

Workshop on "Collaboration activities and Concertation meeting preparation"

27 March, 2007



**Venue: BU25 (room SdR1, and SdR4),
25 Av. de Beaulieu, 1160 Brussels**

Objectives and expected outcome

The objective of this meeting is two fold: on the one hand to start preparing the next Grid Technologies and Software Technologies projects concertation meeting, in order to hold them together; on the other hand, to revisit the overall set-up of the Grid projects Collaboration activities, as it might be necessary to redefine some of the tasks and /or reallocate some of the responsibilities as IPs launched after Call5 are now in full speed while some others, originating from Call2, are reaching the end this year.

At the same time, opportunities for collaboration between the Grid Technologies and the Software Technologies projects will be explored, and it particular how to best coordinate the activities planned by 3S, an SSAs originating from Call5 of "Software and Services", and those planned in the Collaboration activities of the Grid Project.

The workshop is organised in three parts: a morning session that will focus on the Grid Projects ongoing Collaboration Tasks where responsibilities will be confirmed and possibilities for collaboration identified. An afternoon split into two parallel sessions: one that will focus on the practical aspects of how to converge to a common concertation meeting and possibly to a coordinated dissemination; while the other will discuss the on going activities for the Technical Workpackages.

The expected output of the morning session is (i) to have a Grid Collaboration Tasks list with responsibilities confirmed/allocated, (ii) to have the list of Grid Technical Groups with responsibilities confirmed/allocated and a vision of the future activities, and (iii) the organisation of the next Concertation meeting allocated, with a possible decision on the date.

Participants to this initial workshop are the leaders from the IPs, NoEs and selected SSAs from both FP6 Strategic Objectives as well as Grid projects Collaboration Task and Technical Groups coordinators. The other Grid projects are involved via the Grid collaboration tasks and all projects resulting from the two FP6 Strategic Objectives will be informed of the results of this meeting.

Agenda

- 10:30 Welcome and Introduction
David Callahan – Deputy Head of Unit, Software & Service Architectures and Infrastructures, DG INFSO
- 10:40 Objectives of the Day
Annalisa Bogliolo – EC
- 10:50 Current status of activity for the Collaboration Tasks
 - Brief report from all CT leaders (except CT1)
- 11:30 NESSI Working Groups: Juan José Hierro (TID)
- 11:40 Open discussion. Moderator: Annalisa Bogliolo (EC)
 - Continuation of all groups?
 - Possible need to reallocate responsibilities
 - How to involve the projects selected under Software&Services
 - Synergies and collaboration with the SSA 3S
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- Two parallel sessions
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| 14:00 | Current status of activity for CT1 and the Technical Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction – CT1 Coordinator○ Brief report from all TG leaders | 14:00 | Dissemination of results and organisation of the next Concertation meeting.
Moderators: Annalisa Bogliolo (EC), IP coordinator taking up organisation of concertation meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ responsibility shared?○ Grid Research portal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ it is still necessary?▪ who takes the lead? |
| 14:45 | Open discussion. Moderator: Jorge Gasos (EC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Continuation of all groups?○ Updated/new White papers? What is the best way to proceed?○ How to involve the projects selected under Software&Services | | |
- 16:00 Closing

Participant List

Name	Company	e-mail	Projects
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Summary of main points and decisions taken

Collaboration tasks discussion:

Objectives

The objectives of this session were to have a brief update on the status of all the Collaboration Tasks (CT) and to discuss:

- The continuation of each of the groups
- How to involve the projects selected under Software and Services
- Transfer of leadership and responsibilities, when needed, from the Call 2 to the Call 5 projects
- Plans for future activities

Each CT has presented its current status of activities and some future plans. Here below a brief summary of decisions for each Collaboration Task (for an extensive status report see the slides):

CT2, joint dissemination

- Apart from the organisation of the Concertation meeting, the only other on-going activity is the portal, which has not really taken up.
- BEinGRID will be the IP in charge of the next Concertation meeting organisation as CoreGRID (the only new instrument project resulting from Call 2, which has not organised any Concertation meeting, has and will be the organiser of several other events). BREIN and XTREEMEOS will be in charge of the concertation meetings of the next years.
- Other points discussed in the dedicated afternoon session.

CT3, coordination of Standardisation activities

- Activities of this group can be of high interest also for the Services projects: they have to be informed more thoroughly.
 - **Action** to Annalisa Bogliolo to provide Philip Wieder with these projects contact person. Deadline 30 April
 - **Action** to Philip Wieder to contact them and explain what is the work done by the GSCG and how they can join in. Deadline 15 May
- The projects resulting from Call5 are not yet fully involved. There should be a reminder send by both the CT coordinator and the POs of the Call5 Grid projects
 - **Action** to POs and Philip Wieder to contact again the Call5 Grid projects. Deadline 30 April.
- Passing the coordinator responsibility: so far, NEXTGRID has successfully led this Task (Philip Wieder), with the support of AKOGRIMO (Julian Gallop). As both projects are ending within the next year, there is the need to start preparing for the next coordinator. A possible candidate emerging from the meeting is NESSI-GRID (person to be confirmed) possibly supported by an IP (Commission will make a suggestion). The shift of responsibilities shall be prepared before the Concertation meeting where it will be confirmed.

