



3 October 2011

Dear EGI-InSPIRE Project Members,

Those of you who made it to Lyon – it was great to see so many of you again! I hope you all had a safe trip home and have recovered from the fantastic week of Lyonnais hospitality. The Technical Forum, and its associated meetings, had over 670 attendees – a record for our community. My thanks again to our local hosts – the Institut des Grilles – the French NGI for all their efforts in making the meeting a success.

In addition to meeting old friends and discussing the achievements of the last six months, it was our first opportunity as a community to reflect on the feedback provided from the EC review early in the Summer. The reviewers provided useful technical comments covering specific aspects of our work, but pointed out the areas we need to focus more on – the important *non-operational* aspects of operating a production infrastructure. Activities such as policy, planning, marketing, communication, events, outreach to new communities, etc. are areas that it can be tempting to deprioritise in favour of the production infrastructure. Now that we have a world leading production infrastructure, we need to improve these areas to help guarantee our sustainability.

There are certainly areas of excellence within the NGIs in these subjects, but the challenge facing us is how we can improve the quality of these activities across the whole community, and to ensure these activities are undertaken as part of a European wide strategy.

Over the next few months we will be establishing a network of ‘NGI Coordinators’ that will help build this vital aspect of our community. Working together with teams in EGI.eu, the NGI Coordinator will link the non-operational activities taking place around the production infrastructure in their NGIs, and in other NGIs, to a European wide strategy. The initial phase of this work will be in defining the strategies that will be adopted to engage new user communities both locally and at a European level. Growing the diversity and usage of our user community will help to demonstrate the importance of further investment nationally and within Europe.

This represents the next step in our continuing journey towards sustainability – building a European wide people network that supports our non-operational areas, the same way as the community around the production infrastructure has grown over the last decade. Defining a long-term strategy for our community, in these and other areas, will be a focus for us as community over the next six months.

Looking ahead to the Spring, there are a number of events to start planning for. The 10th International Symposium on Grids and Clouds will be taking place in Taiwan on 26th February to 2nd March 2012 - <http://event.twgrid.org/isgc2012/>. The call for participation closes later this week so there is still time to submit a paper. The meeting provides an unparalleled opportunity to build collaborations with our partners in the Asia Pacific region due to the wonderful hospitality of our host Simon Lin from ASGC.

The EGI Community Forum, our next major community wide meeting, will take place in Munich, 26th March to 30th March 2012. The call for participation will open later this month for individual contributions, technical sessions, training sessions, workshops, posters and demonstrations across all of the activities taking place in the European DCI Community. The meeting will again be co-located with the European Middleware Initiative's Technical Conference.

And after our recent late burst of sunshine truly leads us to Autumn... wrap up well and keep warm!

Yours sincerely,



Steven Newhouse
EGI-InSPIRE Project Director

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event Details
26-28 October 2011	eChallenges e-2011 Conference & Exhibition Florence, Italy (http://www.echallenges.org/e2011/)
7-9 November 2011	Cracow'11 Grid Workshop Cracow, Poland (http://www.cyfronet.krakow.pl/cgw11/)
5-8 December 2011	7th IEEE International Conference on e-Science Stockholm, Sweden (http://www.escience2011.org/)
4-6 January 2012	Grid Computing: the Next Decade Zakopane, Poland (http://www.gridlab.org/Meetings/Zakopane2012/)

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