**EGI-InSPIRE**

Collaborating With
EGI-InSPIRE

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| AbstractAt the core of the European Grid Infrastructure is its coordinating body – EGI.eu – which integrates resources from NGIs and EIROs across geographical Europe. During its first four years, at it achieves the sustainable operation of Europe’s production infrastructure, the EGI community will be supported by the EGI-InSPIRE project. This goal can only be achieved with the close support of partner projects developing technologies for use in the production infrastructure, user communities working with EGI to further develop the infrastructure, and other infrastructures working with EGI to deliver transparent user experience to communities using resource provided by both infrastructures. |

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EGI-InSPIRE (“European Grid Initiative: Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe”) is a project co-funded by the European Commission as an Integrated Infrastructure Initiative within the 7th Framework Programme. EGI-InSPIRE began in May 2010 and will run for 4 years.

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**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 the 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 the ESFRI projects. 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 − structured international user communities − that are grouped into specific research domains. VRCs are formally represented within EGI at both a technical and strategic level.

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# Introduction

## Purpose

This document defines a framework to generate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EGI-InSPIRE and other organizations or projects. The MoU provides a means of documenting the relationship that EGI-InSPIRE has with other projects, and the activities and objectives of such a collaborative relationship. EGI-InSPIRE will establish MoUs with other projects in order to facilitate and strengthen the collaboration between them. The MoU will identify areas of collaboration, clarify roles and commitments from parties involved and agree on a joint programme of work.

## 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.

## References

**Table 1: Table of references**

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| R  | EGI-InSPIRE Template - Memorandum of Understanding. https://documents.egi.eu/document/87 |
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## 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>

## Terminology

A complete project glossary is provided in the EGI-InSPIRE glossary:

 <http://www.egi.eu/results/glossary/>.

# Memorandum of UnderstandinG

## What is an MoU?

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a written agreement that clarifies the relationships, responsibilities and communication channels between two or more parties that may share services, clients, and resources. The MoU is used when both parties do not want to pursue a contract that is legally binding (generally). Formal contracts can be intimidating therefore MoUs are the better option for some communities. However, it can be used to regulate the relationship between parties.

## Why is it important to have an MoU?

An MoU can strengthen the ability of two or more parties to mutually solve problems. Participating parties benefit from the interchange of ideas and practices. The reasons that the parties are coming together to collaborate with each other are documented and the activities to achieve these goals are described and can be monitored to measure progress.

## What is actually included in an MoU?

The MoUs can cover a variety of issues and topics. Each party needs to contribute to the process of drafting the MoU. An MoU with EGI-InSPIRE should address the following:

* Define the scope and goals of the described collaboration:
	+ Why the MoU?
	+ What do we want to achieve with the MoU?
	+ When there is a problem how do we deal with it?
* Clarification of roles, responsibilities and communication points.
* Identifying any areas of confidentiality.
* Periodic review of the MoU through:
	+ Specification of milestones
	+ Monitoring of their achievement
	+ Mechanism for enforceability and escalation
* Effective date, duration, amendment and termination
* The MoU may also include:
	+ Information about the participating parties
	+ Required reports associated with the milestones
	+ Joint participation in technical (e.g. data challenge) or dissemination activities

When drafting an MoUs recall that while a vague MoU can provide flexibility to both parties it can be quite difficult to enforce.

# Process

The process for establishing an MoU is described below.

1. Contact is established between EGI-InSPIRE and the collaborating project/organisation. Within EGI-InSPIRE the initial contact point is the Policy Development Manager (PDM) who is responsible for this process.
2. An initial discussion between the parties will identify potential areas of collaboration and the relevant EGI-InSPIRE activities and tasks that need to be involved.
3. A draft MoU is developed under the supervision of the PDM and the relevant Activity Managers (including relevant milestones) using the template provided in [R1].
4. The draft MoU is approved by the AMB.
5. Once approved by the AMB it is circulated to the PMB for a review of 7 calendar days.
6. Once it has been approved by the PMB the Project Director signs on behalf of the project.