

Dear EGEE-III project members,

We are at a very important time in the transition to the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) when many details we have been wondering about over the past months are becoming defined, and some aspects which we thought we understood are being revisited. As the majority of you were not at the recent All-Activity meeting held in Amsterdam on the 2nd of February, let me cover some of the outstanding points. (A detailed document covering the status of the transition and the outcomes from the February 2nd meeting is available here: https://edms.cern.ch/file/1060619/1/EGEE-III-MNA1.5-1060619-v0_1.pdf.)

The EGI statutes have been agreed and the central organising body, EGI.eu, has been established in Amsterdam and is now able to start advertising positions (<http://www.egi.eu/cms/about/jobs>) and hiring personnel. Since this can take several months EGI.eu will probably have only a skeleton staff in place at the start of May. Priority will be given to filling positions in the Senior Management Team so that NGIs and users will have someone as a contact point.

How user needs will be cared for in the EGI era needs to be revisited. At the time of the All-Activity meeting feedback from the EC indicated that several proposals which focused on continuing support for our existing users' needs (including ROSCOE, CUE, TAPAS and SAFE) will not be funded. This means that discipline specific and generic community application porting, training, dissemination and user support is particularly affected. It is likely that the existing, well established user communities will have sufficient critical mass to continue, but the situation is not so clear for the nascent ones.

Some user facing services will be continued to be supported through the proposed EGI-InSPIRE project. These include the application database, which will be enhanced to distinguish between applications, tools and linked to the RESPECT programme. A set of user-focused metrics are being defined that will need to be combined with those foreseen for National Grid Infrastructures (NGIs) and analysed to determine the most appropriate means by which the data can be collected and archived. The scientific gateway web portals will be migrated from EGEE to EGI.

Training is primarily an NGI responsibility in the EGI context with EGI.eu coordinating NGI activity and maintaining a registry of trainers and a repository to which the EGEE training material will be migrated. The NA3 activity has been expanding the network of accredited trainers to ensure that there is at least one trainer in each NGI.

The infrastructure operations also require some attention. Interaction with the NGIs for technical and coordination matters needs to be improved as currently only the EGI official contact is known for each NGI. The variations between NGIs means there is no single recipe for operating an NGI and so the EGEE operations activity will offer a set of guidelines which will need to be tried and adapted for each NGI. The transition will be simpler for single or dual country ROCs (such as Italy, France, Germany/Switzerland, UK/Ireland, Portugal/Spain) compared to many country ROCs (notably Central Europe and South East Europe).

A series of meetings are being organised in Amsterdam during the first week of March to follow-up on many of the points raised at the All-Activity meeting. More details will be available next week.

The upcoming User Forum in Uppsala, 12-15 April, will be an important milestone in gauging the transition and collecting the community together one last time under the umbrella of EGEE. The forum will host several EGI sessions to provide updates on the transition status. Registration and the full programme are available at <http://egee-uf5.eu-egee.org>. Some booths are still available in the exhibition space for institutes or projects to demonstrate their activities. If you have yet to register, don't delay. Early bird discount closes on 24th of February.

The next couple months will bring many changes and adjustments. If points of confusion arise, or if you have any concerns, don't hesitate to contact your activity leader or the EGEE project office (project-eu-egee-po@cern.ch).

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones
EGEE-III Project Director



The following events are organised by EGEE or will feature important EGEE contributions. For further related events please see www.isgtw.org.

Month	Event	LINK
March	2-6, CeBIT, Hannover, Germany	http://www.cebit.de/homepage_e
	7-12, International Symposium on Grid Computing 2010, Taipei, Taiwan	http://event.twgrid.org/isgc2010/
April	6-9, 8th International Conference on Computing, Communications and Control Technologies: CCCT 2010, Orlando, Florida, USA	http://www.2010iisconferences.org/CCCT
	12-15, 5th EGEE User Forum, Uppsala, Sweden	http://egee-uf5.eu-egee.org
	22-23, 9th International Scientific-Practical Conference, St. Petersburg, Russia	http://www.innovation-enterprise.com/conferences/?conference=516

If you are organising EGEE-related events that you would like to publicise here please email Neasan O'Neill at n.oneill@qmul.ac.uk

