

NA1

The EGEE-III project is the third in the Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) programme which started under the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme in 2004. EGEE has seen a constant increase in the number of user communities supported, countries and sites connected to the infrastructure as well as collaborating projects and partners in the consortium. The project comprises 42 beneficiaries, representing a further 100 Joint Research Unit members in 33 countries, organised in 12 geographical federations.

NA1 is the hub for central management and coordination of all activities, as well as work with international partners and collaborating projects. Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (comprising 11 former Soviet Republics), the United States (NSF Cyberinfrastructure Initiative, Open Science Grid, TeraGrid), the Asia Pacific region, including the Japanese National Research Grid Initiative NAREGI, Latin America, and emerging areas such as the Mediterranean, India and Africa, is fundamental for the future of Grids.

Building on the experience gained by the project's initial phases, the management activity of EGEE-III is designed to cope with these increases while remaining lean in terms of resources required and efficient in its decision-making processes. It provides the necessary support to allow for an effective technical, strategic, administrative and financial management of the project.

Quality is a cornerstone of the success of the EGEE programme. NA1 hosts the Quality Assurance (QA) coordinator to oversee this aspect of the project and ensure its processes, services and deliverables are of high-quality. This work builds on the QA approach established in the earlier phases of the project and expands the metrics programme with country reviews, introduced for EGEE-III for key activities to monitor the progress of the programme of work and the involvement of individual partners. The reviews provide a forum to discuss issues, examine progress and contribution along with establishing better communication between individual partners, the activity managers and project management. They are also good opportunities to identify and promote regional successes and initiatives for use in other countries.

Forward looking

Since the start of the EGEE project programme in early 2004, the project has contributed to the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA) through the creation of regional federations. These bodies aim to leverage national resources in a more effective way to achieve broader European benefit. In order to attain the goal of a sustainable infrastructure, EGEE-III structured its consortium on a national basis, taking the form of Joint Research Units or National Grid Initiatives. This provides the groundwork for the National Grid Infrastructures which will be the foundations of the long-term sustainable model. The development of this model is coordinated by the European Grid Infrastructure Design Study (EGI_DS). The EGEE management will interact closely with the EGI_DS project management team check the progress of the parallel goals and ensure carefully timed milestones are met to ensure the progress of the projects towards a sustainable grid infrastructure.

Collaborating grid projects are key to the long-term success and uptake of the EGEE grid. These projects include infrastructure projects to extend geographical coverage through Europe, Asia Pacific and the Americas; applications projects which use the EGEE infrastructure for specific disciplines; and support projects in areas such as training or security. EGEE-III will further foster cooperation with the regions around Europe and on an international scale, thus ensuring that the project is visible and active in the global grid arena and that it can work constructively with the major grid and infrastructure projects and initiatives around the world.

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NA1 webpages

<http://project.eu-egee.org/index.php?id=288>