With a great support from Cudi,

EELA-2 had an inspired Workshop in Mexico

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Persons and institutions eager to get inside the grid world and hoping to join EELA-2 and help the creation of the Latin American Grid Infrastructure, very interesting projects that inside a proper global infrastructure could help to develop e-Science in Latin America. With these lines we can tell in brief what the EELA-2 representatives discovered in the Workshop that was carried on the 6th of October at the Hotel Camino Real in Monterrey (Nueva León, Mexico), in the context of the Cudi Autumn Meeting.

The story of the EELA-2 Workshop in Mexico started to be written in June, during the Technical Board meeting that was held in Itacuruçá (Brazil), were the leaders of the project's activities decided to take advantage of the most relevant national event in the advance networking and e-Science scopes, in order to profit from their visibility to better show EELA-2. The Autumn Meeting of the Mexican National Research and Education Network, Cudi, was one of the first events that arose as one of the best possibilities. So, the EELA-2 Training and Dissemination staff (NA2) contacted Cudi and the response was of great support and commitment. Ever since that very first moment, things only got better and better.

The general coordinator of the Cudi Communities, Salma Jalife, and the Coordinator of the Grid and Supercomputing Community, Luis Ángel Trejo, worked hard to locally coordinate the EELA-2 Workshop and to reach a wide but specific spectrum of attendees. Meaning a very good number of participants, slightly more than 50, all involved in research and technologies and, also, most of them developing projects in a grid structure and needing a solid e-Infrastructure.

Apart from the necessity of presenting EELA-2 to the wide Mexican community, the ambition was to invite the institutions members of Cudi to participate in the Mexican Joint Research Unit (JRU) of EELA-2. And as the Executive Director of the NREN, Carlos Casasús López Hermosa, said at the welcome session of the Workshop, the importance of holding an EELA-2 Workshop in the context of the CUDI Meeting is that this will help to enhance the Mexican participation in the project. The Executive Director of Cudi also referred in very positive terms to the Latin American Grid Initiative (LGI) that EELA-2 is promoting to be created in the region to ensure the long-term sustainability of e-infrastructures in Latin America.

The Executive Director of Cudi, Carlos Casasús López Hermosa, welcomes the attendees.

Now moving on to the necessities of the Mexican research, technological and of course of grid and supercomputing communities, the future creation of a Mexican NGI (National Grid Initiative) also arose as a new major and reachable objective.

Nine presentations were given during the Workshop (all of them can be downloaded from http://indico.eu-eela.eu/conferenceTimeTable.py?confId=165):

- General presentation of the EELA-2 Project, by Bernard Maréchal (EELA-2 Project Coordinator)
- The work plan of the EELA-2 Project, by Roberto Barbera (EELA-2 Project Technical Coordinator)
- Presentation of the CUDI working group on Grid and Supercomputing, by Luis Ángel Trejo (ITESM - Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Coordinator of the Grid and Supercomputing Community of Cudi)
- Grid activities at IPN, by Rolando Menchaca García (CIC – IPN, Instituto Politécnico Nacional)
- National laboratory on Grid and Supercomputing for e-Science applications, by José Lozano (CICESE - Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada)
- OpTIputer: the Grid and PRAGMA portal at CICESE, by Sylvia Camacho (CICESE)
- Grid activities at IPICyT, by Miriam Torres-Cedillo (CNS-IPICyT - Centro Nacional de Supercómputo and Instituto Potosino de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica)
- UNAM presentation on Grid developments, by Lukas Nellen (UNAM – Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
- How to collaborate with EELA-2, by Herbert Hoeger (EELA-2, NA2 Manager); Raúl Ramos (EELA-2 Deputy Technical Coordinator)

After the Workshop, as an action of continuity, the Coordinator of the Cudi Comunity of Grid and Supercomputing, Luis Ángel Trejo, stated that the Comunity will mantain its relationship with EELA-2 in order to bring new institutions members of Cudi to enhance the efforts to build a Mexican Grid and to foster the creation and porting to the grid of new applications that could serve both to solve problems inside the broader research community

Bernard Maréchal and Luis Ángel Trejo, during the Workshop.

and to establish stronger collaborative liaisons with the Europeans scientific peers.

As Cudi wrote on its Autumn Meeting Website, this was "also a great opportunity for the Cudi Community to know the advances of the developments that are currently been carried out diverse institutions in aspects related to grids".

On the 7th of October, Cudi carried out in the same location its Autumn Meeting. This event was attended by 308 persons from 101 institutions, and it counted with the participation of the maximum authorities of four Mexican universities: Eng. José Antonio González Treviño - Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL), Lic. Mario García Valdez - Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí (UASLP), Eng. José María Leal Gutiérrez - Rector of the Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT), Eng. Luis Caraza Tirado - Vicerrector de Recursos Humanos y Tecnologías de Información (ITESM), and Dr. Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista - Rector of the Universidad de Las América-Puebla (UDLAP).

In this event the EELA-2 Project was presented by its Project Coordinator, Bernard Maréchal, who referred to the objectives of EELA-2 and highlighted the importance of the different initiatives that are currently under development for the advancement of e-Science, inside EELA-2, in Mexico, and Latin America. Maréchal said that during the

Workshop there were identified new Mexican institution that together with UNAM (current EELA-2 member), could foster e-Science in Mexico and could also collaborate with the other Latin-American and European communities.

After the successful days in Monterrey, the EELA-2 staff traveled to Mexico City in order to meet the partners at UNAM, with whom it was taken the decision to hold an EELA-2 Tutorial for site administrators in Mexico during which a few sites will be installed with the gLite middleware and connected to the EELA-2 infrastructure. The Tutorial, that it is going to be widely open to the whole Mexican institutions, will take place from the 9th to the 13th of February 2009 in Mexico City, and all the relevant information is published at: http://indico.eu-eela.eu/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=174.

During the workshop the attendees were highly concentrated and did interact a lot with the panelists.

Bernard Maréchal during his presentation at the Cudi Meeting, October 7.