Body:

“Knowledge is the currency of the new economy. “[1]

National and European-wide funding for science and research is recognized as the foundation for Europe’s economic recovery and a means to secure its position in the emerging global order. The European Commission has proposed an increase in the EU R&D budget to EUR80 billion for Horizon 2020 and Member States have committed themselves to the EU target to invest on average 3% of EU GDP in research by 2020. It is on advisory bodies like e-IRG to channel the funding to the right scientific seeds, which will bring the richest harvest in the future.

Motivation

The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) is recognized by the EC as a leading advisory body in the field of eScience and e-Infrastructures. Currently e-IRG is on the transition from an advisory body to a think tank with international appreciation. Its mission is “to pave the way towards a general-purpose European e-Infrastructure” and attaining the vision of “an open e-Infrastructure enabling flexible cooperation and optimal use of all electronically available resources”. To fulfil its mission the e-IRG identifies and documents the needs of European e-infrastructures for science and research to provide recommendations to national and European policy bodies, initiatives and major projects.

The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group Support Programme 3 is an FP7 funded project, which provides a comprehensive support framework for the work of the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group. The scope and objectives of the support program are based on the mission, vision and operation of the e-IRG. The key activities of e-IRGSP3 are secretarial services, policy support actions and dissemination. L3S research centre is mainly involved in the policy support actions, which comprises support during the e-IRG document process for all policy related documents. Various activities in the secretariat and dissemination action are performed.

Challenges & Highlights

e-IRG has the ability and also the burden to look forward and predict future developments in the area of e-Infrastructures. International recognized experts are invited to share their insights on the e-IRG workshop. Based on the outcome of the e-IRG delegates meetings and an elaborated document creation process high-level policy documents are created and published. The e-IRG documents are not primarily technically oriented documents; the main focus is on policies and guidelines for the political decision makers.

In 2013 the main focus of e-IRG was on the management of e-Infrastructure as commons. Following the Roadmap 2012 e-IRG produced its White Paper 2013, which picked up the topic touched in the Roadmap and described it in a broader and also deeper sense. Besides the e-Infrastructure Commons topic e-IRG strengthened its collaboration with ESFRI. Most relevant topics for this collaboration are data infrastructures and the relying issues. Although “Big Data” is already a hot topic for some years, decision makers need information and guidance on how to design policies to react on this arising challenge in the long-term perspective. Data Management is recognized as a very crucial problem due to the enormous growth of data and the missing of common infrastructures for long term data archiving. Furthermore the curation of data is the most important challenge that has to be solved in the near-term.

Besides the policy documents, e-IRG produces task force reports on contemporary issues and takes a position on current high-level expert group reports like the GEANT expert group or communications of the European commission. Furthermore e-IRG was involved in shaping the Horizon 2020 programme.

[1] Communication from the commission to the European parliament, the council, the European economic and social committee and the committee and of the regions: “A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth”, COM(2012) 392 final

Logo:
Project abstract:

e-IRGSP3 is the support programme to the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG). It will provide a comprehensive support framework to the e-IRG delegates and enables efficiency of the e-IRG and streamlines the internal e-IRG processes. The key supporting activities are production of documents, policy support actions and dissemination of the results.

Project duration:
01.12.2010 - 30.06.2014

Bibsonomy show project publications:
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Research Area:
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Status of the Project: