

MINUTES

1st EGI Council Meeting

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

9th of July, 2009 10:00 – 16:00

Agenda and material (including presentations) available at

<http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=88>

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the local host - Logistics
2. Appointment of note-taker
3. Report on the MoU signature progress, agenda approval, participation of observers
4. Procedure for the Election of Chair and vice-chairs
5. EGI Council Executive Committee
6. EGI overview report from EGI_DS Project Director
7. MoU amendment process- Second round of signatures
8. Report from the EGI Organisational Task Force chair
9. Nomination of EGI proposals editorial board leaders
10. EGI proposals overview
11. Middleware update
12. Summary of future milestones and actions
13. AOB

Participants:

See the separate list of participants.

The meeting begins at 10:10.

1. **Welcome by the local host - Logistics**

Arjen van Rijn, the EGI Organisational Task Force chair, opens the meeting and welcomes all participants in Amsterdam.

He presents the logistic information for the day – lunch and visit of the Matrix building, the site of future EGI.eu offices. Luděk Matyska, EGI_DS Project Director, thanks Arjen for hosting the EGI Council meeting and welcomes all EGI Council meeting participants.

2. Appointment of note-taker

Luděk proposes Iva Krejčí from CESNET as note-taker of this meeting, which is approved.

As for this meeting Chairs, he proposes that the meeting is chaired by himself (as the EGI_DS Project Director) and that Gaspar Barreira (EGI Policy Board Chairman) serves as the Vice-Chair. The proposal is accepted unanimously by EGI Council members present.

Decision: For this meeting only, Luděk Matyska is the Chair and Gaspar Barreira is the Vice-Chair.

3. Report on the MoU signature progress, agenda approval, participation of observers

The Chairman states that the EGI Council really exists, as the conditions of establishment have been accomplished (the minimum number of countries and the minimum amount of contribution/year have been reached). He presents the report on the MoU (see his slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=17&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>): 24 Parties signed the MoU as of 8th July.

He asks EGI Council members for additional decision:

All Policy Board members have been invited to this meeting to participate as observers (they can participate in the discussion, however without voting rights), which needs to be approved from the EGI Council members.

A discussion followed:

Guy Wormser comments that according to the MoU only Member States and Associated States (27+12 countries) are allowed to become members (and observers) of the EGI Council. The other PB members are not included.

The Chairman explains that he is aware of the MoU text, however he proposes explicitly to extend the rule from the MoU for this meeting to all PB members who are present. The proposal is accepted.

Decision: all PB members present at the meeting are allowed to participate as observers (without voting rights) to this meeting.

Gaspar Barreira comments that the decision of the next meeting is not anticipated. Member and Associated countries should be called candidates, not observers.

The Chairman states that other experts from EGI_DS have been invited to the meeting: Laura Perini, Steven Newhouse, Juergen Knobloch, Rob van der Meer. He asks for approval of their participation at the meeting as observers. The proposal is approved.

Decision: the experts are allowed to participate as observers (without voting rights) to this meeting.

Guy Wormser states that according to the MoU, EGI Council can invite experts. However it is not clear who invites them.

The Chairman explains that for this meeting he took care – as the EGI DS Project Director – to invite the experts mentioned above.

The Chairman presents the EGI Council quorum: 875 votes from 1214, some 360 kEURO for 2009. CERN decided to pay a fee corresponding to 10 votes.

The Chairman proposes to use the PB Bylaws for the 1st EGI Council meeting. Difference from the Policy Board: the countries have different number of votes and so the voting procedure will be more complicated.

Jacko Koster comments on the gap between the amount of contributions from EGI Council members and the amount mentioned in the Blueprint needed for the EGI.eu establishment.

The Chairman explains that the South-Western countries (Spain, Portugal) are expected to join the EGI Council, which will cover the gap. It will be then discussed within the EGI Council how to deal with the membership fees.

The meeting participants present themselves and their status in the EGI Council. Neil Geddes asks to distribute the list of meeting participants with their affiliations after the meeting.

Action: the list of all meeting participants to be distributed to EGI Council members.

Approval of the agenda

The Chairman asks for comments and modifications of the agenda to be proposed only by the EGI Council members. As no comments were raised, the agenda is approved unanimously.

Decision: the agenda of the 1st EGI Council meeting is approved.

