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Deliverable D2.9

Supporting an e-Infrastructure Event

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Abstract

DI4R 2018 was held in Lisbon on 9, 10 and 11 October 2018, jointly organised by the key e-infrastructures EOSC-hub, GÉANT, OpenAIRE and PRACE. This report provides a summary overview of the event's organisation and results.

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1 Introduction

The 2018 Digital Infrastructures for Research (DI4R 2018) conference is the third edition in the DI4R series, following the successful DI4R 2016 (which was held in Krakow in September 2016) and DI4R 2017 (which was held in Brussels on 30 November and 1 December 2017), and was jointly organised by the key e-infrastructures EOSC-hub, GÉANT, OpenAIRE and PRACE [[DI4R 2018](#)].

2 Goals/Purpose

The overall aim of the conference was to showcase the existing e-infrastructure and services offered to researchers and research infrastructures, to demonstrate how the building blocks for a shared e-infrastructure are already in place, and to show progress made from previous DI4R events in providing for Europe's researchers, within the context of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The conference sessions and workshops aimed to facilitate discussion, gather requirements and ensure that the e-infrastructures continue to work together to achieve this.

The conference programme was built around seven main topics:

- Cross-Domain Challenges – data exchange across domains: researchers, technologists
- Open Science and Skills
- Computing and Virtual Research Environments
- Security, Trust and Identity
- Digital Infrastructures for EOSC and/or EDI
- Business Models, Sustainability and Policies
- Innovation in Open Science with SMEs and Industry

3 Audience

The conference targeted researchers, developers and service providers as well as those involved with the e-infrastructures themselves. DI4R 2018 enjoyed a strong level of interest from this audience, with over 370 registrations. Whilst this represents a small decrease over 2017 (which had 400 registrations), the difference is likely the result of a less central location (DI4R 2017 was held in Brussels) and the fact that DI4R 2017 was co-located with the EOSCpilot Stakeholder Forum, which attracted approximately 300 attendees; although there is no data to measure the overlap between the two events, it seems likely that there would have been some. DI4R 2018 gave the distinct impression that the DI4R series has now established itself as a successful standalone event that warrants further development and support in the future.

4 Logistics and Setup

The conference was held in Lisbon, at the ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL) [[ISCTE-IUL](#)], using campus facilities and support staff. It was jointly organised by EOSC-hub [[EOSC-hub](#)], GÉANT [[GÉANT](#)], OpenAIRE [[OpenAIRE](#)] and PRACE [[PRACE](#)], with each organisation contributing funding and personnel and participating in the Programme Committee (PC), Steering Committee (SC) and the Organising Committee (OC).

Following a call for proposals, the PC selected from 164 submissions – the highest number received so far – to design a full programme including 22 sessions, 82 talks, 24 posters, 12 demos, 9 training sessions and 15 lightning talks. An overview of the programme is provided in Appendix A; full details are available from the timetable page of the DI4R website [[DI4R_Timetable](#)].

The OC handled logistics and event planning.



Figure 4.1: DI4R 2018 banner

A booth area featured tables and banners from the key e-infrastructure EOSC-hub, GÉANT, OpenAIRE and PRACE; banners were also positioned on the plenary stage, and large-scale posters were placed in the lunch venue.

The Lisbon location (and the proximity to the airport) provided plenty of travel options and the venue was reasonably attractive. However, the rooms were somewhat dispersed, the poster area not well located, and there was not always sufficient signage. Whilst the campus atmosphere was quite charming, it was felt that a conference of this size needs a certain type of venue that can offer the right amount of space and level of facilities, and a sufficient range of room options for side meetings, etc. This was discussed at the debrief meeting that took place shortly after the event and will feed into the 2019 planning.

5 Results and Feedback

The conference took place over three days (one day longer than DI4R 2017), with successful outreach driving over 370 total registrations.

A debrief meeting was held between organisers, and several points were highlighted for improvement at any future event:

- The programme was very broad and all-encompassing. It was proposed that a more focused programme should be considered.
- Slightly shortening the conference (to two, or two and a half days) should also be considered, and in conjunction with the above point.
- Keynote presenters should be better briefed, in terms of their presentation and delivery style.
- The venue needs to offer facilities for side meetings, and to provide a suitable exhibition and demonstration area.
- It was recognised that the DI4R events now attract a considerable number of attendees (around half of TNC, for example), and although the cost of putting on the event is rather low for each organiser, the event organisation and presentation need to reflect that maturity.
- The roles and responsibilities of – as well as the communication between – the three committees needs to be improved.
- Aspects such as on-site signage and branding; registration desks; exhibitor and demo areas, etc., are heavily influenced by the venue itself. Therefore selection of an appropriate venue, and pre-event site visits, are important in ensuring the event can be organised and presented more professionally.

