

EGI-InSPIRE

ESTABLISHING THE POLICY AREA OF THE WEBSITE COVERING THE POLICY BODIES AND COLLABORATING PROJECTS

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Abstract

The purpose of this document is to describe how the EGI.eu website has been structured to reflect the establishment of policy development activity within EGI and interaction with external project and organisations.

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II. DELIVERY SLIP

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III. DOCUMENT LOG

Issue	Date	Comment	Author/Partner
1	5/8/2010	Table of Content	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)
2	5/8/2010	Revised Table of Content	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)
3	23/8/2010	Full draft	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)
4	23/8/2010	Minor corrections	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)
5	14/9/2010	Revised following comments from reviewers	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)
6	27/09/2010	New screenshots	Sergio Andreozzi, Damir Marinovic (EGI.eu)

IV. 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.

V. 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>



VI. TERMINOLOGY

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



VII. 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.



VIII. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aim of this document is to describe how the EGI website was structured, provide an overview of the general policy development activities in EGI.eu, general description of the policy groups within EGI.eu and the description of EGI.eu collaboration with external partners. A summary of the main contents and the rationale behind it is provided while more detail is available on the website itself.

A well-structured website policy area will mainly help the NGIs and EIROs to quickly identify policy development activities and designated contact points to act on and cooperate with; to discover the policy documents produced by specific policy groups and to obtain a clear overview about external policy actions with project, international policy bodies, external resource providers and new Virtual Research Communities.

The landing page of the website policy area provides answers to key questions to let the reader understand definition, role and principles of EGI.eu policies. The website is then organized in sections for internal and external policy activities. The former refers to policies with impact within the EGI collaboration and are mainly defined by internal policy groups. The latter refer to policies involving relationships with external partners.

The URL structuring provides a stable and clear organization of the information and dedicated pages for individual policy groups and external partners. Consistent and clear structure ease the finding of the information and it is easy linking to them.



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1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to describe how the EGI website was structured in order to provide general information about policy activities within EGI.eu, as well as EGI.eu collaboration with other projects or organizations.

Establishing a well-structured policy area in the EGI.eu website will mainly help the NGIs and EIROs to quickly identify policy development activities and designated contact points to act on and cooperate with; to discover the policy documents produced by specific policy groups and to obtain a clear overview about external policy actions with project, international policy bodies, external resource providers and new Virtual Research Communities.

In general, the policy content on the EGI website provides a broad overview and introduction to the policy activities, groups and documents, with content that remains fairly static. The EGI website and policy website area is maintained by a small team of administrators and content managers. Policy information that needs to be updated on a regular basis will be added to EGI wiki site. Thus, the policy area content needs to be balanced between the general information that is necessary for the audience to grasp the way policy development process works in EGI.eu and audience interested in more detailed and precise content and in specific policy documents of the concrete policy groups.

We emphasise that the primary goal, when it comes to the policy development process within EGI.eu, is to respond to all the requests and inputs of the relevant stakeholders involved and affected by EGI.eu policies. This will ultimately lead to well defined and well balanced policies which will represent the best interest of its key stakeholders (NGIs, EIROs etc.) and contribute to the sustainable grid infrastructure available to all European scientists and researchers and their international collaborators.

The document is structured as follows: Section 2 of this document describes the website organization for the policy area while Section 3 draws up conclusion.

2 WEBSITE ORGANIZATION FOR THE POLICY AREA

The goal of the EGI.eu policy development team is to support the development of policy within and external to EGI.eu in conjunction with EGI's stakeholders relating to governance, standardization and integration with other infrastructures. A proper communication about the policy development process, activities and collaborations is essential for more effective policy actions.

The importance and role of the policy activity is often misunderstood and underestimated. While the main target for the website policy area are NGIs and EIROs, a number of external parties will be interested in learning about the policy making activity of the EGI collaboration.

For this reason, the entry point page of the website policy area is dedicated to explaining the basics of the EGI.eu policy activity. Answers to the following key questions are provided:

- What are EGI.eu policies?
- Why are EGI.eu policies important?
- What are EGI.eu's policy development principles?

The website policy area is then divided in two main areas: internal policy activity and external policy activity. The internal policy actions have an impact within the boundaries of the EGI collaboration, while external policy actions focus mainly on collaboration with external entities.

