

Dear EGEE-II project members,

This month's letter is dedicated to the theme of Gender. As part of its activities to achieve gender mainstreaming goals and increase women's participation in science, the European Commission has requested that Projects produce an action plan for the promotion of gender equality.

The EGEE-II Project Office delivered its Gender Action Plan (GAP) on behalf of the Consortium in May 2006, (see deliverable DNA1.3.1, <https://edms.cern.ch/document/733320/1>). This document outlines ideas and activities which will be undertaken throughout the course of the project to raise awareness about gender issues. The EGEE-II consortium comprises 91 contractors and 48 Joint Research Unit members located in 32 countries throughout the world, offering a diverse pool for analysing the position of women in Grid computing and exploring ways to improve the balance.

In this framework, the GAP team organised a "Grids for Kids" day at CERN on 30 January, aimed at giving boys and girls aged between 9 and 11 the opportunity to learn about the Grid and to see the Grid environment in action (see iSGTW article <http://www.isgtw.org/?pid=1000284>). The hope is that other partner institutions may be motivated to repeat the event. Such a visit lasts typically half a day and the involvement of women computer scientists in events like these emphasises to children that Grid Computing is an area which provides rewarding careers for women. If you wish to organise such an event, please contact the EGEE PO who can provide schedules, suggestions and material (a presentation and games).

The children really appreciated the event and feedback suggests that it did indeed make them reflect on science and who can be a scientist. Targeting this age group may influence the choices made in their education and thus may contribute to increase the number of women undertaking scientific studies in the future.

On a more general note, several important deliverables, all referenced on <http://egee-jra2.web.cern.ch/EGEE-JRA2/EGEE-II/Deliverables/Deliverables.htm>, are due this month, including:

- The Report on middleware service reengineering (DJRA1.1)
- The Grid services security vulnerability and risk analysis (DSA1.3)
- The Network Service Level Agreement (SLA) implementation (DSA2.1)
- The Status and Perspectives of National Grid Initiatives (DNA5.1)

I also take this opportunity to remind you that registration for the User Forum event in Manchester on 7-11 May is open: <http://egee-intranet.web.cern.ch/egee-intranet/User-Forum/>. Over 180 abstracts have been received and are currently being reviewed. A detailed programme of the event will be available soon.

We encourage you to register before March 15 and thus obtain a reduced rate. A list of forthcoming events is included as usual at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Jones
EGEE-II Project Director

Upcoming events:

Month	Event	URL
March	1, Joint EELA-EGEE Industry Day Madrid, Spain	http://www.eu-egee.org/egee_events/industryday/EGEE_Industry_Day_Spain/
	1-2, Spanish conference on science grid computing, CIEMAT, Madrid, Spain	http://webt.ciemat.es:8000/e-science/program.html
	26-29, International Symposium on Grid computing, Taipei, Taiwan	http://event.twgrid.org/isgc2007/
May	7-11, OGF/EGEE User Forum Manchester, U.K.	http://egee-intranet.web.cern.ch/egee-intranet/User-Forum/
	15-16, EGEE-II Review CERN, Geneva, Switzerland	http://egee-technical.web.cern.ch/egee-technical/EU-reviews/index-review1.html
	14-16, Ibergrid, Santiago de Compostela, Spain	www.ibergrid.eu
	21-22, DEISA Symposium 2007, Munich, Germany	http://www.deisa.org/news_events/future_events.php
	21-24, Terena Networking conference, Copenhagen, Denmark	http://tnc2007.terena.org/
June	5-7, Grid Asia 2007, Singapore	http://www.ngp.org.sg/gridasia/2007/
	25-28, EELA conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	http://indico.eu-eela.org/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=81
	26-29, ISC 2007, Dresden, Germany	http://www.supercomp.de/
	27-29, HPDC 2007, Monterey Bay, USA	http://www.hpdc.org/