e·nventory

The European
eInfrastructures
Observatory
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Deliverable D3.3
Advisory board final recommendations

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Abstract: Deliverable D3.3 "Advisory Board final recommendations" documents, after concluding the entire consultation process with the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** Advisory Board, the final reflections that will serve as a key milestone and final input to the **e·nventory** work plan.

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January 27, 2012	2.2	N. Vogiatzis	Incorporation of QAT recommendations
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References

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[2]   *Quality assurance plan and risk assessment*, D1.1, **e·nventory** project, October 2010.

[3]   *Dissemination and communication plan*, D5.1, **e·nventory** project, December 2010.

[4]   *International observatories, repositories and indicators study*, D2.1, **e·nventory** project, January 2011.

[5]   *European e·Infrastructures Observatory Advisory Board charter*, D3.1, **e·nventory** project, Feb. 2011.

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[7]   *Indicators visualisation & representation modelling & techniques*, D4.1, **e·nventory** project, March 2011.

[8]   *Advisory board charter*, D3.1, **e·nventory** project, April 2011.

[9]   *Advisory board initial assessment and directions*, D3.2, **e·nventory** project, May 2011.

[10]   *Web platform draft specifications,* D4.2, **e·nventory** project, September 2011.

[11]   *Interim Dissemination and outreach report,* D5.2, **e·nventory** project, September 2011.

[12]   *Dissemination and communication plan update,* D5.3, **e·nventory** project, December 2011.

Acronyms

AB	Advisory Board
CPU	Central Processing Unit
EC	European Commission
EGI	European Grid Infrastructure
EGI-InSPIRE	Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe
EARNEST	Foresight Study into Research and Education Networking
EU	European Union
e-IRG	e·Infrastructures Reflection Group
GÉANT	Gigabit European Advanced Network Technology
GN3	Multi-Gigabit European Research and Education Network and Associated Services
HPC	High-Performance Computing
IP	Internet Protocol
JISC	Joint Information Systems Committee
NGI	National Grid Initiative
NREN	National Research and Education Network
PRACE	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe
QAT	Quality Assurance Team
TERENA	Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association
TCO	Total Cost of Ownership

Preface

The **e·nventory** project targets the formation of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory**, a single-entry-point and one-stop-shop data warehouse, capable of representing multiple primary and convoluted indicators and benchmarks, and a yardstick tool for progress monitoring, impact assessment, post-mortem analysis and ex-ante evaluation of e·Infrastructures at regional and national levels across the European Union and beyond.

The aim of the **e·nventory** project is to carry out a design study that will set the grounds towards the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory**; through the collection and utilisation of appropriate indicators, the project will be able to monitor the status quo and evolution over time of e·Infrastructures development and communicate all findings to related stakeholders but also to the public-at-large, in a seamless and impartial way.

The **e·nventory** project will carry out extensive consultation with e·Infrastructures stakeholders and research and innovation indicator experts and will extend prior benchmarking efforts (e.g. EARNEST) by including an extensive set of e·Infrastructures components (i.e., computing, communication and services), eventually deploying a prototype web platform dealing with a critically-selected subset of indicators, through intuitive, interactive and user-friendly mappings, plots and graphics.

The project action plan is structured so that it can achieve:

- identification of a core set of benchmarking indicators for the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** that will be the baseline for monitoring e·Infrastructures development progress,
- e·Infrastructures stakeholders' feedback and consensus on the proposed structure and functionality of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory**, and
- **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** functionality demonstration through a prototype web platform that will be available to all e·Infrastructure communities and to the general public.

The **e·nventory** project responds to the need of e·Infrastructure stakeholders by delivering a prototype tool to aid impact assessment of related e·Infrastructure initiatives and programmes. In that respect, the user communities that will effectively use the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** as a yardstick tool and translate the project outputs into a real influence on e·Infrastructure policy, are the e·Infrastructure stakeholders themselves, including:

- the **European Parliament**, the **European Commission** and **National Governments** that are sponsoring e·Infrastructure initiatives and place a high value in their policy agenda on the impact assessment, post-mortem analysis and ex-ante evaluation, to help design better and more successful future e·Infrastructure programmes;
- **research funding bodies** that plan the development of strategies to address the digital divide and digital opportunity issues and need to utilise and assess the impact of e·Infrastructures contributing to this goal;
- **e·Infrastructure policy bodies** that have a clear mandate of supporting the development and the sustainability of e·Infrastructures and need an impact assessment tool to monitor the progress of achieving their objectives;
- **e·Infrastructure projects** that carry out specific e·Infrastructure activities and need to monitor their impact during deployment as well as retrospectively;
- **scientific/research communities** that are empowered by e·Infrastructures and are eager to comprehend their strengths and weaknesses that influence their everyday work.

