



Memorandum of Understanding

between

CHAIN and EPIKH



1. Purpose of this MoU

The objectives of the CHAIN project (Grant Agreement no. 260011, www.chain-project.eu) can be divided into three main areas:

1. Define a strategy and a model for external collaboration, in close collaboration with EGI.eu, which will enable operational and organisation interfacing of EGI and external e-Infrastructures. This strategy will take into account current organisational models, while, regarding operational models, a peering model will be defined between Europe and other continents.
2. Validate this model, as a proof-of-principle, by supporting the extension and consolidation of worldwide Virtual Research Communities, which work on common areas (Bioinformatics, Chemistry, etc.) and/or increasingly require distributed facilities (e.g., large instruments, distributed data and databases, digital repositories, etc.) across the regions for trans-continental research. The limited support for such existing communities will be complemented by a coordinated activity of support for the international expansion to other prospective communities that have not exploited yet the full benefits of large intercontinental e-Infrastructures.
3. Propose and explore concrete steps forward towards the coordination with other projects and initiatives (e.g., EGI-InSPIRE, EUMEDGRID-Support, EU-IndiaGrid2, LinkSCEEM2, PRACE, the Indian National Knowledge Network, GISELA, etc.). The project will act as a worldwide policy-watch and coordination instrument, by exploring and proposing concrete steps for the coordination with other initiatives and studying the evolution of e-Infrastructures towards not only Grids and HPC but also Cloud Computing, Virtualisation, Desktop and Voluntary Computing and other trends that may emerge. This interaction with other e-Infrastructures will also imply a strong commitment to standards' adoption.

The EPIKH project (Grant Agreement no. 230842, www.epikh.eu) aims to:

- Reinforce the impact of e-Infrastructures in scientific research defining and delivering stimulating programme of educational events, including Grid Schools and High Performance Computing courses;
- Broaden the engagement in e-Science activities and collaborations both geographically and across disciplines.

These ambitious goals translate into the following specific actions:

- Spreading the knowledge about the grid paradigm to all potential users: both system administrators and application developers through an extensive training programme;
- Easing the access of the trained people to the e-Infrastructures existing in the areas of action of the project;
- Fostering the establishment of scientific collaborations among the countries/continents involved in the project.

Both projects receive funding support from the European Commission in the context of its Seventh Framework Programme and have a common interest in a close cooperation in order

to achieve their respective objectives. This is witnessed by the fact that the two projects have the following partners in common:

1. The CESNET, Zajmove Sdruzeni Pravnickyh Osob (CESNET, Czech Republic);
2. The Centro de Investigaciones Energeticas, MedioAmbientales y Tecnologicas (CIEMAT, Spain);
3. The Greek Research and Technology Network S.A. (GRNET, Greece);
4. The Institute of High Energy Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IHEP, China);
5. The Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN, Italy);
6. The Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique (CERIST, Algeria), the Jordanian Universities Network (JUNET, Jordan), and the Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST, Morocco), all grouped in CHAIN under the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN).

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) specifies the way in which such cooperation will be undertaken.

2. Common Activities

Activities which will be undertaken in common by the two projects are listed in Annex 1 to this MoU. The projects may from time to time wish to add other activities to the MoU. In such case the new activities to be added will be agreed in writing by the respective project managements, and be defined by an amendment of this MoU, simply adding a new Annex 1.

3. Communication

The Project Managers of the two projects will maintain regular contact to discuss any managerial matters related to the cooperation described in this MoU. Each project will appoint one Principal Point of Contact to act as the primary technical channel of communication between the projects as is necessary for the promotion of effective cooperation between the projects.

4. Administrative Matters

Each Project will maintain full responsibility for its own activities, including the fulfilment of its obligations under its Grant Agreement with the European Commission and provides no warranty, express or implied, in respect of its contribution to any activity agreed by the projects under this MoU, including but not limited to those of fitness for a particular purpose and the infringement of third-party proprietary rights.

Any proprietary rights relating to the results of activities undertaken by the projects under this MoU shall be jointly held by the projects, and each project herewith grants the other project a free, irrevocable and perpetual license to use such rights, including the granting of sub-licenses to such rights, for its own purposes, including the right for each project to place the results of such activities in the public domain, in its own name and under its own responsibility.

This Agreement will terminate when either of the projects is complete, or when either project gives notice of termination to the other, in which case a minimum notice of three months will be given.

Signed on behalf of CHAIN by:

Signed on behalf of EPIKH by:

Name: Federico Ruggieri (project coordinator)

Name: Roberto Barbera (project coordinator)

Signature:

Signature: 

Date:

Date: 9th of December 2010

Annex 1 – Coordinated Activities

Training and Advanced knowledge dissemination

EPIKH and CHAIN will cooperate in the co-organisation of grid schools and workshops, in countries where both projects have at least one partner, aimed at:

- Forming and/or bringing up to date skilled personnel such as grid site administrators and local user supporters;
- Identifying new applications of relevance for the regions addressed by CHAIN through the EPIKH calls for applications;
- Supporting the “gridification” of selected CHAIN applications during the EPIKH schools;
- Raising the awareness of both other potential users and decision makers, through the presentation of the results of the grid schools, about the usefulness of e-Infrastructures for e-Science.

CHAIN will fully exploit the collaboration with EPIKH providing complementary actions on those countries and/or institutes which are not already participating to EPIKH.