



# EGI-InSPIRE

## SUMMARY OF TNA3.4 TECHNICAL SERVICES WORK PLANS (MAY-OCTOBER 2011)

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Document identifier:	<b>Workplans of TNA3.4 Technical Services (May-Oct 2011)</b>
Date:	<b>10/06/2011</b>
Activity:	<b>NA3</b>
Lead Partner:	<b>EGI.eu</b>
Document Status:	<b>FINAL</b>
Dissemination Level:	<b>PUBLIC</b>
Document Link:	<b><a href="https://documents.egi.eu/document/569">https://documents.egi.eu/document/569</a></b>

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### Abstract

This document provides a summary of the work plans for the TNA3.4 Technical Services of EGI-InSPIRE for the May-October 2011 period. TNA3.4 provided three types of services for the EGI community: (1) Application Database, (2) Training Marketplace, (3) VO Services. The detailed work plans about each of these services are referenced from this document.



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## II. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1	08/06/2011	First draft with AppDB and VO Services	Gergely Sipos / EGI.eu
2	10/06/2011	Training Services added	Gergely Sipos / EGI.eu

## III. 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>

## IV. TERMINOLOGY

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

## V. 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.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

The EGI vision is delivered through a user-driven strategy, where the e-Infrastructure is managed by the community to serve the needs of its users. TNA3.4 contributes to this vision with the further development and provisioning of a few Technical Support Services for users. These Technical Support Services are built around functions that were defined during the EGEE series projects as being useful to the user community – both the communities consuming the services and the organisations supporting these communities. During the first year of the EGI-InSPIRE project the set of Technical Support Services slightly changed and currently they consist of:

- The **EGI Training Marketplace** [R1] exists as a service to coordinate training across communities, projects and national teams. The Training Marketplace enables trainers to advertise events and resources related to training, and users to locate, comment on and suggest training material and events that meet their needs.
- The **EGI Applications database** [R2] provides a catalogue of applications that have or are being ported to use on the infrastructure and tools used for the porting, both categorised in terms of domain, identified developers, etc.
- **VO Services** [R3] provides expertise and software services such as portal frameworks and dashboard that enable VRCs and their VOs to better utilise the resources within EGI.
- The **EGI Requirement Tracking system** [R4] is a service shared with the operations community, but with VRC specific entry points and views used by the EGI.eu User Community Support Team (UCST) and the tool developers within TNA3.4 to gather and solve requirements.

## 2 WORK PLANS

As it has been agreed within TNA3.4, at least one new release is expected from each of these tools every six months. (Ideally one release before the EGI User Forum in April and one before the EGI Technical Forum in September). All the tool releases are driven by work plans that follow users' requirements and the plans are endorsed by the endorsed by the User Community Board (UCB). This section provides a summary of the work plans that have been prepared by the tool developers in April-May and got endorsed by the Third UCB meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May [R5]. The detailed work plans for the Training Marketplace, for the the Applications Database and for the VO Services are available in DocDB: [R6], [R7], [R8]. The RT system does not have a work plan for this period, because there are no open requirements for it.

### 2.1 *Generic and joint tasks*

While each of the TNA3.4 services have their own work plans, there are tasks in these plans that are either common to all of them and/or are performed together:

1. Services offered by EGI-InSPIRE can better reach and can better serve EGI communities if these services are customisable to local community or individuals' needs (e.g. to NGIs or, VRCs) and these customised instances are embeddable into existing portals and science gateways. A web-gadget that has been developed for the AppDB service in April successfully demonstrated this [R10]. This AppDB gadget showed how centrally provided services (i.e. minimal support overhead for the consuming party) can present with own and customised default view (e.g. list the applications relevant to a particular science domain) while still benefiting from the network effect of a central instance. The TNA3.4 partners will work towards new gadgets that could embed functionalities from the Training Marketplace, the Applications Database and the VO Services into NGI and VRC portals.
2. Besides providing a set of independent gadgets, the TNA3.4 partners with UCST will also investigate possibilities of providing an integrated "User Support Services Platform" by linking the TNA3.4 services together. Such integration could provide more intelligent services for user (e.g. the applications database can link through to a list of the trainers who could provide assistance with this application or the training events where this application is being taught). The integration can happen through APIs, tags or gadgets.

### 2.2 *Application Database plans*

Tasks that are specific to the Application Database will focus on the following areas:

- **Quality of information:** Improving the quality, reliability of information stored within AppDB through the provisioning of mechanisms within AppDB, by which members of the EGI community can provide feedback on the stored items, can easily identify, correct and/or revoke problematic profiles.
- **Information retrieval:** Improving search and browse capabilities by tagging and new database structure.

