South Eastern European GRid-enabled eInfrastructure Development 2

SEE-GRID-2 Newsletter

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Policy—Makers Workshop for eInfrastructures in South East Europe

Policy-makers Workshop for eInfrastructures in South-East Europe was held with great success in Athens, on February 21st. The workshop brought together delegates from 12 countries of the SEE region, including representatives of various regional ministries & national authorities, who provide support for the deployment of national-level e-Infrastructures. The Commission representative of the DG-INFSOM "GÉANT & e-Infrastructure", as well as representatives of NRENs and National Grid Initiatives, who implement the national level e-Infrastructures, were also present.

An overview of EC-sponsored initiatives targeting at regional development was presented. The SEEREN and SEE-GRID projects were presented as flagship projects that established the SEE regional networking and Grid computing e-Infrastructure. Furthermore, participants exchanged experience regarding the current status of e-Infrastructures in all countries of the region and an overview regarding the national-level support for e-Infrastructures was provided. Finally, the policy-makers engaged in an open dialogue. A number of countries have in the past strongly contributed towards local NRN funding and network interconnections at a regional level, as well as towards diverse Grid programs at a national level. The importance of the awareness of the necessity of national-level programs and financial support for electronic infrastructures at a country level, in order to complement the EC initiatives, was pointed out. The delegates agreed on the fact that the region has to use the current momentum to work together towards implementing a common vision and regional strategy that will be sustainable in its funding, operations and use in a much longer term.

International Business School Budapest integrates EMMIL B2B SEE-GRID-2

Through joint collaboration with SEE-GRID-2, IBS professors are able to demonstrate B2B technology to students in practice. In the framework of the "E-business" module at IBS, students have the opportunity to use the EMMIL P-Grade Procurement Portal in order to understand the different business roles and the basic rules of B2B e-commerce solutions. Beyond the above goals, completing hands-on exercises on a grid based e-marketplace teaches students to appreciate cross-industry applications and to identify problems that can be tackled with grid technology. In their future business, carriers they will be more likely to apply complicated analytical models knowing that grid computing can solve calculation intensive optimization problems for their companies.

The EMMIL P-Grade Procurement Portal is based on a new e-business model that is more complex than the current commercial solutions. Although several e-marketplace models are used successfully all over the web, business entrepreneurs and theoretical experts are still striving for new models to achieve higher economical efficiency and success in today's increasingly competitive world. The EMMIL model (Electronic Marketplace Model Integrated with Logistics) was developed by Dr. Livia K. Bruckner at the International Business School Budapest (IBS) aiming at facilitating an organic integration of suppliers' and third party logistics providers' (3PLs') market.

The EMMIL P-Grade Procurement Portal (maintained by SEE-GRID-2 partner Laboratory of Parallel and Distributed Systems of MTA SZTAKI) is the first publicly available implementation of the this new model. It is an intermediary e-marketplace with a user friendly interface, where the grid infrastructure is completely hidden from the business participants such as buyers, suppliers and 3PL users. The EMMIL P-Grade Procurement Portal is an application specific version of the generic P-Grade portal, a widespread grid programming environment developed in the recent years by LPDS.

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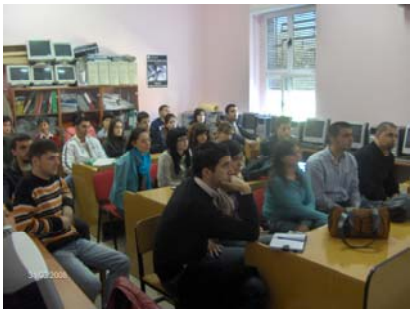
SEE-GRID-2 in numbers

Number of Countries: **12**
Number of Sites: **40**
Number of CPUs: **2416**
Terabytes of Storage: **69.6**
Number of SEE-GRID-2 supported applications from various disciplines: **26**
Members of the SEEGRID VO: **250**
CPU hours consumed in the last two years by all supported VOs: **6.2 Million**
CPU hours consumed by all regional VOs: **3.2 Million**



Policy Workshop on eScience and eBusiness in Albania

The policy workshop on eScience and eBusiness in Albania took place in Tirana on April 1st. The workshop consisted of several parallel activities aiming at the provision of technical training regarding grid administration & gridification of applications, the dissemination of the SEE-GRID-2 project achievements, and the presentation of the European & regional vision on eInfrastructures and eScience.

High-level representatives of Grid Initiatives from South-East European countries attended the workshop, as well as key Albanian policy-makers and government representatives from the scientific, research & development and infrastructure fields. During the event the participants emphasized the need to hasten the formalization of the Albanian National Grid Initiative, as well as the need to support the involvement of Albania in the SEELIGHT initiative.

The event was jointly organized with the INTERREG IIIB CADSES—ELISA project , that aims at improving access of SMEs in SEE to knowledge, information, e-business practices and the globalized digital economy through close cooperation of academic and business communities. The ELISA representatives stressed the importance of taking policy measures for the promotion and use of e-business technologies, practices and models for the Albanian enterprises.

