Next steps in the future of Knowledge Exchange
30 June 2012

Input collected at workshop
On 30 and 31 May 2012, Knowledge Exchange (KE) organised a workshop bringing together members of all working group and several other selected experts. The participants shared the activities and plans of all the working groups and explored topics and approaches to feed into the strategic plan of Knowledge Exchange for 2013 to 2015. Additional input was collected before the event through a survey sent to all working group members.

Several topics recurred in discussions, clearly identifying key issues:
- Fresh insights into sustainable business models for shared services for the open layer are required;
- Linking the infrastructure across disciplinary, national and global boundaries is a challenge worth addressing;
- A new area of work is needed in KE, Open Culture, which seeks to understand researcher behaviours and encourage open, sustainable use of technologies.

In the discussion a commonly used metaphor was to regard the e-Infrastructures as part of an overall 'ecosystem'. An ongoing challenge is to connect with all the stakeholders in this ‘ecosystem’, including researchers and publishers. This includes retaining engagement with the European Commission and reaching out more effectively to other European organisations and initiatives working in related areas. KE should examine working practices to increase its flexibility and responsiveness, improve impact, especially with the partner organisations and national bodies, and develop a sound communications strategy.

Expected changes
The steering group and KE group have discussed the outcomes of the workshop and translated these into the following actions:
- KE will work with expert groups set up for limited time periods, the duration may vary according to topic and approach. If required they can be continued for another period. These will replace the current working groups. These will be set up at the start of 2013.
- Activities will be prepared and executed by compact task and finish groups bringing together a small number of relevant experts. These can consist of members from several expert groups but also from beyond. Such groups will be set up from January 2013 onwards.
- KE will work on fresh approach to communication in order to stimulate more community interest and expert participation in KE’s work. An aspect will be to identify the stakeholders in the eco-system, discuss how we wish to engage with these parties and how we can best connect.
- When planning activities we will consider how we can have maximum impact in engaging with the various stakeholders and organisations active in our field. KE, in its activities will put more emphasis on direct value to partner organisations and its constituents. The engagements will take place at the national, European and global level.

Incorporating changes in Strategic Plan
The steering group will incorporate the suggestions in the strategic plan. The plan will then be discussed with senior management of the four partners and with the partner which is working on joining KE, CSC from Finland. The changes should be incorporated by September and formally endorsed at the KE Strategy Forum on 25-26 October 2012.

1 The full report, presentations and photographs of the joint workshop event are available at http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/Default.aspx?ID=506