Dear all,

The call for submissions for the forthcoming EGI Technical Forum is now open. The purpose of this email is to summarise the key information in a format suitable for recirculation to your own contacts.

I look forward to seeing you in Prague during 17–21 September.

Steve Brewer TF12 Programme Committee Chair

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The EGI Technical Forum 2012 (TF12) will take place in Prague, Czech Republic between 17-21 September, 2012. The organisers of TF12 invite submissions for abstracts for individual presentations, workshops, training events, demonstrations, posters and sessions for consideration by the Programme Committee (PC).

The theme for the Forum is:

*“The development of an open and sustainable EGI ecosystem that will support Open Science in the digital European Research Area.”*

This theme provides an opportunity to reflect on the considerable progress made by the collaboration so far and looks forwards to the challenges of public availability, reusability and transparency of scientific methods and data in Open Science. The event will be hosted by EGI.eu in partnership with CESNET, the consortium of Czech universities and the Czech Academy of Sciences that represents the country in the EGI Council.

Submissions have been invited that address one of the following five tracks:

1. EGI Operations
2. Resource Infrastructure services
3. Virtualised Resources: challenges and opportunities
4. Virtual Research Environments
5. Community and Co-ordination

A high-level programme will be published while the call is open in order to provide a clearer picture of the topics that the Forum will cover within the five tracks. Authors are asked to clearly demonstrate how and why their work will relate to establishing a sustainable EGI ecosystem for Open Science that will be of interest to the Technical Forum audience of ICT specialists from different resource providers, technology providers and research communities.

The five tracks reflect a continuing evolution of the infrastructure towards a sustainable layered model but authors should also think in terms of the values that underpin Open Science – the public availability and reusability of both scientific data and experimental methodologies.

The deadline for submission of abstracts to TF12 is Monday **11 June 2012**. Proposals will then be evaluated and the successful material incorporated into the programme. Authors will be notified by the 9 July and the final programme published on the 16 July.

Submissions can be submitted via the following URL: http://go.egi.eu/tf12-submit

These tracks are described in further detail below:

Track 1 – EGI Operations (track leader: Tiziana Ferrari)

This track covers the operational services and tools used by EGI to deliver a federated infrastructure composed of a multitude of national resource providers. The track will comprise a series of community events: EGI-InSPIRE activity sessions to steer progress in the implementation of the EGI operations roadmap, workshops to address specific technical areas and shape the future of operations, training events and thematic sessions. Contributions are welcomed in the following areas:

* Evolving EGI operations: how should the current operational model evolve to simplify day-by-day operations and to adapt to emerging service provisioning models? This area includes the advancements in operational tools and new models that allow platform operators to better serve the EGI ecosystem.
* EGI operations for international Open Science: this area addresses sustainability of operational services provided by external infrastructures peering with EGI, use cases for integration of EGI operations with new Research Infrastructures, and the extensions of the EGI operational services needed for a coupled usage of HTC and HPC resources.

Track 2 – Resource Infrastructure services (track leader: Peter Solagna)

This track brings together the work of technology providers and platform integrators to provide generic infrastructure services that can be integrated and operated at a European scale in the production Virtual Research Environments (VRE) upon which research communities depend. Training sessions for service administrators will be included in this track. Example topics relevant in this area are:

* The various functional services in use across Europe and beyond from software consortia such as ARC, dCache, gLite and UNICORE, Globus, SAGA and others – being developed and integrated by projects like EMI and IGE;
* Federated AAIs (authentication and authorisation infrastructures) and their integration with the existing infrastructure;
* Services for the provision of diverse resource types, such as desktop and GPGPU (General-Purpose computation on Graphics Processing Units) based resources.

3 – Virtualised Resources: challenges and opportunities (track leader: Michel Drescher)

This track focuses on the work of technology providers, platform integrators and platform operators. It will look at the grand challenges that relate to the integration of virtualised resource into the operational infrastructure to establish the emerging European digital research landscape. Examples of topics relevant in this area are:

* The services used to access virtualised resources;
* Virtualised management environments and the impact of virtualisation on the operations model and costs;
* The integration of these services into the operational infrastructure.

Track 4 – Virtual Research Environments (track leader: Gergely Sipos)

VREs are a combination of environments that provide researchers with easy access to the services deployed through the EGI to enable data analysis activities. As the digital research landscape broadens, so more research communities are seeking to establish such VREs. These VREs will use third party academic and commercial resources in order to support multi-national communities on a sustainable and long term basis. Examples of topics relevant in this area are:

* Experiences and results from the development and use of VREs;
* Integrated and customised portals, science gateways tools and services for science gateway development workflow applications, workflow development and management environments services, applications and components for VREs.

Track 5 - Community and Co-ordination (track leader: Sergio Andreozzi)

This track focuses on community and co-ordination aspects that will enable EGI to fully flourish as an open ecosystem to support Open Science and enable the European Research Area. Appropriate governance processes and policy frameworks will also need to be identified and adopted. Clear business models for the individual actors and for the EGI as a whole need to be identified. On the co-ordination front, the track seeks to explore ways to improve current marketing strategies, communication channels and outreach to existing and new partners and communities. Examples of topics relevant in this area are:

* Development of governance models for e-Infrastructures;
* Sustainability and business models for the EGI ecosystem, including Resource Providers and Technology Providers;
* Strategic alignment with EU and national priorities (e.g. with EU2020);
* Best practices for establishing NGI policy frameworks;
* Experience in communication and outreach activities;
* Innovative marketing strategies for reaching key stakeholders.