D1.5

Fenix Governance

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Executive Summary

This report documents the status of the delivery of the Fenix Governance structure. It includes a description of all established entities, its current composition and the relevant legal framework. All planned entities except for the Fenix Council have been established. The legal framework for establishing the Fenix Council has been implemented, but with currently only two Fenix Communities involved, this entity is not expected to play an active role and therefore full instalment has been postponed.
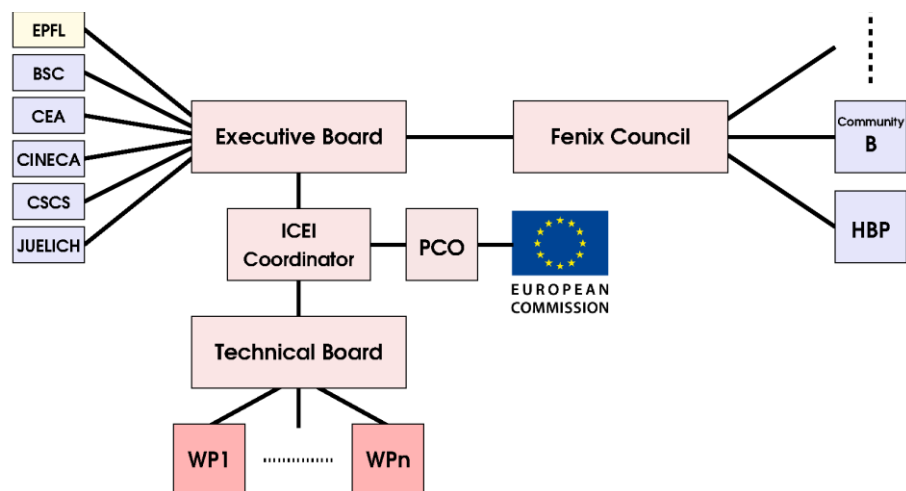
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1. Introduction

The Interactive Computing E-Infrastructure (ICEI) project is executed on the basis of a Specific Grant Agreement (SGA) under the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) of the Human Brain Project (HBP). The goal of this project is the delivery of a federated e-infrastructure. For the involved supercomputing centres this project is used as an opportunity to agree on a longer-term collaboration on providing compute and data services in a coordinated manner, together with a set of services that facilitate federation of all these services. This collaboration of the supercomputing centres is called Fenix. The ICEI project is a first implementation project with the structures being defined such that more projects could be added.

Fenix is set up in such a way that infrastructure funding is assumed to be linked with given communities of researchers, which are called Fenix Communities. This leads to the model that the Fenix parties act as Fenix Resource Providers that provide the given Fenix Communities with a fixed fraction of the resources available within the infrastructure. Through the HBP ICEI project, Fenix currently serves two communities, namely the brain researchers organised in the HBP and European researchers at large through PRACE.

Given this background, the governance structure for the HBP ICEI project foresees three different entities (see *Figure 1*):

- A **Technical Board** for leading project execution and coordinating daily work;
- An **Executive Board** as a key decision making entity; and
- The **Fenix Council** as a body that allows for regular and formalised interaction with the Fenix Communities.

Figure 1: Planned ICEI/Fenix governance structure.

To provide a legal basis, the following agreements have been put in place:

- **ICEI Supplementary Consortium Agreement (ICEI-SCA)**: This agreement between all beneficiaries supplements the HBP Framework Partnership Consortium Agreement (HBP-FPA-CA). All beneficiaries are per construction also party of the FPA and therefore party of the FPA-CA. The ICEI-SCA does not overrule the HBP-FPA-CA. Due to potential conflicts with the HBP-FPA-CA the ICEI-SCA was approved by the HBP Directorate and the HBP Stakeholder Board before it was signed by the HBP Coordinator and the other ICEI project beneficiaries.

- **Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Realisation of Fenix (Fenix MoU)**: This legally non-binding agreement between the Fenix Resource Providers is the basis for Fenix and is constructed as an umbrella for possibly multiple project agreements as exist in the context of the HBP ICEI project.

