EGI-InSPIRE

EGI MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUGRIDPMA

EU MILESTONE: MS208

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Abstract

The European Policy Management Authority for grid authentication in e-Science (EUGridPMA) establish common policies and guidelines for authentication management authorities that provide identity assertions to people, network systems and services for use in the e-Infrastructure.

Participation by EGI and EGI-InSPIRE in sustaining and evolving the global trust fabric ensures continued interoperability, both at the European as well as the global scale, and it will aid the adoption of EGI authentication and security requirements at the global level.

The project therefore has joined the EUGridPMA as a Relying Party member on June 16th, 2010. The EGI-InSPIRE project thereby meets milestone MS208, due in project month 4.

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I. DELIVERY SLIP

	Name	Partner/Activity	Date
From	David Groep	FOM/NA2	22/06/2010
Reviewed by	**Moderator:** Catherine Gater **Reviewers:** Tiziana Ferrari	EGI.eu	07/07/2010
Approved by	**AMB & PMB**		01/08/2010

II. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1.0	2010-06-22	First draft	David Groep/FOM
2.0	2010-06-22	Inserted DocDB number	David Groep/FOM
3.0	2010-06-22	Updates milestone name and due date	David Groep/FOM
4.0	2010-07-22	Incorporated comments from review	David Groep/FOM

III. APPLICATION AREA

This document is a formal deliverable for the European Commission, applicable to all members of the EGI-InSPIRE project, beneficiaries and Joint Research Unit members, as well as its collaborating projects.

IV. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Amendments, comments and suggestions should be sent to the authors. The procedures documented in the EGI-InSPIRE “Document Management Procedure” will be followed: https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Procedures

V. TERMINOLOGY

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

VI. PROJECT SUMMARY

To support science and innovation, a lasting operational model for e-Science is needed – both for coordinating the infrastructure and for delivering integrated services that cross national borders.

The EGI-InSPIRE project will support the transition from a project-based system to a sustainable pan-European e-Infrastructure, by supporting 'grids' of high-performance computing (HPC) and high-throughput computing (HTC) resources. EGI-InSPIRE will also be ideally placed to integrate new Distributed Computing Infrastructures (DCIs) such as clouds, supercomputing networks and desktop grids, to benefit user communities within the European Research Area.

EGI-InSPIRE will collect user requirements and provide support for the current and potential new user communities, for example within the ESFRI projects. Additional support will also be given to the current heavy users of the infrastructure, such as high energy physics, computational chemistry and life sciences, as they move their critical services and tools from a centralised support model to one driven by their own individual communities.

The objectives of the project are:

1. The continued operation and expansion of today's production infrastructure by transitioning to a governance model and operational infrastructure that can be increasingly sustained outside of specific project funding.
2. The continued support of researchers within Europe and their international collaborators that are using the current production infrastructure.
3. The support for current heavy users of the infrastructure in earth science, astronomy and astrophysics, fusion, computational chemistry and materials science technology, life sciences and high energy physics as they move to sustainable support models for their own communities.
4. Interfaces that expand access to new user communities including new potential heavy users of the infrastructure from the ESFRI projects.
5. Mechanisms to integrate existing infrastructure providers in Europe and around the world into the production infrastructure, so as to provide transparent access to all authorised users.
6. Establish processes and procedures to allow the integration of new DCI technologies (e.g. clouds, volunteer desktop grids) and heterogeneous resources (e.g. HTC and HPC) into a seamless production infrastructure as they mature and demonstrate value to the EGI community.

The EGI community is a federation of independent national and community resource providers, whose resources support specific research communities and international collaborators both within Europe and worldwide. EGI.eu, coordinator of EGI-InSPIRE, brings together partner institutions established within the community to provide a set of essential human and technical services that enable secure integrated access to distributed resources on behalf of the community.

The production infrastructure supports Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) – structured international user communities – that are grouped into specific research domains. VRCs are formally represented within EGI at both a technical and strategic level.

VII. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EGI-InSPIRE project has set a milestone for EGI membership of the European Policy Management Authority for grid authentication in e-Science (EUGridPMA) in the 4th month after the start of the project.

