

Scientific Events

“Grid Days”

Scientific Symposium

Bucharest, 20th April 2010

On Tuesday, April 20th 2010, the *National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics - ICI Bucharest* together with the *University of Bucharest* organized the scientific symposium "Grid Days", an event which reunited prestigious researchers and academics in the field of Information and Communication Technology – ICT.

"Grid Days" is a dissemination event for the FP7 (European Research Framework Programme) European project, "Enabling Grids for E-sciencE - EGEE III", which includes a community of scientists from over 90 organizations and over 33 countries, whose main role is to create an infrastructure that would provide to its users superior data processing power, data storage and management tools, software, training and technical advice in various fields (information science, physics, chemistry, astronomy, meteorology, etc.)

Due to the importance of this project within the European informatics community, "The RoGRID Consortium has assumed a vital role in creating and promoting the Grid concept in Romania", said, at the symposium, Prof. Doina Banciu – General Director of the National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics - ICI Bucharest.

The event was attended by representatives of the RoGRID Consortium, representatives of ICI Bucharest – project coordinator, the University of Bucharest, INCAS Bucharest, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, guests of the University of Pitesti, researchers and specialists from ICI Bucharest, students at the University of Bucharest.

Participants at the “Grids Days” symposium presented the achievements of Romanian participation in two European research projects, representative for this area: EGEE III, mentioned above, and SEE-GRID, a project developed in the South East European

region. These achievements mainly relate to the establishment of the national component of Grid computing infrastructures at European and regional levels, the development of applications in areas representative for GRID technologies’ potential, as well as, training and dissemination activities, aiming mainly to activate new communities of Grid infrastructure potential users. Also, there were mentioned national projects in this area, developed with participation of RoGRID members.

In addition, of great importance proved to be, the presentation delivered by Prof. Doina Banciu concerning the EGI-InSPIRE project, a project that will continue the development of Grid infrastructure in Europe.

"EGI-InSPIRE represents the natural continuation of EGEE III and brings together, within the same scientific framework, prestigious researchers and specialists from leading institutions of Europe and Romania," underlined prof. Doina Banciu in her speech.

Prof. Gheorghe Sebestyen-Pal, the representative of the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, presented activities of development and dissemination of Grid infrastructure conducted at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, as well as, priorities and the European perspective for development of this area, and the rising of local and national infrastructure, to EU standards.

Mr. Cătălin Nae, PhD – General Director of the National Institute for Aerospace Research - INCAS Bucharest – pointed out the importance of Grid users in the projects presented in the session and also underlined the need for cooperation between institutions.

At the end of the morning session, representatives of the RoGRID Consortium participated, at the Ministry of Communications and Information Society - MCSI – to a discussion with the General Director of the General Directorate for Policy

and Programmes for the Information Society – Mr. Andrei Savulescu – concerning Grid development in Romania.

During the same visit at MCSI, Minister Gabriel Sandu met with representatives of the RoGRID Consortium and discussed professional aspects regarding cooperation and coordination of ICT infrastructure in Romania.

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The symposium continued at *ICI Bucharest* with a training session during which young researchers and students had the opportunity to study how a Grid site is operated and how it functions, and also to familiarize themselves with programmes related to a complex Grid infrastructure, such as the g-Lite middleware.

During this training session presentations were given by Mr. Alexandru Stanciu, PhD candidate - researcher at *ICI* and Mr. Stefan Preda – senior computer programmer at *ICI*.

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The event sessions were also, devoted to discussions and therefore a series of conclusions were reached. Firstly, the participants identified the need for the development of a long term Grid strategy and the development of an HPC strategy, both of which shall be in accordance with European legislation and standards. Secondly, the Grid infrastructure, at a national level, must attract the attention of young researchers and new users and support the current and future VO's (Virtual Organization).

Also, another conclusion refers to the need of cooperation between institutions of higher education, such as universities, research institutes etc., which is, beyond any doubt, necessary for the successful development of the Grid infrastructure in our country.

Lastly, and probably the most important conclusion, refers to the much needed support provided by the national authorities, regarding the joining of the European Grid Initiative (EGI) and further successful cooperation with such international institutions.