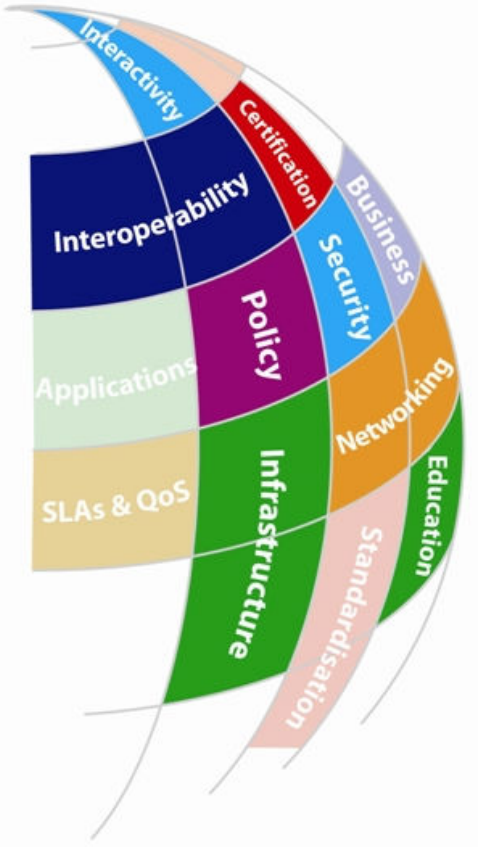
COLLABORATING PROJECTS

ACHIEVING MORE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Enabling Grids for E-sciencE (EGEE) operates a grid infrastructure for the European scientific and research communities, with approximately 300 sites providing in excess of 144,000 CPU cores. In addition to this, EGEE provides the gLite middleware, support for application communities and a range of other services such as training and user support. The project's long-term goals for grid computing, however, go further than this.

The benefits of grid computing should be available to all, regardless of the domain, whether in industry, science or the humanities. These facilities should be accessible all over the world in an easy, secure, reliable and transparent way. Grids should become true "electronic infrastructures", fully integrated into the everyday life of individuals and organisations, both public and private. This is not only about connecting computers to support and maintain an operational grid service in an open and sustainable manner. It also involves tasks as diverse as educating the next generation of computer scientists, understanding digital curation and business models, and influencing national and international policy.

In order to achieve its ambitious goals, EGEE works with a range of other projects and initiatives. The roles covered by EGEE and these projects can be defined as: expanding the infrastructure either by extending its geographical reach or tailoring it for specific tasks; meeting the needs of user communities with work on applications; and providing key services that support the work of the grid community, such as providing interactive control and monitoring of remote instruments and bridging service grids with desktop grids.



Building infrastructure

EGEE has partners worldwide, including Europe, the US, Korea and Taipei. Beyond these official partners, many more organisations contribute time or resources to EGEE without being partners of the project itself.

EGEE also has strong ties to all parts of the global grid community, and has been working closely with various projects developing regional grid infrastructures around the world. These infrastructures inter-operate with EGEE's infrastructure, multiplying the impact of what EGEE delivers. At present, EGEE collaborates with projects whose scope extends to South-Eastern Europe, the Baltic region, Latin America, the Mediterranean region, Asia, the US and Belarus.

In addition to the work of expanding the geographical coverage of grids, other projects are extending the functional reach of grids. EGEE collaborates with projects which link grids with similar e-Infrastructures such as clouds, desktop grids, digital libraries, instruments and sensor networks and supercomputing centres.

Developing applications

Application projects are focused on working with communities of current and potential grid users, to capture their requirements and translate them into software that can exploit the computing power of grids. In particular, EGEE is supporting applications that build on EGEE's middleware, gLite, to provide the specific functionality required for their particular research domain. Their feedback also helps EGEE to refine its operations to be more responsive to users' needs. Applications are being developed in diverse fields, from molecular biology to geo-physics and archaeology.

Support

As well as the computing infrastructure, the full adoption of grid technology requires many other facilities and services to be put in place. Projects in areas including standardisation, e-Infrastructure policy, education, dissemination and software testing are all adding essential parts to the grid landscape.

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Working with EGEE

The EGEE Collaborating Projects Liaison Office is a point of contact for projects which collaborate with EGEE, and facilitates the relationships between them and the EGEE activities. Furthermore, EGEE is active in helping projects interact and share their experiences. This is a continuation of work begun at EU-sponsored 'concertation' meetings and carried on at EGEE project conferences.

EGEE also has a number of more formal relationships with other projects and initiatives. For many projects, the first step in collaborating is receiving a Letter of Support from EGEE to accompany their proposal. Other projects have drawn up a Memorandum of Understanding to define a framework of collaboration with EGEE, stating explicitly the joint Programme of Work. Collaborative activities range from technical work on interoperability to community activities such as organising joint training events and dissemination material. Depending on the issue at hand, different forms of co-operation might be appropriate and EGEE is open to suggestions and initiatives from any project that wants to help move grid computing forward.

Contact information

If you would like to know more about how to collaborate with EGEE, please get in touch with the Collaborating Projects Liaison Office at **project-eu-egee-cplo@cern.ch**.

Collaborating projects liaison office webpage
http://www.eu-egee.org/index.php?id=152

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