E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America
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EELA News
Bulletin
Nº4 – Year 2
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EDITORIAL

Jesús Casado

Dear friends,

During these last two years we have shared happy moments and some others ones not so much around our EELA Project, first in the redaction phase and lately during the lifetime of the Project.

It has been a time for hard work which has allowed us to meet one to each other as well as to value the professional and personal abilities of everyone I think this experience has been very useful for me and, in I suppose, to the rest of you. We have also had some leisure time, not so much in fact, which we have enjoyed it together

The EELA Project is working properly thanks to the huge effort from all of you who have dedicated your time and your great knowledge in order to reach the goals defined in the Technical Annex. The European Commission has evaluated our Project as one of the best in the e-Infrastructure area.

I write this editorial to tell you that some weeks ago I received a very important job offer in the Spanish Ministry of Public Administration as Director of New Technological Strategies. It was difficult for me to accept, but at the end I did it. As a consequence, I must resign of my actual position as Head of the Architecture Area in CIEMAT and, in particular, as EELA Project Coordinator.

I would like to thank you your dedication and work in the Project and, above all, the friendship that you have given to me; I will always keep a nice remind of you and, of course, you can count on me for any professional or personal future occasion.

Best regards,
Jesús Casado

Information Society Technologies

Contract no. 026409

EC Reviewers declared to be "Quite happy with the overall presentation" of the Project

EELA CELEBRATES A YEAR FULLY ACCOMPLISHED DURING ITS FIRST REVIEW

After 14 months, at the end of February, in Madrid, EELA (E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America) had and passed with success its first review made by the Reviewers and Project Officers of the European Commission. Almost a week of rehearsals - where each member of the project was called to analyse in depth and help to correct the five presentations and the three demos that were prepared - and just a couple of hours to show through those presentations and demos a year of work and progress, for a result that was more than expected and can be explained through the words of the EC Reviewer Isayvani Naicker: "In general terms we want to say that you did great presentations and great demonstrations of the applications; we are quite happy with the overall presentations, and of the EELA Project itself. The project it is of vital importance considering the relationship of Latin America with Europe and the European Commission considers it so, and like what it has been done".

María José López Pourailly

Held on the 27th and 28th of February 2007 in Madrid (Spain), and hosted by CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, MedioAmbientales y Tecnológicas), this event was not only about EELA, actually it was the First EELA, EUMEDGRID and EUChinaGRID Review, meaning that these three major Grid projects were under the microscope of the Reviewers of the European Commission (EC). For the three of them it was the moment to present to the EC what was done with the funds, what were the achievements and failures after the first year in each of the projects. In simple words, it was the unique opportunity to show if the projects worth the effort and the financial and politic costs assumed by the EC.

Work Packages, External Advisory Committees, EU Project Officers and Reviewers of the three Projects did participate in the Reviews, that were preceded by a "preparation week" (to rehearse and discuss about each presentation that was going to be shown at the Review) and followed by a two-day e-Science Congress (on the 1st and 2nd of March) organized by CIEMAT.

EELA achievements in 2006

The EELA project is organized in four Work Packages (WP). Each one of them addresses a different area in the work plan: WP1 - Project Administrative and Technical Management, WP2 - Pilot Test-bed Operation and Support, WP3 - Identification and Support of Grid Enhanced Applications, and WP4 - Dissemination Activities. After a year of work, each of these WPs have achieved almost all the goals expected for that period (which is actually the first half of the whole project development time-life). Those achievements or works carried out, were the central core of each one of the presentations given at the First Review.

In short, those achievements were the following:

WP1:

Contract Signature (20/12/2005)

* Kick-Off Meeting - KoM (30/01/2006 to 02/02/2006)
* External Advisory Committee established -Mailing lists created (29)
* New EELA Web Site online (http://www.eu-eela.org)
  - Event agenda created (http://indico.eu-eela.org)
  - Project Documents repository created (http://documents.eu-eela.org)
  - New Timesheet Tool developed http://tsheet.eu-eela.org)
  - Support System available (http://support.eu-eela.org)
* EC Funds for 2006 distributed among partners
* MoUs with BELIEF (signed), EGEE-2, SEEGRID-2 (signed)
* 8 Milestones(100%) met on time
  - 14 Deliverables (100%) submitted to EC on time
  - 1 pending submission to EC

WP2:

* WP2 labour force is composed of 44 individuals, part-time or full-time
* The EELA Pilot Test-bed is currently made of 10 production sites and 6 sites under certification (2 non-EELA sites)
* The total effort of computing power committed so far is 98.3% and disk storage is 92.5% of the proposed in the Technical Annex
* The Central middleware repository (hosted by EOC-UFRJ) was utilised to perform 100 installations (excluding tutorial installations)
* Network software has been tuned to make effective use of the available high-bandwidth, high-latency end-to-end network connections between Europe and Latin America
* All monitoring Tools are fully operational
* The Brazilian Certification Authority is in operation
  - There are currently 10 active user certificates
  - 2 active e-Infrastructure manager certificates
  - There have been 8 CRLs issued (6 months of operation)
  - 65 active host/service certificates
* 2 distinct VOs (EELA and EDTEAM)
  - 2 EGEE VOs (ALICE and LHCB)
  - 120k successfully executed jobs

WP3:

* 61 EELA VOMS users
* 13 Running Applications
* 9 Applications developed by EELA
* 12 New applications interested in joining EELA (From 1st Grid School + Questionnaire)
* 51 Presentations in conferences 4 Papers/proceedings published
* 4 Deliverables
* 11 Monthly reports
* 5 Information Sheets

WP4:

* 9 Tutorials
  1 Grid School
  2 Workshops
  1 Conference
* 386 Participants enrolled
  - 1194 Participants X Days
  - 5 Local Training Teams
  - 4.8/6 Average Feedback
* 4 Press releases
  - 53 Press cuts
  2 Bulletins
  3 Posters
  2 Banners
  1 Fact sheet
  1 Brochure (English, Spanish and Portuguese versions)
* 46 new communities filling out the Survey of Communities (12 of them from non-EELA countries)

The Review general results

In the Agenda, the morning of the first day of the Review (the 27th of February) was for EUChinaGRID, the evening was for

EELA Purpose and Approach:

Build a bridge between consolidated e-Infrastructure initiatives in Europe and emerging ones in Latin America.

Create a collaboration network to deploy a large portfolio of scientific applications on a well supported Pilot Test-bed.

Care in parallel of the training in Grid technologies and of the knowledge dissemination and outreach.

EELA Objectives:

Establish a scientific collaboration network:
- · Setting up the structure of the collaboration network.
- · Implementing adequate support mechanisms.
- · Adopting policies, regarding the shared use of the e-Infrastructure.
- · Evaluating new possible areas of collaboration and relevant partners.

Set up a pilot e-Infrastructure in Latin America, interoperable with the existing one in Europe (EGEE):
- · Adopting a Security Policy based on public and private certificates and establishing Certification Authorities (CAs).
- · Creating Virtual Organisations (VOs) for identified research communities.
- · Supporting advanced use of the network and fully integrating it in the shared e-Infrastructure scheme.

Identify and promote a sustainable framework for e-Science:
- · Identifying research communities and applications that will be enhanced thanks to the use of a shared e-Infrastructure.
- · Supporting a dissemination effort towards identified and new communities.
- · Defining a roadmap for a future consolidated e-Infrastructure in Latin America and its links to Europe.