Policy groups are created to define internal policies and procedures within a specific functional area (i.e., technology, operations, user community, policy and administration); they are working bodies responsible for developing EGI.eu strategic and operational policy framework and thus ultimately enabling stability and availability of generic e-Infrastructure. Each policy group has a well-defined responsibility, composition and operational procedures. It is chaired by an acknowledged expert in the subject area from the community that is responsible to the relevant senior EGI.eu manager for the successful execution of the group's remit [R3]. The policy groups that have been established via a Terms of Reference are:

- Technology
 - Technology Coordination Board (TCB)
- Operations
 - Operations Management Board (OMB)
 - Operational Tools Advisory Group (OTAG)
 - Operations Automation Team (OAT)
- User Community
 - User Community Board (UCB)
 - User Services Advisory Group (USAG)
- Security
 - Security Policy Group (SPG)
 - Software Vulnerability Group (SVG)
 - Security Coordination Group (SCG)
- Organizational
 - External Advisory Committee (EAC)

All the policy groups except the EAC are under the responsibility of EGI.eu and its governing bodies. The EAC is a policy group part of the EGI-InSPIRE project. For each policy group, a dedicated page is present describing: group name, contact details for the chair and secretary, functional area, purpose and links to the terms of reference, wiki page and the approved documents.

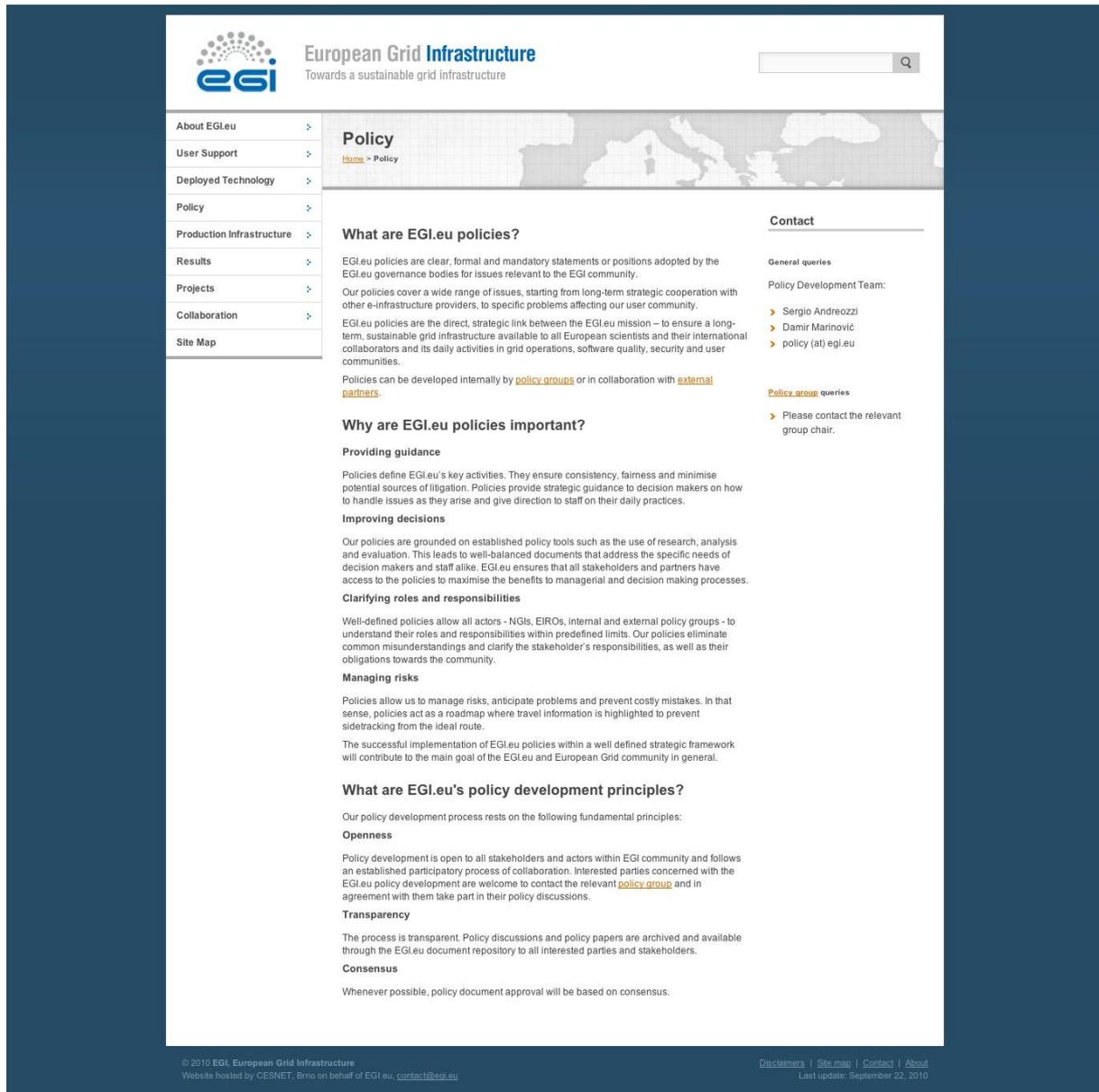
The external collaborations involve the definition of formal agreement between EGI.eu and external entities (e.g., European-funded projects, organizations) via Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) [R4]. A general page introducing the policy actions is presented. Moreover, specific pages for each party with which formal agreements exists is provided.

