Call for Projects to Accelerate EGI's Strategic Objectives

Overview

Following review of the spending profile within EGI-InSPIRE, the Project Management Board (PMB) has identified approximately €600K within the project that will not currently be spent by the end of the project. At its meeting on 29/11/12, the PMB decided to reallocate this unspent funds to a number of short-term projects (approximately 12months in duration) that could be used to accelerate EGI's strategic objectives of community & coordination, operational infrastructure and the establishment of virtual research environments as described in the EGI2020 Strategy (http://go.egi.eu/EGI2020).

These funds will be allocated trough a call for proposals from partners within the EGI-InSPIRE project and then prioritized by the PMB at a meeting on 28/1/12. Projects are expected to have started by the EGI Community Forum 2013 in Manchester where they will be expected to present an overview of their activities and to have reached a successful conclusion by April 2014 ahead of the end of the EGI-InSPIRE project.

Call for Proposals

The proposal must be no longer than 4 pages and include the following key headings:

- Consortium
  - Project leader and organization with contact details.
  - Project consortium: Organisations receiving funds through the proposed activity for staff costs must already be members of the EGI-InSPIRE consortium (either directly or through a JRU affiliation).
  - Experience relevant to the proposed project – both individual expertise and as a team (e.g. through a Virtual Team or existing project task) – should be provided.
  - There are no restrictions to the consortium size, however these projects are designed to be agile and nimble and should be constituted with this in mind.
  - Travel and subsistence costs can be provided for experts needed by the project but these individuals need to be identified and their involvement justified.
- Overview of the Proposed Technical Activity and its Strategic Impact
  - How does the proposed project impact with EGI's Strategic Goals?
  - Who will be the main beneficiaries of the work?
  - What will the main strategic and technical outcomes of the project be?
  - How will you measure that you achieved the expected technical and strategic impact?
  - Projects must not last longer than 12 months and ideally fit within the scope of the current EGI-InSPIRE Description of Work.

- Technical Workplan
    - Provide a workplan with technical milestones that will allow progress to be assessed.
    - Clearly identify the outputs coming from the project and their impact.
- Budget
    - Identify the members of staff by name who will be working on the project and specify their availability (e.g. 50%, 100%), start/end date in the activity, direct and indirect costs. The expected EC contribution must be identified in the proposal assuming that the maximum EC permitted costs will be allowed.
    - All staff will be expected to report their effort into a new dedicated WP within PPT.

Proposals must be submitted by 13:00 CET on 21/1/13. Final assessment and ranking will be made by the PMB on 28/1/13 and consortia will be notified of the results thereafter. Bids must be submitted as PDF documents to mini-projects@egi.eu and will be acknowledged. It is expected that 10 proposals will be funded averaging around €50-60K each.

Possible Project Ideas

The following list of activities is provided as examples for the EGI-InSPIRE partner to understand the potential scope and direction of possible project proposals that can accelerate EGI's strategic goals.

- Community & coordination: Activity round the EGI Champions and mechanisms to support the outreach being undertaken by the NILs
- Operational infrastructure: (1) Additional work to make SAM a truly open source development activity aligned to the needs of NGIs and user communities or (2) the integration of existing high-level environments with the EGI Federated Cloud resources to provide cloud brokering and provisioning capabilities.
- Virtual Research Environments: (1) Exemplar integrations and demonstrations that provide new users and research infrastructures with examples of the work that can be done with EGI or (2) libraries for portal developers that simplify the integration of Web based VREs with EGI's Core and/or Cloud Infrastructure Platforms.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will the costs be refunded? Partners will record their effort within PPT and they will be refunded up to the amount of money allocated to the project and up to the maximum EC rate.

How will the project be managed? EGI.eu will oversee the technical outcome of the projects on behalf of the EGI community through at least quarterly teleconferences to review progress.

How will success be determined? While it is understood that not every project will succeed, it is expected that there will be a commitment from the partners and evidence that they have attempted to complete the project. If there is no evidence then the additional costs will not be recognised by the project.

Can we ask for supplemental support for existing EGI-InSPIRE work? No. General activity already covered under the current EGI-InSPIRE Description of Work is not eligible for support at these funding rates. However, new work that clearly goes beyond the current Description of Work and delivers something extra would be eligible.