

Access Rules and Guidelines for the FEDERICA infrastructure

FEDERICA User Policy Board

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1 Introduction

This document provides rules and guidelines that need to be followed by applicants to request access to the FEDERICA infrastructure as well as the criteria that are applied by the User Policy Board (UPB) to evaluate and prioritize these proposals.

The FEDERICA project is dedicated to research on the "Internet of the future". While there is no unique definition of this term, we adopt the one given in [1] as a guideline. Compliance to this objective is the main criteria for the prioritization of a proposal. On the other hand, the scientific merit of a proposal is not normally explicitly included in the evaluation criteria.

In general, the infrastructure will be available to both the academic and private sector, but due to its own status within FP7, research projects under the FIRE initiative [2] will be preferred.

As a general rule, the evaluation process should not prevent proposals to be accepted when a minimal set of requirements are met and resources for the requested timeframe are available. However, the UPB reserves the right to reassess a proposal and possibly reallocate resources during the lifetime of a project.

2 Formal requirements

To access FEDERICA a formal procedure has been defined. The procedure is needed to address both the technical requirements of the proposal and ensure agreement on the conditions of use of the resources provided. The formal process is outlined in the introduction document [D1]:

The list of documents to be exchanged is:

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Acceptable User Policy
- Project Plan

2.1 Main evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the proposals from user/projects will be along the following two main criteria:

- a) A user/project can utilize the FEDERICA service, if acceptable reasons are provided why he/she/it in particular wants to use the FEDERICA services.. The main aim of FEDERICA is to implement and get feedback on how to provide virtualised services at various communication layers like layer 2 (e.g. Ethernet), 3 (IP) and higher (applications). Users/projects are thus encouraged to use these virtualised services for research on future Internet and provide feedback.
- b) A certain level of operational flexibility needs to be agreed between users/projects and FEDERICA. The services are actively managed and the greatest care will be given to provide the services as defined. As it is not a commercial service, there is a limited amount of resources available (manpower, time, virtual links, nodes, etc.). Although time-sharing will optimize the use of the available virtual resources, FEDERICA only provides a best effort services. If services need to be timed shared beyond the original planned period, FEDERICA

will communicate with its users/projects to try to achieve the optimal configuration for all projects/users involved.

The evaluation of the proposals will be checked on the two main criteria above. For evaluating the above, the user/project will have to provide a project/test plan with a certain amount of content (as described in section 2). In the following paragraphs some guidelines will be given how the rating of the criteria will be done.

2.2 Project/Test plan evaluation

The project/test plan needs to provide sufficient details to make standalone evaluation by the UPB possible using the Request Technical Description template [D7]. In the following section the major aspects are discussed.

2.2.1 General description of the request

This description will need to describe the project in such a way that a stand alone evaluation by the UPB is possible. The evaluation of this description will be along the two points described in section 2.1: a) reasons why using FEDERICA services and b) supportive to operational flexibility. The proposal will need to give enough information about these two criteria, so that the FEDERICA User Policy Board (UPB) can properly evaluate the request.

2.2.2 Proposed project time line

A time line with a maximum of three months per experiment is recommended. This guideline is to guarantee that a fair amount of projects can utilize the FEDERICA services and that the underlying infrastructure is efficiently shared. Longer proposals are possible, provided detailed reasons are added which are complementary to the two main criteria as mentioned in section 2.1.

2.2.3 Description of resources

A list of FEDERICA resources needs to be provided in the proposal (and support is also one of the resources) examples of resources are: virtual routers/switches/circuits, access/peering with other slices or General/Commodity Internet, virtual machines to load software, storage, support, co-location space/power requirements, etc. For each resource the following context needs to be provided and detailed in D7-Project-Plan: the amount, specific characteristics, expected support needs, expected load over time and operational flexibility.

The UPB will evaluate the usage of the resources by looking also at the importance of the results for the FEDERICA project itself and it will check that the least conflict will occur with other projects. Depending on the possible operational flexibility, it might be possible that some conditions will need to be met, depending on other projects.

2.3 Billing by FEDERICA

For the FEDERICA services, normally no costs will be incurred to the user/project (FEDERICA is a partly EC funded project). If exceptional demands are requested and can be made available easily (like excessive support, a lot of co-location space/power, connectivity to networks/users/projects), FEDERICA might charge for some of the costs. The level of these costs will be determined on a case by case basis.

2.4 References:

[1] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/future-networks/home_en.html

[2] http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/fire/event-23-240407-sum_en.html

[D1] D1 FEDERICA Letter Introduction

[D7] D7 FEDERICA Project Plan