



e-IRG: Current work items and thinking

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e-IRG
e-Infrastructure
Reflection Group

The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group

Founded in 2003 to *provide strategic advice and guidance on the development of a European e-infrastructure for science and research.*

- Delegates appointed by ministries – represents nations (EU member states and associated countries + EC)
- Four delegates meetings and two workshops each year
- Produces Roadmaps, White Papers, Guidelines, ... including recommendations
- Web site (www.e-IRG.eu) a main tool for dissemination
- Secretariat support provided by support projects, currently e-IRG SP4

e-IRG Vision and Mission

The mission, vision and bylaws are currently being updated.

Proposal discussed at the delegates meeting November 23, 2015:

Vision: e-IRG is a strategic body to facilitate integration in the area of European e-infrastructures and connected services, within and between member states, at the European level and globally.

Mission: The mission of e-IRG is to support coherent, innovative and strategic European e-infrastructure policy making and the development of convergent and sustainable e-infrastructure services.

The European e-Infrastructure landscape

- Wide scope: pan-European e-Infrastructure for research (all types), other research infrastructures (all types), innovation, education, ...
 - Networks GEANT
 - Computing and Data PRACE, EGI, EUDAT, GEANT, Helix Nebula (in different ways)
 - Tools and Services All above (different T&S)
 - Open Access OpenAIRE
 - Data Sharing RDA
- Disciplinary e-Infrastructures (e.g. in ESFRI projects)
 - Sometimes coordinated with the general e-Infrastructures above at international and/or national level
- National e-Infrastructures
 - this is where the bulk of resources and funding is!

The e-Infrastructure Commons

Roadmap 2012: Outlines Europe's need for a single
e-Infrastructure Commons

Dublin May 2013 – issues discussed at open workshop

White Paper 2013: Further discussion and recommendations

July 2013 – Final version of WP 2013 accepted

Since then – Further discussions on the implementation

- E.g. Workshop "The Building Blocks of the e-Infrastructure Commons", 24-25 November 2015, Luxembourg

http://e-irg.eu/documents/10920/11274/annex_5.1_e-irg_white_paper_2013_short_version.pdf/bac42091-6940-4e82-b2ab-17ceef4881f8

The e-Infrastructure Commons

An integrated living ecosystem of ICT resources and services that is open, user friendly and accessible to European researchers and scientists, and continuously adapts to the changing requirements of research.

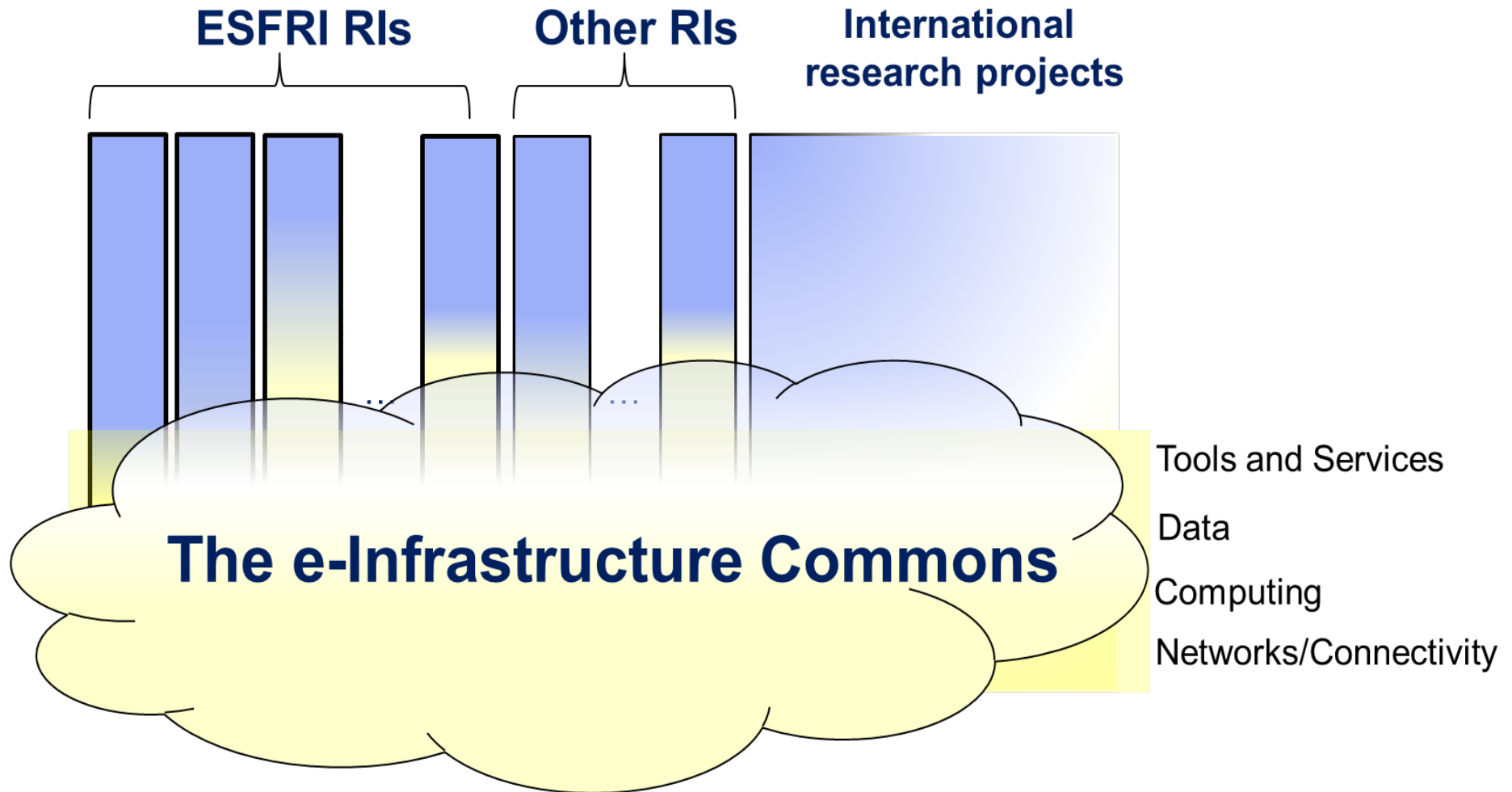
- attained through a joint strategic effort between users and primary strategic actors and suppliers,
- in which providers have the freedom to innovate and ...
- where users enjoy the freedom to choose the services they need from a mix of public e-Infrastructure and commercial services, so that ...
- users can focus on doing of science, in (international) research collaborations, whilst avoiding spending effort on the requirements to access various services;

