

ERA pilot on a coordinated Europe-wide initiative in Grid research

GridCoord

Several Grid research initiatives currently are ongoing or planned at national and European Community level. These initiatives propose the development of a rich set of advanced technologies, methodologies and applications. However, enhanced coordination among the funding bodies is required to achieve critical mass, avoid duplication and reduce fragmentation in order to solve the challenges ahead.

In the 2002–06 timeframe, the funding for Grid research and deployment at EU level more than doubled, passing from FP5 (fifth programme for research and development) to FP6 (sixth programme for research and development), reaching the amount of EUR 275 million. During the same period, the funding for Grid research and deployment by Member States and accession countries (UK, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Poland, Czech Republic, Sweden) can be estimated at about EUR 300–500 million.

The totality of these initiatives could provide the EU with the potential to play a **world leadership role** in Grid technologies and applications. National and EU collaborations have been established with other international players (in the US and Asia-Pacific) and with international standards organisations. However, if Europe wishes to compete with leading global players, it would be sensible to attempt to better coordinate its various, fragmented efforts towards **achieving critical mass** and the potential for a more **visible impact** at an international level. Achieving such a coordinated approach requires:

- coordination among the funding authorities in order to maximise the effective use of the considerable resources;
- collaboration among the researchers and users of Grid technology; the creation of European excellence and competence centres;
- a visionary research agenda.

The **objectives** of GridCoord are:

- to strengthen cooperation among the funding authorities in order to better coordinate the planning of future activities in the field of Grid research, an ERA (European Research Area) objective;
- to enhance the already ongoing collaboration among the research actors and users;
- to develop, based on the above, national and EU programme visions and roadmaps enabling Europe to play a leadership role in Grid technologies and applications.

Project partners

Organisation name and country

UNIVERSITA DI PISA	IT
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA	IT
THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST	UK
ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL	UK

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Specific support action

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Project website
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18 months



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