Observer status for EGEE and NDGF

EGEE and NDGF have applied for an observer status in the EGI Council (formal letters have been received): as being PB observers, they expressed interest to become observers of the EGI Council as well. As the approval of the EGI Council members is needed, the Chairman asks the Council to deal with these 2 requests in general, not only for this meeting, within the MoU amendment session. As discussed already, the observer status is restricted only to potential future members and could be extended only through MoU amendment. This will be discussed eventually during the MoU session. For the moment the NDGF representative is accepted as expert (the EGEE representative is not present).

Decision: NDGF representative is accepted as expert without voting rights to this meeting.

4. Procedure for the Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Chairman explains that the following proposal of the procedure for this election has been included in the text of meeting agenda (see the slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=18&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>):

- the EGI Council has 1 Chair and 2 Vice-Chairs (taken from the PB Bylaws and already explicitly defined in the MoU)
- the EGI Council Chair is elected by the EGI Council
- Vice-Chairs are proposed by the elected Chair and confirmed by the EGI Council.

This proposal needs to be approved by the EGI Council.

Proposal for the Chair search and election:

- nominations by an EGI Council member (CV, acceptance of the nominee)
- nominations published to the members and observers 10 days before the second EGI Council meeting
- election during the second EGI Council meeting (secret vote of up to 3 nominees)
- Vice-Chairs are proposed by the elected Chair and confirmed by the simple majority.

The meeting participants are asked for comments.

Ivan Maric asks for the explanation of Chair and Vice-Chairs roles. Why does the EGI Council need 2 Vice-Chairs? Luděk explains that it has been taken from PB Bylaws. Guy Wormser remarks that also in the MoU the EGI Council Chair has 2 deputies. Luděk states that it is important to decide on the procedure for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and proposes that EGI Council members agree that the election can happen during the second EGI Council meeting. The proposal is approved.

Decision: the election of the EGI Council Chair and Vice-Chairs will take place during the second EGI Council meeting.

The Chairman then asks the meeting participants for any modifications on the procedure of nominations.

Guy comments that only EGI Council members should be nominated. The official list is needed, which includes members or deputies. Luděk states that the list is being collected by CESNET and will be then distributed and is also available on the web (see <http://www.eu-egi.eu/partners/egi-council-members>).

Action: the list of EGI Council members and deputies to be distributed to EGI Council members.

A discussion followed:

Gaspar comments that the restriction of nominations to EGI Council members only would exclude a lot of important people, e.g. EGI_DS Management Board.

Mirco Mazzucato expresses his agreement with Guy`s proposal.

Luděk proposes not to put any constraints for nominated people.

Jack Koster asks how many nominations will be accepted per Council member?

Decision: 1 nomination per Council member is approved.

Ivan Maric proposes to elect the Chair and also his 2 deputies, so the list of 3 persons would be needed (as written in the MoU)

Gaspar Barreira explains the reason of the proposed rule that the Chair can nominate his Vice-Chairs (taken from the PB Bylaws): the Chair must trust his Vice-Chairs and thus he proposes these names for approval to the body. This is a guarantee for not having any conflict between the Chair and Vice-Chairs. Also, when the Chair steps down, both Vice-Chairs must step down.

Luděk asks the EGI Council members to agree on the proposed procedure from PB Bylaws. The proposal is approved.

Decision: the procedure for electing the EGI Council Chair and Vice-Chairs will be the same as for the election of the EGI PB Chair and Vice-Chairs (will be taken from the EGI Policy Board Bylaws).

Brian Coghlan states that the EGI Council Bylaws are needed. Luděk explains that it will be written by the Steering Committee and the Chair.

The Chairman then asks the EGI Council members if they wish to restrict the right to present nominations only to EGI Council members as of today.

Ivan Maric comments that each EGI Council member who signed the MoU should be able to present nominations.

The Chairman proposes to EGI Council members to agree on the following rule:

Any EGI Council member has the right to submit nominations, being Council member at the time when the nomination is sent.

The proposal is approved.

Decision: Any EGI Council member has the right to submit nomination for EGI Council Chair, being Council member at the time when the nomination is sent.

5. EGI Council Executive Committee

The Chairman presents a proposal regarding the setup of the Executive Committee (see the slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=19&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>) :

- need of a body that steers next steps (project preparation, EGI Council bylaws)

- proposal to create an Executive Committee (EXEC) = regional organization inspired by EGEE: any member of EXEC must have 70 votes at minimum
- up to 9 eventual EXEC members

A discussion followed:

Christoph Witzig asks for explanation of its role in the proposal writing.

The Chairman explains that this body can help to solve any problems/disputes.

