



omii europe

open middleware infrastructure institute



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0.2	28 May 2007	Draft	Updated statements of unfunded effort; more about M18-M24; minor other revisions
1.0	1 June 2007	Final	Amendments in light of review
2.0	7 June 2007	Final	Added paragraphs on external links

Executive Summary

This deliverable reports progress made by the training activity during the 12 month period from the project start to end April 2007. The document is written for reviewers and project members.

The objective of this activity NA3 is to transfer knowledge and hands-on experience concerning the use of Grids to both potential and current Grid users, with emphasis upon the components selected by and re-engineered by OMII-Europe. This activity is a partnership between UEDIN and Chinese partners (BU and CNIC).

Milestones have been achieved for this first 12 months; plans are in place to achieve the targets for the remaining period. These targets were specified to be: 12 courses in Europe and 6 in China during the 2 years of the project [1].

The emphasis to date has been upon:

1. Building foundations – the training web site, digital library collection for OMII-Europe, establishing OMII-Europe procedures for training and establishing links with colleagues in the project.
2. Establishing a pattern of internal training associated with 3-monthly face-to-face meetings
3. Running initial courses in both Europe and China.
4. Liaison with the providers of the Evaluation Infrastructures so that courses can use these. The first course using Evaluation Infrastructures will be in July 2007.

The training activity has used its relationships with EGEE, ICEAGE, Globus Alliance, UNICORE and the National Grid Service to extend the cooperation among these projects especially in the areas of training material exchange and provision, and also in building t-infrastructure.

The plans for the next 12 months are to continue with the internal training, and to increase the frequency of external courses, in phase with the provision of new OMII-Europe components. A milestone at month 18 will demonstrate progress against these plans.

This document assumes that the reader is familiar with the OMII-Europe objectives and project structure. Although further information is available via the training website, <http://training.omii-europe.org>, reference to this is not essential to understand this document.

Table of Contents

Document Control Sheet.....	2
Document Status Sheet	2
Executive Summary	3
Table of Contents	4
Introduction.....	4
Partners and effort.....	4
Progress.....	4
Foundations.....	5
Events.....	5
External Links.....	6
Plans.....	6
Conclusion	7
References.....	8

Introduction

The objective of this activity is to transfer knowledge and hands-on experience concerning the use and deployment of the grid components selected by and created by OMII-Europe. The training activity focuses on EGEE, UNICORE, Globus and CROWN as the base platforms. Courses will be extended and modified as additional components are added to the OMII-Europe repository.

The targets for this activity are defined as: “12 training events in Europe over the duration of the project involving the training of 200 users from research and industry. This will be complemented by 6 training courses to be held in China over the duration of the project”. [1]

The activity is planned to deliver courses with increasing frequency, as OMII-Europe components become available. The emphasis to date has been upon establishing a foundation for this acceleration.

The following section shows that the lead partner UEDIN has to a significant extent relied on unfunded effort to date. The progress made is then summarised and the plans and milestones for the next 12 months are given.

Partners and effort

Table 1 Planned and actual effort during first year of project (months)

Partner	Budgeted funded	Actual Funded	Planned unfunded	Actual unfunded
UEDIN	12	4	6	9.2
BU	0	0	3	4.0
CNIC	0	0	3	5.4

UEDIN filled the OMII-Europe vacancy during September to December, before the post-holder was promoted. (That post was again filled, in mid May 2007.)

Progress

The activity achieved its milestones of first courses in both Europe (M3) and China (target was M6, actually given in M11). This report is the only deliverable required by M12.

This section is subdivided into the establishment of foundations for the training activity, the events to date and the plans for future events.

Foundations

Future training courses will be run using the Evaluation Infrastructure (EI). The purpose of the Evaluation Infrastructure is to provide a mechanism for the OMII-Europe repository components to be deployed, evaluated and tested by third-parties and OMII-Europe partners. Using the EI during courses will permit participants to gain experience so that they can continue their explorations easily after courses. Liaison with the Support activities is leading to the establishment of a lightweight approach to authorisation and authentication, so that participants in courses do not need to bring a recognised e-science certificate. The first course using the EI will be on 11-13 July. The porting of tutorials to the EI is underway.

The ICEAGE digital library (<http://www.iceage-eu.org/library>) has been expanded to host an OMII-Europe collection of training material. The major extension required for OMII-Europe was to permit those depositing material to associate a licence such as Creative Commons with their material. [2]

The procedures followed in running courses conform to those established under EGEE, and recommended by CoreGrid. They include methods for gathering statistics from events, including feedback. Evaluations assess participant satisfaction and enable future courses to improve. Additional information can be found on the NA3 project wiki pages [3]. In response to the project's commitment to a Gender Action Plan (Annexe I, page 37), at each event a record of the number of male and female participants will be made: this will be collated as statistics for end-of-project reporting.

The training web site is established at <http://training.omi-europe.org>.

Events

Table 2 Events to end of 1st year

Start date	Title	Length (days)	Location	No. of participants	Overall average feedback
23-Jun-06	An introduction to OMII-Europe	0.5	Edinburgh	23	4.21
12-Dec-06	Globus toolkit security for software developers	1.5	Edinburgh	24	Not gathered
13-Feb-07	OMII-Europe: internal training	0.5	Bologna	19	4.70
27-Mar-07	Joint training of OMII-Europe and CNGrid	2.0	Beijing, China	33	4.57
23-Apr-07	OMII-Europe: internal training	0.3	Juelich	23	4.69

Table 2 shows the list of 5 events that were run during the year, for a total of 122 participants. The "Overall average feedback" column is derived from feedback forms, the summaries of which are accessible via the page <http://training.omii-europe.org/pastevents.html>. These forms invite participants to make assessments on a scale from 1 (very poor), 2 (poor), 3 (average), 4 (good), 5 (very good), 6 (excellent).

