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1. Summary

BELIEF is an EU FP7 project spanning over 24 months, start date 1st April 2008, with the aim of supporting the goals of e-Infrastructure projects to maximise synergies in specific application areas between Research, Scientific and Industrial Communities. The project builds on the successes achieved in the first phase of BELIEF [2005-2007] and has the strategic objective to coordinate the efficient & effective communication of results, networking and knowledge between EU e-Infrastructure projects and their users to promoting development and exploitation worldwide.

The project aims to also ensure Europe's numerous e-Infrastructure projects **evolve in synergy with one another** together with national initiatives to ensure common directions and efficient interaction and provide a **communication platform** that is at the same time a channel for projects to manage their content, to communicate activities **to users and the public**, and to be a **unique access point for users** to find out about e-Infrastructures.

1.1. Project logo

The BELIEF-I logo has been slightly revised and updated in order to communicate a seamless continuation with the first phase of the project but to show also the evolution of the project. It has been made more eye catching to reflect its increased emphasis on easy-access communication of e-Infrastructures to a wide range of audiences. Additionally, the geographical area included in the spheres of the first logo has been removed to reflect the expansion of the BELIEF consortium, as well as to give an idea of global outreach without any geographical boundaries.



1.2. Project facts

Project acronym:	BELIEF-II
Contract no.:	FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-2 - 223759
Project type:	Specific Support Action
Start date:	01/04/2008
Duration:	24 months
Total budget:	1.208.453,10 €
EC Funding:	900.000,00 €
Total effort in person-month:	138,5
Web site:	www.beliefproject.org



1.3. List of Beneficiaries

Metaware S.p.A (MTW)	Italy	Coordinator
Brunel University (UBRUN)	U.K.	
Education & Research Network India (ERNET)	India	
Escola Politécnica of the Universidade de São Paulo (FUSP)	Brazil	
Information Science & Technologies Institute of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-ISTI)	Italy	
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)	Greece	
Meraka Institute (CSIR)	South Africa	

1.4. Brief presentation of the project's partners

Metaware SpA (IT)

Metaware SpA (www.metaware.it) was established in the year 2000 to ground a definite industrial project on the expertise that a group of senior ICT researchers had long ripened at the non-profit organisation Consorzio Pisa Ricerche by designing, implementing and managing RTD projects through close collaboration with public and private research centres across Europe. It has got an extensive and successful reputation as one of the forerunners in EU funded co-operation programmes, which will guide and shape future ICT developments and initiatives. As a consortium member and involved in the event management and co-ordination of numerous European projects.

BRUNEL University (U.K.)

The team that will take part in the BELIEF project belongs to the Department of Information Systems and Computing (DISC) of Brunel University. The School is an internationally recognised centre of excellence and the largest Department of its kind in the UK. Key research themes are information systems, people & interactivity, and information & knowledge management, e-Government and e-Infrastructures. The main task of Brunel University in BELIEF II is to contribute to the running of the eConcertation events and Brainstorming workshops of WP1 as well as the development of the eConcertation Exchange facility in the BELIEF DL.

ERNET (INDIA)

ERNET (Education & Research Network) India (<http://www.eis.ernet.in/>), an autonomous scientific society under Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Government of India, whose activities are organized around five technology focused areas: Nationwide Academic and Research Network; Research and Development in the area of Data Communication and its Application; Human Resource Development in the area of High-end Networking; Educational Content; and Campus-wide High Speed Local Area Network. In cooperation with C-DAC, ERNET have initiated the setup of a National Grid Infrastructure across the country. In its initial stage, the infrastructure will involve, as a proof of concept 45 higher learning educational and research institutions in the country on a 100 Mbps backbone (bound to be upgraded at 2.5Gbps in a second phase).



Escola Politécnica of the Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil)

Escola Politécnica da Universidade de Sao Paolo - EPUSP provides a key two-way knowledge exchange between Europe and Latin American researchers and industry to help maximise outreach of BELIEF. Being experts in grid and its close relationship with industry will lead to an help the flow of information between diverse research communities in Latin America and between academia and wide sectors of industry, business and society in general and will bridge Latin America and European scientific communities.

Information Science & Technologies Institute of the Italian National Research Council (CNR-ISTI, IT)

CNR-ISTI competencies cover a vast area of Information Science, technologies and a wide range of applications but above all else CNT-ISTI brings to the BELIEF Project its immense expertise and experience in developing Digital Libraries. As well as the BELIEF Project CNT-ISTI is currently involved in many European funded projects in the area of High Performance Computing and the Networked Multimedia which involve the research area of Digital Libraries that exploit Grid technology and related applications.