The external partners with which agreements are in the process of being defined fall in the following categories: 1) technology provider; 2) infrastructure provider; 3) dissemination/coordination actions; 4) virtual research community. In Table 1, we summarize the URL structure for the policy area of the website.

Table 1 URL Structure for the Policy Area

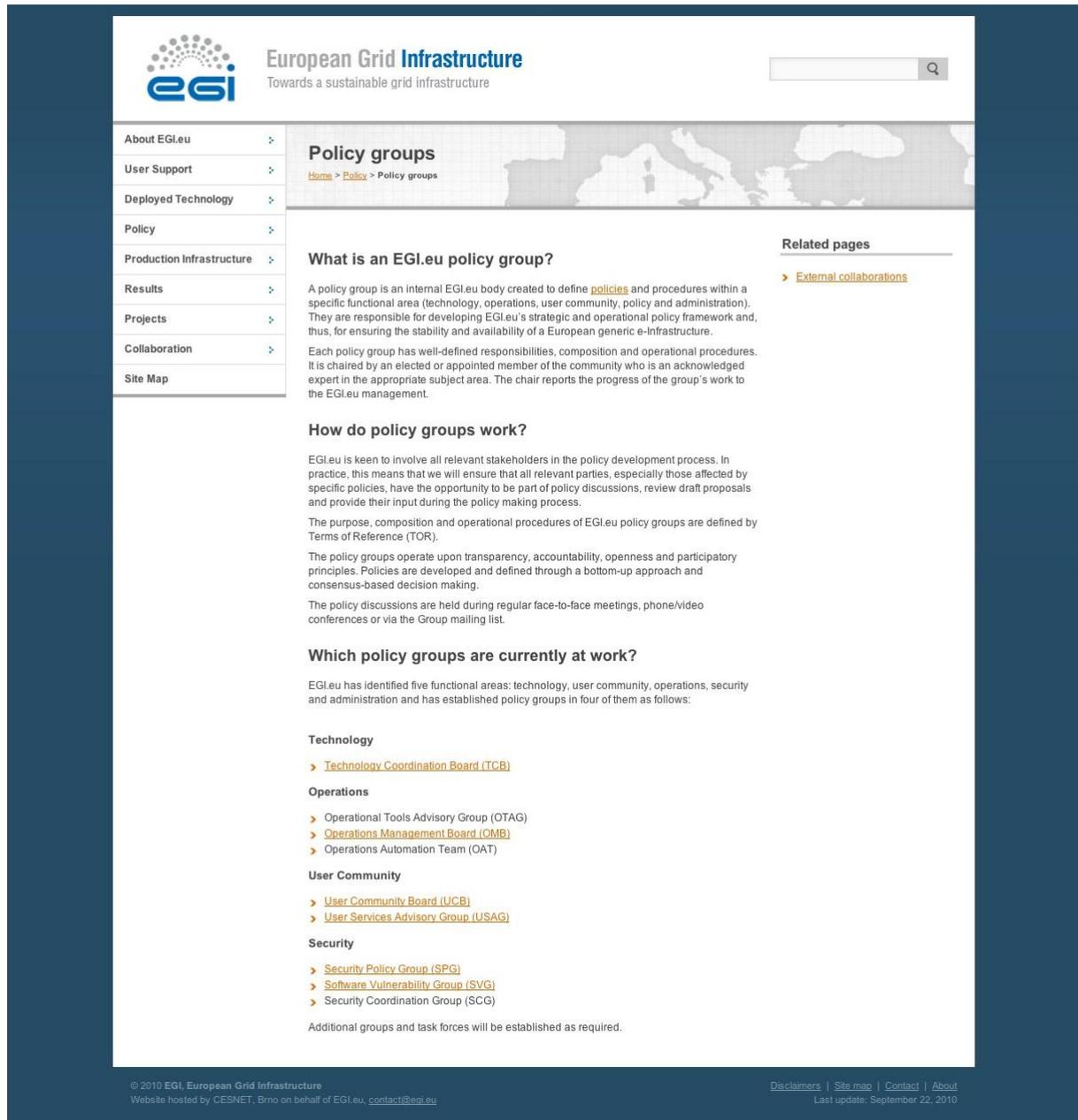
Relative URL	Content
/policy	General page about EGI.eu policies
/policy/internal	General page about policy groups
/policy/internal/[GROUP_NAME]_[ACRONYM]	Internal Policy Group - dedicated page
/policy/external	General page about external collaborations
/policy/external/[PARTNER_NAME]	External partner – dedicated page

