

Third International GRID School attracts students from all over the world

This summer, for the third year running, students from all over the world travelled to Vico Equense, just south of Naples in Italy, to extend their knowledge of GRID Computing.

The participants consisted of young researchers from technical industries, research laboratories, and academic environments who were interested in using or developing Grid technologies. Prospective students from computer science, computational science and application backgrounds attended the school. Students travelled to the school from Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Spain, Turkey, the UK and the USA.

Throughout two weeks in July, sixty-four students received an in-depth introduction to Grid technologies and applications. They received more than seventy hours of lectures and practical exercises, which took place on the equipment installed in the school site. In addition, directed reading and reports from leading researchers gave participants an integrated and well-structured introduction to grid computing and its applications.

One student summed up the experience:

"The most intensive summer school and best integrated tutorials I have attended. Keep it going! Thanks for the great effort you have put into the school."

The curriculum of the school was designed and delivered by an international committee of experts from countries including Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. Talks covered the main topics of Grid development and technology, as well as emerging key grid applications.

Professor Miron Livny, Chair of this year's Programme Committee commented:

"Once again the international summer school demonstrated the power of openness, sharing and collaboration which are the pillars of grid computing. Students and instructors with a broad spectrum of interests and expertise came together to get exposed to new ideas, share requirements and collaborate on addressing the challenges we face in translating the concepts of distributed computing into dependable tools. "

Students have been exposed to principles, research challenges, capabilities of existing tools and leading views on the potential of general purpose e-Infrastructures. E-Infrastructures are a new approach to distributed computing which will support collaboration and resource sharing with significant economic advantages from amortising costs over a wide range of uses. Students now have a greater understanding and are more aware of the functions, strategies for using the technologies and the future potential that may be achieved by e-Infrastructure and developing experience with several widely used technologies.

Complementary hands-on laboratory exercises gave students practical experience with widely used Grid middleware software. By the end of the school, students were familiar with the fundamental components of Grid environments, such as authentication, authorization, resource access and resource discovery and more able to use them for basic and advanced job submission. Students are now also conversant in Grid efforts worldwide and key emerging applications.

To support the hands-on laboratory sessions, a testbed was established locally that offered middleware commonly used by projects in the Asia Pacific, the EU and the US. The testbed was connected to major international grid resources and thus provided a rich and challenging environment for hands-on learning and experimentation.

Grid computing is an evolving and dynamic field, distinguished by its focus on large-scale resource sharing across administrative domains and innovative applications. The summer school therefore provided students with one of the few opportunities to learn the basics of grid computing hands-on.

The school is was endorsed by the [Global Grid Forum](#) and sponsored by the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN), Institute for High Performance Computing and Networking (ICAR-Napoli), Institute for Composite and Biomedical Materials (IMCB), and [SPACI consortium](#), [FIRB Grid.it Project](#), [EGEE Project](#), [Condor Project](#)

Planning has already started for the next year's Summer School. Malcolm Atkinson, Chair of ISSGC06 Programme Committee commented;

"The excellent students, the worldwide recognition and the enthusiastic atmosphere of these summer schools means that there is already a band of international experts lining up to teach at the school next year."

Relevant Websites

[Global Grid Forum: http://www.globalgridforum.org](http://www.globalgridforum.org)

[HP: http://www.hp.com/go/grid](http://www.hp.com/go/grid)

[IBM: http://www.ibm.com/grid](http://www.ibm.com/grid)

[SPACI consortium: http://www.spaci.it](http://www.spaci.it)

[FIRB Grid.it Project: http://www.grid.it](http://www.grid.it)

[EGEE Project: http://public.eu-egee.org](http://public.eu-egee.org)

For more information please refer to the ISSGC05 website at:

<http://www.dma.unina.it/~murli/GridSummerSchool2005/index.htm>