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA, GR)

University of Athens will contribute to the BELIEF project through its established competency areas of data management, library information systems and distributed computing and its extensive grid expertise, domain knowledge and networking links will help generate interest in the BELIEF Community and the objectives of the project.

Meraka Institute - CSIR (South Africa)

The Meraka Institute is a national research centre of the CSIR (Council for Science and Industrial Research). Launched in May 2005, the institute is a large-scale intervention in the information and communications technology space to challenges in both the first economy (well defined and integrated with the global economy) and the second economy (characterised by informal economic activity and poverty). As such, the institute manages two large e-infrastructure projects for the South African Department of Science and Technology: the Centre for High Performance Computing and the South African National Research Network.



2. Key Objectives

Through adopting a structured coordination of all EU e-Infrastructure projects, dissemination and networking activities, BELIEF-II seeks to:

- To provide a communication platform which will give a channel for projects to manage their content and to communicate activities to users and the public, whilst serving as a unique access point for users to familiarise themselves with e-Infrastructures.
- To provide networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities for Europe's e-Infrastructure projects to more effectively evolve in synergy both with one another as well as with national initiatives, in order to ensure common directions and efficient interaction.
- To reinforce the relevance of Europe's e-Infrastructures worldwide in order to help sustain their successful development and exploitation globally as one global virtual research community.

2.1. Action Plan

During its 24 months life span, BELIEF II will:

- Develop and maintain the BELIEF-II **portal**, providing effective support to the e-Infrastructure community through interactive communication tools such as the Event Calendar, Discussion Area and new profiling instruments.
- Develop, maintain and populate a multimedia **Digital Library** (DL) which makes accessible through advanced services, the documentation produced by e-Infrastructure projects and initiatives.
- Deliver two one-to-two-day **eConcertation meetings**, promoted by the European Commission, on strategic multidisciplinary topics organised in strategic cities in Europe. These meetings represent a unique opportunity to discuss commonalities & potential interactions between projects and e-Infrastructure related initiatives and to harness future trends and visions online between meetings.
- Deliver two two-day strategic **brainstorming events** on the most relevant topics which come out from the eConcertation meetings. They will help to identify and discuss big-picture opportunities for e-Infrastructures application.
- Deliver three **international symposia** respectively in India, Latin America and South Africa. These providing a platform to exchange experiences, showcase results and learn developments from emerging economies. They will also foster knowledge exchange between major e-Infrastructures hubs.
- Create a suite of **Communications Products** produced in cooperation with other projects, such as:
 - Four editions of an e-Infrastructure News Magazine (called Zero-In). Zero-In brings together expert analysis and visions of e-Infrastructures into a single reference magazine. The title stands for 'zero distance neighbourhood'.
 - Two EC Publications platforming success in e-Infrastructures and future steps.
 - One DVD which brings the world of e-Infrastructure to life. It goes through the basics and explains the dramatic new achievements accomplished thanks to e-Infrastructure.



2.2. Expected Outcomes

Networking and efficiently addressing priorities

The above action plan will result in seven (two eConcertation meetings, two brainstorm events and three international symposia) Networking opportunities, gathering major decision-makers, top researchers, scientific policy-makers and industrial organisations. The outcome of these will be a greater dissemination synergy among projects to ensure they work towards goals efficiently. The gatherings will also help projects tackle common problems and help build alliances between the Scientific and Industrial communities. Outcomes of this joint thinking about priorities and obstacles will result in reports that can be disseminated to ensure the lessons learned and discussed may be harnessed by many others worldwide.

Awareness

One expected outcome is that the public that is not very aware of the e-Infrastructure technology will be informed and encouraged to find out how Europe is contributing to this paradigm that will enrich society. BELIEF will also target messages at 'more technologically aware' researchers who are not using e-Infrastructures, to ensure they understand the value of this technology is and how to start using it.



3. Impact

Support emerging fields in the e-Infrastructures.

BELIEF-II intends to support emerging areas in a twofold fashion:

- By offering a forum for the exposure of new ideas and by facilitating the efforts of individuals pursuing these ideas.
- Through the organisation of the aforementioned BELIEF-II events and the exploitation of resulting links, emerging areas for European research and development in e-Infrastructures are to be identified and/or addressed.