In Figures 1,2,3 and 4 you can see sample screenshot of the policy area pages in the EGI.eu website.



The screenshot shows the EGI.eu website's 'Policy' page. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'About EGI.eu', 'User Support', 'Deployed Technology', 'Policy', 'Production Infrastructure', 'Results', 'Projects', 'Collaboration', and 'Site Map'. The main content area is titled 'Policy' and includes a search bar. The page is divided into two columns. The left column contains the following sections: 'What are EGI.eu policies?', 'Why are EGI.eu policies important?', 'Providing guidance', 'Improving decisions', 'Clarifying roles and responsibilities', 'Managing risks', 'What are EGI.eu's policy development principles?', 'Openness', 'Transparency', and 'Consensus'. The right column contains a 'Contact' section with 'General queries' and 'Policy Development Team' information, including names like Sergio Andreozzi and Damir Marinovic, and a 'Policy group queries' section with a link to 'Please contact the relevant group chair'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with copyright information and a last update date of September 22, 2010.

Figure 1 - General page about EGI.eu policies



The screenshot shows the EGI.eu website page for "Policy groups". The page features a navigation menu on the left with items like "About EGI.eu", "User Support", "Deployed Technology", "Policy", "Production Infrastructure", "Results", "Projects", "Collaboration", and "Site Map". The main content area is titled "Policy groups" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Policy > Policy groups". Below the title, there is a section "What is an EGI.eu policy group?" which explains that a policy group is an internal EGI.eu body created to define policies and procedures within a specific functional area. It also describes the group's responsibilities and the role of its chair. A "Related pages" section on the right lists "External collaborations". Further down, the page addresses "How do policy groups work?" and "Which policy groups are currently at work?". The latter section lists several groups under four categories: Technology (Technology Coordination Board (TCB)), Operations (Operational Tools Advisory Group (OTAG), Operations Management Board (OMB), Operations Automation Team (OAT)), User Community (User Community Board (UCB), User Services Advisory Group (USAG)), and Security (Security Policy Group (SPG), Software Vulnerability Group (SVG), Security Coordination Group (SCG)).

Figure 2 - General page about EGI.e policy groups



European Grid Infrastructure
Towards a sustainable grid infrastructure

- About EGI.eu >
- User Support >
- Deployed Technology >
- Policy >
- Production Infrastructure >
- Results >
- Projects >
- Collaboration >
- Site Map

Operations Management Board

[Home](#) > [Policy](#) > [Policy groups](#) > Operations Management Board

Chair **Tiziana Ferrari**
Chief Operations Officer EGI.eu
tiziana.ferrari (at) egi.eu

Description The **Operations Management Board (OMB)** develops the strategy and defines the technical priorities of EGI's production infrastructure.

