



**INDIGO - DataCloud**

RIA-653549

Bologna, 22-24/4/2015

**INDIGO –  
DataCloud  
Kick-off  
Meeting**

**The  
Consortium  
Agreement**

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INFN-CNAF



# The Consortium Agreement

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- From the EC document “How to draw up your consortium agreement”,  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-cons-a\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-cons-a_en.pdf):
  - “The consortium agreement is a private agreement between the beneficiaries, to set out the rights and obligations amongst themselves. (It does NOT involve the European Commission/Agency.) It should **complement** the grant agreement and must NOT contain any provision contrary to it.”
- The EC **does not officially develop or endorse** a specific model consortium agreement.
  - However, **DESCA (Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement)** is a comprehensive Model Consortium Agreement which offers a reliable frame of reference for project consortia. See <http://www.desca-2020.eu/> for details.
    - The DESCAs Core Group is represented by ANRT, EARTO, KoWi, LERU, VTT, ZENIT and coordinated by Fraunhofer and the Helmholtz Association. Plus, the DESCAs Consultation Group, which provides vital expertise for the development of DESCAs, consists of more than 160 experts.



# Structure of the INDIGO CA

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- The first draft of the INDIGO CA was sent out to the general mailing list for comments on 20/2/2015.
  - Since that date, we have received comments and requests for amendments from several partners (thanks).
  - We are now at version 4, which is in an “almost final” state (see next slide for status)
- The general structure of the CA closely follows the DESCAs model, with key chapters on Responsibilities of Parties, Liability towards each other, Governance structure, Reporting procedures, Financial provisions, Results, Access rights, Non-disclosure of information.
  - In case you have not done that yet, **please do make sure the CA is thoroughly reviewed by your legal offices.** This is an important matter and we want to make sure everybody fully agrees on the CA.
  - The CA for the INDIGO Consortium is somewhat complex because it involves 26 partners, both private and public, with some of them supranational organizations (such as CERN).
  - In the INDIGO Project Office, we are therefore in touch with other projects currently drafting their own CA, such as EGI-Engage (where many INDIGO partners are also present), to make sure we have common views and understanding of key issues.



# Status: open points

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- On 14/4/2015, we sent the “final” version of the CA to the INDIGO general mailing list, based on feedback collected in the previous two months, and asked for signatures from all partners.
- However, some partners asked for some further changes to the 14/4 version. We are therefore checking individually with each of them to see whether changes are really of substance, and to find ways to alter the 14/4 version as little as possible.
  - We won't consider the CA final until **all partners** agree on a common document.



# Status: open points (cont.)

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- Briefly, these are the points we are currently discussing with some partners:
  - Relationship between supranational entities and arbitration procedures.
  - License type.
  - Treatment of personal data.
  - Payments in case of a defaulting party or in case of a party in breach of its obligations.
- Please take the kick-off meeting also as an opportunity to discuss these or other CA-related points with us (esp. Luciano and myself) if you have doubts, and we'll try to gather the relevant legal experts if necessary.
  - Or send an email to [indigo-po@lists.cnaf.infn.it](mailto:indigo-po@lists.cnaf.infn.it)



# Status: signatures

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- The procedure for signatures was described on 14/4:
  1. sign **26** separate signature pages;
  2. scan one signed page and send it by email to the Project Office, [indigo-po@lists.cnaf.infn.it](mailto:indigo-po@lists.cnaf.infn.it);
  3. send all the original signature pages to the Coordinator by express courier as soon as possible, to the address:  
  
ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE  
Sezione di Padova  
Via Francesco Marzolo 8  
35131 Padova ITALY  
Attn. Dr.ssa Luisa Iacono
  4. The Project Office gathers all original documents and then sends one original copy of the CA, consisting of the text and all signature pages, to each Partner.
- Some partners already signed and sent to us the 14/4 version of the CA. **However**, since there is still no full consensus on all parts of the CA, we will “freeze” those signatures and only include them when the CA is considered acceptable by everybody.



