

Principal Scientific Officer with the European Commission DG INFSO, states: EELA is helping to drive the new scientific paradigm shift

Catania (Italy), December 3rd, 2007: During the morning session of the 3rd EELA Conference, which is taking place in the Aula Magna of the INFN (National Institute of Nuclear Physics) in Catania, from December 3rd to 5th, during a videoconference that connected the Sicilian island with Brussels, Mario Campolargo, Principal Scientific Officer EC DG INFSO, highlighted the importance of the EELA Project remarking its participation in the creation of leading grid-based e-Infrastructures that are strengthening the scientific cooperation between Europe and Latin-America.

The E-infrastructure shared between Europe and Latin America (EELA) project is reaching the final days of its lifetime, and what a better way to end could anyone imagine but the one of presenting all its achievements through its final Conference? Yes, EELA is almost ending and this 3rd Conference that is currently taking place in the Aula Magna of the National Institute of Nuclear Physics of Italy in Catania (INFN) is its last global activity. And when we say global we really mean it, cause for the first time in two years most of the applications that have been developed over the Grid infrastructure that is strongly linking Europe and Latin America, are going to be presented, and of course all the main EELA achievements will have their own space. Yes, EELA is reaching its goal and its two final words: The End. But it must be clarified, in December 31st at 23:59 EELA won't be saying good bye, but welcome to a new phase! How? Why? Before answering these two questions ask yourself this question: Who would really like to write The End and close the book of European and Latin-American cooperation after two years of great and strong successes? Of course, the answer is no one. So, not really ending? NO, because the EELA working team is about to start EELA-2, a new phase, a new era, a brand new project and the applications are going to be the key for success.

3rd EELA Conference: Day1

The final EELA Conference started at 09:30 with a quorum of 55 attendees coming from Europe, Latin America, China and Africa. The welcome session, directed by Professor Roberto Barbera (INFN – Catania), EELA Technical Coordinator, congregated the participation of the main authorities of INFN and EELA: Francesco Porto, Director of Physics and Astronomy of INFN, Angelo Pagano, Director of INF, and Ramón Gavela, EELA Project Coordinator.

From Brussels and via videoconference, the Principal Scientific Officer with the European Commission DG INFSO (who was with Maria Ramalho from the Unit of Infrastructure for Research DG INFSO), Mario Campolargo, saluted the EELA Conference attendees and through his presentation highlighted the achievements of the EELA project in the e-Infrastructure arena. Campolargo stated that what the European Commission, through DG INFSO, is doing and the way that they are judging the future is cause “Europe is driving the scientific paradigm shift and we are very proud that Latin-America is participating in that shift. EELA is helping to do this and it is very important for us”. The officer highlighted the fact that Latin-America is *peering* with Europe in creating leading grid-based e-Infrastructures; according to Campolargo, in this scenario the Seventh Framework Programme [FP7] will be a golden opportunity for strengthening the scientific cooperation between Europe and Latin-America.

And talking about the FP7 and having in mind the three perspectives that the EC Officer pointed as the focus of DG INFSO -1) linking all the facilities at the speed of the light, 2) sharing computers and instruments and applications, 3) share federating scientific data-, regarding the EELA-2 project (E-science grid facility for European and Latin American communities), he said that “EELA-2 has



been appreciated as a good project cause we saw the potential in a global strategy". In words of Campolargo, the EELA-2 project is a big commitment for its partners because it will stress them to be able to make even better contributions [that the ones that EELA has done] in the near future. "The EELA-2 Latin-American countries must be able to build their own National Grid Infrastructures, the establishment of those NGIs will ensure to us the future sustainability and success of the project", declared the officer.

Having in mind that the EELA project -and in the future the EELA-2 project- infrastructure operates over the RedCLARA network, Campolargo took the opportunity to talk about it and about the ALICE2 project, that has been addressed to the FP7 in order to ensure the future sustainability of the Latin-American advanced network that is linking the LA region with Europe via GÉANT2: "Europe has a very powerful consolidated connection [the GÉANT2 Network] that interconnects us with Latin America; a network that is a strong infrastructure for science and for specific virtual communities. Europe is eager to show its attitude and embracing the world scientific communities in order to have a direct connection and collaboration with Latin America, India, Africa, etc. The natural question here is: ALICE and RedCLARA are going to continue? I think that we are in position to say 'Yes', there will be a continuation, but there's going to be a gap in the financing [during 2008]. That gap must be filled by the organization. But we can say that the communities that are most advanced are going to be able to continue in their collaborative work. We very much appreciate the work of our friends in Latin America, CLARA, and in GÉANT. What we are building here is furthermore than supporting project A or B or C, but what we are all doing is establishing a network of solidarity and yes, we are going to be able to continue working together".

At the end of his intervention Campolargo thanked the EELA work team "not just for this meeting but for carrying out this project and succeed. You are taking advantage of the infrastructure that we have with RedCLARA and its connection to GÉANT, and you are in the right path".

The presentations given during the first day of the 3rd EELA Conference were related to the EELA achievements and the perspectives of EELA-2. Regarding the achievements, Professor Luis Nuñez from the University of Los Andes in Venezuela was emphatic in highlighting the importance that EELA has had in the Latin-American region, he said: "EELA has changed that way that we cooperate in Latin America, the way in which we do science". This same opinion was expressed by María Teresa Dova, academic of the University of La Plata (Argentina) who said that thanks to EELA her country has started to work on an e-Science programme; "we didn't know about Grid infrastructures, and now we are currently participating in very important initiatives, and this has been because of EELA, with EELA we started from scratch and we have been able to succeed", stated Dova.

Tomorrow the agenda contemplates the presentation of several applications that are currently operating over the EELA Grid infrastructure and some of those that will be benefited from the future infrastructure of EELA-2. The Conference will end on Wednesday at midday.

For further information, please visit:

- <http://www.eu-eela.org/conference3/>
- <http://www.eu-eela.org>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eela>
- <http://documents.eu-eela.org>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDBqAQz2n3s>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGlc7jutEHA>

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