Individuals and/or groups from many regions/countries, particularly from Europe, Latin America, India and South Africa, will meet during the planned meetings. Emphasis will be put on discussing concepts that may have not yet received sufficient exposure. Consequently, the Consortium expects to produce new visions which ultimately help further expand the research agenda for the European e-Infrastructures. The Brainstorming workshops will function as mechanism to investigate subjects that may arise from the eConcertation meetings and help specify ways for appropriate and timely promotion.

Encourage the pooling of resources between infrastructure operators at European level in order to face future challenges and to foster a culture of continent-wide co-operation.

By its nature, BELIEF-II has the ability to act as a global aggregator and therefore, it can identify and bring together knowledge resources including Universities, Research Institutions, Industry, Policy makers, and Government agencies from different parts of the world. BELIEF-II aims to nurture a culture of cooperation among them while keeping in mind that competitiveness is a key aspect for scientific advancement. Facilitating the presentation of related projects with similar and/or diverging approaches, BELIEF-II seeks to promote a thorough level of understanding concerning not only content and its management on e-Infrastructures but also to assist in overcoming cultural barriers that occasionally hamper collaboration. By helping nurture a culture of collaboration and develop approaches for supporting efficient research networks of people, BELIEF-II will push into the forefront technical challenges and will help outline outcomes and solutions.

The demanding vision of building European and Worldwide infrastructures requires effective collaboration of all available assets that include people, computing resources and hardware. In this regard, the BELIEF-II Digital Library can act as an easy to access reference point of this updated knowledge.

Spread good practices and encourage the use of e-Infrastructures to attain a more equitable development and distribution of knowledge.

A key objective of all planned BELIEF-II events will be the promotion of best practices from around the world in order to share knowledge, encourage and inspire innovative ideas, federate approaches, spread best practices as well as stimulate cooperation. eConcertation meetings will focus on the European level, while symposia will expand the activity of the eConcertation effort throughout the world, ultimately aiming at broader synergies. We thereby envisage the creation of a global alliance that will serve as a backbone to simplify future resource / service exchanges, tackle



the issue of fragmentation of European research and provide opportunities for reaching out to sibling scientific communities at global level.

Disseminate and promote research and development activities on e-Infrastructures.

BELIEF-II will exploit the partners' networks within the EU to disseminate knowledge, lessons-learned, as well as comparative project data and results. The consortium's databases of key IST related stakeholders will help attract support and recruit participants. Networks to be contacted include: National Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Local Authorities, Ministries and National Contact Points (NCPs). Moreover, BELIEF-II will solidify and further expand its network penetration in strategic geographic areas of the world including India, Latin America and South Africa. The consortium members have considerable experience in creating, marketing and delivering such events and projects both directly and through leading international ICT events, disseminating information to targeted audiences through both online and off-line channels, and recruiting qualified participants to the brainstorming, networking workshops and international conferences. To ensure the success of the planned events, it is essential that international, national, and regional key players with vested interests in pursuing e-Infrastructure activities are identified to help achieve a "knowledge sharing experience".

BELIEF-II will place particular attention in evaluating its activities through measurable outcomes. Such outcomes include:

- Participation in the events (quantitative)
- Participation in the exchange and the discussions (quantitative and qualitative)
- Establishment of contacts among the participants after the events (through evaluation forms in a paper format to be filled out by participants and on-line)
- Frequency of contacts after the events
- Number of cooperative activities and initiatives that will emerge
- Spill-over effect of the events, in terms of publications produced, international reputation of the project etc.
- Increasing of numbers for the existing BELIEF community
- Collaborations with new projects, enriching the DL with more content
- Contributions from outside BELIEF-II to the e-Infrastructures newsletter

The Consortium deem the involvement of partners from Asia, Latin America and South Africa to be of critical importance as these geographic regions represent fertile ground for pursuing the project objectives at a global level and for bringing state-of-the-art technology to researchers all over the world. More specifically, the three International partners through their participation in BELIEF-II will help shape the research agendas within their own region/country and will contribute in disseminating innovative ways of research.