The OMB also oversees the status and progress of the global EGI and individual NGI operational services.

Main tasks

- > Advise the EGI.eu Director on operational strategic and technical issues.
- > Identify current and future problem areas and propose corrective actions.
- > Compile usage information and collect technical operational requirements and bring this input to the Technical Coordination Board (TCB).
- > Examine requirements from Virtual Research Communities (VRCs), external software provider and other parties that will require changes to the operational procedures and tools, and to liaise with the User Community Board (UCB).
- > Define plans for the long-term development of EGI operations.

Membership The OMB is chaired by EGI's Chief Operations Officer or her deputy. Other members include operations managers of NGIs that contribute resources to the EGI infrastructure, leaders of EGI-InSPIRE SA1 tasks and leaders of EGI operational global services.

Other experts may be invited to join OMB meetings when their contribution is relevant to the group's agenda.

Links [Operations Management Board wikipedia Meetings](#)

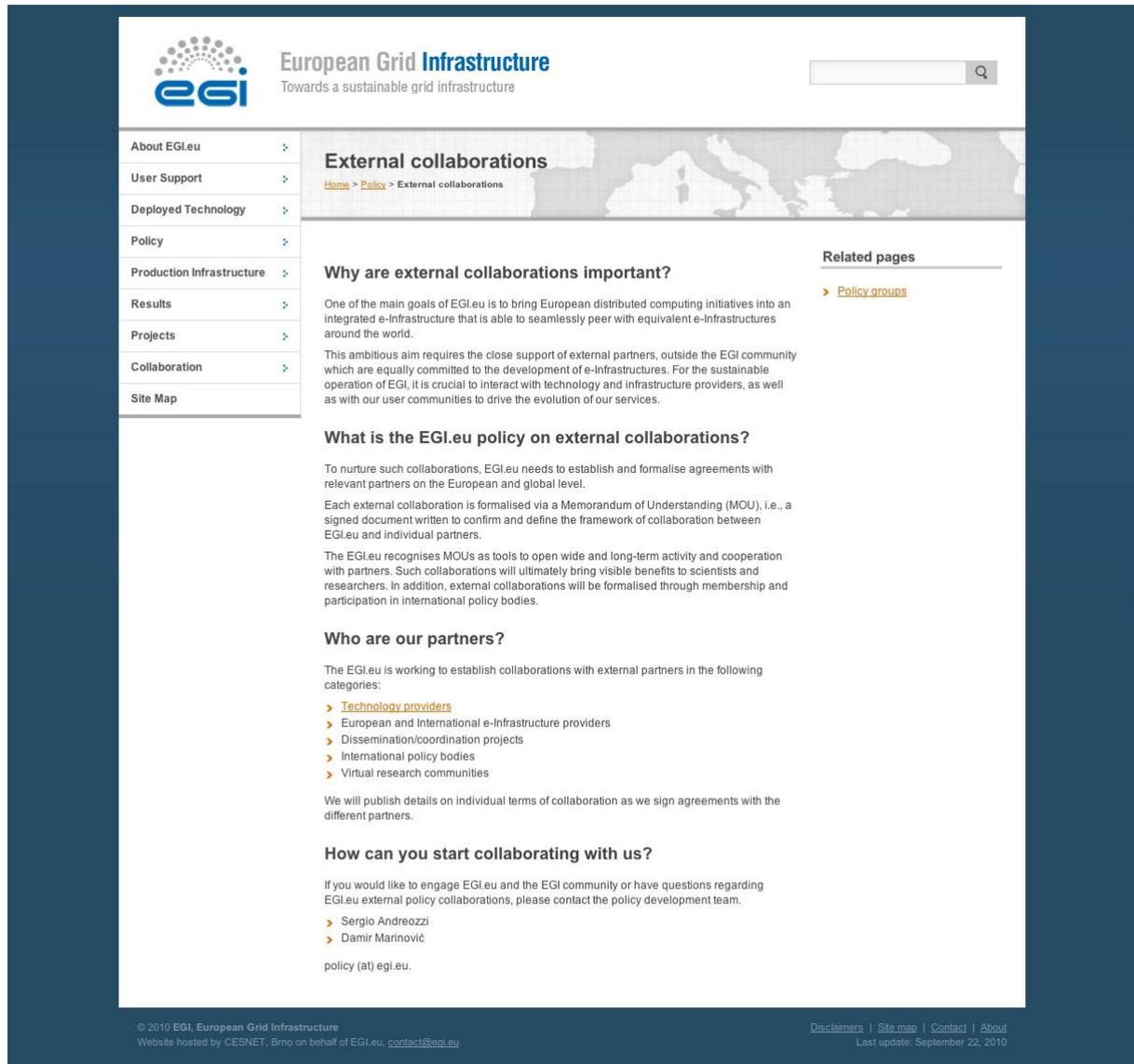
Other policy groups

- > [Technology Coordination Board \(TCB\)](#)
- > [User Community Board \(UCB\)](#)
- > [User Services Advisory Group \(USAG\)](#)
- > [Security Policy Group \(SPG\)](#)
- > [Software Vulnerability Group \(SVG\)](#)

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Website hosted by CESNET, Brno on behalf of EGI.eu, contact@egi.eu

[Disclaimers](#) | [Site map](#) | [Contact](#) | [About](#)
Last update: September 22, 2010

Figure 3 - Sample page about an internal policy group (OMB)



The screenshot shows the EGI.eu website page titled "External collaborations". The page features a navigation menu on the left with items like "About EGI.eu", "User Support", "Deployed Technology", "Policy", "Production Infrastructure", "Results", "Projects", "Collaboration", and "Site Map". The main content area is divided into sections: "Why are external collaborations important?", "What is the EGI.eu policy on external collaborations?", "Who are our partners?", and "How can you start collaborating with us?". The "Why are external collaborations important?" section explains that one of the main goals of EGI.eu is to bring European distributed computing initiatives into an integrated e-Infrastructure that is able to seamlessly peer with equivalent e-Infrastructures around the world. It states that this ambitious aim requires the close support of external partners, outside the EGI community which are equally committed to the development of e-Infrastructures. For the sustainable operation of EGI, it is crucial to interact with technology and infrastructure providers, as well as with our user communities to drive the evolution of our services.