CT4, Repository of reference implementations and Grid middleware

- The coordination of the task has already moved from NEXTGRID (Call2) to BEinGRID (Call5), Kostas Kavoussanakis, EPCC. The task is progressing and next deadlines are foreseen for:
 - April 2007: simple webpage on <http://www.eu-gridresearch.org/>
 - June 2007: policy for inclusion of other projects' output in BEinGRID repository
- As the portal mentioned above is going to be taken over by the 3S SSA there is a need to coordinate:

- **Action** to Kostas Kavoussanakis, EPCC, BEinGRID, and Eva Garcia, iDeTra, 3S, to coordinate the transition.

CT5, Collaboration on roadmaps

- This activity, led by Wolfgang Ziegler, FhG, CoreGRID, has produced results out of input from Call2 projects. Not all Call5 projects input have not been received. In addition to this, out of Call5, there have been projects that have roadmaps in their own description of work, like CHALLENGERS and NESSI-GRID. Therefore there is the strong need for them to be more involved in this task and possibly revise the plan of action.
 - **Action** to CHALLENGERS, NESSI-GRID and Task Coordinator for elaborating a new strategy for this task. Deadline: next Concertation Meeting.

CT6, Indicators and Impact Assessment

- This task has been successfully led by SIMDAT (Clemens Thole, FhG), under close monitoring of the Commission, which had the interest in the outcome.
- However, as the Commission services in charge of Impact Assessment have finally opted for a simplified collection, this task shall be finalised and stopped. The indicators should be collected for the projects resulting from Call 2 only, either at the end of the project or at the end of the third year (whatever the earliest), briefly collectively analysed and the output of this analysis will be taken as input by the Commission while preparing the next Workprogramme.
 - **Action** to Task Coordinator. Deadline: next Concertation Meeting

CT7, Training activities

- This is the only task that involves fully a project not in the Grid area: it is chaired by Rosa M. Badia, UPC (CoreGRID) and co-chaired by David Fergusson, NeSC, ICEAGE – not resulting from the Grid Technologies area). There is the use of common repositories for uploading training material.
- The collaboration is "lightweight" in the sense that not much work is done jointly, but events are publicised on the CoreGRID site also when organised by other projects. Some projects have given presentations at the summer schools organised by CoreGRID.
- The collaboration will continue "lightweight". As for the repository, there is the need to coordinate with 3S, for the publication or link of training information on the portal taken over by 3S.

The afternoon was split into two parallel sessions.

Collaboration Task 1: technical groups

Objectives

The objectives of this session were to have a brief update on the status of all the TGs and to discuss:

- The continuation of each of the groups
- The possibility of updating the White Papers
- How to involve the projects selected under Software and Services
- Transfer of leadership and responsibilities, when needed, from the Call 2 to the Call 5 projects
- Plans for future activities

TG1 Grid architecture

Up to now NextGrid had a natural leading role in this TG due to their focus on Grid architectures. For the future of the TG it was proposed to revise its focus: moving from Grid architectures to Web Services architectures, trying to position the Grid versus Web Services and its different implementations. As for who will replace NextGrid as TG leader, it was proposed Nessi-Grid. The position of Nessi-Grid was that they could do it in the context of the Nessi WG on SOI. The Commission position on this point is that this is OK as far as the meetings and discussions are open to the participation of all Grid projects and partners without having to register as members of Nessi (which is currently the case). Otherwise, the activity should be organised by Nessi-Grid outside of the Nessi WG on SOI to ensure participation of the Grid projects. Nessi-Grid will discuss the issue internally and will confirm in April if they take the leadership of the TG1 and the solution they found to allow participation of project partners.

TG2 Ontologies

Very active TG with a potential for collaboration with the Software and Services projects. Since OntoGrid is finishing, it was agreed to transfer the leadership of this TG to Brein. Brein will confirm in the coming weeks who is the right person within the project to lead this TG.

TG3 Workflow

There is continuity of the key contributors to the TG since they are also involved in Brein and BeinGrid. The TG will continue and should put emphasis in identifying and involving the Call 5 projects and the Software and Service projects active in this area. There is a Nessi WG addressing this area, and links could be established.

TG4 Fabric monitoring

The activities of this TG are linked to those of one of the CoreGrid institutes since there is a strong overlap on their content. It is difficult to differentiate which activities where from CoreGrid and which from the collaboration TG. This is not considered to be a problem as far as the other Grid projects are involved in the activities. The TG is to continue with this close interlinking with the CoreGrid institute.