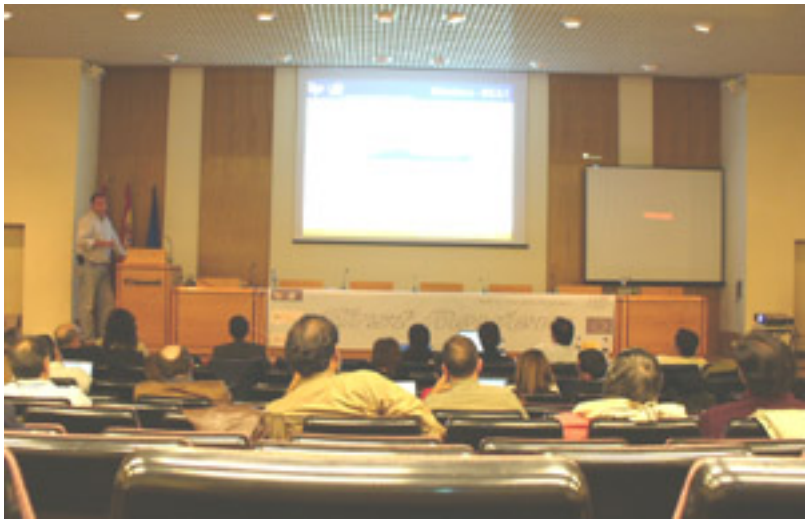
EELA and EUMEDGRID was scheduled for the morning of Wednesday the 28th.

The tension could be smelled in the air. The continuity of each project was in jeopardy. The reviewers had to do their job, and the questions weren't easy.
The evening of the 28th was for the Closing Session: the moment was all about "all or nothing". Carmen Mena, Project Officer of the Unit of 'Research Infrastructure', defined the scenario: "There will be 55 minutes for questions, recommendations and oral feedbacks".

After some questions addressed to EUChinaGrid and EUMEDGRID, an important advice was given by Carmen Mena to the three projects: "We do not have seen a homogeneous way of defining the criteria for the way to decide for one application and not other one. In a cluster level you should do an extra effort to define the criteria. Some of the deliverable produced won't reach the politicians and the decision makers; you have to sell this, you have to put an extra effort in the policy, you have to pass this message to them, ask them for money and long term commitments, you have to commit your self to maintain your projects in time; this is for the three projects: this is our view for the cluster recommendations. You have to discuss how to address these people, not everybody understands about Grid and don't care; they care if that has an impact and if it is beneficial for some regions".

"The problem is at regional level, you must know how to reach the politicians, the decision makers, and you have to use your creativity through the project. You need them to help you with money and to ensure your sustainability. We need national efforts to provide impetus for networking projects", concluded the Project Officer.

The EELA Review results



Isayvani Naicker was the reviewer in charge of giving the preliminary results (the EC has a couple of months to elaborate a document with the final results and recommendations) to the EELA representatives: "In general terms we want to say that you did great presentations and great demonstrations of the applications; we are quite happy with the overall presentations, and of the EELA Project itself. The project it is of vital importance considering the relationship of Latin America with Europe and the European Commission consider it so, and like what it has been done.

"The approach of the researchers that have been involved in the project is very well recognized, and also the extension of the application areas of interest; the inclusion of the users of the regions and the new users it has been very important. Also the involvement with the users is noticed and well considered.

"The Certification Authorities as well, the work that has been carried with the CA in LA is fine, but anyhow they can be improved and you have to find out how to do that; the e-Learning application could be an extension of the CAs, and so you could take them further.

"About RedCLARA and the network itself, the sustainability issues are considered but through the project itself you are taking this network forward. It is acknowledge the importance that the European Commission gives to RedCLARA.

"A gap is in the policy domain, and the issues that were showed as clustering by Carmen. The policy issues must be raised. The policy issue it is the key for sustainability. You have to focus in dissemination for the people that will be benefited from the users: policy makers and intensive work with politicians and decision makers. WP4 needs other types of resources; the Grid School video, if you could target it to the policy makers you could show them your achieves, and so it could be use in a much more effective way; you have to link the dissemination activities with the policy makers, and that will, of course, help also to the sustainability of RedCLARA".

Now, while EELA keeps working to achieve all the objectives of the project, and in the middle of the preparation of a proposal of a new project that is going to be presented to a 7th Framework Programme call, the EC reviewers have sent to the EELA Project Office the final document that contains the in depth analysis and the results of the Review . This document it's a new input that will guide the EELA team through the best way to finalize the second year of the project.

EGRIS-2 Announcement

The Second EELA Grid School (EGRIS-2) will take place in Merida (Venezuela), from July, 30 to August, 10, 2007.

The instructions about how to submit applications to be ported on the Grid during the school are available at: http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=90.

The dead line to submit proposals for applications is the 15th of June 2007. This activity is not restricted to the EELA members.

If you want to know more about EELA Grid Schools, take a look at the video of EGRIS-1: http://documents.eu-eela.org/getfile.py?recid=632.

If you are decided to participate, then please visit the 2nd EELA Grid School website: http://www.eu-eela.org/egris2/index.html.

Colombia:

EELA 4th WORKSHOP AND 9th TUTORIAL FOR GRID USERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

The EELA events were organized by the faculties of Science and Engineering of the University of Los Andes (Bogotá) and were carried out in the context of the Grid Computing Seminar.

María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz and María José López Pourailly

The 4th EELA Workshop and the 9th Tutorial for Grid Users and Administrators were part of the International Grid Computing Seminar that was organized by the University of Los Andes, Bogotá (Colombia), in collaboration with EELA and RENATA (the Colombian NREN), that was held between the 5th and 9th of March.

The objective of the Seminar was to promote Grid technology in the Andes Community and, of course, all the contents (lectures, presentations and tutorials) were given by Grid specialists.

The faculties of Science and Engineering of the University of Los Andes invited GRID Colombia to participate in the event to take advantage of the instance and join forces to increase its impact all over Colombia.

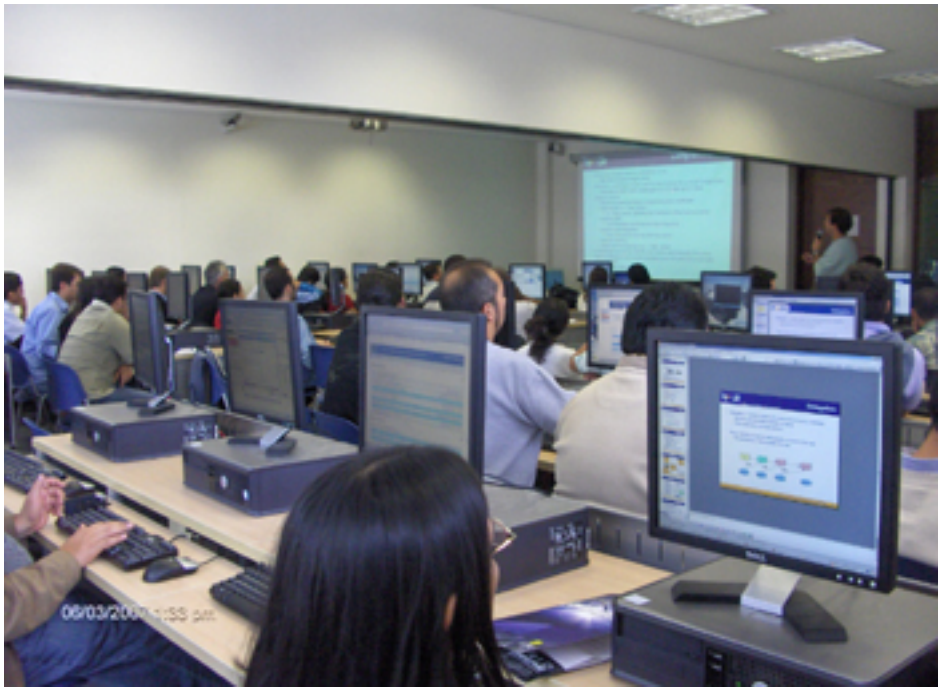
Attendees of the Workshop

In March 5th (always at the University of Los Andes), the Seminar started with the 4th EELA Workshop, which aimed to present the project to the Colombian scientific community and value the interest of Colombian institutions towards collaborating with EELA in the development of e-Science in the country. This activity also helped to promote other Grid projects and initiatives in the area of e-Infrastructures for e-Science, which are carried out in Europe, and to promote the importance of RENATA.

Following these activities, between March 6-9, the 9th EELA Grid Tutorial was offered for System Users and Administrators.