The policy workshop was announced on the Albanian national television, while the key outcomes of the event were presented through interviews with Ognjen Prnjat (SEE-GRID-2 coordinator) and Betim Cico (Head of department of computer engineering, Polytechnic University of Tirana).

News from Partners

POLICY-MAKERS EVENT on "National eInfrastructure: Networking and Informational Services for Research & Education" was held in Moldova

The event was held in Chisinau on April 16th, combined with Bit+2008 International Conference, and supported by the Ministry of Informational Development and the Academy of Sciences of Moldova and organized by the Research and Educational Association of Moldova. More than 20 representatives from governmental authorities, members of MD-Grid NGI Consortium, universities, research institutes and other interested organizations participated. Invited speaker Dr. Gabriel Neagu from the Institute of Research in Informatics (ICI, Bucharest) presented GRID infrastructure and services development in the SEE region. Other presentations outlined the current state of grid computing in Moldova and the necessity for national-level programs and financial support for the development of e-infrastructure at country level, to complement the EC initiatives. The structure and contents of "Strategy of implementation of National eInfrastructure" document was discussed as a result of its first version dissemination and study by government, ASM and academic and research institutions of Moldova.

Substantial hardware upgrades at the Institute of Physics Belgrade

The Scientific Computing Laboratory of the Institute of Physics Belgrade hosts the AEGIS01-PHY-SCL Grid site and a number of core Grid services necessary for successful operation of the regional eInfrastructure. The recent upgrade of IPB Grid resources, which came on-line in the first quarter of 2008, presents an order of magnitude increase in computing power and available storage capacity. The upgrade was funded through the Serbian National Investment Plan and EU Centre of Excellence grant CX-CMCS. The number of CPUs was increased by 704 to a total of 832, and storage to 25 TB. The new hardware belongs to the latest generation quad-core architecture, packed into twin 1U nodes, each with 16 CPU cores and 16 GB of memory. Users have rushed in to take advantage of the new resources, as documented by the 95% utilization rate of IPB's cluster. One of the largest consumers of AEGIS01-PHY-SCL resources is the SPEEDUP application, which has clocked in more than 2M CPU hours of accounting time. In the first quarter of 2008, IPB's Grid site provided more than 2.5M CPU hours to the regional eInfrastructure.

Center for Scientific Research of SASA and University of Kragujevac organized SEMINAR Parallel & Distributed Computing - The Application

The seminar was held on 28 March, attended by 60 people: employees, and technical and science students from the University. CSANU also awarded a student scholarship. The administrators of AEGIS04-KG were pleased to receive an award from the Serbian grid initiative AEGIS for one of the most available grid sites in SEE region.

About SEE-GRID-2

Establishment of collaborative models for use of computing and data resources across various domains all over Europe and worldwide is currently being pursued through several eInfrastructure efforts. The SEE-GRID regional initiative has recently demonstrated that a geographically-independent common pool of computing resources can be of substantial scientific value to a less-resourced region like South-East Europe (SEE). Through the creation of the SEE regional infrastructure and its interconnection to the pan-European and worldwide eInfrastructures, the developing SEE countries can benefit from sharing computing power and advanced applications that would otherwise be unavailable on the local scale, and thus help fulfil the fundamental objective of minimizing the digital divide in the SEE region and ensuring equal opportunities for every citizen.

SEE-GRID-2 aims to further advance and integrate the existing SEE Grid infrastructure and services, proliferate the regional applications, capitalize on the existing SEE-GRID human network to further strengthen scientific collaboration and cooperation among participating SEE communities, and ultimately achieve sustainability for regional and national eInfrastructures that will endure beyond the project's lifetime.

The project aims to help the development of an eInfrastructure to serve the research and educational needs of the scientific communities and end-users that will be sustainable both at national and regional level in its operation and expansion, will have a multidisciplinary nature in encouraging and supporting grid applications among diverse technology domains, and will comprise of multiple geographically-distributed resource sites per SEE country thus engaging an equally-contributing collaborative group of research and academic groups in all SEE countries.

Forthcoming events

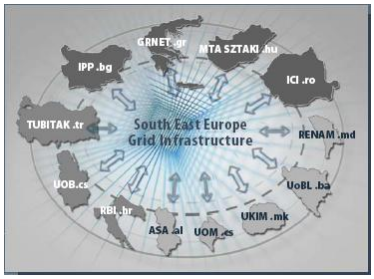
- SEE-GRID-2 final review meeting, 20-21 May 2008, Athens - Greece
- SEE-GRID-SCI kick-off meeting, 22-23 May 2008, Athens—Greece

Contact

SEE-GRID-2 Project
Management Office
56, Mesogion Av.
GR 115 27

Phone: +30 210 7474254
Fax: +30 210 7474490
E-mail: see-grid-pmo@see-grid.eu

www.see-grid.eu



SEE-GRID
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