

M2.1 Summary of the main achievements, open issues and future plans related to the collaboration

1. Introduction

The purpose of the present document is to give a brief summary of the collaboration to date between the projects EGI-InSPIRE and ScalaLife. In September 2011, the two projects signed a MoU to define a framework for long-term collaboration, recognising the mutual benefits a wide cooperation will bring to both projects. The common goal of both projects is the provision of a sustainable service for distributed computing to the European scientific community and its international collaborators. The specific lines of cooperative activity are:

- Integration of Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) and
- Dissemination.

The purpose of the integration activity is to explore the use of the ScalaLife Competence Centre (CC) within the VRC model proposed by EGI, define the mechanism for engaging and interfacing with the Life-Science Grid Computing (LSGC) VRC and, through the injection of requirements from High Performance Computing (HPC) for Life Sciences (LS) into EGI, influence the evolution of the infrastructure, support services and procedures.

The goal of the dissemination activity is to coordinate and streamline common dissemination between the two projects, thus maximising its impact and influence.

2. Main Achievements

The first achievement of the collaboration between EGI-InSPIRE and ScalaLife was the announcement of the common agreement made early by both parties on their respective websites. This was done as planned using dedicated static pages as well as a press release.

During the last 9 months, the ScalaLife project has invested considerable efforts into the creation of a CC for the LS, designed to evolve into a self-sustainable resource that will act as a “one-stop-shop” for both users and developers of simulation software in the LS. The CC is in a mature state and has a wealth of training material, with an emphasis on the HPC aspects of the LS software, which constitutes an added value from the project. Starting with an initial core of three simulation codes the ScalaLife project supports directly, the CC covers a growing number of applications. These are gradually added to the CC knowledge base as projects join the collaborative efforts of ScalaLife towards a self-sustainable service. All the training material available from the CC is public and is consequently available to the EGI VRCs too.

The development of training material in ScalaLife has been enhanced using EGI expertise, resulting in tutorials on the use of GROMACS (one of the LS applications supported by ScalaLife) on Grid resources. The material was provided by WeNMR, a project and associated VRC supported by EGI. The availability of this material is the first step towards the planned connection of the LS communities that ScalaLife supports to the EGI user communities that work in the same disciplines.

The ScalaLife CC is advertised by both the EGI and EGI-InSPIRE websites but aside from this, of notable importance are two publications in the EGI community forums (References 1 and 2). These publications explain the role and strategy of the ScalaLife CC and thus support a good dissemination outside the range normally covered by the ScalaLife project and its website. Yet another publication worth mentioning is a feature article in “International Science Grid This Week” (Reference 3).

Finally, as part of the dissemination efforts, ScalaLife has participated in the organisation of a joint activity at the EGI Community Forum 2012 held at LRZ, Munich, between the 26th and 30th of March. As a future activity, ScalaLife will also participate in the organisation of the EGI Technical Forum in Prague, 16 September 2012.

3. Open Issues

The collaboration between the two projects has started well and is evolving between the parameters set by the MoU. This cooperation has already begun to show mutual benefits and is expected to continue in good circumstances. There are no issues or concerns.

4. Next steps/Future Plans

The next steps of the collaboration between EGI and ScalaLife are the:

- Continuation of work to connect the ScalaLife LS user community to the EGI VRCs of corresponding disciplines (activity continuing into the next project year);
- Exposure of a second round of training material from ScalaLife as it becomes available online (at the end of August 2012).

5. References

R1	http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.se/2012/03/one-stop-shop-for-life-sciences.html
R2	http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.se/2012/03/matching-needs-of-users-life-sciences.html
R3	http://www.isgtw.org/feature/%E2%80%98one-stop-shop%E2%80%99-saves-time-money-life-sciences