The EUGridPMA membership enables EGI to leverage a globally coordinated authentication and trust fabric, which can uniquely and persistently identity all participants: users, computer systems, as well as automated agents and monitoring systems. Since this common authentication and trust fabric is used by all major e-Infrastructures (including but not limited to DEISA/PRACE in Europe, the Open Science Grid and TeraGrid cyber-infrastructures in the USA, the PRAGMA and APGrid in the Asia-Pacific region as well as all major national and regional grids world-wide), the ability to leverage and influence the direction and development thereof is a major factor in ensuring interoperability and accessibility. The processes of the EUGridPMA and IGTF at the same time ensure a secured and trust-worthy means of establishing identity in EGI.

This task falls under the aegis of Global Task O-E-15 “Security Policy” [R3] which is executed by a joint UK-NL collaboration between project partners STFC and FOM. On behalf of EGI, membership of the EUGridPMA was requested on May 21st, 2010, and granted by unanimous consent of the EUGridPMA members on June 16th, 2010.

This document asserts that milestone MNSA2.4 has been met.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document marks the achievement of milestone MS208 “The EGI becomes a member of EUGridPMA (and through it become part of the IGTF)”, due in the 4th month after the start of the EGI-InSPIRE project.

2 EUGRIDPMA AND IGTF

A common authentication trust domain is required to persistently identify all EGI participants. First and foremost this trust domain provides the basis for authorization, the assignment of access privileges to users, and a means of differentiating the qualities of service provided by the Infrastructure. But the ability to persistently identify the participants in the infrastructure is also the basis for auditing, operational security and incident response, and can be used for accounting and settlement purposes.

The community supported by EGI is in itself global in nature, and at the same time users in EGI will use resources of third parties within and outside of Europe. Therefore, the authentication trust domain should be global in nature, and provide a harmonized authentication infrastructure.

The European Policy Management Authority for grid authentication in e-Science (EUGridPMA) establish common policies and guidelines for authentication management authorities that provide identity assertions to people, network systems and services for use in the e-Infrastructure. It is a member of International Grid Trust Federation (IGTF), alongside its peers in the Asia-Pacific region (APGridPMA) and the Americas (TAGPMA). The IGTF members ensure compliance to authentication guidelines amongst the participating national and regional authorities via a mechanisms of peer review, by implementing audit mechanisms, and by the promotion of current best practices.

It implements these goals by accrediting authorities according to specific authentication guide lines. These guidelines provide a technical trust basis for the global trust fabric, and address various topics including

- identity vetting of participants;
- technical, operational, and environmental security controls;
- auditing and data retention policy;
- data protection and privacy of participants; and
- persistency and uniqueness of identity.

Furthermore, the EUGridPMA provides recommendations and best practices for management of credentials by authorities and users, and advice on the use of identity management mechanisms.

The EUGridPMA and the IGTF assert that – within the scope of the Charter [R1], the authentication guidelines, and the accreditation process – the assertions issued by the members authorities meet or exceed the minimum requirements in said guidelines. Specifically, accreditation of an authority by EUGridPMA and IGTF does not imply that the EUGridPMA or IGTF make statements regarding suitability of a particular member authority for a specific purpose outside the scope of the Charter and Guidelines. Similarly, EGI will retain its full rights to decide for itself which authorities to endorse, taking into account other policy elements besides those considered by the EUGridPMA and IGTF.

The IGTF provides a unique opportunity for EGI and the EGI-InSPIRE project to participate in sustaining and evolving the global trust fabric and ensure interoperability, both at the European as well as the global scale. Historically, the European e-Infrastructure and its supporting projects have had a major influence on the shaping of the trust fabric at the global level through their active participation in the IGTF. With the increased focus on both secure and usable infrastructures,

continued active participation is essential, as it will help in the adoption of EGI authentication requirements at the global level as well as ensuring continuity of the trust infrastructure on which EGI relies today.

The project therefore supports the EUGridPMA and the IGTF, in line with the relevant e-IRG recommendations, though active membership as a Relying Party of the EUGridPMA, under the Accreditation Guidelines and Charter of the EUGridPMA.

