**Notes of the kick-off meeting of the ELIXIR Competence Center in EGI-Engage**

Meeting agenda page: <https://indico.egi.eu/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=2664>

Meeting chairs: Tommi Nyrönen (task leader), Kimmo Mattila (deputy task leader), Gergely Sipos (WP leader)

**Attendees:**

* SURFsara: Anatoli Danezi, Irene Nooren
* CSC: Tommi Nyrönen, Kimmo Mattila
* CESNET: Miroslav Ruda
* CNRS IFB-core : Olivier Collin
* AUTH: Fotis E. Psomopoulos
* GRNET: Kostas Kumantaros
* EBI: Steven Newhouse
* INFN: Giacinto Donvito
* EGI.eu: Diego Scardaci, Gergely Sipos
* BBMRI-ERIC: Petr Holub
* ELIXIR Hub: Rafael Jimenez

**Key points from agenda items:**

1. Overview of tasks (Tommi, Kimmo, Gergely)

* Scientific use cases need to be the driver for technology in the CC. Measure ourselves in how well are we able to support science.
* Similar discussions take place in EXCELERATE so we should run in synergy with that project.
* Timeline of the CC is 18 months (from 1st of Aug 2015)
* Tasks and deliverables are described on the CC wiki page (<https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/CC-ELIXIR>)
* In the next period we should focus on reaching the first milestone and a related deliverable following shortly after that:
  + EGI-Engage M6.3: Life science requirements analysis and driver use case(s) with implementation roadmap are agreed. Document delivery to the EC: end of February 2016. (Document should be ready for review by end of Jan 2016)
  + EGI-Engage D6.10: Infrastructure tests and best usage practices for life science service providers. Document delivery to EC: end of May 2016. (Document should be ready for review by end of April 2016)

2. Report about recent work on ELIXIR Compute Platform and Data replication use case (Gergely, Steven)

* The ELIXIR Compute platform is under development. EGI services would be used to federate ELIXIR HTC and cloud resources into an infrastructure to serve scientific use cases.
* The customization/further development and testing of the relevant EGI services is ongoing.
* The platform can also serve for the use cases in the CC.
* Recently the EGI Federated Cloud task force did successful experiments of running Docker containers in EGI Federated Cloud. Guidance will be available for communities soon about this. Container capability can be relevant for ELIXIR too.
* What we can demonstrate very soon: Setup a VO in the EGI Federated Cloud for ELIXIR, Join the VO with ELIXIR cloud sites, Share and deploy VM images on these sites through AppDB, Control VO membership with PERUN, Users instantiate the VMs on the sites.
* ACTION: Gergely, Miroslav, Steven: Setup ELIXIR VO in EGI, integrate with PERUN and cloud site, test the setup with VMs from AppDB. Report back at next meeting.
  + EBI, INFN and CESNET could join the VO.

3. Use cases for the CC (Discussion)

* There was a general agreement that the CC should work with use cases that need public data (unrestricted access). This would result simpler setup and help us avoid overlap with the BBMRI CC (where confidential data is expected to be needed). The BBMRI CC runs in parallel with the ELIXIR CC, we need to follow each other.
* Possible use cases:
  + Public data use cases from EXCELERATE
    - These use cases are heavily resourced in EXCELERATE compared to the effort in the CC. The CC could reach bigger impact if we focus on other use cases instead.
    - Maybe we should still work with one of the EXCELERATE cases (and have other cases from outside EXCELERATE too). The metagenomics use case seems most relevant for us. (The 2 human are complicated because of security. The plant has no compute-intensive part). The metagenomics use case needs compute capacity, data transfer and can use federated ID. (Internal analysis in Norway and EBI, and offering analysis for external users.)
    - ACTION: Tommi and Kimmo to share further information about the metagenomics use case with the CC.
  + ACTION: Rafael and Tommi to lookup those use cases that have been collected for EXCELERATE but were not selected for the project. Check the use cases with Gergely. Identify those that can be relevant for the CC (because e.g. of overlap in partners, or technology interest).
  + Phenomenal H2020 project: Led by EBI. EGI recently started collaboration with this project. The scope is how to build and use the ELIXIR Compute Platform so it could serve their use cases, i.e. “processing, analysis and information-mining of the massive amount of medical molecular phenotyping and genotyping data that will be generated by metabolomics applications now entering research and clinic”.
  + Data replication use case (from EBI, with relation to the similar EGI Virtual Team project led by Fotis): This can come after the ELIXIR Compute platform is setup. Approx. January-February timescale
  + CSC: CHIPSTER VM image:
    - It’s already running on EGI (in a VO called highthroughputseq.egi.eu)
    - Currently testing CVMFS to share data on the FedCloud
      * VM runs in Bari, the image pulls data from the CVMFS server that’s in UK.
      * Seems to work well in one direction (reading data into the image).
      * Will gain more experiences when CHIPSTER will be used for real cases. Now only testing
    - Kostas: GRNET can offer CDMI service for storage
    - Steven: There may be a bottleneck when using CVMFS for moving large datasets. CVMFS is used typically for SF distribution (i.e. relatively small dataset)
  + ACTION: Use cases from the partners: CC members should think about and recommend use cases from local ELIXIR groups.
  + We need to further discuss use cases at next CC meetings. It would be good to organize a f2f meeting to select the use cases, but it seems we cannot afford a dedicated meeting for this, and neither the EGI Forum, nor the BMB Symposium will be attended by all the CC members.

4. Upcoming events - contributions from the CC (Discussion)

* EGI keeps a list of upcoming events here: <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki/Community_events> . This can be edited by CC members too. Add upcoming relevant events here.
* EGI Forum in Bari:
  + The CC is invited to give a short talk in the EGI-EUDAT Interoperability Use Cases session: <https://indico.egi.eu/indico/sessionDisplay.py?sessionId=37&confId=2544#20151111>. Guidance/presentation template will come soon from the session organizer.
  + The forum programme is built bottom-up. We may be able to find relevant session for a talk about the CC. We should get in touch with the session convener directly.
  + We could organize a F2F CC meeting there with those who will be in Bari.
    - ACTION: Gergely to open a doodle to see who attend and when
* BioMedBridges Symposium at EBI
  + EGI will have an exhibition booth and invites demos of applications and tools that use EGI services.
  + CHIPSTER is interested.
    - ACTION: Gergely and Kimmo to follow up CHIPSTER demo at BMB Symposium.
  + Having a f2f CC meeting on the 19th of Nov, co-located with the Symposium?
    - Can work for EBI, CSC, EGI.eu people
    - Surfsara, CNRS people to decide and report back on email list
    - GRNET won’t attend the Symposium

5. Next CC teleconference meeting:

* ACTION: Gergely to open a Doodle about the 26th of October. (Because this day is good for the attendees of this meeting)