



28 February 2011

Dear EGI-InSPIRE Project Members,

Early Bird registration for the EGI User Forum in Vilnius has been extended until the end of this week (Friday 4th March 2011). Please take this opportunity to register at these discounted prices while they last!

This year the User Forum (<http://uf2011.egi.eu>) will be held in conjunction with the EMI Technical Conference and the final preparations are well under way. The programme is available online at (<http://go.egi.eu/uf2011>) and is divided into six main themes:

- The **EMI** sessions provide an overview of the EMI-1 release, the developments planned for common execution service, data and storage solutions, quality assurance procedures and the plans for the adoption of standards.
- The **User Support Services** sessions outline the services provided by EGI.eu and its partners, as well as the domain-specific services provided by various communities.
- A variety of scientific gateways and portal technologies are described in the **User Environments** sessions, in addition to applications, tools and programming libraries that can simplify access to distributed resources.
- The **Virtualisation and Cloud Computing** sessions provide details of the technologies and user experiences coming from European and national activities in this area.
- The **Technologies for Distributed Computing** presentations highlight the challenges in providing federated access to e-Infrastructures to achieve interoperability.
- The **Data Management** sessions review the solutions coming from the WLCG community.

There are many workshops and training sessions scheduled relating to workflow systems, virtualisation and the EMI software release. Each day will feature keynote speakers including:

- Steve Rawlings, an astrophysicist based at the University of Oxford and involved in the development of the Square Kilometre Array telescope, which will use a distributed network of individual radio telescopes to give the effective capacity of a very large telescope. He will talk about the data processing challenges it will provide for the e-Infrastructure community.
- Ruth Pordes, executive director of the Open Science Grid will discuss some of the initiatives taking place within the USA's National Science Foundation (NSF) Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation (SI2) program and how 'Scientific Software Innovation Institutes' can help the provision of cyber-infrastructures such as Open Science Grid and potentially EGI.

February also saw a meeting of the EGI Council in sunny Santander, hosted by the Institute of Physics of Cantabria. A key part of the meeting was a brainstorming session about the sustainability of EGI, where the Council members divided into groups to discuss potential business models for the services we provide to the community. The Council also discussed the interaction of EGI with other

e-infrastructures and the ESFRI projects. (Read more about the meeting at our new EGI blog <http://go.egi.eu/doivc>).

The importance of virtualisation as a means of supporting the needs of more user communities came across in many of these discussions. We are planning a dedicated open workshop to map out EGI's response to these new technologies, and how we could deliver them to meet the needs of the diverse user communities we wish to support. This event will build on the work taking place within EGI and the broader DCI community in Europe, and discussions such as those taking place at CloudScape III (<http://go.egi.eu/CS3>), the EGI User Forum (<http://uf2011.egi.eu>) and other meetings.

A draft workshop CfP has been created at <http://go.egi.eu/jngxd>, along with a Doodle to gather the most favourable dates across the community. Please provide your feedback on the scope, goals and duration of the workshop on the wiki page, by logging in using your EGI SSO account, and record your availability for the meeting on the Doodle page. The event is expected to take place here in Amsterdam.

I look forward to seeing you all in Vilnius!

Yours sincerely,



Steven Newhouse
EGI-InSPIRE Project Director

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event Details
4-5 April 2011	Open e-IRG Workshop in Budapest Budapest, Hungary (http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-workshop-budapest-4-5-april.html)
11-15 April 2011	EGI User Forum Vilnius, Lithuania (http://uf2011.egi.eu/)
16-19 May 2011	TERENA Networking Conference (TNC2011) Prague, Czech Republic (http://tnc2011.terena.org/)
16-20 May 2011	Role of e-infrastructures for Climate Change Research Trieste, Italy (http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php72238)
30 May – 1 June 2011	EMI All Hands Meeting Lund, Sweden (http://indico.cern.ch/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=124206)
8-10 June 2011	5 th Iberian Grid Infrastructure Conference Santander, Spain (http://www.ibergrid.eu/2011/)
8-10 June 2011	3 rd International Workshop on Science Gateways for Life Sciences (IWSG-Life 2011) London, UK (https://sites.google.com/a/staff.westminster.ac.uk/iwsg-life2011/)
19-23 June 2011	ISC11 International Supercomputing Conference Hamburg, Germany http://www.supercomp.de/isc11/

To advertise both project and general community events please email events@egi.eu

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