



2 February 2012

Dear EGI-InSPIRE Project Members,

Firstly, let me take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy and productive New Year! Although we have only just reached the end of January, it already seems to have been a productive year.

Last week, we convened the first 'EGI User and General Sustainability Workshop' here in Amsterdam. The purpose of the meeting was to gain initial input from representatives of our current and potential user communities regarding their future needs. We welcomed representatives from the High Energy Physics, Astronomy, Life Science, Social Science, Structural Biology and Computational Chemistry communities.

The discussion covered which services need to be provisioned centrally to support all research communities and which services are deployed to meet the needs of a single community. Understanding the future support model for these services is critical. Can some or all communities contribute effort to maintain the services that they use? Or do they require support from elsewhere? The initial reports from the breakout sessions were presented on Wednesday morning (<http://go.egi.eu/sgnue>), and we are now analysing the responses in detail.

Thereafter the discussion moved on to general support of the EGI ecosystem, exploring the services delivered by the different entities within it and the value other stakeholders derive from these services. While there was general agreement about the need to engage with new communities, there was less consensus on what we (as a community) can offer and to whom. We need to identify and build on the strengths that we have within EGI and how these can be deployed most effectively to solve the problems felt by national or European research communities.

Expect to see more announcements coming through the EGI policy blog (<http://www.egi.eu/blog/>), where we would welcome your feedback and comments over the next few months in the run up to the EGI Community Forum.

And that brings me onto the EGI Community Forum in Munich running from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 (<http://cf2012.egi.eu/>). The Programme Committee have reviewed and organised the contributions coming from the community to produce a rich programme of individual presentations, workshops and training sessions that starts on Tuesday morning and runs through to Friday afternoon. More details are available <http://go.egi.eu/cf12>. The

European Globus Community Forum meets on Monday and there are many sessions during the week featuring the results from the EMI project. We'll have tracks on Users and Communities, Software Services, Middleware, Operations, as well as the Coordination and Communication activities that help us to run our project efficiently and to disseminate our successes to a wider audience.

A recurring theme throughout the meeting, which follows on from the Sustainability workshop, will be to discuss EGI's short and long-term strategy relating to the sustainability of the diverse parts of the EGI ecosystem. The diversity within EGI is evident from the programme, which features presentations on the achievements of researchers using the infrastructure, reports on the work of technology providers and the operation and delivery of services.

So don't forget to register for the Community Forum! You can take advantage of the early bird fees until the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. We will also welcome a series of keynote speakers drawn from the EC, EMI and EGI-InSPIRE projects, the EGI and PRACE communities, the ESFRI cluster projects, and what I am sure will be a fascinating presentation on the Friday morning before our closing and award ceremony on the history of computing. Something well worth staying on for!

Yours sincerely,



Steven Newhouse  
EGI-InSPIRE Project Director

**EGI Mascot competition:** Please don't forget to place your vote before 8 February! (<http://www.egi.eu/mascot/poll.html>) Winners will be announced at the Community Forum.

Upcoming Events:

Date	Event Details
<b>23-25 February 2012</b>	Cloudscape IV "Advances on Interoperability and Cloud Computing Standards" Brussels, Belgium ( <a href="http://www.sienainitiative.eu/">http://www.sienainitiative.eu/</a> )
<b>26 Feb – 2 March 2012</b>	International Symposium on Grids and Clouds (ISGC) 2012 Taipei, Taiwan ( <a href="http://event.twgrid.org/isgc2012/index.html">http://event.twgrid.org/isgc2012/index.html</a> )
<b>21-22 March 2012</b>	Collaborations Workshop 2012 Oxford, UK ( <a href="http://www.software.ac.uk/cw12">http://www.software.ac.uk/cw12</a> )
<b>26 March 2012</b>	2nd Annual European Globus Community Forum Munich, Germany ( <a href="http://www.egcf.eu/site/?page_id=14">http://www.egcf.eu/site/?page_id=14</a> )
<b>26-30 March 2012</b>	<b>EGI Community Forum 2012 + 2nd EMI Technical Conference Munich, Germany (<a href="http://cf2012.egi.eu">http://cf2012.egi.eu</a>)</b>
<b>21-23 May 2012</b>	HealthGrid 2012 Amsterdam, The Netherlands ( <a href="http://amsterdam2012.healthgrid.org/">http://amsterdam2012.healthgrid.org/</a> )

To advertise both project and general community events please email [events@egi.eu](mailto:events@egi.eu)

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