# On Communication

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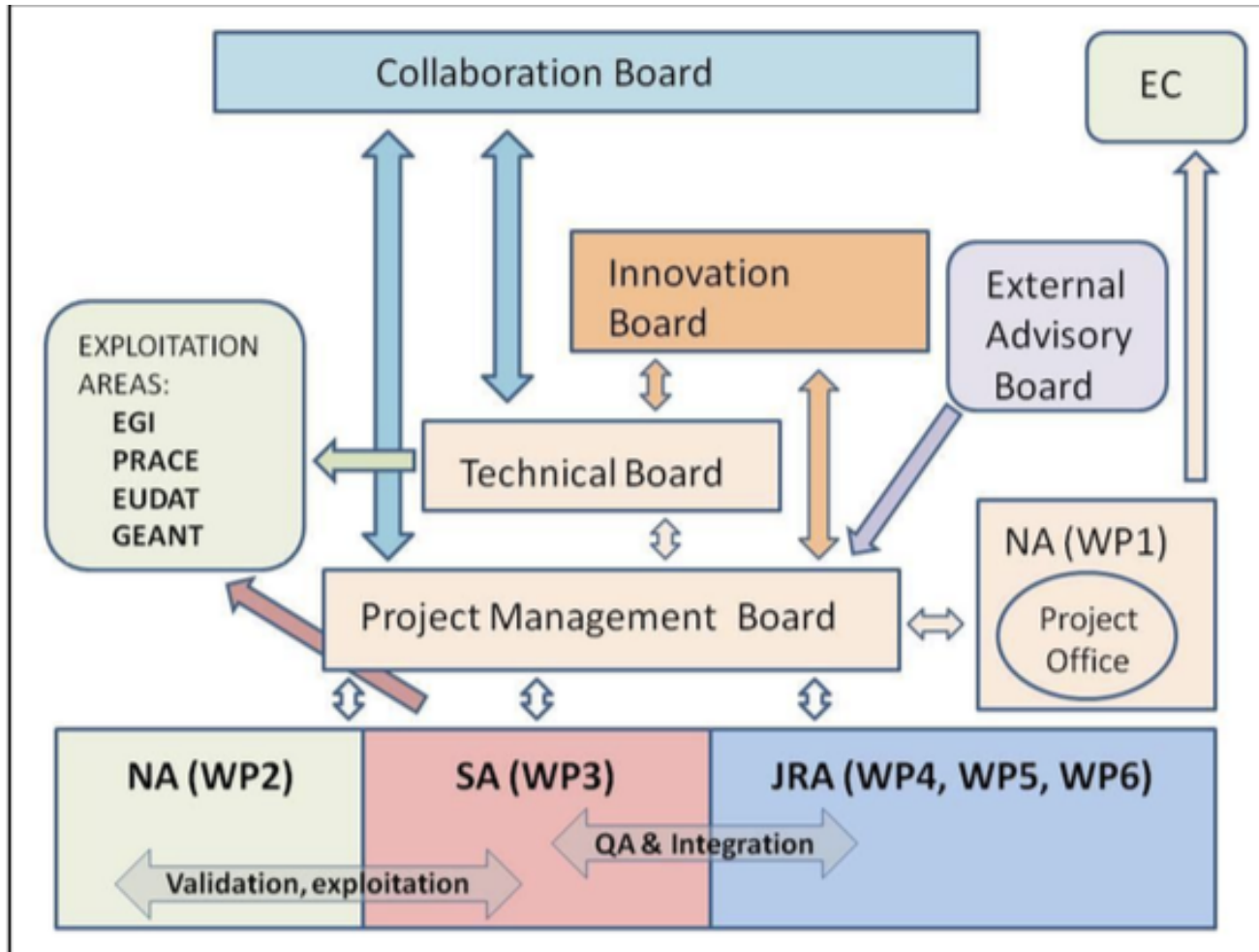
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- Before moving on to Governance, let me stress that **communication is a key part of the project.**
  - As we wrote in the GA, “A structured plan for dissemination of results and exploitation will be developed and implemented during the project in order to support an effective sharing of the results within all relevant actors, the wide pan European user communities, as well as across other research and business communities.”
- Communication activities are very important, and are described in task **T1.4 (WP1), tasked to provide advice, tools and organizational support to WP2 and WP3 to optimize dissemination and exploitation activities and maximize the results.** This task will be subcontracted to an external partner with “extensive experience in delivering strategic communication packages [...] reaching out to a large and targeted stakeholder community, and [...] capable of liaising with relevant international organizations.”
  - These activities will be carried out in close collaboration with T2.4 (Dissemination towards Research Communities), T2.5 (Sustainability) and T3.4 (Exploitation).
  - However, **please consider contributing to communication activities with ideas and suggestions even if you are not part of these tasks.**



# Governance

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**Figure 16 INDIGO Governance structure**





# The Bodies

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- The **Collaboration Board (CB)**, the ultimate decision-making body of the consortium.
  - The CB shall consist of one representative of each Party. The CB deliberates on all key matters such as content, finances, IPR and evolution of the consortium.
- The **Project Management Board (PMB)**, responsible for ensuring that the activities are effective and carried out according to the agreed schedule. It is also responsible for the quality of the project outcome, including deliverables, and for proposing changes affecting project strategy, including risk management.
  - The PMB shall consist of the Project Coordinator, of the WP leaders and deputies for each Work Package, and by the Technical Director (appointed by the PMB itself).



# The Bodies (cont.)

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- The **Technical Board (TB)**, in charge of steering the technical developments of the project.
  - The TB shall consist of the Technical Director, of at least one technical expert for each development area of the Project (appointed by the PMB), of the WP2 leader on behalf of the user communities involved in the Project, of the EGI-Engage Technical Director on behalf of the user communities and resource providers involved in the EGI ecosystem, and of the leader of the Project exploitation task (T3.4). The TB may also include representatives for other infrastructures or projects relevant for INDIGO, upon proposal by the PMB. The TB will define related terms of reference and engagement rules for these members.
- The **Innovation Board (IB)**, in charge of making sure that innovation is consistently pursued and tracked throughout the Project.
  - The IB should consist of a small number of experienced people, selected by the CB among technology providers, resource providers, and scientific community experts. The CB will define related terms of reference and engagement rules for these members.
- The **External Advisory Board (EAB)**, in charge of providing strategic advice to the PMB on the technical areas of interest to the Project in order to increase the impact of its results and maximize their exploitation.
  - The EAB should consist of a small number of people, selected by the CB among very well known international experts in the areas of interest of the Project. The CB will define related terms of reference and engagement rules for these members.



# First appointments

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- The CB will appoint:
  - Innovation Board members
  - External Advisory Board members
  - WP Leaders and Deputies, upon a proposal by the partners coordinating each WP.
  
- The PMB will appoint:
  - The Technical Director of the Project.
  - At least one technical expert for each development area of the Project, for the Technical Board.



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# Questions?