According to the organizers, the high motivation shown by the attendees, allows us to assume this Seminar will become a definitive impulse to the activities of the Grid Colombia initiative. In words of Harold Castro, Associated Professor of Systems Engineering and Informatics of the University of Los Andes and General Coordinator of the Seminar “The event was a success!! We managed to have people from different cities of

Colombia. Five days before we had to close the registration page because we exceed the auditorium's capacity (200 people). At the end we could receive more people but sometimes on the morning the auditorium was close to be full. Besides we provide 40 streaming connections (20 by the academic high speed network and 20 by Internet) and I was told that they were all in use at some time. With the support of Ministry of Education we facilitate the participation of people outside Bogotá and we had participants from more than 10 universities outside Bogotá in the tutorials".



A view of the Tutorial

More over, Castro highlights the following: "The fact that in the opening session we had a speech from the Ministry of Communications gave the event the high profile we wanted. The Ministry explicitly supported Grid activities in Colombia and took the message about the necessity of supporting high speed networks for such projects.

"The tutorials were also very well received. Participation and motivation was kept until the very last day. We had 54 participants and now I can say that we have a grid-enable community not only in Bogota but in other regions also. People wanted to keep in touch and they are planning a new activities for June/July".

The Tutorial was taught by instructors from Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina, all of them members of the EELA project: Vanessa Hamar, Pedro Raush, Yubiryn Ramírez and Matias Zabaljáuregui.

More information about the Workshop in the URLs:

* http://indico.eueela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=82
* http://agamenon.uniandes.edu.co/~esored/egrid/

More information about the Tutorial in the URL:
http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=83

Grid Colombia

Grid Colombia is defined as a virtual organization in its earlier stages, with a fundamentally academic basis and destined, so far, to centralize the efforts towards the creation of a computational Grid with academic purposes, which will operate over the National Academic Network of Advanced Technology (RENATA), on a regional and national scale.

The idea the project board members have – Ministry of National Education of Colombia, COLCIENCIAS (governmental Organization for the scientific development), the Connectivity Agenda, and the Front coordinators (explained below)- is for Grid Colombia to, in one year, set itself as the first distributed computing alternative in the country, and in two years, all universities connected to RENATA which are developing distributed computing projects join Grid Colombia, and in four years, Grid Colombia becomes visible, well-recognized and certified as a Grid alternative on an international level.

Today, Grid Colombia is on its first phase (which is estimated to last one year) and, so far, it has carried out a series of activities which have allowed it to advance in this process, such as: the campaign of invitation to the universities members of RENATA to participate in the project and to constitute the Directive Committee; formation of work fronts; formalization of the participation of the universities in the initiative, aiming to define the project's final conformation and to structure work plans for 2007; and presentation of proposals to obtain funding.

As a result of these activities, the “First Virtual Conference of Grid Technologies in Colombia: Grid Colombia, a way to form a community” was organized in November 2006, through a videoconference on the RENATA network. In such conference, all interested parties presented their project related works, and organized four fronts to distribute the work load of the national initiative.

* Formation and Training Front, coordinated by the Industrial University of Santander.
* Sustainability Front, coordinated by the University Manuela Beltrán.
* Configuration and Operation Front, coordinated by the University of Antioquia.
* Promoting and Popularization Front, coordinated by the Pontifical University Javieriana.

Once the Fronts were presented, participating institutions stated which one they wanted to participate in. The result: 13 universities joined one of the fronts. To date, Grid Colombia has participants from the regional sub networks that constitute RENATA.

Since the videoconference was held, the Ministry of Education and COLCIENCIAS have been promoting a call for proposals to allocate resources to projects which operate on RENATA, and one of the areas of the call for proposals is Grid. Grid Colombia will present two proposals, which intend to provide the initiative with real resources.

Grid Colombia closer to EELA

The idea of being involved in the EELA project has been on the minds of the creators of the Grid Colombia initiative since they began incubating the project. Everything started with the signing of a “Memorandum of Understanding” to participate in EELA, which, in the first instance, they thought would be enough to pin down the link during the March Seminar. However, the infrastructure and application demands have caused a delay in the plans and now they are intending to participate in a new project that under the name of EELA-2 (Enabling collaboration between European and Latin American communities) is going to be presented to a 7th Framework Programme call.

Still, there’s a delay in here also, and in words of the Colombians possible partners the main reason for this delay is that EELA-2 demands the creation of a “Joint Research Unit” (JRU) in each country that wishes to participate in the project, as the objectives is, above all, to generate a human investigation network. This JRU has not yet been established in Colombia, but Harold Castro, from the University of Los Andes, and Jorge Zuluaga, from the University of Antioquia are already working on its development.

The participation of Grid Colombia in the EELA-2 project will depend on the complexity and the time it will take to form a JRU; according to the creators of the Colombian project there is still some information missing, but the best intentions to achieve it are there. Clearly, this is an opportunity they don’t want to miss, seeing as this would be the perfect finale for Grid Colombia.

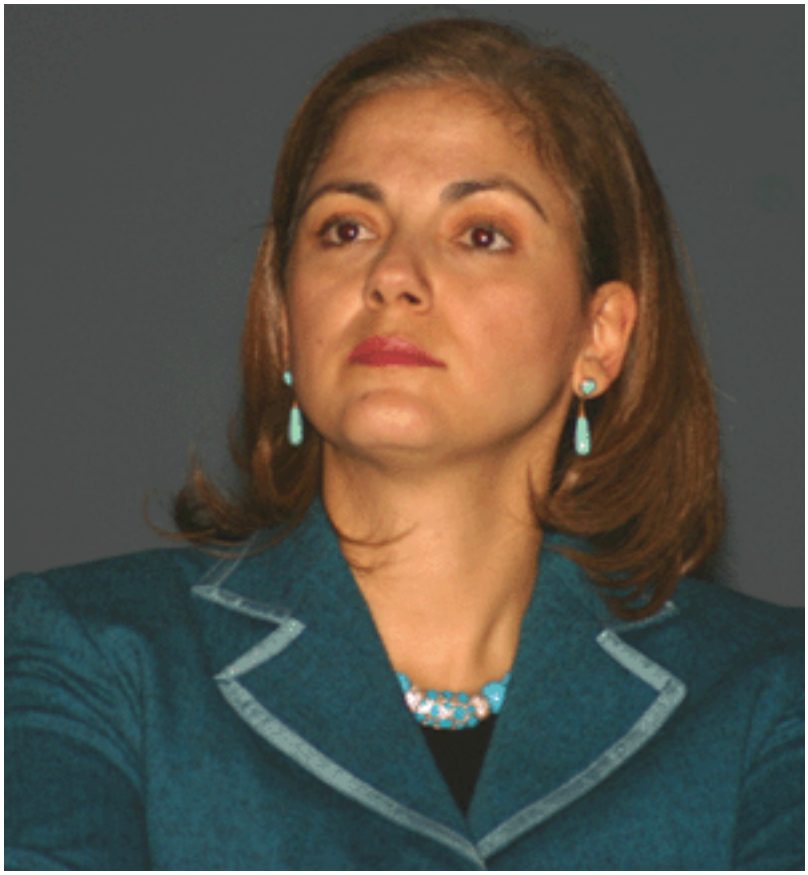
More information:

To access all information on Grid Colombia, visit: http://urania.udea.edu.co/grid-colombia

To access the 4th EELA Workshop presentations, go to : http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=82

To access the contents of the 9th EELA Tutorial, go to : http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=83

Speech of the Colombian Minister of Communications, María del Rosario Guerra de la Espriella, in the 5th Workshop Inauguration



Dear Mrt. Carlos Angulo, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Los Andes, Mrs. Alain Gauthier, Dean of the Engineering Faculty, Mrt. Rolando Roldán, Dean of the Science Faculty, Francisco Rueda, Director of the Department of Systems Engineering and Computation, Mr. Roberto Barbera, Technical Coordinator of the EELA project, professors, students, Mrs. Martha Giraldo, who has been a great support for the RENATA Project, and other attendants:

When the Vice-Chacellor invited me to this event, and when Dr. Tiberio confirmed me the invitation, I did not doubt about coming. Two years ago I was in Costa Rica in a Seminar of Grid Computing, with Europe and the United States. I went there representing COLCIENCIAS, and I was learning about the benefits of the computational grids for the economic and social development and, moreover, for research. At that moment our challenge was about linking Colombia and its different networks to our pairs in Europe, the USA and Latin America, in order to articulate projects to foster, in the case of research, all that capacity that was available in the world to insert Colombia in it. Hence, I'm really happy that today the University of Los Andes is the venue of this international seminar.