The 23-Jun-06 event and the 27-Mar-07 events were the milestones M:NA3.1 (due at M3 and delivered early) and M:NA3.2 (due at M6 and delivered late). The 12-Dec-06 event was a collaboration with trainers from the Globus Alliance and 23-Apr-07 with ETICS.

Outside the period of this report during May 2007 two more events were run: a course joint with ETICS was delivered on May 12, and the team collaborated in the BioMed School delivering sessions on GT4 and OGSA-DAI. These sessions are also stepping stones to practicals on the Evaluation Infrastructures. A complete list of past events is at: <http://training.omii-europe.org/PastEvents.html>

The Annex identified as a risk the possibility of insufficient interest existing. The numbers of participants to date indicate that this risk is not being realised. The course in China, 27-28 March included hands-on tutorials with gLite, CROWN and talks including material provided by the Benchmarking activity in OMII-Europe. It was fully subscribed, some participants travelled several hundred kilometres to attend the course; the courses will be taken to different locations in China during the next year. In Europe both internal and external courses have been well-subscribed. It is expected that this pattern will continue, for OMII-Europe training occupies a space that is out of scope for many other training activities: for example it is not focused upon one specific production infrastructure; it emphasises interoperability and standards that are not ad-hoc; it will also be seeking to broaden the extent to which Grid data services are understood and deployed by researchers.

In seeking to raise awareness of the project and the training programme, dissemination has taken place in the context of talks given at three EGEE, two ICEAGE and four National Grid Service events.

External Links

The training activity has used its relationships with EGEE, ICEAGE, Globus Alliance, UNICORE and the National Grid Service to extend the cooperation among these projects especially in the areas of training material exchange and provision, and t-infrastructure, as follows:

- EGEE and UNICORE are now investigating addition of UNICORE client software to a "super UI" that currently supports gLite, Globus, and OMII-UK.
- The potential for GILDA (the training infrastructure founded for EGEE and also extensively in ICEAGE) to link with OMII-Europe and its evaluation infrastructures is being explored.
- Cooperation with the Globus Alliance is leading to the exchange of training effort and material.
- New material on the creation of Grid Data Services is being developed for OGSA-DAI training courses. (An initial run of GT4-based OGSA-DAI material for bioinformatics VOs was given in May 2007)
- EGEE and NGS material has been re-used in OMII-Europe courses

Plans

The schedule of training events can be seen at <http://training.omii-europe.org>.

The focus of external training until end-October 2007 (month 18) is upon delivering:

- Three two-day courses, two in Europe and one in China.
 - These courses will:

- Introduce the OMII-Europe vision, services and components
- Give practical experience of the Evaluation Infrastructures
- Give practical experience of one or (usually) more middleware stacks. (Courses run cooperatively with e-infrastructure providers will on occasion focus more strongly upon their adopted middleware.)
- Introduce standards, including their use in OMII-Europe to support interoperation/interoperability.
- Incorporate new components as material becomes available. This will include the Portal, OGSA-BES services, and accounting.
- Use the OMII-Europe repository: practical examples will be downloaded from it.
 - The first of these events in Europe is scheduled for 11-13 July
- Three shorter events, one in Europe and two in China
 - These will select modules from the longer courses as appropriate.
 - These will be tailored to the specific contexts of for example a University's research community or in the case of June 2007 the EGEE/SEE-GRID school in Budapest.

From end-October 2007 (M18) a wider variety and a greater number of courses will be given. In particular OGSA-DAI release 3 will be available, so that courses specific to data services will be offered both stand-alone and also alongside the more established modules. The schedule of courses will be determined 3 months in advance, giving flexibility to respond to opportunities, in particular ones that can support specific grid communities. A further 4 two-day and 4 shorter events will be run before the end of the project. Some of these events will be in partnership with grid infrastructure projects (UNICORE, EGEE, NextGrid and in the UK, the National Grid Service), as is encouraged by the Annexe I (page 50). Additional internal courses for OMII-Europe partners will continue alongside the face-to-face meetings.

The Chinese partners will be provided with presentations and tutorials for those services that originate in Europe. These materials have a variety of sources: some are harvested from existing tutorials, from training sessions at project face-to-face meetings, and from events delivered in cooperation with partners. Where existing material does not exist for new services, the training activity is reliant on cooperation from partners in the creation of talks and practicals – as exemplified by the Benchmarking activity that provided material used in the Beijing March tutorial.

Hands-on tutorials will use guiding scripts on web-pages, these being created so as to be useable not only in courses but also by individuals seeking to use the Evaluation Infrastructures.

Conclusion

The training activity is crucial in the creation and supporting of communities that benefit from OMII-Europe services and components. The milestones of running initial courses in China and Europe have been achieved; foundations for meeting the targets of the activity are in place.

The training activity is using its network of contacts with related Grid initiatives to build further cooperation congruent with OMII-Europe goals.

The next milestone is the course on July 11-13, which will establish tutorials that use the Evaluation Infrastructures, and will include training associated with the OMII-Europe portal.

Plans for the next 12 months have been described with commitments to run seven events by end October 2007, and a further eight events by the end of the project.

References

[1] Annex I- Description of Work, 2006, page 49

[2] Use of the OMII-Europe Collection in the ICEAGE Digital Library
<http://omii-europe.org/wiki/Wiki.jsp?page=NA3DigitalLibraryUse>

[3] NA3 project wiki page <http://omii-europe.org/wiki/Wiki.jsp?page=NA3Training>