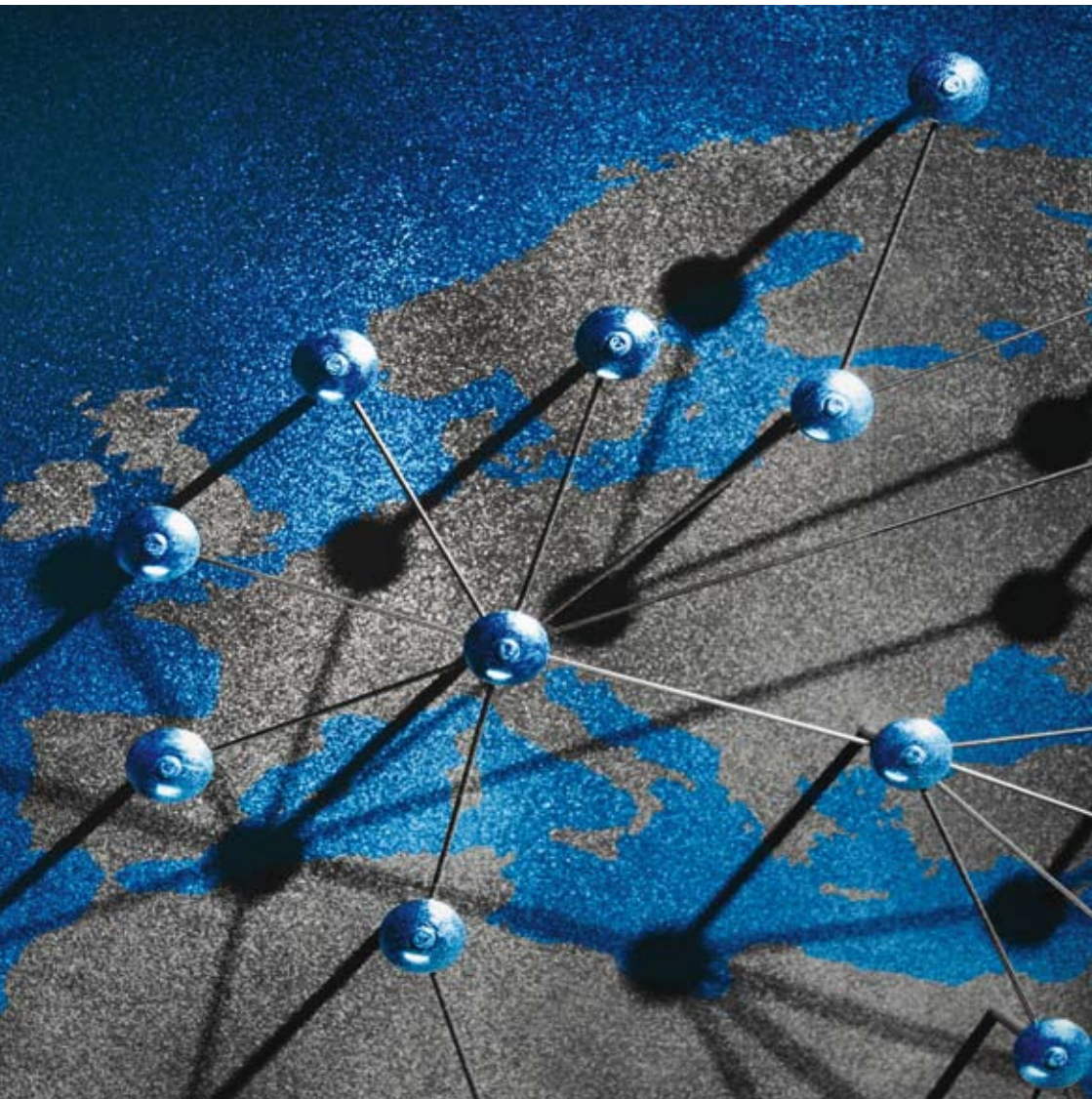


From

eGee
Enabling Grids
for E-scienceE

to

eGI



**Supporting research and innovation,
now and in the future**



From EGEE to EGI **Supporting research and innovation, now and in the future**

Since its launch in 2004, the project **Enabling Grids for E-science** (EGEE) has managed the largest computing grid in the European Research Area with many additional sites connecting from the Americas, Asia and Africa.

Working through internet connections, grid computing makes it possible for users to share computing power and storage. The EGEE infrastructure, with its secure computing, data storage and transfer tools and services, has become a crucial tool and network of support for many research communities, such as high energy physicists, computational chemists, life scientists and astrophysics researchers.