I want to thank all the people that today accepted the invitation of the University of Los Andes to participate in the International Grid Computing Seminar.

Together with the financial stake and the leadership of the programme of the Connectivity Agenda of the Ministry of Communications, the support of the Ministry of National Education and of COLCIENCIAS and, the most important, the commitment and support of the academic and of research institutions organized in regional networks, we are effectively advancing in the process of consolidation of RENATA, the National Academic Network of Advanced Technologies, that will allow us to get in touch with international networks such as the one that we are currently connected, RedCLARA, and through them to other networks in Europe, USA and of the rest of the world.

With RENATA Colombia is moving towards the massive use of the modern informatics technologies in the information high speed motorway. By integrating us with other networks we are facilitating the access to knowledge, braking the geographical boundaries, multiplying the access to information centers that foster real changes and gives lots of new opportunities to the Academy and research. The bigger difficulty on this process is to transit from the current model to a new one; today most of our academic and of research institutions functions as individual entities that doesn't share

their resources, that are opening pathways by their own, that develop only their programmes and that invest lots of resources to achieve their own goals. Our greater challenge now is to change from the individual model to a one of collaboration, that will allow us to empower the capacities of the infrastructure that Colombia has for research and knowledge creation.

My invitation is to take advantage of the organizational structure that RENATA has which can be traduced into organizations or networks placed in six different Colombian regions, and also into the advanced networks infrastructure through which these organizations are interconnected to establish partnerships and to foster conjunct strategies to optimize resources, generate synergies, share forces and work in a collaborative way not only in a national scale, but also in an international one.
This is the order to which all the institutions that truly want to be competitive must address their efforts: to offer a portfolio of products and services that enrich their current models or better, to be creative and develop new models with a good dose of new value, taking advantage of the rich possibilities that these new technologies offer.

A typical example of collaboration is the generation of technological infrastructure capacities to reach the integration of academic and of research institutions through the use of computational grids. Just aiming to exemplify this, the University of North Carolina has a grid just devoted to research Earth Disasters; that's a great example for Colombia, that does not only have volcanoes but also the risk of tidal waves in the Pacific coast. This is a strategic issue. In the Earth Disasters scope, we hope that our research groups establish connections with the computational grids of other countries and I refer to North Carolina because they are specialists in disasters prevention.

In the globalization era the fusion between informatics and communications has broken the limits of economic costs, time and distances, starting an era of formation and rapid growth of information and data management networks of worldwide character. This liaison has generated an enormous enlargement of productivity and a constant costs decrease. Computational grids are the opportunity to fulfill our data processing capacities and, carried by a good organization, they will be the opportunity to offer those capacities in an international level. Colombia is placed at the same level of the developed countries when inside of its boundaries things as this seminar occur, in specialized matters with the participation of international experts that are here to share their knowledge with us. Of great value will be the results of the work that is going to be carried here in the following days, concretely for the model that it is starting to be implemented, with the support of RENATA, for the creation of a National Grid, to which I wish success and I know it will have it due to the quality of the involved institutions and to the serious work they have been carrying out.

As I am really convince of that success, the Ministry of Communications, through our Connectivity Agenda, together with the institutions integrating RENATA, are trying to achieve the strengthening of all the implicated fronts; in the organization, the infrastructure, and the applications we will promote the use of the network fostering a strong and great impact of the information and communication technologies in our society.

The Ministry of Communications and the Connectivity Agenda will totally support RENATA and its connected regional networks to effectively foster the computational grid in Colombia and, therefore, to empower the national research and knowledge generation.

Thank you very much.

5th EELA Workshop:

IN LA PLATA EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT COMMITMENT

During April 29th and 30th, the city of La Plata (a 56 km. de la Capital Federal) witnessed the commitment of the Argentinean authorities with the development not only of the required e-Infrastructures for e-Science, but also of the scenario that their national scientific community needs to obtain the real benefits of that infrastructures.

María José López Pourailly

It was literally raining cats and dogs in La Plata that morning of April 29th, when the 5th EELA Workshop –the first one for Argentina- started in the traditional building of the Jockey Club Multiespacios.

Around 60 attendees (most of them from Argentinean scientific and academic institutions and from the EELA member institutions) where already in place when the authorities arrived to give their welcome and their support to the EELA project and to the local organizers: the Physics Institute of La Plata (CONICET/UNLP) and the Informatics Faculty of the University of La Plata (UNLP).

The architect Gustavo Aspiazu, President of UNLP, in charge of opening the session, highlighted the importance of the EELA project in terms of its e-Infrastructure, stating that for an institution that has around 110 thousand students, it is of main importance to be at the forefront of science and to be able to manage and properly use “these last generations mechanisms that will also help us to keep our trajectory” in terms of the application of the most advanced standards. Aspiazu thanked the EELA leaders for allowing UNLP to hold such an important event.

Dr. Carlos Rapela, member of the Board of the National Council for Scientific and Technologic Reasearch (CONICET) –the main Argentinean governmental organism for the promotion of Science and Technology- was extremely energetic in favor of EELA. In his speech he did not only refer to the importance of the project as the first one that introduces Argentina in the Grid technology uses and applications, moreover he sustained: “I’m sure that this Workshop will bring lots of benefits to the Scientific community of Argentina”, and he called the national scientists to take advantage of those benefits for the good of the country.

In the welcome session, Arch. Gustavo Aspiazu, Dr. Carlos Rapela and Dr. Angel L. Plastino.

The welcome session ended with the participation of Dr. Angel L. Plastino, Director of the Physics Institute of La Plata, who agreed with Dr. Rapela, by saying that for the institution that he represents it was very important to hold such an important event: “The fact that our university is participating in this project and holding this Workshop is so important for us and for our scientific community, because it is about our future.

Perhaps local people don't realize how important what is happening here is, but the success of this project will be transcendent for our future".

The welcome session was followed by an overview of the Grid projects in Europe, given by Roberto Barbera –EELA Technical Coordinator-, and a general presentation of EELA, in charge of Bernard Maréchal, Deputy Project Coordinator.

In the fourth session María Teresa Dova –local organizer and representative of UNLP in EELA- referred to e-Science and the Grid as a tool to develop e-Science in Argentina. To better illustrate the importance of Grids for the Argentinean scientific community, Dova explained the participation of her country (via EELA) in the ATLAS project –of High Energy Physics-, in some Bioinformatics initiatives, and in AUGERACCESS (Physics/Cosmic Rays in the Pierre Auger Observatory). The Physicist remarked the importance of EELA, stating that this project has "provided the framework of e-Science for Argentina". At the end of her presentation, María Teresa Dova, remembered to the academic and of funding agencies authorities, the importance of investing in e-Infrastructures and supporting Grid projects development and collaboration, focusing on the vital value of taking part in the new project "Enabling Collaboration Between European And Latin American Communities" (EELA-2), that is going to be presented to the 7th Framework Programme. The presentation of Dova was well complemented by the one of Javier Díaz (UNLP), who talked about research projects related to Grids in Argentina.