3 EGI BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE EUGRIDPMA

EGI and the EGI-InSPIRE project, under the Global Task O-E-15 [R3], have contracted the coordination of security policies to a UK-NL consortium. In this consortium, the Netherlands has been designated as the official liaison between EGI and the EUGridPMA and IGTF, whilst the United Kingdom is responsible for the coordination of security policy.

On May 21st, 2010, D.L. Groep, on behalf of EGI.eu, formally requested membership of the EUGridPMA as a Relying Party under the Accreditation Guidelines [R2]. D.P. Kelsey is designated the alternate representative. A the same time, with the consent of the Technical Director of the former EGEE-III project, the EGEE project cancels its membership of the EUGridPMA, the project having ended on April 30th, 2010. The EGI application letter is reproduced in Appendix A.

Following the EUGridPMA membership process, in this particular case coordinated on behalf of the EUGridPMA Chair by J.J. Javorsek and U. Epting, the Relying Party membership was un-provisionally granted on June 16th by unanimous consent, with 57.8% of the current EUGridPMA members expressing their consent.

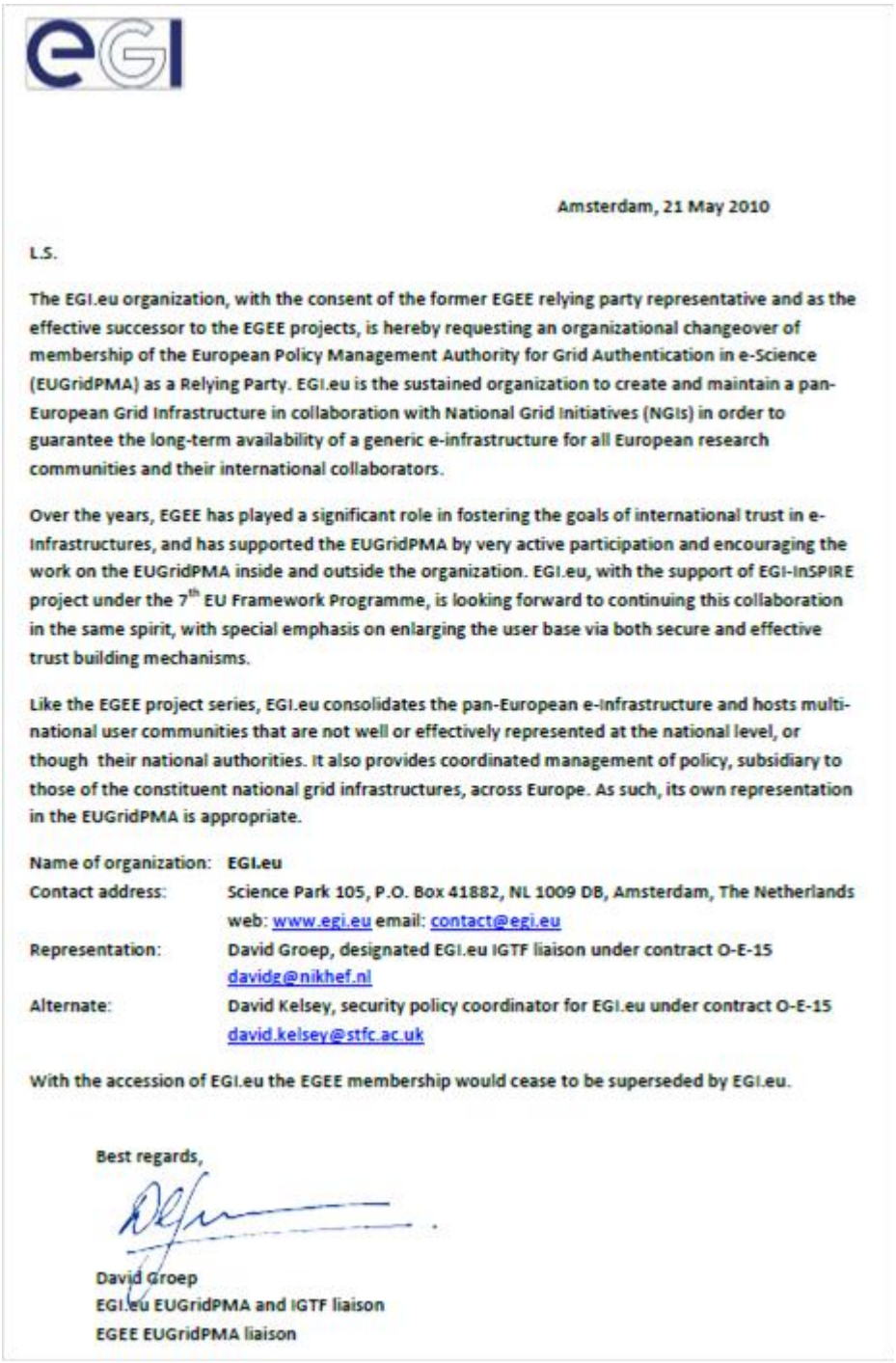
4 CONCLUSION

As of June 16th, EGI is a member of the EUGridPMA. The project thereby meets milestone MS208 “The EGI becomes a member of EUGridPMA (and through it become part of the IGTF)”, due in project month 4 of the EGI-InSPIRE project.

5 REFERENCES

R 1	EUGridPMA Charter; http://www.eugridpma.org/charter
R 2	Accreditation Guidelines; http://www.eugridpma.org/guidelines/accreditation
R 3	EGI Functions Definition; European Grid Initiative Design Study, project deliverable D3.2, http://web.eu-egi.eu/documents/public/ (visited July 22, 2010)

6 APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP LETTERS



Amsterdam, 21 May 2010

L.S.

The EGI.eu organization, with the consent of the former EGEE relying party representative and as the effective successor to the EGEE projects, is hereby requesting an organizational changeover of membership of the European Policy Management Authority for Grid Authentication in e-Science (EUGridPMA) as a Relying Party. EGI.eu is the sustained organization to create and maintain a pan-European Grid Infrastructure in collaboration with National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) in order to guarantee the long-term availability of a generic e-infrastructure for all European research communities and their international collaborators.