High utilisation of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** from the broad e·Infrastructure community is a key measure of the project's impact; therefore, the entire project work plan has been designed to maximize stakeholders' engagement and awareness.

The **e·nventory** project kicked-off in September 2010 and is planned to be completed by August 2012. The project is co-financed by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research Infrastructures.

Executive summary

What is the focus of this Deliverable?

The objective of WP3 is to liaise with key e·Infrastructure stakeholder organisations and experts and create a **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** Advisory Board, a reflection group to consult and receive feedback on the e·Infrastructures indicators, database and data representations methods and tools.

Deliverable D3.3 documents the reflections of the second round of consultation process with the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** Advisory Board, including the derived recommendations that will serve as key input to the final semester of the **e·nventory** project work plan.

What are the deliverable contents?

Deliverable D3.3 transcribes the recommendations and reflections of the second phase of consultation with the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** Advisory Board**,** up to and including the second Advisory Board meeting that took place on October 24, 2011 in Barcelona.

What are the deliverable main conclusions?

- Additional indicators should be used per e·Infrastructure component to reflect their utilisation aspect.
- It is recommended to provide access to the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** and seek feedback from the three identified groups prior to its official launch.
- It is recommended to participate in key annual conferences of the main bodies that represent the three core e·Infrastructures "building blocks" (i.e. TERENA, EGI, and PRACE) as well as attempt to co-organize the official inauguration event of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** in the framework of one of these e·Infrastructures community events.
- Further research is recommended at a later stage on new emerging e·Infrastructure areas (data e·Infrastructures, cloud computing, and broadband access).
- It is recommended to develop a specific section where e·Infrastructure projects' information as well as a mapping of competences is given.
- It is suggested to proceed with the implementation of a few proposed details to further improve the already very good result achieved so far with the visualisation and representation tools of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory.**

How does this deliverable contribute to the project quality metrics?

This deliverable sets the grounds for the achievement of the following project quality metrics:

- At least 5 Letters of Support/Letters of Endorsement by e·Infrastructures projects and/or communities that carry out specific research activities and need to carry out impact assessment and optimise their strategies to address digital divide and digital opportunity issues.
- At least 3 Advisory Board assemblies

How does this deliverable contribute to the avoidance/mitigation/exploitation of the project risks?

This deliverable contributes to the avoidance, mitigation or exploitation of the following project risks:

- Project strategic objectives not endorsed by e·Infrastructures stakeholders
- Compact consortium could face resource challenges while carrying out the planned work
- e·Infrastructures stakeholders unwilling to engage in benchmarking activities
- Low utilisation of the European e·Infrastructures Observatory from the e·Infrastructures stakeholders
- Not accomplishing effective interactive web visualisation of the information space
- Core set of benchmark indicators not finalised/constantly being revised

What is next in the process to deliver the e·nventory results?

- Deliverable D2.3 (M16) will provide the final set of the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** benchmarking indicators after the finalization of consultation activities in WP3.

- Deliverable D4.3 (M20) will document the final set of specifications for the prototype web platform dealing with a critically-selected subset of indicators and relevant repositories, its functionality and the user's guide. It will further include the results of the usability and accessibility tests that will be conducted with the platform. This deliverable will also serve as a technical reference for any follow-up (production-level) version of the portal after the completion of the project.

- Deliverable D5.4 (M23) will take the form of an inauguration workshop that will demonstrate the **European e·Infrastructures Observatory** to representatives of the e·Infrastructures community at large.

- Deliverable D5.5 (M24) will provide a final report on the implementation of dissemination and outreach activities, including assessment of their impact on the targeted e·Infrastructures groups.