Of course, after talking about the projects in which Argentina participates, and of the different Work Packages that are part of the EELA project (e-Infrastructure, Applications and Dissemination Activities), it was time to talk about the Networks. RedCLARA –the Latin-American advanced Network- over which EELA operates, was introduced by Eriko Porto, RedCLARA Network engineer, who explained the new topology of the Network, its international connections and the way that it operates. From the side of the Argentinean National Research and Education Network (NREN), the recently created and already connected to RedCLARA Innovared (successor of RETINA), talked Alejandro Ceccato, Executive Director of the NREN, and although he recognized that for Innovared it will take a little time to get fully

Different moments of the Workshop

involved in Grid initiatives –because the NREN is so recently born- he declared that “the EELA project is very important for us, and we hope that our scientific community starts to use its Grid technology and therefore our network, really soon”.

A round table session took place before these Network and EELA project presentation sessions, but we prefer to refer them in this point because that was the moment in which all the speeches followed the premise given by Roberto Barbera: “It is of main importance to reach new communities in Argentina”. The voices of Javier Díaz, Alejandro Ceccato, Oscar Grau (UNLP), María Teresa Dova and Eriko Porto, each one of them from their own professional perspective, supported Barbera, concluding that is mandatory to spread the benefits and the experience gained in EELA not only in the whole Argentinean scientific community, but also in the Latin-American one.

The sessions of the first day ended with the presentations of Paula Venosa and Hugo Scolnik about the “Argentinean Certification Authorities for e-Science and first UNLP node on EELA” and the “Dr. Sadosky Foundation: towards research and development of TICS in Argentina”, respectively.

The April 30th sessions begun with a close meeting where the EELA members discussed about the advances of the project and some perspectives towards EELA-2. And while this session continued during the evening, the Workshop started at 15:00 with the following presentations: Activities at the CETA-CIEMAT, Services in AR.EMBnet, Grid Experience at the Complex System Laboratory, Parallel Algorithmns on Multi-Cluster Architectures using GRID Middleware: Experiences in Argentinian Universities, World Community Grid and a presentation of Microsoft.

The 5th EELA Workshop fully achieved its goal: “To promote the EELA project and the e-Infrastructures for e-Science within the Argentinean and South American scientific and research communities”; it also served as a scenario to compromise the future collaboration of the Argentinean Governmental Scientific and Technological Agency (CONICET) and NREN (Innovared) with the Argentinean e-Science development.

This event was locally sponsored by IBM, SUN and Microsoft.

Most of the presentations given in the 5th Workshop are available for downloading at:
http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=79

OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF UFF LAC CA

After passed its operational review, the UFF LACGrid CA is able to certificate researchers who do not have an accredited CA established in their own country.

The operation of the UFF LACGrid CA is crucial to permit more researchers in Latin America easier access to the benefits of Grid computing resources and facilitate their integration with e-Science research efforts in LA and around the world.

Vinod Rebello and María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz

The UFF Latin American and Caribbean Catch-all Grid Certification Authority (UFF LACGrid CA) has passed it operational review, and now it is entitled to be included in the International Grid Trust Federation's distribution list of accredited Grid Certificate authorities. UFF LA CGRID CA offers a free X509 IGTF accredited certification service for academic research and development activities in e-Science and Grid Computing being carried out in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The main purpose of the UFF LACGrid CA is to issue certificates to researchers who do not have such an accredited certificate authority (CA) established in their own country. Therefore the operation of the UFF LACGrid CA is crucial to permit more researchers in Latin America easier access to the benefits of Grid computing resources and facilitate their integration with e-Science research efforts in LA and around the world, thus fostering a much wider and more fruitful collaboration.

To explain the importance of the Operational Review of UFF LAC CAGrid, Vinod Rebello, from the Computing Institute of the University Federal Fluminense, Manager of the UFF LACGrid CA, briefly to EELA how the accreditation process works from the beginning.

According to him the best way to understand the operation and understand the benefits to EELA is to start with some background.

Digital Certificates, which "are like electronic identity cards and are used to identify users, computing resources or computing services and software. In EELA, these certificates are necessary to allow both resources to be integrated into the EGEE-EELA Grid computing infrastructure and users gain access to these resources", said Rebello.

An other important concept to mention is the role of Certificate Authorities (CA). They are "independent entities responsible for issuing certificates and attesting to the veracity of the information provided in these certificates", explained.

Vinod said that "the certificate authority needs to be trustworthy. The International Grid Trust Federation (IGTF) has three regional Policy Management Authorities (PMAs) responsible for evaluating the trustworthiness of Grid CAs. The IGTF's acrredited CA list is used by most of the production class Grids deployed across the world to identify trustworthy issuers of Grid certificates. The TAGPMA is the body responsible for evaluating and accrediting CAs in any country of the Americas".

After becoming a member o the TAGPMA, the second step, told us Rebello, is Accreditation. "First, a document (CP/CPS) which describes the policies governing the issuing of certificates and the operation of the CA must be drawn up and shown to meet the standards required by IGTF. Once approved, in the third step, an operational review is carried out to verify if the CA is indeed operating according to their CP/CPS document and issuing correctly formatted certificates".

Now that the, "UFF Latin American and Caribbean Catch-all Grid Certification Authority (UFF LACGrid CA) has passed it operational review, it is entitled to be included in the IGTF's list of accredited CAs. While a number of the countries in the Americas have (USA, Canada and Brazil) or soon will have (Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Venezuela) IGTF accredited Cas, 36 Latin American and Caribbean countries do not. The UFF LACGrid CA aims to serve these countries as well as help them set up their own certificate authorities".

The UFF LACGrid CA website is https://lacgridca.ic.uff.br. Universidade Federal Fluminense (UFF) is also responsible for the IGTF approved Brazilian Grid Certificate Authority (https://brgridca.ic.uff.br) which has already been fully operational for 9 months.

1st BELIEF-EELA International Conference, 25-28 June 2007, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE TODAY FOR THE VALUE OF TOMORROW

While Europe and Latin America may be at different stages in terms of IT innovation and the deployment of e-Infrastructures, the rewards they can reap by sharing experiences and expertise in this technology extend beyond new research and business opportunities to embrace social and civic benefits of great import. Strengthening e-Infrastructure collaboration on an international scale and across diverse sectors is the primary objective of the 1st BELIEF-EELA International Conference. A recent interview with representatives from both projects has brought to the fore common areas of interest and challenges that will be explored during the Rio conference for long-lasting co-operation.

By sharing e-Infrastructures between Europe and Latin America, EELA (http://www.eu-eela.org/) is playing an important role in creating a powerful research network developing an e-Infrastructure for e-Science applications. By bringing e-Infrastructures to expanding frontiers, BELIEF (http://www.beliefproject.org/) is facilitating co-operation between Europe, India and Latin America, and fostering the understanding and uptake of e-Infrastructures through technological reports with case studies, digital library with advanced features, and Brainstorming Workshops, Networking Sessions and international conferences.

So what is the value add of this first joint conference? According to Professor Edison Spina, BELIEF Partner from San Paulo University, Brazil, the value of this joint conference lies in bringing together players from science, R&D, developers of new applications, as well enterprises, both early adopters and potential users, who can learn about how more powerful e-Infrastructures have the potential to bring about a sea-change.

'One of the key challenges for Latin America is overcoming the barriers posed by the huge distances between inhabited areas. e-Infrastructures offer the possibility of reaching out to communities spread over long distances, bringing enormous benefits for learning, healthcare, government services and ultimately for business development, said Bernard Maréchal, EELA Deputy Project Co-ordinator. Spina added, 'Latin America has been facing infrastructure problems for a long time. In Brazil some populated regions are 3-4,000 thousand miles apart. I think e-Infrastructures offer the only feasible solution to many of these problems'.

Roberto Barbera, EELA Technical Director, stated, 'Europeans will be better informed about the issues facing Latin America, and particularly areas for future collaboration between the two regions. The conference will facilitate the aggregation of research institutions across Latin America, and demonstrate to decision-makers the need for policies fostering e-Infrastructure deployment to accelerate innovation and development'. Barbera added, 'the lessons learnt by EGEE in Europe can be brought to business applications'. BELIEF Project Co-ordinator, Stephen Benians, explained that the conference will actively promote the uptake of e-Infrastructures by businesses as the adoption of e-Infrastructures shifts from research to enterprise. The discussions and case studies will inject experiences gained by expanding user communities in both regions.