Over the years, EGEE has played a significant role in fostering the goals of international trust in e-Infrastructures, and has supported the EUGridPMA by very active participation and encouraging the work on the EUGridPMA inside and outside the organization. EGI.eu, with the support of EGI-InSPIRE project under the 7th EU Framework Programme, is looking forward to continuing this collaboration in the same spirit, with special emphasis on enlarging the user base via both secure and effective trust building mechanisms.

Like the EGEE project series, EGI.eu consolidates the pan-European e-Infrastructure and hosts multi-national user communities that are not well or effectively represented at the national level, or though their national authorities. It also provides coordinated management of policy, subsidiary to those of the constituent national grid infrastructures, across Europe. As such, its own representation in the EUGridPMA is appropriate.

Name of organization:	EGI.eu
Contact address:	Science Park 105, P.O. Box 41882, NL 1009 DB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands web: www.egi.eu email: contact@egi.eu
Representation:	David Groep, designated EGI.eu IGTF liaison under contract O-E-15 davidg@nikhef.nl
Alternate:	David Kelsey, security policy coordinator for EGI.eu under contract O-E-15 david.kelsey@stfc.ac.uk

With the accession of EGI.eu the EGEE membership would cease to be superseded by EGI.eu.

Best regards,

David Groep
EGI.eu EUGridPMA and IGTF liaison
EGEE EUGridPMA liaison

EUGridPMA

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Date: Wed, 16 Jun 2010 11:16:38 +0200

Dear all,

Today is the deadline for your comments regarding the membership request of EGI.eu.
Until now 26 (out of 45 members) expressed (very) positively their support for the membership. This means that about 57,8% endorse it, which seems to be 'broad consensus'.
No member objected against it and due to previous practices within the EuGridPMA the silence of the other members can be interpreted as mutual acceptance of the process and not as resistance.

Therefore I like to officially announce that full membership as a relying party, with all rights and duties, will be granted to EGI.eu, represented by David Groep (Nikhef) and David Kelsey (RAL).

We all welcome the two David's and wish good luck and high motivation for their new tasks!
David Groep - as maintainer of the official EuGridPMA-website – is additionally requested to update the member tables, mailing list etc. according to the Accreditation and Membership Process Guidelines.

With kind regards

Ursula Epting & Jan Jona Javorsek on behalf of EuGridPMA