Klaus Ullmann comments on the status of CERN and suggest that CERN is the EIROForum institution should not be arbitrary affiliated with Germany and Switzerland but should have a separate seat, even if this is currently below the 70 votes threshold. The Chairman explains that the proposal was based on the assumption that the threshold must be kept. After a short discussion Klaus' proposal is accepted with EIROForum members having separate seat in the Exec Committee regardless of the threshold for countries.

Sverker Holmgren states that the EXEC is not mentioned in the Blueprint. The mandate is important (in relation to EGI Council) and needs to be clear from the beginning.

Ivan Maric proposes not to call it EXEC now (help for project proposal writing).

The Chairman states that EXEC is foreseen for the period from now till September/October (the EGI Council has not a Chair yet).

Sverker Holmgren proposes to change name: Steering Group or Task force.

Isabel Campos Plasencia comments on the non-existence of the EXEC within the MoU (the lawyers will have objections).

The Chairman explains the need of a steering body from now till the moment the Council Chair is elected. He asks the Council members for proposal how to steer with the process.

A discussion followed.

Klaus Ullmann proposes to call it Task Force and extend its duration.

The Chairman asks how to provide an input from EGI Council to EdB. Next EGI Council meeting is planned to take place in Barcelona during the EGEE III conference. At this time the draft proposal is expected to be available. Then next EGI Council meeting is planned in the second half of October during the inauguration workshop of EGI.eu (final proposal available).

Gaspar Barreira asks if it would be acceptable that South-West countries (blocked by bureaucratic problems) join the EXEC at the moment the MoU is signed.

The Chairman replies that under the condition an agreement on the steering committee exists and its regional representations are accepted, it is acceptable. He underlines again a need of the EGI Council representation for the next few months.

Brian Coghlan proposes to vote on this issue.

The Chairman asks the EGI Council the following:

Do we agree that we need a steering committee that will represent the EGI Council at this moment towards the EdB and will deal with any emergencies that arise from EdB work?

Sverker Holmgren proposes to call it EGI Council Working Group and keep it in place during the duration of the MoU.

Gaspar Barreira states that the problem is with the name of the body: he proposes EGI Council Interim Task Force. He adds that as it will be a Council body, the restriction of membership should be to EGI Council members.

The Chairman stops the discussion, the issue remains undecided. He proposes to discuss the EXEC topic during the lunch and after that another proposal will be presented.

6. EGI overview report from EGI_DS Project Director

Luděk Matyska presents the activities since last PB meeting in Amsterdam (see his slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=20&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>): MoU, OTF for the EGI.eu, EGI project(s) EdB, UMD Task Force for middleware. He reports briefly on the EC Info Day (18th June in Brussels). The EGI Council Membership is mentioned: unclear definition of “European country” (the MoU includes a restriction to Member and Associated States); grids attracted interest from the National Security Agencies (French initiative); extensions of the EGI Council Membership must be decided by the EGI Council.

7. MoU amendment process- Second round of signatures

Guy Wormser reports on requests for changes of the MoU document received from several countries (see his slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=21&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>). The revised version of the MoU has

been distributed to the EGI Council at the meeting (working version with the proposed changes).

Guy explains the changes in the MoU document: Definitions, Article 4, Article 5 – two numbering mistakes in decision rules, new version of point q).

New point raised at this meeting: “The EGI Council may invite experts if it deems appropriate”.

Should it be precised in the MoU amendment? – Who is inviting and how, delegations attendance (1 or 2)

Article 9

Annex 2 issues: Albania omitted, not uniform treatment of Former Soviet Union Countries, Hungary’s contribution.

Guy proposes that EGI Council members agree on the list and principles of all modifications at today’s meeting. Then the MoU amendment will be circulated to Council for final comments, signature will be needed before 31 July (this is a proposed date).

A discussion followed:

Neil Geddes comments on the signature deadline, which is too early taking into account the holiday period.

Gaspar Barreira states that this process will take too long. He proposes that an Appendix is published. The list of changes can be then included in the EGI statutes.

Klaus Ullmann explains that Germany can’t agree on this, as the German government asked to follow the French position on the Article 5.

Isabel Campos Plasencia states that Spain has adopted the same position.

Brian Coghlan proposes to submit the revised version of the MoU to voting, not to sign the document.

Michel Wilson agrees that the EGI Council could adopt the MoU amendment now (instead of its signature).

Jacko Koster states that the position of Norway on the point q) of Article 5 is not clear now (thus he can’t vote at this meeting).

Luděk Matyska adds that the revised wording of the Article 9 is not acceptable for the Czech NGI.