4. Appendix 1 – Project Roles

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- Donatella Castelli – CNR-ISTI
- Yannis Ioannidis – NKUA
- Simon J. Taylor – UBRUN
- B.B. Tiwari – ERNET
- Edison Spina – FUSP
- Johan Eksteen – Meraka Institute

Quality Manager

- Franco Zoppi – CNR-ISTI

Project Quality Board

- Quality Manager
- WP Leaders

Work Package Leaders

- Workpackage 1 - eConcertation Exchange - Stephen Alexander Benians (MTW)
- Workpackage 2 - Promoting integrated e-Infrastructures - Tiziana Lombardo (MTW)
- Workpackage 3 - BELIEF-II Knowledge exchange tools and activities - Franco Zoppi (CNR – ISTI)
- Workpackage 4 - Symposia: disseminating global relevance of e-Infrastructures - Eleni Toli (NKUA)
- Workpackage 5 - Management & Coordination - Stephen Alexander Benians - (MTW)

5. Appendix II – Project Fact Sheet

Summary:

BELIEF II's strategic objective is the **coordination** of efficient and effective **communication** of results, networking and the flow of knowledge between **EU e-Infrastructure projects** and their **users**, promoting their development and exploitation worldwide.

Objectives:

Through adopting a structured coordination of all EU e-Infrastructure projects, dissemination and networking activities, BELIEF-II seeks to:

- Help Europe's e-Infrastructure projects evolving in synergies with one another together with national initiatives in order to ensure common directions and efficient interaction.
- **Reinforce** the relevance of Europe's e-Infrastructures **worldwide**, helping sustain their successful development and exploitation globally.
- Provide a **communication platform** that is at the same time a channel for projects to manage their content, to communicate activities to **users and the public** and to be a **unique access point** for users to familiarise themselves with e-Infrastructures.

Action Plan:

During its 24 months, BELIEF II will:

- Maintain a multimedia **BELIEF Digital Library (DL) & Portal**
- Plan, organise and deliver **2 eConcertation meetings, 2 Brainstorming events** and **3 international Symposia**
- Create a suite of **Joint Communications Products** such as: the **DVD, the e-Infrastructure Guide, the e-Infrastructure News Magazine and EC Publications**

Coordination and Support activities:

BELIEF-II will coordinate efforts of many RI projects to further enlarge the e-Infrastructure Community. Through its promotional activities, like the production of a DVD or the e-Infrastructure News Magazines, the project will disseminate the results of the e-Infrastructure projects in a coherent way, showing complementarities and highlighting potential applications. The additional functionalities that will be available in the BELIEF-II DL, will include the collaborative production of event agendas and related documents, that will further enhance collaboration and will reduce effort required to jointly produce high quality scientific and dissemination material. The successful GÉANT & e-Infrastructure Events Calendar will be implemented and regularly updated to offer to the e-Infrastructure community a one-stop-shop for dissemination activities, events planning and community outreach, ensuring also a better coordination among projects. The portal will give a personal profile to each project or individual, allowing a 'myspace' type facility to increase networking and communication.

BELIEF II will **strategically impact the FP7 priorities** thanks to its:

- **Support** of emerging fields in the e-Infrastructure by offering a forum for the exposure of new ideas and by facilitating the efforts of individuals pursuing these ideas
- **Encouragement** for the pooling of resources between infrastructure operators at European and international level
- **Spread of good practices** and encouragement to the use of e-Infrastructures to attain a more equitable development and distribution of knowledge.

Project acronym:
BELIEF-II

Contract n°: RI-223759

Project type: CSA-CA

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Duration: 24 months

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138,5

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Project participants:
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CSIR ZA
ERNET INDIA
NKUA GR
FUSP BR
UBRUN UK

Keywords:
e-Infrastructures,
Coordination,
eConcertation Meetings

Collaboration with other EC funded projects:
BELIEF II is a horizontal action that has established links with all RI projects such as GLOBAL, and GridTalk.

Dissemination and promotion of research and development activities on e-Infrastructures



photo by mac yogi

User communities:

BELIEF II will leverage the international community gathered together during the BELIEF I phase.

The project will ensure the plug of the user's needs into e-Infrastructures projects as they progress. It will foster effective communication, joint vision development, knowledge flow and human networking so that knowledge can flow from users to providers in terms of their needs. BELIEF Brainstorming events will play a key role in achieving this goal.

The BELIEF Portal will be also a crucial component and will be the meeting arena and the one-stop-shop for the e-Infrastructure community through a large series of facilities such as the Wiki and the e-Infrastructure events calendar.

International aspects:

The international aspect is essential in BELIEF II. The multi-geographical and multicultural consortium of the BELIEF I project opened in its second phase to South Africa in order to further expand and cross regional frontiers.

3 structured Symposia, which will take place in India, Latin America and South Africa will reinforce the relevance of Europe's e-Infrastructures globally and will support and strengthen international community outreach.