

# Middleware Track Feedback

Chair: Enric Mitjana (EC)

Rapporteur: Alistair Dunlop  
(University of Southampton)

# Observations

- Almost all middleware projects represented are involved to some extent with OGF specifications/standards
  - EU could have a very significant say on the emerging standards
  - Very little standards activity outside OGF
- We should caution against “standards euphoria”
  - Standards should come AFTER use, not before.
- Projects with user communities invariably involve the use of domain specific standards
  - Most notably in the form of Data. Linking with the Data Track would probably highlight this further
  - We should expect a significant increase in this as involvement with user communities increases (<15% of attendees are non-IT or non-physics users)
  - User communities are sceptical of the value in providing input to the standards activities
- Other EU units are doing a similar standards audit. We should consider cross unit collaboration
  - (Also done in the NextGrid project)

# Issues arising in compiling results

- Project Involvement in standards is variable
  - Significant role (Chair, Co-Chair, secretary etc) in driving the standardisation/specification process
  - Participant in the definition of the specification
  - Implementing the specification
  - Using the specification
  - Considering/thinking that a specification/standard may be needed
- Specifications/Standards go down the stack a long way – where do you stop?
  - UNICORE 6, Globus 4 and GRIA implement WSRF, but should a project developing applications claim they are WSRF users?
- Suggestion
  - Projects need to state their level of participation/expected participation in the standards
  - Projects should only claim use of a standard if they have to interface directly to the standard

# Achieving the meeting objectives

- Broad Interest Standards
  - Security (Authentication, Authorization, Accounting)
  - HPCP (BES, JSDL, WS-I Basic profile)
  - GLUE information model
- Gaps
  - Data Access (including DAIS)
- Actions
  - No substitute for participating in the standards groups
    - No Excuse with more OGF events expected to be hosted in Europe
  - Training can be given in any of the Broad Interest Standards by OMII-Europe (and shown how they work in practice)
    - Email [training@omii-europe.org](mailto:training@omii-europe.org)
  - A number of project are heavily involved in the standardisation process including OMII-Europe.
    - They could represent your interests within the standardisation bodies.
- Matrix of projects and Standards has been completed. Edit as req'd.