Klaus Ullmann asks that the Article 9 related to the Intellectual Property Rights is reviewed and amended if needed in the next round (it won’t be treated by the EGI Council of the 9th of July).

Luděk asks Guy to prepare a list with all corrections and amendments (including Article 5) that can be distributed in the afternoon (without the Intellectual Property Rights article). This list will be submitted to a vote of EGI Council.

8. Report from the EGI Organisational Task Force chair

Arjen van Rijn presents his report (see his slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=22&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>): activities of the local host, governance (Collaboration level, level of the Foundation “Stichting EGI.eu”), ERIC vs Foundation.

He asks then the meeting participants for comments.

Gaspar Barreira comments that ERICs will have a privileged treatment in the future, which has to be taken into account. He advises that NGIs go through the EGI.eu statutes draft as soon as they receive it to find out if there are any constraints for their institutions.

Neil Geddes asks for explanation of the reason of the EGI Collaboration existence. Why not to have just the Foundation?

Arjen explains that the Collaboration is a long term body encompassing all of the NGI activities that includes EU projects and EGI.eu.

Klaus Ullmann expresses a strong support for the proposal of the Organisational TF to proceed with establishing Foundation “EGI.eu” and at the same time closely follow developments regarding ERIC model.

Guy Wormser comments that CNRS has expressed a position to follow the ERIC model.

The Chairman proposes that the EGI Council endorses the following proposal: we should continue with the Dutch Foundation setup and in parallel start to declare that EGI wants to go for the ERIC model as soon as feasible.

The proposal is accepted unanimously.

Decision: the Dutch Foundation setup will continue and in parallel the intention of EGI to go for the ERIC model as soon as feasible will be declared.

Arjen invites then all comments on the draft documents.

Action: all EGI Council members are asked to send comments to Arjen van Rijn.

Deadline: 7th of August.

Guy Wormser proposes that each NGI should make a survey of time schedule in its country for getting signature of the EGI.eu Statutes. The Chairman agrees that a message will be sent.

Action: A message to be sent to NGIs regarding the time schedule for signature process of the EGI.eu Statutes.

9. Nomination of EGI proposals editorial board leaders

The Chairman presents the nominations of EGI proposals Editorial Board leaders (see the slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=24&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>):

Interim EGI.eu Director: Steven Newhouse – responsibilities: transition towards the EGI scheme, coordination of EGI projects.

Laura Perini – leading the editorial work of the “EGI Proper” proposal

Cal Loomis – leading the editorial work on project(s) focusing on the Applications and SSCs

No hierarchy has been established between these leaders.

Rene Belso proposes to introduce such a hierarchy: Steven Newhouse to be the main leader.

A discussion followed.

David Foster proposes to ask Laura and Steven to leave the room during this discussion, which is done.

The discussion followed.

The Chairman proposes to vote on the nominations in block (all 3 names), which is approved. The Chairman then asks the EGI Council members if they wish to vote in public or in secret vote. The secret vote is agreed by EGI Council.

Result: the proposal of the 3 nominations has been approved by the EGI Council.

Decision: Steven Newhouse is an Interim EGI.eu Director, Laura Perini will be leading the editorial work of the “EGI Proper” proposal, Cal Loomis will be leading the editorial work on project(s) focusing on the Applications and SSCs.

Laura and Stephen return and are congratulated on their appointment.

Participation at the Editorial Work

The Chairman presents the following proposal to EGI Council:

- All EGI Council members are invited to submit nominations for contributors to the Editorial Board leaders.
- The Editorial Board leaders will use the nominations to create task forces taking care of specific parts of the proposals.
- Any disputes are settled by the EGI Council Executive Committee.

Ivan Maric asks to put a deadline for this process.

The Chairman sets the deadline to the 23th of July.

A discussion followed.

Conclusion: no objections raised to this proposal.

Action: EGI Council members to submit contributors nominations to the EdB leaders by 23th July.

Michel Spiro proposes to go to the MoU amendment issue at this moment, which is agreed.

The MoU amendment changes

The list of MoU amendment changes has been distributed to the participants during the meeting for approval (the minor typos in the Annex 2 have been corrected).

EGI Council members are asked to approve this list.

An objection is raised by Turkey regarding the Article 5 wording (50 votes against the proposal).

Norway abstains with its 40 votes.

Decision: The MoU amendment changes have been accepted.