Maréchal highlighted how innovative scientific research is

paramount for science to enjoy a qualitative leap in research. e-Infrastructures help trigger solutions that would not be possible without them or that would take many years to solve. This critical mass in human knowledge will help tackle and solve other bigger issues. Bringing scientific researchers from all over world plays an important part in the knowledge exchange needed not only to deal with key issues but also to illustrate the advantages of engaging in targeted research activities. Benians added, 'not only is this kind of research important to tackle a range of current scientific challenges but it enables whole new sciences to be born'.

'Climate and Atmosphere are powerful examples of e-Science, as this issue needs addressing on a global scale. e-Infrastructures enable the processing of huge amounts of data required to start tackling climate change. EELA is currently engaged in a number of strategic applications which may benefit other groups. Key examples include stimulating atmospheric phenomena along the west coast of South America, and water preservation issues that are being tackled by a team of Brazilian experts. Further collaborative scenarios are currently being explored, for example with institutions in Uruguay. This is a very important year for climate and research efforts will pave the way for new solutions that will benefit a considerable number of people', said Maréchal.

Spina remarked, 'I think this is a powerful example of how infrastructures can bring together solutions from partners all over the world. Powerful processing Grids and huge amount of data are being generated in the area of climate and atmosphere in a way that is bringing many different people to work together for worldwide problem-solving. Nobody can do it alone whatever resources are available to them. It is an "earth-science" by nature'.

Another key topic highlighted during the interview was the role of e-Infrastructures in bringing enormous benefits for the health and well-being of citizens. 'e-Health is an important issue for Europe and much more so for developing countries that are facing considerable problems with neglected diseases, such as certain types of malaria. The HIV virus is another key issue, particularly as the virus in Latin America and Africa differs significantly to the virus in Europe', stressed Maréchal, who cited a series of early pre-tests on the Grid conducted by a federal university in Latin America. The growth in the number of scientific collaborations in the field of Biomedicine will notably further this user community over the next few years.

In Barbera's mind, e-Health research is vital. Poorer communities do not have sufficient financial resources to buy many of the new electronic medical tools. In this respect, one of the main advantages of infrastructures is that they enable healthcare providers to reach out to these poorer communities, overcoming the barrier of distance and offering vital medical services that are difficult under present circumstances. Spina also commented, 'for poorer regions, a very good basic healthcare system is undoubtedly a primary need. e-Infrastructures are very important because they can provide the virtual presence of specific knowledge or medical examinations far away from the main healthcare centres. Good e-Infrastructures enable distributed knowledge and bring a new quality of life to these people'.

Scientists and researchers have much to gain from attending this EU-Latin American conference, not only to discuss ways of tackling issues of global import but to explore new areas for continued and future collaboration. In this light, Barbera commented that the added value for scientists from both regions is fostering better and more intense collaboration across continents. All kinds of scientists will benefit. Young scientists will see new perspectives for research. New potential users of Grid-enabled technologies are the big issue here and this conference will pave the ground for future collaborations and up-take. On a similar note, Spina pointed out the opportunities for scientists to have face-to-face discussions, emphasising the outstanding platform offered to potential users of grids to see how these new technologies are changing the way people do research and business and governments deliver services to their citizens.

In Maréchal's mind, the world is moving fast towards e-society and e-government will follow suit. Driving forward e-infrastructures is a two-sided coin as governments support them actively and in turn use them to improve services to citizens. Benians noted, 'the 1st BELIEF Networking (IST2006, November 2006, Helsinki) demonstrated how data mining offers an effective tool to analyse social data to develop more effective policy on both a regional and national level. In fact, new ideas and imaginative solutions can lead to new government services for a more prosperous future'. The goal is to demonstrate to government bodies the enabling power of e-Infrastructures. Achieving this goal will have a knock-on effect, helping to widen the spectrum of domains adopting these more powerful resources. Spina remarked that new technologies will help reduce bureaucracy and costs, in addition to making services more efficient. Top priorities to ensure further development are widely viewed to be sustainability, the creation of certification authorities, and the involvement of policy makers.

The dedicated Business Track within the conference will play an important role in demonstrating the benefits of adoption to enterprises. Keys issues addressed include business drivers

and needs across diverse sectors, as well as how to ensure long-term sustainability. As Barbera noted, outreach to industry is one of the EELA objectives for the second year of the project. Hence the conference will pave the ground for this project goal, raising awareness of EELA among business players. 'The discussions will point to industry needs, show business players how they can collaborate with EELA and demonstrate the advantages of on-demand computing for peak needs using an external infrastructure', said Barbera. Spina believes that bringing actors together will help understand needs, test interest and show the benefits of grid technologies. This is a big step towards sustainability.

According to Benians, this session will demonstrate the advantages of e-Infrastructures for business pre-competitive research and a way of catalysing innovation. There are certain sectors in the short term that can certainly benefit from adoption, such as energy, engineering, the media, in addition to SMEs. BELIEF supports extending e-Infrastructures to industry through its technological reports and events. It is very important to develop this aspect from now on. The conference will help raise awareness and pave the ground for increased adoption. Benians added, the dedicated business session will present case studies to demonstrate the advantages of business and academia collaborating on e-Infrastructures'.

Finally, Roberto Barbera offered valuable insight into the session dedicated to training within the conference. Barbera underscored the fact that free training is essential for the adoption of e-Infrastructures. Four hundred people have already been trained through EELA tutorials. Different kinds of training on offer are key activities to help people get started. Events like the Grid School in Columbia have helped speed up new applications on the EELA infrastructure. This training was led by Latin Americans, bringing about an important shift as the original trainees become trainers. More training events are planned in Latin America. By providing local training teams, these events are playing a fundamental role in fostering long-term sustainability.

This joint conference will help tune a wider community into the benefits of e-Infrastructures. The issues addressed, case studies presented, new technologies showcased, and the future collaborative scenarios proposed will offer added value for participants from both Europe and Latin America. This landmark conference will serve as a driving force for long-lasting co-operation between both regions in a broad spectrum of fields and for mutual benefit.

First Belief-EELA joint Conference:
25th to 28th of June
Hotel Glòria, Rio de Janiero, Brazil
http://www.belief-eela.org/

Stephanie Parker, BELIEF, EU Press Contact
María José López, EELA, Latin American Press Contact

WHAT'S ABOUT BELIEF PROJECT?

"Bringing Europe's eLectronic Infrastructures to Expanding Frontiers", BELIEF, is founded by the FP6 and give the possibility to the communities to participate in the knowledge and expand vision on this key topic of research infrastructures.

BELIEF, funded by the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme, is an international project to facilitate knowledge-exchange on e-Infrastructures a one-stop home for public e-Infrastructure documentation. This information will be readily accessible to BELIEF Community Members though the BELIEF Digital Library (http://www.beliefproject.org/digital-library/index_html) especially developed to provide a central repository for e-Infrastructure Information.

BELIEF brings together not just individual experts and potential users (http://www.beliefproject.org/what-is/belief-partners) but also other e-Infrastructure 'communities' and initiatives, from both research and industry worldwide. As a home for all research infrastructure communities and initiatives, BELIEF will help you expand visions of future e-Infrastructure landscapes and provide a knowledge platform to realise it.

The BELIEF project raises awareness of e-Infrastructures (ICT-based Research Infrastructure: http://www.beliefproject.org/einfrastructures/european-commission-information) and the opportunities for their exploitation by:

* Leveraging on all European e-Infrastructure-based initiatives (http://www.cordis.lu/ist/rn/home.html).

* Developing a wider network to achieve international outreach and industry engagement and attempting to understand the various issues facing Industry when it comes to implementing e-Infrastructures in their business environment.

* Engaging existing e-Infrastructure Communities and harnessing the knowledge, experience and results they have accumulated so far to help guide future e-Infrastructures development.

