Minutes NMI3-II WP5 „Integrated User Access" Meeting

June 17, 2014, ILL, Grenoble, France

Participants: Menno Blaauw (TUD), Flavio Carsughi (JCNS), Giovanna Cicognani (ILL), Emmanuel Farhi (ILL), Miriam Förster (NMI3), Thomas Gutberlet (HZB), Nils Leidel (HZB), Klaus Pranzas (HZG), Jan Saroun (NPI), Peter Willendrup (DTU), Frank Festivi (ILL)

The meeting was opened by Thomas Gutberlet, who gave a short update of the status of the activities of the work package.

Main activities within the last six months were deliverable of the report on Task 5.2 'Report on requirements: Survey on existing comparable systems and report on requirements and framework for common data exchange' and on Task 5.3 work on the software package prototype to handle proposal submission and reviewing.

- Task 5.2 'Development of a generalized integrated user registration'

Nils Leidel (HZB) presented a thorough report on currently existing single sign on (SSO) software, commercial as well as open access as well as institutional solutions are available (see Annex). Most of the solutions for SSO rely on technical requirements different at the various facilities. Hence a unified solution is not available. Within the framework of the PaNData ODI project the Umbrella concept has been developed and is already implemented at some facilities (ILL, PSI). As this system is already running and will spread further in particular at synchrotron facilities, the most appropriate solution also for the SSO for neutron users will be to follow the Umbrella approach. It was therefore decided not to develop another SSO solution as planned

- Task 5.3 'Harmonized proposal forms and templates'

Nils Leidel presented a first version of a handling system based on the requirements for harmonized proposal forms. The system based on an XML protocol would allow individual facilities to define requirements for proposal submission and users to submit proposals to various facilities. An upload and download protocol would transfer all necessary information between users and facilities. The system would be accessible via the local user office platform as add on service to these programs. Various features and functionalities were discussed and will be implemented in a revised second version of this prototype.

In order to demonstrate handling of proposals between facilities the software prototype for web based proposal review has been considered as next step in the functionality of the handling system. As this is a deliverable in Task 5.4, a prototype software will be developed in-line with the requirements reported here (see Deliverable D5.5).

- Task 5.5 'Platforms for cross source independent beam time access'

Klaus Pranzas (HZG) and Flavio Carsughi (JCNS) presented the final report on the discussion on cross facility beam time access (see Annex). Procedures for joint proposal access for photon and neutron proposals had been identified at PSI (SINQ/SLS), HZB (BER II/BESSY II), ILL-ESRF and HZG (FRM II/PETRA III). The participants discussed technical and administrative details of this approach. In particular the amount of beam time to be allocated and the monitoring of used beam time of proposals between facilities seems to be discussed carefully in scenarios to implement such an offer at participating facilities.

The next meeting was proposed for the second half of 2014 either in conjunction with the NMI3-II General Meeting Sept. 25-26, 2014 in Zaragoza, Spain or separate to discuss the progress of the software prototype to handle harmonized proposal workflow and web based review process.

Annex:

Report on "Survey on existing comparable systems and report on requirements and framework for single sign-on solution for common access to individual facility digital user office systems – Software package to handle integrated user registration"

Report on "Requirements for cross facility beam time access and strategy for implementation"