



EGI eNewsletter 2/2008

EGI Roma WORKSHOP: Defining the functions for the future EGI organisation

The European Grid Initiative (EGI) Roma workshop gathered more than 80 representatives and selected experts of the National Grid Initiatives (NGI) to discuss the first schema of the EGI functions presented by the EGI Design Study (EGI_DS) project partners. The workshop was held at the Italian Ministry of University and Research in Roma on 13 – 14 March, 2008.

The EGI organisation aims to construct a sustainable grid infrastructure in Europe. The role of the EGI Design Study (EGI_DS) project is to evaluate and to identify suitable processes and mechanisms for establishing the EGI.

The EGI Roma Workshop focused on defining the principal functions of the future organisation. The different options for the operations, management and legal structure were presented and discussed by the participants.



Per Öster (CSC) and Angela Goehring-Crinon (CERN)

According to the EGI_DS Project Director, Dieter Kranzlmüller, the workshop presented a great step towards the construction of this pan-European grid infrastructure.



Luděk Matyska (Cesnet), Ladislav Hluchý (IISAS) and Dieter Kranzlmüller (GUP)

“The EGI Roma Workshop was another important milestone on our path towards the EGI organization, as it was the first opportunity to present some early drafts of the EGI functionality to the broader community. Expectedly, it generated a number of sometimes emotional and very detailed discussions, which I take as an indicator of the definition, and we are looking forward to presenting the findings at the next EGI Workshop in Geneva.” said Dieter Kranzlmüller.

38 National Grid Initiatives have already expressed their support for the EGI Design Study. It has been unanimously agreed that the NGIs are the building blocks of the future EGI organisation.

Therefore discussion with the NGI representatives had a central role in the meeting, and they were highly encouraged to give their visions as well as to inform of their needs and requirements for the EGI.

EGI Geneva Workshop

The next EGI workshop will concentrate on the structure of the EGI. It will be held in Geneva on the 30 June – 1 July, 2008.

More information of the coming event :

www.eu-egi.eu/workshop/jun08/



Representatives of the National Grid Initiatives at the 2nd EGI workshop in Roma.



EGI eNewsletter 2/2008

SWEGRID - The Swedish production grid system

SweGrid is the Swedish National Grid Initiative (NGI). It was built in collaboration with the Swedish National Infrastructure for Computing (SNIC) and the Swedish LHC consortium (LHCK).

SNIC provides funding for computing resources for academic research in Sweden. It coordinates investments, user support and competence, provides mechanisms for resource allocation and hosts the Swedish National Graduate School in Scientific Computing. SNIC also funds and coordinates various development projects and manages the Swedish interface in large international collaborations. The work of SNIC/SweGrid is conducted by six separate computing centres. The sites are connected through the high-performance GigaSunet network.



SNIC centers: HPCN (Umeå), UPP-MAX (Uppsala), PDC (Stockholm), NSC (linköping) C3SE (Göteborg) and LUNARC (Lund).

Important coordinator

SweGrid is an integrated part of SNIC and has an essential role in the Swedish e-Science infrastructure. The goal is to have all SNIC resources available for users via SweGrid, as an alternative to the traditional means of access. SweGrid is also in charge of user support at the national level in Sweden and provides a basis for the Swedish participation in major international and European projects, such as the EGI Design Study.

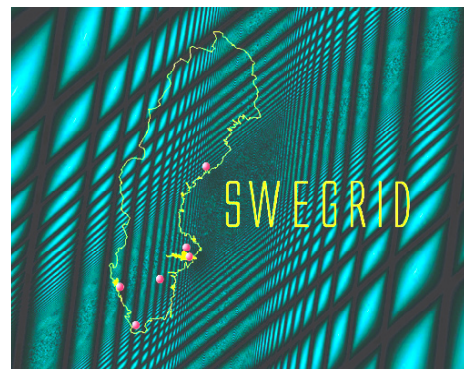
SweGrid started to use the first generation hardware in spring 2004. The initial system included six clusters with a total of 600 processors and 410 TB for storage. A third of the resources is dedicated to LHCK. The national allocation committee (SNAC) is in charge of the resource allocation, and a number of user groups in e.g. bioinformatics, chemistry and astronomy are using the system. In 2007, 17 non-LHCK research groups applied for SweGrid resources. SweGrid represents also the core resource for the Nordic Tier 1 project coordinated by Nordic DataGrid Facility (NDGF) and the NE ROC in EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-science), II and III projects.

SweGrid in 2008

SweGrid will take an important step forward in 2008. New clusters and storage are currently being installed and this will increase the computational

capacity to ten times the former level. A third of the capacity will be allocated to LHCK and two thirds will be for general use via the national allocation system. Other new SNIC systems, including capability clusters and a SMP, will also be available within SweGrid in 2008.