* Facilitating Networking and Knowledge exchange though a series of Networking events, Brainstorming and International events (http://www.beliefproject.org/networking/index_html) that will bring together the very best minds form e-Infrastructures worldwide and giving them a platform to discuss their differing views and approach to the e-Infrastructures development.

The principal objectives of BELIEF are to:

* Build and promote an effective Communication Network Platform for the BELIEF Community;

* Develop, maintain and populate a multimedia Digital Library (DL) offering advanced services that make documentation produced by e-Infrastructure projects and initiatives accessible to the BELIEF Community;

* Deliver four 1-to-2-day brainstorming events on strategic multidisciplinary topics organised in key locations in both Europe and in the USA;

* Deliver two 1-day strategic networking workshops with major potential user communities organised in key locations in Europe with the possibility of holding one of these events in an NIS country;

* Deliver two 2-to-3-day international conferences with an e-Infrastructure promotional area in India and Latin America, respectively, providing a forum where participants can exchange experiences, showcase results and learn developments from emerging economies.

About Communities

According to BELIEF, they allow the communities to participates knowledge and expand vision on this key topic of research infrastructures. the community is international and inclusive: it brings together not just individual experts and potential users but also other e-Infrastructure communities and initiatives, from both research and industry worldwide.

BELIEF provides a central reference point, a 'home' for all research infrastructure communities and initiatives. Its value proposition to its registered members is that it pools collective knowledge in its Digital Library. Importantly, BELIEF not only provides information about other initiatives and communities but also gives these projects and individuals an opportunity to find about and contact each other (http://www.beliefproject.org/community/member_search_form).

This collectivity will help you expand visions of future e-Infrastructure landscapes and provide a knowledge platform to realise them.

To find out more about the BELIEF Project (http://www.beliefproject.org/) contact info@beliefproject.org. Alternatively you can register as a BELIEF Community member in the URL: http://www.beliefproject.org/createMember and take the opportunity to specifiy your own interest areas in e-Infrastructure Technology to the rest of BELIEF Community.

6 March 2007

GLOBAL FP7 INFORMATION DAY ACHIEVED ITS GOALS

The event was held through a videoconference in three regions throughout the world, making use of the Isabel platform. This initiative was a good opportunity not only to provide information about the future calls, but also to join together projects at a world level.

María José López Pourailly and María Paz Mirosevic Albornoz

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Global Information Day was organised by the European Commission and was held on 6 March in three different regions: Asia-Mediterranean, Latin America and the USA and Canada. The event was planned as part of the launch of the first calls for proposals, under the e-Infrastructures topic of the 'Capacities' Specific Programme.

Global Information Day was held through a videoconference, using the Isabel platform. It was also broadcast live on the Internet in all the participating regions, so that those who could not attend had the chance of getting firsthand information on the contents of the activity. The event's main goal was to bring together the international scientific and academic communities in order to provide as much information as possible on the calls for proposals for the FP7, and therefore enhance regional participation in future projects.

Videoconferences were held in three different times zones; first in Asia and the Mediterranean region, then in Latin America and finally in the USA and Canada. The institutions that wanted to take part in the Global Information Day made presentations that gave a brief description of the projects that are being developed. Before this, each region obtained information on the basic guidelines of the FP7 calls for proposals:

The Call in May
Call Deadline: May 2nd.
Total funds: €15M.

Contacts: Wim Jansen, Carlos Morais, Bernhard Fabianek, Jean Luc Dorel
Email: INFSO-RI-CALLS@ec.europa.eu
Web site: http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn

Later Call (to be confirm): will come out in April, May. Budget €27M, for specific INCO aspect (Specific International Scientific Cooperation Activities).

Abbreviations:
Collaborative projects: CP.
Coordination and Support Activities: CSA.
Combination of CP and CSA: CCPCSA.
Integrated Infrastructure Initiative: I3.

I3 Requirements:
- Joint Research Activity.
- Human Networking Activity (Dissemination, etc).
- Service Activity, Transnational Access.
- Consortium Management Activities.

The Grant Agreement will have several annexes:
- Annex 1 is the description of work.
- Consortium Agreement is mandatory for CCPCSA. Three distinct institutions of 3 EU Members States is minimum requirement.
- The EC will carry out a verification of existence, legal status and financial capacity of all consortium members.
- There will be a legal validation of all beneficiaries.
- An automatic ex-ante financial viability check will be carried out for all coordinators and participants in all projects requiring funding >500K Euro.
- Third country partners will have to justify their participation in terms of enhanced contribution to the project. Only those third countries on the INCO list will be able to receive funding.

Projects presented at the Latin America session

Wien, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)
· Project: "LAC-ACCES Connecting High-Quality Research between the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean Countries". Its aim is to link research, science and technology institutions from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ecuador, ESPOL, Higher Polytechnic School of the Coast
· Project: "Project for the Development of Pedagogical Models to facilitate learning".
· Project: "Implementation of Free Educational Software". Its aim is to develop open source educational software packages in order to provide learning objects for universities, colleges and schools and also to connect the open source system with contents repositories.
· Project: "Development of Grid Infrastructure in Ecuador's EPN". Its aim is to develop a local Grid development infrastructure to be applied in the oceanic, atmospheric and climatic sector. The intention is to perform simulations of antenna analyses for wireless transmissions.

Panama, University of Panama:
· Project: "Collaboration Services in Integrated Broadband Fixed and Mobile Networks"

Peru: National University of Agriculture La Molina
· Project: "Impact of Biofertilization on Nitrogen Fixation, Growth Promotion and Phythopathogen Control.

Colombia: University of Cauca
· Project: "Virtual Health Community to support Tuberculosis prevention, diagnose and control in Colombia's Cauca district. Given the high rate of Tuberculosis in the country and most particularly in the Cauca district (identified as a national health problem), it becomes necessary to introduce a teaching-learning educational model including collaboration activities in the treatment for this disease. The other aim is to develop effective case studies.
· Project: "Hispanic American Health Link". Its aim is to improve communications and information between and for the people who work in the health sector through WIFI, Internet and VHF connections. The idea is to work on digital literacy, training for network technicians, training workshops, and distance information and training services.
· Project: "Web Platform for the management of geographical information on the Cauca district". Its main objective is to develop digital repositories in order to provide users and researchers with greater and better access to contents related to this topic.

Peru: Catholic University of Peru
· Outstanding Research Projects
· Project in the Chemical area. The aim is to use derivatives of the waste from sea crustaceans for Agricultural purposes, such as the creation of pesticides for fruit protection. Additionally, they intend to use this kind of waste in the area of cosmetics, and related research is being developed.
· Project: Creation of an Artificial Neonatal Bubble. The project intends to create an aseptic environment for the newborn baby by making use of controlled environmental parameters.

Ecuador: Central University
· Project: "Technological Renewal of Ecuador's Central University". The idea is to install technological structures in different units at the University and also to set up computer labs which provide students with access not only to commercial Internet, but also to advanced academic networks. Furthermore, they want to automate the University's archives and to develop regular training activities on the subject for their staff.

Mexico: UNAM-DGSCA
· Project: "Development of three-dimensional interactive environments for education". Its objective is to implement IPv4 and IPv6 applications in these environments, in order to apply

an interactive high definition system, as well as to establish simulation servers and collaboration environments that are rich in multimedia elements.

Peru: San Marcos Higher National University

· Project: "System for an early detection of draughts in Peru's northern coast based on the analysis of the soil's temperature and salt levels and of the vegetation index as shown by satellite images, and their relations to El Niño Southern Oscillation". Its objective is to develop collaboration Grids to conduct research on draughts along the country's coast and use the results to study the El Niño Phenomenon and its influence on northern Peru's climate.

· Project: "Study on the main oceanographic features of the Peruvian Maritime Environment". Its aim is to conduct research on the levels of polluted water.

· Project: "Study on the main oceanographic features related to the quality of the Peruvian maritime environment, by means of multivariable statistical methods"

· Project: "Research Group on Condensed Water"

Questions and Answers

In the session for the Asia-Mediterranean block, there were relevant doubts, all of them applicable to the other regions and highly clarifying for those who are structuring projects to apply for the FP7.