EGI Council Steering Committee

The Chairman asks EGI Council members to consider the approval of the following proposal regarding the Steering Committee:

Responsibilities: Steering the EGI Constitution and Statutes drafting, steering EGI project(s) preparation

Lifetime: till the EGI Constitution and Statutes is accepted

Regional Representation plus CERN: new member in the TF is expected from SWE
Each region expected to appoint a representative and an alternate that are explicitly (in "written") agreed by all EGI Council members in the region. New member cannot challenge the representative already agreed.

A discussion on the regional distribution followed.

The Chairman asks then EGI Council members to vote on the proposal presented.

Result: 595 votes for the proposal, 270 votes against the proposal, 6 votes abstain.

Decision: the setup of the EGI Council Steering Committee has been accepted.

10. EGI proposals overview

Steven Newhouse – the Interim EGI.eu Director – makes his presentation on the EC project status (see the slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=25&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>): EGI project overview, EGI global & NGI international tasks, SSC project(s), next steps (checkpoint at EGEE`09 in September).

The EGI Council members are asked to provide their feedback (input from NGIs on the international tasks).

Laura Perini follows with her presentation on EGI Proper Proposal status and issues (see the slides at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=25&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>): first outline, different WPs.

The Chairman proposes that Steven and Laura ask the Council for specific issues. Laura states that a specification of the names contributing to the writing is needed. Steven asks NGIs to identify names for different WPs.

Rene Belso asks to discuss the composition of the team who has prepared the first outline.

It is explained that this team has been selected by the EdB leaders based on the proposal of EGI PB members (as asked during the last EGI PB meeting).

Steven mentions a need of managerial people, technical people, reviewers, etc.

A discussion followed.

Patrick Aerts comments on the confidentiality of the project proposal.

The Chairman states that not all intermediary steps in the project proposal writing should be made available. It can be reasonably public for EGI Council members.

Action: A mailing list for EGI Council observers (those who are approved) will be set up by CESNET.

EGI Council members are asked to send all their questions by e-mail.

11. Middleware update

Removed from the agenda (the slides are available at <http://web.eu-egi.eu/MaKaC/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=26&slotId=0&confId=88#2009-07-09>).

12. Summary of future milestones and actions

The Chairman presents the future milestones and actions:

23rd July – contributors nomination by EGI Council members

23rd July – Steering Committee appointment: names to be announced to the EGI Council members, CESNET is collecting the confirmation of countries that they agree with the representative

7th August – comments for the EGI Convention and Statutes

24th September – second EGI Council meeting

1st October – the membership fees due

19-30th October – EGI.eu inauguration workshop, 3rd EGI Council meeting

24th November – EC Call closing

13. AOB

None.

The Chairman closes the meeting and thanks Arjen for hosting it.

The meeting ends at 17:30.

	Action	Responsible person	Deadline
A1	the list of meeting participants to be distributed to EGI Council members	CESNET	ASAP
A2	the list of EGI Council members and deputies to be distributed to EGI Council members	CESNET	ASAP
A3	comments on the draft Statutes and Foundation to be sent to Arjen van Rijn	All EGI Council members	7 th August
A4	message to be sent to NGIs regarding the time schedule	EGI DS	ASAP

	for signature process of the EGI.eu Statutes		
A5	contributors nominations to be sent to the EdB leaders	All EGI Council members	23th July
A6	mailing list for EGI Council observers to be set up	CESNET	ASAP

	Decision
D1	For this meeting only, Luděk Matyska is the Chair and Gaspar Barreira is the Vice-Chair (Iva Krejčí is notetaker).
D2	All PB members present at the meeting are allowed to participate as observers (without voting rights) to this meeting.
D3	The experts are allowed to participate as observers (without voting rights) to this meeting.
D4	The agenda of the 1 st EGI Council meeting is approved.
D5	NDGF representative is accepted as expert without voting rights to this meeting.
D6	The election of the EGI Council Chair and Vice-Chairs will take place during the second EGI Council meeting.
D7	1 nomination for EGI Council Chair per Council member is approved.
D8	The procedure for electing the EGI Council Chair and Vice-Chairs will be the same as for the election of the EGI PB Chair and Vice-Chairs.
D9	Any EGI Council member has the right to submit nomination for EGI Council Chair, being Council member at the time when the nomination is sent.
D10	The Dutch Foundation setup will continue and in parallel the intention of EGI to go for the ERIC model as soon as feasible will be declared.
D11	Steven Newhouse is an Interim EGI.eu Director, Laura Perini will be leading the editorial work of the “EGI Proper” proposal, Cal Loomis will be leading the editorial work on project(s) focusing on the Applications and SSCs.
D12	The MoU amendment changes have been accepted.
D13	The setup of the EGI Council Steering Committee has been accepted.