



Media invitation for the EGI User Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania (11-14 April 2011)

Amsterdam, 5 April 2011

Thousands of scientists across Europe rely on the computing services provided by the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI) for their research. Next week, they will meet at the EGI User Forum in Vilnius, Lithuania (11-14 April 2011).

The user forum will showcase the diversity of the EGI users. The programme will focus on the practical applications of the grid infrastructure to science and on the role it plays in helping European researchers to turn the vast amounts of data produced by computer simulations and experiments into knowledge.

EGI connects over 240,000 computer nodes, mainly in Europe but also in America and the Asia-Pacific region. Together, these computers support a multi-disciplinary research community and their international collaborators. This event will be an excellent opportunity to see this scientific infrastructure 'at work'. Highlights include:

- > The **DECIDE project** (Diagnostic Enhancement of Confidence by an International Distributed Environment) will present a live demonstration of an innovative approach to the diagnosis of neurodegeneration using e-infrastructures. The goal is to change the way medical doctors perform their work and support them in clinical decisions, through the use of computer-aided extraction of biomarkers.
- > Scientists from **Vilnius University** introduce a new grid-based tool to improve accurate diagnostics of bone fractures. The programme does all the hard work, allowing more time to the physician to assess the medical condition and select the appropriate treatment.
- > A team from **CERN – the European Organisation for Nuclear Research** – will demonstrate the advantages of a new web-based portal for patients fighting cancer with hadron therapy and their doctors. The new grid-based service allows patients to record their quality of life and medical doctors can securely import, transfer and view patient related information.

Confirmed keynote speakers include:

- > **Nick Barcet**, from Canonical, who will talk about how Ubuntu has become the reference platform for creating Infrastructure as a Service cloud data centres, and the best guest Open Source to deploy in public clouds. Nick will also unveil some of the best use-cases of an Ubuntu Cloud.
- > **Steve Rawlings**, an astrophysicist based at the University of Oxford and involved in the development of the Square Kilometre Array telescope, which will use a distributed network of individual radio telescopes to give the effective capacity of a very large telescope. He will talk about the data processing challenges it will provide for the e-Infrastructure community.
- > **Ruth Pordes**, executive director of the Open Science Grid will discuss some of the initiatives taking place within the USA's National Science Foundation (NSF) Software Infrastructure for Sustained Innovation (SI2) program and how 'Scientific Software Innovation Institutes' can help the provision of cyber-infrastructures such as Open Science Grid and potentially EGI.



- > **Ian Fisk**, from FermiLab, will report on the WLCG experiences from the early results of using the Tiered data structure (Tier 0-3) and the motivation from these experiences that has driven the proposed move to a cached model and how this knowledge can inform the usage of distributed infrastructures by other communities.
- > **Tommi Nyrönen**, development manager at CSC – the IT Center for Science – and the Finnish contact for the ELIXIR project, will introduce the collaboration structure of the project in the European setting as a ‘Hub and Nodes’ collaboration between distributed organisations formed based on the consultations.

We would be delighted to invite you to attend the event. Please contact press officer Sara Coelho on +31 (0)651 728 734. We can also arrange interviews with any of the participants, face to face, or by phone either during or after the event. Images from the event will also be available.

Notes for editors:

The **EGI User Forum 2011** (<http://uf2011.egi.eu/>) is organised by EGI.eu, Vilnius University and LITNET (Academic and Research Network in Lithuania), with the support of EGI-InSPIRE project, EMI and local secretariat BAIP (Baltic Amadeus Infrastruktūros Paslaugos).

The **European Grid Infrastructure (EGI)** (www.egi.eu) is a federation of resource providers set up to deliver sustainable, integrated and secure computing services to European researchers and their international partners.

EGI.eu is an organisation established in February 2010 to coordinate and manage the infrastructure (EGI) on behalf of its participants: National Grid Initiatives (NGIs) and European Intergovernmental Research Organisations (EIROs).

EGI-InSPIRE (EGI-Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Research in Europe) is a four-year project involving 50 partners in over 40 countries. The project is co-funded by the European Commission’s 7th Framework Programme (contract number: RI-261323) to help lay down the EGI operational and support processes, as well as to build a sustainable e-Infrastructure, independent from project cycles. By the time EGI-InSPIRE finishes in 2014, EGI will be a sustainable and dependable provider of computing resources for European scientists and researchers.

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