Who can participate in FP7 projects?
FP7 is open to anybody and any country in the world. That does not mean that anybody can get funding. For third countries there is a list of INCO states. INCO states can receive funding. Those countries that do not appear on the INCO list can participate, however, they can not receive funding.

Can a non-European partner be the coordinator of a project?
Not explicitedly forbidden, but it is assumed that the coordinating partner must be an institution of a EU member state or of an associated state.

It seems that the cost model has changed in FP7?
FP7 is simpler than FP6. In FP7 we do not have cost model as in FP6. All participants are reimbursed on the same ground. Direct costs: real direct costs are reimbursed. Up to 75% for universities (and similar) for direct costs of research activities, other organisations can claim up to 50% of direct costs related to the research activities.

What about other costs such as costs related to dissemination and training?
These would normally fall under networking activities (human networks). Direct costs can be funded up to 100%. Indirect costs may not exceed 7% of the direct costs.

About the Joint Research Units (JRU): Does it make sense to form a joint research unit in a third country or even in a region outside the EU?
Yes, this is a scheme open to third countries and it is encouraged to use the scheme. It is also encouraged to have international JRU.

What disciplines are allowed in the e-Infrastructure line?
In general terms, e-Infrastructures activities have always been open to the largest numbers of user communities. It is understood that there are some areas that have more obvious needs (HEP, Biomedicine, etc). FP7 deployment call is especially open to Grids and networking infrastructure to as many user communities as possible. The term scientific community is to be understood in a broad sense. Open to any kind of community within the scientific community

So far Grid projects have been focusing on the smooth running of the Grid. What is expected under FP7?
The Call is very broad. It should be seen in the context of ICT technology at large in conjunction with the specific scientific field. This could be either hard or soft science, but also humanities. Proposals will have to follow the structure of the funding scheme. The funding scheme requires three kinds of activities:

a) Service activity, ie: project has to provide a service to the community (application, software access, has to be reflected in the objective)

b) research (state of the art, specific requirement, pure research in the field) and

c) networking activity (human networks, dissemination, training).

Closing

The responsible for the conclusions of the activity for Latin America was Carmen Mena Abela, Projects Officer for the Research Infrastructure Unit, DGINFSO. At the closing ceremony, the opinion was that the activity served as an opportunity for a greater unity with other projects at a world level that are part of the Framework Pr, such as , for instance, the EELA Project, which was met with approval in Europe. Furthermore, it was confirmed that this activity will serve as preparation for the new call for proposals that will take place in July 2007.

Presentations and videos are available on the Internet in: http://isabel.dit.upm.es/component/option,com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,52/Itemid,74/

March 1st, Madrid, Spain

First EGEE-EELA Industry Day

The first edition of the EGEE-EELA Industry Day was hosted by CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, MedioAmbientales y Tecnológicas) and organised by CETA-CIEMAT, in collaboration with the largest European Grid infrastructure - the EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-sciencE) Grid technology project and EELA (E-Infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America). The attendees were industrial partners interested in know about the Grid Technology and they were able to learn about the possibilities of the Grid Technology for industry and to explore the option of future collaborative projects and agreements that will be the first step for the Grid Technology implementation in industrial and enterprise environments.

Miguel Cárdenas, CETA-CIEMAT, EGEE-EELA industry Day Organizer

The aim of the activity that was held in the central head office of CIEMAT Madrid was to present the Grid Technology to the industrial potential and current Grid projects partners. The event was held on the 1st of March and the attendees were representatives of the most important Spanish companies and of the Grid Computing area.

Industry Day consisted in a set of sessions which included a broad range of themes such as the technological possibilities that the gLite middleware -developed by EGEE- offers, and the uses of this technology inside the Micron Company to improve the industrial process of development of new electronic devices.

The first presentation was given by Maite Barroso (CERN) and it was focused in the multiple possibilities that the gLite middleware opens for the development of Grid environments of computing and data storage. Then, David Manset from Maat-G and member of projects like Mammogrid and Health-e-Child, exposed a practical case of use of these technology in health sciences. Regarding the Health-e-Child project experience, Manset revealed the real benefits that have been obtained during the project, the difficulties that they have had to deal with and solve, and the benefits obtained because of the Grid technology use.

Roberto Barbera, from the University of Catania and coordinator of different activities in EGEE and Technical Coordinator of EELA, talked about some experiences carried out in Sicily in order to approach the Grid technology to the Industry. During his presentation he emphasised the importance that Sicily is giving to generate more regional employments to reduce the “brains” exodus from the Italian island.

At the end of the sessions, Brooklin Gore from the Micro company gave an interesting lecture about the benefits that

Micro has obtained thanks to the implementation of Grid technology, specifically in the productive processes. In a very sincere way, Gore detailed the processes in which different aspects of this technology were implanted, and the benefits they obtained from this in reducing the time of development and testing of new devices, and also in economic terms.

The First EGEE-EELA Industry Day ended with a round table in which all the panellists already mentioned participated together with Bob Jones (EGEE Project Director) and Manuel Delfino (PIC Director); this panel was introduced by Raúl Ramos (CETA-CIEMAT). During this session the industry sector attendees and the Grid projects representatives discussed about the difficulties to make an effective technological transference. Also they explored the possibilities of start working in collaborative projects and of signing some collaboration agreements, in order to explore and help to find solutions for the implementation of Grid technology in the industrial and enterprise environments.

Although the Technological Transference events have a long tradition in EGEE, there were nothing alike inside the EELA project. But with CETA-CIEMAT and the CIEMAT strongly involved in both Projects, the decision of making this joint activity was almost natural. In the future, the approach of the scientific and industrial activities will improve or re-create the industrial processes benefiting the society as a whole.

GRID EVENTS AGENDA

May

20th Open Grid Forum
From the 7 to 11 of May in Manchester, UK
http://www.ogf.org/OGF20/events_ogf20.php

EGEE User Forum
From 9 to 11 of May in Manchester, UK
http://egee-intranet.web.cern.ch/egee-intranet/User-Forum/

First Iberian Grid Infraestructure Conference
From 14 to 16 of May in Santiago de Compostela, Spain
http://www.ibergrid.eu/

LA GRID07
From 14 to 17 of May in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://lagrid07.lncc.br/

Seventh IEEE International Symposium on Cluster Computing and the Grid — CCGrid 2007
From the 14 to 17 of May 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://ccgrid07.lncc.br/index.php

Biomed GRID School
From 14 to 19 of May in Varenna, Italy
http://www.bioinfogrid.eu/course/biomedgrid2007

TERENA Networking Conference 2007
From the 21 to 24 of May in Lyngby, Denmark
http://tnc2007.terena.org/

Sixth EELA Workshop
28th of May in Varadero, Cuba
http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=80

10th EUGridPMA Meeting
From 30 of May to 1 of June in Istanbul
http://www.eugridpma.org/meetings/2007-05/

June

International Symposium on Grids for Science and Business
12th of June in Gent, Belgium
http://events.ibbt.be/grid2007/index.php

2nd EELA Conference (joint with the BELIEF Conference)
25th to 28th of June
Hotel Glòria, Rio de Janiero, Brazil
http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=81

July

International Summer School on Grid Computing
From 8 to 20 of July in Mariefred, Sweden
http://www.iceage-eu.org/issgc07/

Second EELA Grid School (EGRIS-2)
From 30 of July to 10 of August in Mérida, Venezuela
http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=90

August

CoreGRID Symposium
From 27 to 28 of August in Rennes, France
http://www.coregrid.net/mambo/content/view/358/330

30th Computing School CERN
From 20 to 31 of August in Dubrovnik, Croatia
http://www.cern.ch/CSC/

September

7th Annual Global LambdaGrid Workshop
From 17 to 18 of September in Prague, Czech Republic
http://www.glif.is/meetings/

October

EGEE07
From 1 to 5 of October in Budapest, Hungary
http://www.eu-egee.org/egee_events/conference

E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America

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