

## **European Grid Initiative -- Current Status**

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Grids are becoming an essential component of the eInfrastructure, with increased number of users relying on availability and high resilience of computing, storage and other services. However, Grids are usually built within projects, with limited time span and specific expected results. This approach undermines the perceived stability, with users uncertain of the fate of currently available Grids after projects' end, making users afraid to commit themselves to dependence on Grids.

To deal with this problem, the major stakeholders in Grid infrastructures in Europe joined together and with support of European Commission launched EGI\_DS project -- European Grid Initiative---Design Study -- to come with a proposal for the sustainable European Grid infrastructure that could also serve as a template for similar activities in other parts of the globe.

EGI works with the assumption that sustainable grid infrastructure can not be built without strong national support and commitment. It is therefore based on NGIs (national Grid Initiatives), which put together the national efforts. EGI\_DS is endorsed by representatives from all the EU countries plus several more, giving the project a very strong mandate.

Recently (in mid March), EGI\_DS organized a two day workshop in Rome, where representatives from all NGIs together with invited experts discussed the current proposal for the organization of the European sustainable grid infrastructure, its operations, user, virtual organization and application support and also the relationship between EGI and the grid middleware development. In the talk, I will present main conclusions and also open issues, together with plans for next step -- the mid year workshop, where a final proposal for the EGI organization will be presented and discussed.