Additionally, a long-term plan for further upgrades is set up for SweGrid and new development projects will be initiated. Notably, a new national storage project "SweStore" will be launched in order to coordinate the SweGrid data storage. SweStore is to collaborate with Database Infrastructure Committee (DISC) and to establish collaboration with other Nordic centres.



More information

www.swegrid.se

Sverker Holmgren
E-mail: sverker@it.uu.se



EGI eNewsletter 2/2008

Development steps of the Spanish National Grid Initiative

The Spanish National Grid Initiative (NGI) comprises the principal Spanish research institutions that participate actively in the development and support of a Spanish Grid Infrastructure through different Grid research projects. It currently integrates 18 resource provider centres, 2400 cores and provides support for more than 340 direct users from different fields, e.g. high energy physics, biomedicine, computational chemistry, astrophysics and earth sciences.

In addition, the Spanish NGI participates in EU projects, such as EGEE and EELA, through JRUs (led by the IFAE in EGEE and by the CIEMAT in EELA) and serves as a coherent umbrella to the whole Spanish Grid Community.

Development steps

The starting point of the Spanish National Grid Initiative was in early 2003, when 20 Spanish research groups interested in grid technology established the research network IRIS-Grid (<http://www.irisgrid.es>). Its main objective was to analyse, define and foster the consolidation of a scientific community of users, infrastructure providers, and application and middleware developers interested in Grids. This new research community started also to promote the concept of a Spanish NGI for the Ministry of Science.

In 2004, the Ministry of Science selected a group of experts to develop

the Spanish e-Science programme and to pave the way for the establishment of the National Grid Initiative. The work was coordinated by the FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology). Concurrently, the National Middleware Experts Research Network and the Spanish Supercomputing Network were started-up.

In 2006, the Ministry of Science nominated Vicente Hernández as the Scientific Coordinator of the Spanish Network for e-Science. This network, supported by the General Directorate of Scientific and Technological Policy of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Education under grant agreement CAC-2007-52, has received several mandates, such as the creation and support of the Spanish Joint Research Unit for Grid projects (ES-GRID), and the set-up of the Spanish National Grid Initiative.

Active collaboration

The Spanish NGI works in close cooperation with the Portuguese NGI through the IBERGrid agreement. This joint Commission organizes the yearly conference IBERGRID (www.ibergrid.eu/2008/index.html) and two six-monthly coordination meetings, which aim to promote the deployment of common research infrastructure, the coordination of the National Research and Education Networks, joint participation in projects and exchange of research interests.

The NGI has also close relations with the Spanish Supercomputing Network. This network comprises several

Spanish research centres that operate a common supercomputing infrastructure. The links between Supercomputing and Grid pose one of the most important challenges for the Spanish Network for e-Science, and it is expected that many collaboration projects in terms of middleware, applications and even resources will be initiated.



Spanish Network for
e-Science

Website: www.e-ciencia.es

Contact Information:

Vicente Hernandez
Scientific Coordinator of the
Spanish Network for e-Science
Spanish NGI Representative
E-mail: vhernand@dsic.upv.es
Phone: +34 963879743

and

Jesús Marco
Spanish NGI Alternate
E-mail: marco@ifca.unican.es
Phone: +34 942201458



EGI eNewsletter 2/2008

Events

INGRID 2008

9-11 April, 2008 Lacco Ameno, Island of Ischia (IT)

The EGI Design Study was invited by INGRID 2008. The project organized a session on Friday, 11th April.

The Project Director Dieter Kranzlmüller presented the European Grid Initiative generally, Per Öster from CSC (Finnish IT center for Science) spoke about Grids and Large-Scale Research, and Jesus Marco de Lucas gave a talk on the Spanish National Grid Infrastructure and the expectations of the NGIs on the EGI. There was also a panel discussion on the sustainability of remote instrumentation within the European Grid landscape with

participation of Maria Ramalho-Natario from the European Commission.

<http://www.ingrid08.cnit.it>



Dieter Kranzlmüller presenting EGI at INGRID.

Events - Coming soon

Open Grid Forum, OFG23

2 - 6 June, 2008 - Barcelona (ES)

The EGI Design Study will participate in the Open Grid Forum 23 in Barcelona. The EGI will have an own stand to allow dissemination and presentation of the activities to the public.

www.ogf.org



ISC 2008

17 - 20 June, 2008 - Dresden (DE)

The EGI Design Study will attend the International Supercomputing, ISC, event in June. The project will be presented on the EGI booth number C48. The EGI Design Study Project Director Dieter Kranzlmüller will also give a speech during the event.

www.supercomp.de



EGI Workshop

30 June-1 July, 2008 Geneva (CH)

The next EGI workshop will concentrate on further defining the structure of the EGI organisation. The workshop will be organised at CERN in Switzerland.

www.eu-egi.eu/workshop/jun08

EGI Design Study – Contacts

contact@eu-egi.eu
press@eu-egi.eu
industry@eu-egi.eu



EGI_DS project receives funding from the EC's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° RI- 211693

www.eu-egi.eu
contact@eu-egi.eu