On the positive side, the Scientific Panel “E-infrastructure: what is it and how does it help you?” was very well received and for some, it alone made the conference worth attending. Engagement by attendees on social media and throughout the networking areas was very good. It is also recognised that the conference has definitely established itself, and the organisers therefore need to further professionalise the organisation of the event to reflect and build on this.

6 Outreach

The OC handled communications and outreach activities prior to, during and after the event.

Regular calls with the OC members took place in the months leading up to the event to jointly plan and action tasks, with meetings chaired on a revolving basis by each of the partners.

Communications channels included the DI4R website [[DI4R 2018](#)], social media accounts (especially Twitter [[DI4R Twitter](#)]), and a dedicated email campaign. Each partner also promoted the event through their own channels, including referrals to all partners to ensure a collaborative approach. Messaging, news items and banners were created for use by all partners to facilitate this.

GÉANT also covered DI4R 2018 in *CONNECT* magazine. A preview article appeared in Issue 29 [[CONNECT 29](#), pp. 16–17], while Issue 30 [[CONNECT 30](#)], which was distributed to all attendees, highlighted the event on its cover and in a feature section (pp. 2–9), with contributions invited from all partners. The section included interviews with the Programme Committee co-chair, one of the keynote speakers, and with Augusto Burgueño Arjona, head of the eInfrastructure and Science Cloud Unit, part of the EC’s Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, in which he discussed the EDI and EOSC, and the role of the DI4R event itself. A further review article is planned for publication in *CONNECT* Issue 32.



Figure 6.1: *CONNECT30* cover featuring DI4R 2018

A social media campaign ran throughout the event, with posts made on the majority of sessions, encouraging sharing and discussions. This approach was very successful, with strong engagement from the attendees, and indeed the social media outreach in the three months up to and including the event saw an increase in Twitter activity of over 50% compared to DI4R 2017.¹

¹ Measured in terms of “impressions” – 139,000 over the three-month period, compared to 90,000 for DI4R 2017. An impression is the total number of times a tweet appears in a user’s timeline or search results. Impressions metrics are typically not de-duplicated by person, so this is a count of all views (e.g. across multiple devices to one account.)

7 Conclusions and Next Steps

As mentioned in Section 5, a debrief call took place shortly after the event to review its planning and implementation and to identify areas for improvement. Whilst overall the event was considered successful, and attracted the highest number of submissions so far, some of the shortcomings of the venue in particular highlighted the need for better organisation.

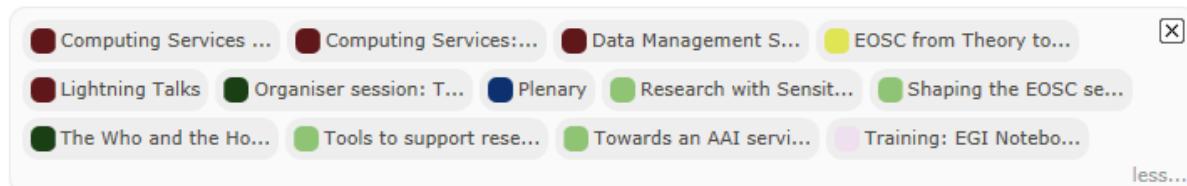
It was also felt that the three committees did not work well enough together, that the time available for the Programme Committee to select the programme was not sufficient, and that some decisions had not been taken in a particularly transparent way. In light of this, GÉANT has suggested taking the lead in organising the 2019 conference, which the other partners have welcomed.

DI4R is now a well-established, well-attended, well-received event. Taking the 2018 feedback into account, the GÉANT-led organisers will build on these strong foundations to ensure that DI4R 2019 will be an even greater success.

Appendix A DI4R 2018 Programme Overview

For a version of the programme with links to further information, including slides, please see [\[DI4R Timetable\]](#).

Key:



Tue 9/10

09:00	Opening Plenary <i>Prof. Sinead Ryan</i>				09:00 - 11:00
10:00					
11:00	Coffee Break <i>Lisbon</i>				11:00 - 11:30
12:00	EuroHPC a new player in the game - PRACE/GEANT organizer session	Persistent Identifiers in use: Exchanging ideas about new developments in the field of PID services <i>Eliane Fankh...</i>	Training: The Scientific Scavenger Hunt <i>Peter Kraker</i>	Thematic Services: Life Sciences, Neuroscience and Astronomy <i>Dr. Gergely S...</i>	Auditorium JJLaginha, Lisbon
13:00	Lunch <i>Lisbon</i>				13:00 - 14:15
14:00					