The e-Infrastructure Commons

Three distinct core functions:

1. **Community building, high level strategy and coordination:** a coherent governance model with a central role for user communities
2. **Service provisioning:** a flexible, open, and competitive approach to national, European, and global service provision; with advanced collaboration among the interested public and commercial service providers.
3. **Innovation:** Implementation of major innovation projects through the best consortia including e-Infrastructure suppliers, industry, users and academia.

The e-Infrastructure Commons



The concept of the e-infrastructure commons is established and widely accepted

- National nodes: Still huge diversity in national e-infrastructure systems
- Integration/Governance: Discussions have intensified, partly as a result of the H2020 Work Program for 2016-2017
- Organisation/involvement of user communities: The e-IRG/ESFRI collaboration for the ESFRI Roadmap 2016 is a first step
- Inclusion of commercial providers: Several initiatives, mainly focusing on clouds
- The commons is recognised by “everybody”, including the EC, as a fundamental building block for the European Open Science Cloud

Conclusion: Still a long way to go, but the journey has started!

- encourage the development of strong national e-Infrastructure nodes and their co-operation for delivering European e-Infrastructure services.
 - stimulate service portfolio harmonisation inside and across countries including actions directed to encourage the development of federated service delivery systems.
- push e-Infrastructure organisations and users to jointly address issues around coordination of governance, sustainability, procurement, legal issues, business models and inclusiveness

- push European user communities (ESFRIs, FETs, other e-infrastructure users) to organize themselves with respect to formulating their e-infrastructure requirements and to budget for those services
- push for the development of models and solutions for the federation of commercial services in the e-Infrastructure ecosystem.

e-Infrastructure and other research infrastructures in Europe

- The ESFRI Roadmap projects are central to the European research infrastructure scene
- All ESFRI projects are dependent on elements of e-Infrastructure – or they are in fact e-Infrastructures
- There has been a lack of coordination between e-Infrastructures and other research infrastructures like the ESFRI projects

Actions taken by e-IRG and ESFRI

- Joint ESFRI/e-IRG recommendations on data management (2013)
- ESFRI observer in the e-IRG plenum and *vice versa*
- e-IRG will participate in developing the response to the Competitiveness Council invitation to ESFRI to “explore mechanisms for better coordination of Member States' investment strategies in e-infrastructures, covering also HPC, distributed computing, scientific data and networks.”

Actions taken by e-IRG and ESFRI

- e-IRG representatives in the ESFRI Working Groups (SWGs, IG, ...)
 - Input to the ESFRI format + indicators (“eNEEDS”) for the 2015 ESFRI call for proposals (ESFRI 2016 Roadmap Update)
 - Participating in the scientific evaluation and maturity assessment of ESFRI proposals within the ESFRI WGs
 - Provides an e-Infrastructure landscape analysis for the new ESFRI roadmap document
 - Documents experiences and feeds these into the process for the ESFRI 2018 Roadmap Update.

A new Roadmap Document during 2016

- focusing on policy analysis and recommendations for the future e-Infrastructure ecosystem
- building on the e-Infrastructure Commons
 - relating to the Open Science Cloud from a Member State/Associated Country perspective
- elaborated user perspective
 - consultations/workshops
 - inviting ESFRI to contribute with needs of large-scale RI

Thank you!