The EGEE project will come to a close at the end of April 2010. A new organisation, **EGI.eu**, has been established in Amsterdam and will in the future coordinate the operation of the European grid computing infrastructure.

EGI.eu will act as the international contact point between countries inside Europe and others around the world, and will be responsible for managing the pan-European grid infrastructure. Its central role will be to facilitate interaction and collaboration between individual national grid infrastructures managed by the National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) in each country.

EGI.eu will be primarily supported by its members – the NGIs within Europe and the research organisations that are becoming dependent on such e-Infrastructure to support their collaborative research activities. Its activities will be increasingly funded directly by its members.

This will allow EGI.eu to become financially sustainable in the long-term by moving away from short-term project funds. EGI.eu provides, through its partnership with the NGIs, for the sustainable long-term coordination of a secure, integrated pan-European Grid Infrastructure, designed to serve the scientific communities in the European Research Area.

EGI.eu and the NGIs will work together to operate and further develop the pan-European Grid Infrastructure, guaranteeing its long-term availability for research and innovation and enabling the optimal sharing of computing and data resources across Europe. This partnership includes not only operational aspects but also user support, certification, maintaining repositories of middleware and software components, and facilitating the launch of cooperative grids in new scientific domains and the deployment of new technologies. The EGI infrastructure will become fully operational in early 2010.



The infrastructure in transition

1. Will my jobs still run?

Yes. The same tools and services will be available to users of the infrastructure, but coordinated by EGI.eu. Your jobs will still run if the resource providers that are operating within EGEE continue to make their resource available to your community in the EGI era.

2. Will services be interrupted?

Our goal is to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. The current infrastructure will remain operational after the end of EGEE-III, coordinated EGI.eu. Changes made in order to improve the service levels and quality will be applied incrementally once the basic operations are established.

3. Can I continue to submit my jobs through the same tools?

Yes. The infrastructure currently supported by EGEE, with its associated services and support, will now be coordinated by EGI.eu. There will be no immediate changes in the deployed software. New and improved services and tools will be available from EGI.eu's software providers later in 2010.

4. Will I be part of the same Virtual Organisation (VO)?

Yes. EGEE's setup will be the starting point for EGI.

5. What will happen to my data?

Nothing. The data located on the grid resources within EGEE will also be available on the EGI grid infrastructure, provided your resource provider continues to make the resources available to you through your VO. It is expected that the mechanisms to access your data will remain the same as during EGEE.

6. Will I still be able to access the same sites and resources?

Yes. However, this depends on the willingness and ability of the NGIs and sites supporting your VO to join the EGI, as it is up to the NGIs to decide which resources to make available to each VO.

7. Who will I contact if I have problems?

Continue to use your existing support mechanisms – Global Grid User Support. Your NGI may also provide a helpdesk for local issues. Additionally, a number of domain specific Virtual Research Communities (VRCs) will be available to give dedicated help to specific disciplines. Generic Specialised Support Centres (SSCs) can provide dissemination, training, application porting and support for new users will help attract and bring new communities onto the grid.

8. Will the quality of the infrastructure remain the same?

Its quality will increase. The investments that EGEE-III (and earlier projects) have made in establishing and refining the operation of the production infrastructure and how it is monitored, will lead to further improvements in reliability. EGI will continue this work with its resource and software providers to provide higher levels of reliability and extended services.

9. What is the benefit of this new arrangement?

The e-Infrastructure that you use will move from short-term EU project funding to longer-term national funding. This will lead to a more sustainable funding model for the future. A lasting model will promote long-term science commitments from ESFRI projects (those within the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and will assure researchers that their data will be safe for years to come.

10. What will the infrastructure look like in 2 years time? 5 years? 10 years?

This will depend to a large degree on the adoption, use and future requirements of you, the users, and from the NGIs that provide the majority of the infrastructure in each country. EGI will also gradually introduce new technology and extend the scope and interoperability of the infrastructure in response to the feedback from its users and resource providers.

11. Where can I find out more?

Please visit www.egi.eu or write contact@egi.eu.

12. If I'm just starting, who should I speak to if I want to get on the grid?

New users, institutions and projects interested in using the EGI infrastructure should contact the National Grid Initiatives in their members states.
<http://www.egi.eu/cms/about/governance/>.



More information:
contact@egi.eu
www.egi.eu