

NA4 – APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT

Success for the Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) project can be demonstrated only with the broad adoption of the EGEE infrastructure as a mission-critical computing platform. With partners spread throughout Europe, the NA4 activity is responsible for Application Identification and Support. It supports the integration of new scientific communities and their applications into EGEE with the aim of expanding, to the largest extent possible, the EGEE user community both in the number of users and the number of different applications using the Grid. This has been made easier in the second phase of EGEE due to the introduction of a new lightweight procedure for new groups wanting to use the EGEE infrastructure. The activity also supports existing users to ensure their satisfaction with the infrastructure and to ensure the EGEE middleware evolves according to the users' needs.

Many communities can get their first applications running on the EGEE infrastructure with a minimum of direct support from the EGEE project: standard user support, middleware documentation, and deployment of critical virtual organisation services. A streamlined registration procedure minimises obstacles to using the Grid while providing vital contacts for two-way communication between EGEE and the virtual organisation.

Some user communities do need dedicated support from EGEE: training focused on that user community, specific developments in the gLite middleware, dedicated consulting on application porting, or special support for the integration of resources or services. Communities can apply to become a "selected" virtual organisation that receives dedicated support. This requires the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between EGEE and the user community to define precisely the support required. This is particularly relevant for independent Grid projects that use the EGEE infrastructure or gLite middleware.

The most experienced users of the EGEE infrastructure come from the fields of High-Energy Physics and Life Sciences. EGEE has cooperated closely with those users to expand the scale of computations and data management possible on the Grid as well as the functionality of the middleware. The Grid has attracted users from many other disciplines including Earth Sciences, Fusion, Computational Chemistry and Astrophysics. People from these and other disciplines are quickly becoming major users of the EGEE infrastructure and Grids in general.

The gLite middleware also provides an interesting platform for running business applications. These applications share many requirements with scientific applications, but also bring unique challenges. EGEE manages relationships with industrial partners through the Industry Forum, led by NA2 (for more information, see http://www.eu-egee.org/industry_forum/).

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NA4 Webpages

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