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Analysis of National Nodes as foundation for the European Open Science Cloud

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Both the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and the European Data Infrastructure (EDI) are envisaged as federated initiatives that will be built on top of country-level counterparts in order to succeed. The e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) addressed this point already in its 2016 Roadmap and recommended that national governments and funding agencies should reinforce their efforts to:

1) embrace e-Infrastructure coordination at the national level and build strong national e-Infrastructure building blocks, enabling coherent and efficient participation in European efforts;

2) together analyse and evaluate their national e-Infrastructure funding and governance mechanisms, identify best practices, and provide input to the development of the European e-Infrastructure landscape.

Also in the Competitiveness Council conclusions (28/29 May 2018) the Member States are encouraged to "invite their relevant communities, such as e-infrastructures, research infrastructures, Research Funding Organisations (RFO's) and Research Performing Organisations (RPO's), to get organised so as to prepare them for connection to the EOSC."

However, the current situation across several Member States (MS) and Associated Countries (AC) is that there are different speeds and levels of access and integration to the European initiatives.

To proceed, it is imperative that these differences are identified early on and specific actions are taken at national and European levels. e-IRG is working to address this challenge; the first step has been to collect information from each MS/AC about the current status of their e-Infrastructure, based on a survey addressed to the national ministries. The second step is conducting an analysis which will be the core of e-IRG's next policy document.

In the survey the word e-Infrastructure is assumed to cover various 'layers' or components, in particular: networking, computing, data and tools & services. The questions focus on acquiring information about the organizations responsible for providing e-infrastructure services, their governance model, their funding methods, and their access policies. We also collected information on national domain-specific e-Infrastructures or other domain areas of particular interest in each country and whether they use the horizontal e-Infrastructure services.

The scope of the presentation is thus to present the preliminary analysis of the survey results, along with a first set of recommendations for the different stakeholders, namely e-Infrastructure providers, funders, policy makers and users and get some initial feedback.

We have clustered the countries we have received replies from based on the existence of few, several or many providers at a national level. The results show that there is fragmentation in the national providers in several countries. It can also be seen that fragmentation of service access and provision exists even in countries with advanced e-infrastructure services. Also, as in some cases we identified differences that exist in the number of providers in each domain (network, computing, data or other) for every cluster we proceed to

further categorization based on the number of organizations with similar service domains.

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