TG5 Data management

These activities were led by FhG IAIS but their project is finishing. EPCC will take the leadership of this TG through BeinGrid. SCAI to check if they have people who can take also an active leadership role in this TG. Many Call 2 projects were contributing to this TG, and the challenge for the new leaders will be to engage the Call 5 projects.

TG6 Security

The TG has been very active and dynamic: some subtopics have finished their activities and new subtopics have started. The continuation of these activities and leadership can be ensured through the transfer to Brein. They consider White papers less useful due to the continued updates in the area, while EGTD type of events are useful to exchange information and keep projects informed.

TG7 Business models and SLAs

No representative attended the meeting. It is managed by a Call 5 project and seems to be working well, so there are no problems with its continuation.

TG8 Virtual organisations

Involves many Call 5 projects, is active and there are no reported problems, so it will continue as it is.

TG9 Grid portals

This is a new group that is still developing in terms of its content and participants. The proposal is to continue the TG until the concertation meeting in September and at that moment see if the TG has reached the critical mass of interest in order to continue.

Closing comments

It is recommended to update the White Papers taking into account the new Call 5 projects. It will be important to publish them in the Web site, but for this the TGs have to confirm that the information they include in the white papers can be published.

FhG Scai has offered premises for meetings of the TGs in June. This can be an excellent opportunity to prepare for the concertation meeting in September. Those TGs interested in organising a meeting to confirm to Clemens Thole.

Apart from a few TG, the most active participants come from Call 2 projects. It is very important that Call 5 projects get engaged in the activities to ensure continuity. They should have an important role in the June meetings at FhG Scai and at the concertation meeting in September.

Dissemination and Concertation meeting organisation

The **objectives** of this session were extremely pragmatic: the organisation of the next Concertation meeting and the set-up of a common portal.

For the first point the following has been decided:

- The Concertation meeting will be held over two days during the last week of September.
- The organisation will be taken up by BEinGrid, in the frame of the collaboration task and 3S, within the constraints set by their DoW
- The location: this is not defined yet. Experience shows that organising it in Brussels might be really expensive (on the order of 30 000€). Therefore two alternatives have been discussed: either not to have it in Brussels or to ask participants for a contribution to the expenses.
 - **Action** to Mark Parsons to find cost estimates for having the meeting in a different location. Deadline 20 April
 - **Action** to Annalisa Bogliolo to find out about feasibility of both alternatives. Deadline 30 April
- The agenda will be agreed by 3S, BEinGrid and the Commission: the contact person for the Commission is Annalisa Bogliolo and back-up Anne-Marie Sassen.
- Announcement shall be made as soon as possible – when actual dates and location are fixed and by the end of April at the very latest.
- It has also been suggested that the 2008 Concertation meeting dates and organiser shall be announced already at the end of the 2007 event.
- Participants: previous Grid Projects Concertation meetings, a very uneven participation of the various projects has been observed . Some projects had several representatives, while other had just one. As the participant numbers will be limited by logistics, we have to ensure that no one project is over represented at the expense of another one. Registrations will be immediately acknowledged, but confirmed only later on.
- The Concertation meeting will be held jointly (on consecutive days) with the workshop on ... organised by 3S.

For the second point the following has been decided:

- AKOGRIMO was responsible for the Collaboration Task 2 on Dissemination and as such, HLRS has established the EU-Grid Research portal. For several reasons the portal has never really taken up – projects poor

participation in providing contents, no one single project being responsible for the portal etc.

- 3S has in its DoW a chapter to provide a portal where to find information about the Software&Services projects which is now being amended to support also the FP6 Grid Technologies projects.
- It has been agreed that the content now in the EU Grid Research portal will be passed to 3S and used as a base for starting the new portal.
 - ACTION to Stefan Wesner and Eva Garcia. Deadline end of April.
- All projects concerned will be informed of this with a joint letter from HLRS/AKOGRIMO and 3S. IMPORTANT: not only the Grid projects are concerned but ALL projects originating from Grid and Software & Services.
- This portal will be used to publish ALL public information originating from the Grid Projects collaboration activities.
- The Collaboration Task 2 will be suspended, as there is no other activity currently allocated to it: at the Concertation meeting, after 3S has confirmed the feasibility of the approach selected now, it will be decided if it is necessary to reactivate it, or if it can be closed.
- SIMDAT (Ute Gärtel-Zafiris) has proposed a coordinated press release of the projects: once per month, under a common cover, in one selected on-line magazine, like GridToday or similar. SIMDAT has proposed to coordinate this activity. This proposal did not cause a huge enthusiasm, but before discarding it, it has been decided that SIMDAT will propose it also to those projects not present at the meeting to seek their feedback as well.

Overall conclusion

Collaboration activities have been more successful in some areas than in others. Their success so far however is especially due to the active contribution of all projects resulting from Call2, a good part of which is now starting its final phase. It is therefore particularly important that all projects resulting from Call5 start a more active participation than what done so far (with some relevant exceptions).