In the following we provide details on the three governance entities and the relations to the listed agreements.

2. ICEI Technical Board

The Technical Board consists of work package leaders plus one technical representative of each HBP ICEI project member without work package lead. Each member of the board has a deputy. The current composition of the Technical Board is as follows:

Work Package / Organisation	Leader / Representative	Deputy
WP1	Dirk Pleiter (JUELICH)	Boris Orth (JUELICH)
WP2	Renata Gimenez (BSC)	Javier Bartolome (BSC)

WP3	Sadaf Alam (ETHZ)	Stefano Gorini (ETHZ)
WP4	Jacques-Charles Lafoucriere (CEA)	Gilles Wiber (CEA)
WP5	Debora Testi (CINECA)	NN (CINECA)[1]
EPFL	Marc Morgan	NN[2]

The role of the Technical Board is defined in the ICEI-SCA. It includes among others the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Management of the daily work of the project/infrastructure.
- Monitoring resource utilisation and ensuring compliance with allocated resources.
- Monitoring ICEI infrastructure, assessing KPIs and reporting serious problems and deviations from performance targets to Executive Board.
- Management of risks as described in the ICEI project.

3. ICEI Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of one representative of each project member plus the Technical Coordinator (the latter without voting rights). Also here, for each board member a deputy is foreseen. Currently the Executive Board is composed as follows:

Beneficiary	Representative	Deputy
BSC	Sergi Girona	Javier Bartolome
CEA	Hervé Lozach	Jacques-Charles Lafoucriere
CINECA	Carlo Cavazzoni	Giuseppe Fiameni
EPFL-PCO	Christian Fauteux	Andrea Alonso-Allende Gamoneda
ETHZ	Thomas Schulthess	Colin McMurtrie
JUELICH	Thomas Lippert	Thomas Eickermann

While the Executive Board is intended to be a key decision-making body, its rights are restricted in order to avoid conflicts with the HBP-FPA-CA and to not restrict the rights of the HBP Directorate and the HBP Stakeholder Board. The Executive Board has therefore mainly a supervisory role. Details are defined in the ICEI-SCA.

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[1] The originally installed deputy leader recently left CINECA. A new deputy leader will be nominated in January 2019.

[2] The representative of EPFL-PCO recently left this organization. After the deputy became the main representative, the deputy still needs to be nominated.

4. Fenix Council

The Fenix Council is a body defined in the Fenix MoU. In this memorandum the following tasks are defined:

- Provide advice on the evolution of the Fenix Infrastructure by means of science cases and requirements definitions;
- Provide support for establishing resource allocation mechanisms and service level agreements;
- Review status of the Fenix Infrastructure as well as resource allocation and utilisation.

Up to this point the Fenix Council has not been installed and no inaugural meeting has taken place. The reason for this is that the number of Fenix Communities is still rather small. The tasks of the Fenix Council as listed above can currently more efficiently be managed without having the Council in place:

- The HBP project is closely involved in architecting the ICEI infrastructure. The community, e.g. during the HBP Summit, as well as the HBP governance bodies are regularly informed. More specific interaction with the community takes place through the definition of science and use cases.[3]
- Preliminary resource allocation mechanisms have been established both for HBP and PRACE through direct interaction with the HBP Directorate and the PRACE Board of Directors, respectively.

We will review the situation again in the future to assess whether the conditions for installing a Fenix Council that plays an active role have changed, e.g. because new Fenix Communities are created, or because the currently established involvement of the Fenix Communities turns out to be unsatisfactory from the perspective of any of the stakeholders.

5. Summary and Outlook

In this report we have documented the current status of the ICEI governance structure. While the ICEI Technical Board and the ICEI Executive Board are established and operational, the instalment of the Fenix Council has been postponed. Different examples for involvement of the Fenix Communities have been provided to support our assessment that the Fenix Council can currently not be expected to significantly help improve this involvement of the Fenix Communities.

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[3] See ICEI deliverable D3.6 ("Scientific Use Case Requirements Documentation").