



Memorandum of Understanding

between

CHAIN and EMI



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 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 EMI project (contract no. 261611, www.eu-emi.eu) aims to:

1. Simplify and organize the different middleware services implementations by delivering a streamlined, coherent, tested and standard compliant distribution able to meet and exceed the requirements of EGI, PRACE and other distributed computing infrastructures and their user communities.
2. Increase the interoperability, manageability, usability and efficiency of the services by developing or integrating new functionality as needed following existing and new requirement of EGI, PRACE and other infrastructures and their user communities.
3. Support efficient, reliable operations of EGI, PRACE and other DCIs by reactively and proactively supporting and maintaining the middleware distribution and providing users with increasingly user-friendly, maintainable, reliable, stable, and scalable software.
4. Strengthen the participation and support for user communities in the definition and evolution of middleware services by promoting the EMI achievements, objectives and plans, and move the EMI middleware towards a more sustainable model by

expanding the collaboration with national and international research agencies, scientific research programs and with industrial providers.

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 Greek Research and Technology Network S.A. (GRNET, Greece);
3. The Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN, Italy).

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.

Duly signed in two fold by:

Signed on behalf of CHAIN by:

Name: Federico Ruggieri (project director)

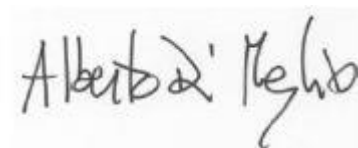
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Federico Ruggieri', written in a cursive style.

Signature:

Date: 16/07/2012

Signed on behalf of EMI by:

Name: Alberto Di Meglio (project director)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alberto Di Meglio', written in a cursive style.

Signature:

Date: 16/07/2012

Annex 1 – Coordinated Activities

Interoperability of Grid Infrastructures and road-map for the future

CHAIN and EMI will cooperate in supporting the interoperability of European Grid Infrastructures with those developed or emerging in other continents. Specifically the common activities include:

- Collaborate in the organisation of workshops aiming at discussing the issues of interoperability among different infrastructures and promoting standard models and solutions for making a step forward in the understanding of the obstacles and drivers.
- Collaborate in initiatives aiming at demonstrating the advantages of interoperable grid infrastructures for Virtual Research Communities.
- Contribute to the definition of the road-maps for the future activities in the field of interoperability.
- Cooperating in tutoring and/or bringing up to date skilled personnel such as grid site administrators.
- Raising the 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.
- Both initiatives will work on maximising the impact of both CHAIN and EMI, through the efficient coordination of dissemination of their joint or individual activities.

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

In addition to the signatory people of this MoU:

CHAIN point of contact will be:

- 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

EMI point of contact will be:

- Morris Riedel - Division "Distributed Systems and Grid Computing" - Jülich Supercomputing Centre (Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH) - D-52425 Jülich - Germany - +49 2461 61 3651 - M.Riedel@fz-juelich.de