EOSC Service Architecture <i>Dr. Giacinto ...</i>	EOSCpilot Policy Recommendations <i>Dale Roberts...</i>	Training Data Management Planning <i>Maria Frances...</i>	Open Science: Services <i>Paolo Manghi</i>
15:00 <i>Main Auditorium, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Auditorium B104, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Auditorium B203, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Auditorium JJLaginha, Lisbon</i>
Coffee 16:00 <i>Lisbon</i>			
Data Management Services : Part I <i>Dr. Johannes...</i>	Have a CoP of T in our Cafe <i>Iryna Kuchma</i>	Open Science: Skills and Credits <i>Paolo Manghi</i>	Rules of Participation for EOSC <i>Mark Sanden</i>
17:00 <i>Auditorium B104, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Auditorium B203, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Auditorium JJLaginha, Lisbon</i>	 <i>Lisbon</i>
Zapping Session 18:00 <i>Ms. Sara Garavelli</i>			
 <i>Main Auditorium, Lisbon</i>			17:45 - 18:45
19:00 Networking Cocktail			
20:00 <i>Lunch place (Refeitório), Lisbon</i>			19:00 - 20:30

Wed 10/10

	Plenary <i>Jorge Gomes</i>			
09:00				
10:00				
	<i>Main Auditorium, Lisbon</i>		08:45 - 11:00	
11:00	Coffee <i>Lisbon</i>			11:00 - 11:30
12:00	Towards an AAI service for research communities <i>Mr. Nicolas L...</i> <i>Auditorium JJLaginha, Lisbon</i>	Shaping the EOSC service roadmap <i>Sergio Andre...</i> <i>Auditorium B203, Lisbon</i>	The Who and the How of Open Science: A user journey in Open Science through the lens of OpenAIRE <i>Inge Van Ni...</i> <i>Lisbon</i>	Computing Services: Part I <i>Dr. Jakob Te...</i> <i>Auditorium B104, Lisbon</i>
13:00	Lunch <i>Lisbon</i>			
14:00				13:00 - 14:30
15:00	Data Management Services: Part II <i>Giuseppe Fia...</i> <i>Auditorium JJLaginha, Lisbon</i>	Organiser session: The EOSC-hub service portfolio and applicable policies for service providers and users <i>Dr. Isabel C...</i> <i>Main Auditorium, Lisbon</i>	Research with Sensitive Personal Data <i>Maria Iozzi</i> <i>Auditorium B104, Lisbon</i>	Training: EGI Notebooks <i>Dr. Enol Fer...</i> <i>Auditorium B203, Lisbon</i>
16:00	Coffee <i>Lisbon</i>			16:00 - 16:30
17:00	Tools to support researchers <i>Dr. Alvaro Lo...</i> <i>Auditorium B203, Lisbon</i>	Lightning Talks <i>Karl Meyer</i> <i>Main Auditorium, Lisbon</i>	EOSC from Theory to Practice <i>Dr. Isabel C...</i> <i>Auditorium B104, Lisbon</i>	Computing Services Part II <i>Florian Berbe...</i> <i>Lisbon</i>
18:00				16:30 - 18:00

Thu 11/10

09:00	Plenary <i>Volker Guelzow</i>	Main Auditorium, Lisbon	09:00 - 11:00
10:00			
11:00	Coffee <i>Lisbon</i>		11:00 - 11:30
12:00	Building better collaborative national networks to support Open Science 	The Frontier of Data Discovery <i>Mark Sanden</i>	Training: Security Incident Management <i>Dr. Sven Gabr...</i>
	Auditorium B203, Lisbon	Main Auditorium, Lisbon	Room C103, Lisbon
13:00	Lunch <i>Lisbon</i>		
14:00			13:00 - 14:30
15:00	Thematic Services: Environmental Sciences <i>Bjorn Backeb...</i>	Digital Innovation Hubs for Industry Engagement <i>Sy Holsinger</i>	OpenAIRE services for Research Communities  <i>Pedro Principe</i>
	Main Auditorium, Lisbon	Auditorium B104, Lisbon	Auditorium B203, Lisbon
16:00	Closing Plenary and Awards <i>Prof. Sinead Ryan</i> Main Auditorium, Lisbon		16:00 - 16:30
16:30	Farewell Coffee <i>Lisbon</i>		16:30 - 17:00
17:00			

References

[CONNECT_29]	https://issuu.com/geantpublish/docs/connect_29_final
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[DI4R_2018]	https://www.digitalinfrastructures.eu/
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[EOSC-hub]	https://eosc-hub.eu/
[GÉANT]	https://www.geant.org/
[ISCTE-IUL]	https://www.iscte-iul.pt/
[OpenAIRE]	https://www.openaire.eu/
[PRACE]	http://www.prace-ri.eu/

Glossary

DI4R	Digital Infrastructures for Research
EC	European Commission
EDI	European Data Initiative
EOSC	European Open Science Cloud
OC	Organising Committee
PC	Programme Committee
SC	Steering Committee
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
TNC	The Networking Conference