



## **EGI Workshop in Rome: Defining the functions for the future EGI organisation**

Mid-March, the European Grid Initiative (EGI) held a workshop at the Italian Ministry of University and Research in Rome gathering more than 80 representatives of the National Grid Initiatives (NGI). The slides and other accompanying material is available at <http://www.eu-egi.eu/workshop/mar08>

The European grid infrastructure which is now operational over many countries was established through nationally and European funded projects such as EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-scienceE). As this project-based funding cannot be extended indefinitely, the EGI aims to construct a sustainable grid infrastructure in Europe based on national grids. The EGI Design Study project was launched in September 2007 with the support of the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The project will continue until the end of November 2009. According to the current plans, the EGI organisation will start its functions in early 2010. The EGI\_DS has nine principal partners and is already endorsed by 38 National Grid Initiatives.

The discussions at the workshop were based on a draft definition of functions (collected by the INFN-led work package 3) and draft ideas of a legal structure (provided by the CNRS-led work package 4) summarised in preliminary documents provided by the CERN-led work package 5. The draft propositions of the EGI\_DS consortium gave rise to a lively discussion between the participants. The feedback from the representatives of the NGIs supporting the EGI Design Study will guide the further work leading to a "final draft" or "blueprint" describing the EGI in more detail. This blueprint is expected to be ready for further discussion at the next EGI\_DS workshop at CERN on 30th June - 1st July.

At the end of the Rome workshop, the representatives of the NGIs gathered in a closed session "Policy Board" overseeing and steering the project. The chairman of the Policy Board Gaspar Barreira of Portugal stated after the workshop: "The body represents and puts together all the National Grid Initiatives in Europe. It follows and endorses the entire process of designing the future European Grid Infrastructure. The interoperable permanent grid computing framework will be for the benefit of the increasing community of users."

<http://www.eu-egi.eu>