

Executive summary of the 35th PRACE aisbl Council Meeting

The 35th meeting of the PRACE aisbl Council took place in Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg, on 27 November 2019. The event was unique in that it was a joint meeting with the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), the Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC), and representatives from the EuroHPC JU.

Gustav Kalbe gave an overview of the recent developments of EuroHPC JU and the calls it will be announcing, confirming that the awarded projects addressing the calls will be funded only by EuroHPC. The new National Competence Centres (NCC) were discussed, especially regarding how users are represented in the NCC structure and how future innovation in HPC will be driven and financed. Another discussion point was the relation between the European Data Infrastructure (EDI) and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and how EuroHPC relates to EDI. Herbert Zeisel stressed that distributed clouds and data and standardisation are needed. Luigi Del Debbio added that relevant training will be required. Herbert Zeisel pointed out that access for AI is needed and suggested considering fast track for it. Sergi Girona enquired if EuroHPC had considered access and support systems for start-ups. Herbert Zeisel recognised the importance of such support but said that this had not been discussed – however, he did note that in Germany this support exists already.

Thomas Lippert provided an update on PRACE, especially acknowledging the PRACE-IP projects funded by the EC and stressing that they represent a real pan-European effort.

Serge Bogaerts gave a detailed presentation on the different access mechanism for EuroHPC. Thomas Skordas raised a number of questions related to industrial use and uptake, and also enquired whether the proposed access mechanisms were just for EuroHPC JU or whether they represent a unified access. Mark Parson mentioned that it is possible to get companies to pay for access, and they do useful work which can be used in academia. Herbert Zeisel commented that EuroHPC JU needs PRACE for the Peer Review. The concept is very clear, but the involvement of the industry should be clarified, since JU's mission is to bring industry into this game. Mark Parson said that there is an unknown demand within the industrial sector. It is clear that SMEs need the support of scientific expertise, so interactions with the academia as well as specific training offers can improve industrial HPC usage. A global offer and a one-stop-shop for federated services (like Google and Amazon) would in addition facilitate the involvement of industry.

Philippe Lavocat introduced PRACE 3: Towards PRACE 3, preliminary information of the SWG activities on future business model. Herbert Zeisel stressed the need for a one-stop-shop and suggests that a MoU / contract between PRACE and EuroHPC JU can provide the basis for this.

Núria López gave a short report on the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) activities, including updates regarding the Community Access working group, as well as the resignation of Petros Koumoutsakos as member and Chair of the Access Committee and his replacement by Luigi Del Debbio. The update from the Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) announced a change in its composition, with the Council appointing Henri Calandra (Total), Eric Landel (Renault) and Alejandro Marti (Mitiga) as members of the IAC for a first term of two years, taking effect as of 27 November 2019.