EGI-Engage

21 July 2016

Dear Members of the EGI-Engage Collaboration

The Digital Infrastructures for Research conference (DI4R 2016) will take place in Krakow (28-30 September) and Early-bird registration fees will be available until **5 August 2016**. DI4R 2016 is the first user forum jointly organised by Europe's leading e-infrastructures and projects: EGI, EUDAT, GÉANT, OpenAIRE and RDA Europe, so don't miss the opportunity to join us and register at discounted price. The conference programme is available online. The event also features an exciting list of co-located events, among which the 3rd WISE Workshop - Wise Information Security for collaborating E-infrastructures, the "Design your e-Infrastructure workshop" (second edition), and FitSM Foundation Training. Thanks in advance for promoting the conference through your networks.

We are now well into the second year of the project, and we are reviewing the project work plan to address recommendations from the PY1 Review Report. The outcome of the review was positive and the reviewers' suggestions aim at increasing the impact of the project outputs.

The changes being introduced primarily affect the project exploitation plan of EGI-Engage outputs, the engagement towards Research Infrastructures and commercial entities (like IaaS and PaaS providers), the communications and quality plan, and last but not least, the EGI strategy.

To address the reviewers' comments, **the engagement towards commercial entities will focus on the big data value by ensuring success stories in three sectors by the end of the project: 1) fishery and marine resource conservation, 2) earth observation, and 3) agri-food**. As suggested by the reviewers, we will focus on use cases where EGI can deliver a unique value. Communications activities will underpin technical and business development plans, by creating promotion material for the updated EGI service catalogue, tailored messages and material to the specific target groups, and by ensuring presence at key community events to promote the project outcomes. Examples of advanced collaborations with business partners, are the partnership of 6 EGI cloud providers with CoudSME (a private company helping small and medium sized enterprises access the power of simulations built by experts in manufacturing and engineering); and the SLAs established with Terradue (the operator of the Hydrology and Geohazards ESA Thematic Exploitation Platforms) to scale up cloud compute resources for Earth Observation data exploitation.

The engagement with Research Infrastructures will also be reinforced by establishing **new support activities for ENES, EuroBioImaging, EMSO, EuroArgo, and ICOS**, leveraging the work of collaborating projects like

ENVRIplus, CORBEL, and INDIGO DataCloud. This action is expected to further increase the number of Research Infrastructures adopting distributed computing and data management in their service architecture. 11 are the Research Infrastructures that are already relying on the EGI Federation for their computing and data management needs.

Concerning the evolution of the strategic thinking, EGI will update the vision for the next years in relationship to the new EC policy developments (e.g. European Cloud Initiative and European Open Science Cloud). This activity will involve the EGI Council and will be a necessary step for the update of the EGI strategy planned on a 2-year basis. Looking to results, we will also develop an EGI impact leaflet to improve the communication of the value and impact of the EGI federation.

Following the retirement of Aniyan Varghese, **a new project officer was appointed for EGI-Engage: Enrique Gomez**. A meeting with Enrique already took place in July to inform him about PY2 activities and to discuss the second project amendment, which we are planning to complete in September.

Last but not least, I would like to inform you about the **new PMB Chairman** who was appointed to lead the board in the second term of the project: Ian Collier from STFC, UK. Besides being involved in EGI-Engage, Ian also chairs the WLCG Grid Deployment Board and manages the STFC participation to various EC projects like INDIGO DataCloud and EUDAT2020. Ian, welcome to the PMB!

Yours sincerely.

Tiziana Ferrari, EGI-Engage Technical Coordinator