apache 2* |
| **Source code** |  |

# Service architecture

## High-Level Service architecture

**

* Access.egi.eu (user registration portal): The entry point for users who wants to access the EGI services. It provides also management tools for the support team to authorize requests
* Resource pool: accessible through the per user sub proxies, that are robot certificates containing information about the individual user accessing the platform. The resources in the pool support the catch-all VO dedicated to the LTOS.
* Science gateways and portals exposing services and tools to the users. The have to be integrated with the authentication and authorization services in the platform.

## Integration and dependencies

Access.egi.eu needs to integrate with:

* Unity as an attribute authority and IDP proxy, it is deployed by the same team deploying access.egi.eu, but not maintained by them
* Science Gateways and services. Access.egi.eu enable users to access third party services. Such as science gateways.
* PUSP the resources supporting the long tail of science, need to enable the per user sub proxies, this is released as part of the LCMAP tool, and already in UMD.

# Release notes

## Requirements covered in the release

This is the first release of the tool, the main requirements were the user stories as described in section 4.

A set of additional detailed requirements have been registered in the EGI RT[[1]](#footnote-1), and the following have been implemented:

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9686>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9684>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9680>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9642>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9601>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9599>

<https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Ticket/Display.html?id=9598>

# Feedback on satisfaction

*Who was involved in testing and what the outcome of the review was*

## User Story: new user wants to access resources

### Description

A researcher, or small group of researchers, need to access computing/storage/cloud resources, or need to access more specialized services available.

The user will need to access the portal access.egi.eu with username/password credentials. The user needs to insert their information (the portal will guide the user through the registration), the information needed are the affiliation or references of a research institution, and the relevant personal data. The user needs to ask for resources describing the purpose of their research. User should accept the VO AUP.

Once the request is being approved, the user should be notified, and then they should be able to access the science gateways linked in the portal access.egi.eu, and use EGI resources through the science gateways.

### Structured review

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Is the tool satisfying the use case?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Are all the sections and links properly working?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Learnability (how easy is it for users to accomplish basic tasks of the use case?)** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Ease in finding the information in the tool** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Ease to keep track of the location in the site** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Is the help section explaining well how to use the tool?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Ease to make mistakes when performing an action** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Is the interface familiar/intuitive for the users?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Unexpected or confusing behaviour of the tool, including bugs** | *<Please report your findings here>* |

## User Story: admin user approves or rejects requests

### Description

The access.egi.eu portal has a restricted area where the user support users can access and have an overview of the pending requests, have access to the information filled in by the users, and approve or reject the requests.

**Note:** this section is not open to all the users and therefore the individual operators can be trained: the interface can be less intuitive than for the previous user case.

### Structured review

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Is the tool satisfying the use case?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
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| **Ease to make mistakes when performing an action** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Is the interface familiar/intuitive for the users?** | *<Please report your findings here>* |
| **Unexpected or confusing behaviour of the tool, including bugs** | *<Please report your findings here>* |

## Open review

<Provide here any additional comment and an overall opinion on the tool>

**In addition:**

**Is the tool fit for production?**

<Please, provide here your opinion as a reviewer>

**Are the information in section 1,2 and 3 of this document complete?**

<Please, provide here your opinion as a reviewer>

# Future plans

The following are the tasks that still need to be performed on the technical LTOS platform:

1. Monitoring of access.egi.eu, SGs. Update SG integration doc in Wiki accordingly
2. Setup GGUS units for trouble tickets as needed. Update SG integration doc in Wiki accordingly. Setup email list for user profile and resource request approvers. Register this in URP for notification about new requests
3. Define identity vetting manual (what is a ‘good enough profile’, how much capacity to allocate) – for user request approvers
4. Define and implement security monitoring and user suspension process
5. Manage user-level quota inside the SG (e.g. userX cannot start more than X VMs in parallel) SG to get input from URP.
6. Define and implement process for downtime notification
7. Separate accounts for user request approvers
8. Notification about new requests, about request approval/rejection
9. Notification emails about new requests should include user’s country in the subject (so NGI people could identify and respond easily to their new users)
10. Edugain integration
11. ORCID and ResearchGate links in affiliation profile
12. Discuss acknowledgement text (Explicit about providers?; More visible in SGs?)
13. Provide a method for users to check their resource consumption
14. Instructions for users on how to propose new applications, gateways, sites for integration

1. https://rt.egi.eu/rt/Dashboards/6458/LTOS%20requirements [↑](#footnote-ref-1)