Memorandum of Understanding

between

CHAIN and DECIDE

1. Purpose of this MoU

The term VRC (Virtual Research Community) is defined as an organisational grouping that represents a community of users with common interests. The EGI VRC model brings together the stakeholders within a standard, flexible, persistent and sustainable structure. A VRC could then be a self-organising group that collects and represents the interests of a focussed collection of researchers across a clear and well-defined field and/or a group of researchers who are common users of a specific e-Science application. Named contacts are agreed upon by the VRC to perform specific roles and these then form the communication channel between the VRC and CHAIN.

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 eInfrastructures 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 DECIDE (Diagnostic Enhancement of Confidence by an International Distributed Environment) project (Grant Agreement no. 261593, www.eu-decide.eu) aims to design, implement, and validate a GRID-based e-Infrastructure building upon neuGRID and relying on the Pan-European backbone GEANT and the NRENs. Over this e-Infrastructure, a service will be provided for the computer-aided extraction of diagnostic markers for Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia from medical images. Specific objectives for the project are to:

1. Provide the Neuroscientific and Medical community with a dedicated Grid-based e-Infrastructure building upon the FP7 e-Infrastructure neuGRID and relying on the Pan-European backbone GEANT and the NRENs;Bring together different competences and

communities (neurological research, medical community, grid, networking), to implement this e-Infrastructure in an innovative way;

2. Deploy on this e-Infrastructure a secure and user-friendly service for the early diagnosis and research on dementia and other brain diseases, and exploiting large distributed reference databases of multimodal neuroimages;

3. Validate the e-Infrastructure and service through application to real patient cases (Alzheimer's Disease, neurodegenerative dementias) and validate the DECIDE model on cutting-edge diagnostic conditions (Schizophrenia);

4. Propose a long-term vision for the sustainability of the e-Infrastructure and its extension to new communities; ethical issues related to the management and exploitation of sensitive patient clinical data will be specifically addressed as well as the business model for the wider exploitation of the service;

5. Disseminate the results to promote the adoption of the DECIDE e-Infrastructure and service by the clinical community at large.

Both CHAIN and DECIDE projects receive funding support from the European Commission in the context of its Seventh Framework Programme. Both initiatives have a common interest in a close cooperation in order to achieve their respective objectives

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 initiatives are listed in Annex 1 to this MoU. The initiatives 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 initiatives managements or people in charge, and be defined by an amendment of this MoU, simply adding a new Annex 1.

3. Communication

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

4. Administrative Matters

Each initiative will maintain full responsibility for its own activities, including the fulfilment of its obligations under its Grant Agreement with the European Commission or funding agency and provides no warranty, express or implied, in respect of its contribution to any activity agreed by the initiatives 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 initiatives under this MoU shall be jointly held by the projects, and each initiative herewith grants the other initiative 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 initiatives is complete, or when either initiatives gives notice of termination to the other, in which case a minimum notice of three months will be given.

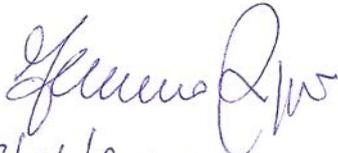Duly signed in 2-fold by:

Signed on behalf of CHAIN by:

Signed on behalf of DECIDE by:

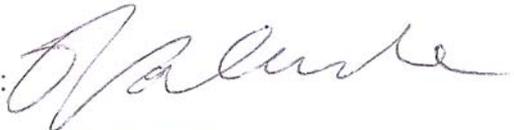Name: Federico Ruggieri (Project Director)

Name: Enzo Valente (Project Manager)

Signature:

Date: 13/04/2012

Signature:

Date: 1 3 APR. 2012

Annex 1 – Coordinated Activities

Promotion of Grid Infrastructures and DECIDE and CHAIN objectives and road-map for the future

- The DECIDE VO will be authorised and supported on the infrastructure sites connected to CHAIN; DECIDE will thus become one of the CHAIN use cases. Both initiatives will co-operate in pursuing interoperable solutions to allow for the support of the DECIDE e-infrastructure and service in the Regions involved in CHAIN, promoting as much as possible the adoption of standards and best practices. This may include performing studies and test, to which end both projects are committed to contribute.
- CHAIN project will present in its web page the information about the VRCs interacting with. In order to dynamically fill the tables containing the related information, DECIDE will work on setting up automatic sources of information or providing them periodically in order to fill in the tables in a static way at least.
- Both initiatives will work on maximising the impact of both CHAIN and DECIDE through the efficient coordination of dissemination of their joint or individual. They will collaborate, where relevant, in the organisation of workshops aiming at discussing common issues.
- CHAIN will foster the contacts of the research communities with DECIDE; DECIDE will provide support to enable the discovery of new users and to engage them. In this sense, DECIDE will report to CHAIN about the identification of research groups that are part of DECIDE and active in CHAIN's regions of interest. CHAIN will encourage and support users associated with the project to make use of the DECIDE e-Infrastructure and service, will advertise DECIDE events and training opportunities to its community and facilitate their active engagement with DECIDE.
- Both initiatives will contribute to the definition of the roadmaps for the future activities in the common field of interest.
- Both initiatives will contribute to the raising of awareness of both new potential users and decision makers, through the presentation of the results of the grid activities, about the usefulness of e-Infrastructures for e-Science.

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

In addition to the signatory people of this MoU:

CHAIN point of contact will be:

- Prof. Dr. Federico Ruggieri – INFN-Roma Tre –Via della Vasca Navale, 84 – 00146 Rome – Italy - 390657337232 – federico.ruggieri@roma3.infn.it
- Prof. Dr. Roberto Barbera – Department of Physics and Astronomy – University of Catania - Via Santa Sofia, 64 - 95123 Catania – Italy – +390953785504 - roberto.barbera@ct.infn.it
- Dr. Rafael Mayo García – CIEMAT – Avda. Complutense, 40 – 28040 Madrid – Spain - +34913460000 – rafael.mayo@ciemat.es

DECIDE point of contact will be;

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- *Dr Federica Tanlongo - Consortium GARR – Via dei Tizii, 6 – 00185 Rome, Italy - +39 0649622530 – federica.tanlongo@garr.it*
- *Dr Valeria Ardizzone - Consortium GARR – Via dei Tizii, 6 – 00185 Rome, Italy – +39 0649622000 - valeria.ardizzone@garr.it*