- **Notification services:** Implementation and integration of notification mechanisms (email and RSS feed) into the system, so community members can register for and can receive notifications about changes in AppDB content.
- **Cross-browser compatibility:** Study the compatibility problems that exist in the current system with Internet Explorer 9 and work towards a release that is fully compatible with IE9.
- **Architecture:** Speed up and scale up the AppDB by migrating it to PostgreSQL database and provide support for new types of clients and client devices with a restructured codebase.

### 2.3 Training Marketplace plans

During the next period work will be focussed around the major release of v2.0 (estimated before 12 June 2011), a minor release of v2.5 by 31 July 2011, and a major release v3.0 before the Technical Forum. Tasks related to these releases:

Version 2 (already in production at [R1]):

- Map view of NGI training events, local gateways and NGI support teams
- Training wish list – web form for users to specify their needs and published list view of these requirements
- Advertise expertise and ideas – web form input for people to advertise their expertise, ideas and resources and published list view of these. For example, NGIs may wish to advertise a training resource, training VO, or a trainer may wish to advertise an idea for a course to gauge interest
- Advertise relevant MSc, PhD and other taught courses
- Integration of the existing 9000 Digital Library training repository materials
- Integration of advanced search functionality across all objects in the Training Marketplace. For example a search on the term gLite would find events and materials relating to the term.

Version 2.5 will include one extra service that allows the community to report inappropriate content to managers. Version 3.0 hope to offer gadgets that will allow NGIs and VRCs to integrate services of the Training Marketplace into their own websites. Three gadgets are foreseen: one for searching, one for forms (submit new items into the marketplace) and one to browse items. Browse options are configurable by region for NGIs. The team will be also involved in the other generic task, the integration of the Training Marketplace into a User Support Platform.

### 2.4 VO Services plans

Tasks that are specific to the Application Database will focus on the following areas:

- **Continue with the provisioning of existing services:** Services that have been established under the task will continue to operate. These cover
  - The support unit in the EGI Helpdesk and capturing requirements into EGI RT
  - A VO-specific Services Available Monitoring (SAM) server that VOs can use to implement and run VO-specific service test probes
  - Consultancy for VO and VRC managers on setting up their own VO-specific SAM server or other VO service.



- **Review software tools** that provide useful services for VO Managers and could become part of the service portfolio offered by the VO Services team. VBrowser and tools for data and SE decommissioning are identified for review so far.
- **Introduce the “VO Dashboard”** as a new service provided for VOs by the team. The Dashboard will extend the VO-specific SAM service with a portal that seamlessly integrates information from various operational tools in order to provide an overall picture about VO resources, alarms, tickets, applications for VO managers.
- **Review and update documentations and policies:** review existing documentations and policies that exist for EGI VO Managers, identify gaps, consolidate these where possible and finally make aggregate documentation available for VOs at [R11]. This activity foresees providing new documentation (trigger by a request of complaint by the VOs) or reviewing / updating existent documentation as a results

### 3 REFERENCES

<b>R 1</b>	EGI Training Marketplace: <a href="http://www.egi.eu/user-support/training_marketplace/">http://www.egi.eu/user-support/training_marketplace/</a>
<b>R 2</b>	EGI Applications Database: <a href="http://www.egi.eu/user-support/applications_database/">http://www.egi.eu/user-support/applications_database/</a>
<b>R 3</b>	EGI VO Services: <a href="http://www.egi.eu/user-support/services/">http://www.egi.eu/user-support/services/</a>
<b>R 4</b>	EGI Requirement Tracking system: <a href="http://www.egi.eu/user-support/getting_help/">http://www.egi.eu/user-support/getting_help/</a>
<b>R 5</b>	Third User Community Board meeting, 11/05/2011: <a href="https://www.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=473">https://www.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=473</a>
<b>R 6</b>	Work plan for EGI Training Marketplace (May-October 2011): <a href="https://documents.egi.eu/document/570">https://documents.egi.eu/document/570</a>
<b>R 7</b>	Work plan for EGI Applications Database (May-October 2011): <a href="https://documents.egi.eu/document/510">https://documents.egi.eu/document/510</a>
<b>R 8</b>	Work plan for EGI VO Services (May-October 2011): <a href="https://documents.egi.eu/document/527">https://documents.egi.eu/document/527</a>
<b>R 9</b>	Application Database Web-gadget: <a href="http://appdb.egi.eu/gadgets/editor">http://appdb.egi.eu/gadgets/editor</a>
<b>R10</b>	Application Database Web Gadget – success stories: <a href="https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/AppDB_Gadget_Editor#Success_Stories">https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/AppDB_Gadget_Editor#Success_Stories</a>
<b>R11</b>	Documentations for VO Managers: <a href="https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Relevant_documentation_for_VO_activities">https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Relevant_documentation_for_VO_activities</a>