The "What is the EGI.eu policy on external collaborations?" section explains that to nurture such collaborations, EGI.eu needs to establish and formalise agreements with relevant partners on the European and global level. Each external collaboration is formalised via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), i.e., a signed document written to confirm and define the framework of collaboration between EGI.eu and individual partners. The EGI.eu recognises MOUs as tools to open wide and long-term activity and cooperation with partners. Such collaborations will ultimately bring visible benefits to scientists and researchers. In addition, external collaborations will be formalised through membership and participation in international policy bodies.

The "Who are our partners?" section states that the EGI.eu is working to establish collaborations with external partners in the following categories:

- Technology providers
- European and International e-Infrastructure providers
- Dissemination/coordination projects
- International policy bodies
- Virtual research communities

The "How can you start collaborating with us?" section provides contact information for policy development team members: Sergio Andreozzi and Damir Marinović. The contact email is policy (at) egi.eu.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with copyright information: © 2010 EGI, European Grid Infrastructure. Website hosted by CESNET, Brno on behalf of EGI.eu, contact@egi.eu. There are also links for Disclaimers, Site map, Contact, and About. The last update date is September 22, 2010.

Figure 4 - General page about EGI.eu external collaborations



3 CONCLUSION

The goal of this document was to describe how the EGI website was expanded to include a dedicated policy area. The target audience and the rationale behind the organization of the information were explained. While the current EGI.eu website is a work in progress, the imposed structure of the policy area will enable the content to mature in a stable and clear organization enabling interested parties to locate the needed information for participating in the policy making activity of EGI.



4 REFERENCES

R 1	MS201 EGI Website https://documents.egi.eu/document/126
R 2	EGI-InSPIRE Description of Work (DoW) https://documents.egi.eu/document/10
R 3	MS206 Terms of Reference and initial composition of the policy related groups within EGI.eu https://documents.egi.eu/document/125
R 4	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Framework https://documents.egi.eu/document/88