EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE

EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING No 02/2022

Approving the definition of specific rules to grant access time for initiatives considered as strategic for the Union

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 of 13 July 2021 on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1488[1], (hereinafter, "the Regulation"), in particular to Article 17(8) thereof,

Having regard to the Statutes of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking annexed to the Regulation (thereinafter "Statutes") and in particular to Articles 1(f) and 7(3)(n), thereof,

WHEREAS

(1) Article 17(8) of the Regulation provides that the Governing Board shall define specific rules for access conditions that depart from the guiding principles referred to in paragraph 6. These concern the allocation of access time for projects and activities considered as strategic for the Union.

Recital (51) of the Regulation clarifies this provision in the following terms: "*The Governing Board should define specific rules to grant access time free of charge, where appropriate, and without a call for expression of interest to initiatives that are considered strategic for the Union. Representative examples of strategic initiatives of the Union include: Destination Earth, the Human Brain Project Flagship, the '1+ Million Genomes' initiative, the common European data spaces operating in domains of public interest, and in particular the health data space, the Centres of Excellence in High Performance Computing, national High Performance Computing Competence Centres and the Digital Innovation Hubs*".

---

[1] *OJ L 256, 19.7.2021, p. 3–51*

(2) The Governing Board shall define the specific access conditions to use the Union's share of access time of the EuroHPC systems, in accordance with Article 17 of this Regulation (Article 7(3)(n) of the Regulation).

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING

SPECIFIC RULES FOR ACCESS TIME TO THE EUROHPC SYSTEMS FOR PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED AS STRATEGIC FOR THE UNION

Article 1

Request for access time

1. Any initiative considered as strategic for the Union in the meaning of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 (further referred to as the EuroHPC Regulation) shall be granted access time for the use of EuroHPC systems free of charge, where appropriate, and without a call for expression of interest.

2. According to the EuroHPC Regulation, the following initiatives are recognized as strategic initiatives that are granted access time free of charge:

   a. Destination Earth,
   b. the Human Brain Project Flagship,
   c. the '1+ Million Genomes' initiative,
   d. common European data spaces operating in domains of public interest, and in particular the health data space,
   e. the Centres of Excellence in High Performance Computing,
   f. national High Performance Computing Competence Centres,
   g. the Digital Innovation Hubs.

   : As ths situation evolves, the Commission may also present further initiatives to be considered as strategic for the Union.

3. The Executive Director shall inform the Governing Board of any application received.

4. An applicant should provide the following information for the assessment of the special access request:

   a. Scope of the initiative, providing inter alia, clear arguments and justifications on the "strategic for the Union" character of the initiative.
   b. Objectives and expected results of the access.
   c. Technical justification of the request, including complementarity of the EuroHPC resources with other computing resources at the disposal of the initiative.
   d. Targeted computing resources, including the computing time and duration of the access for each resource.

e. Other technical support needed.

f. Plan for the allocation and use of the resources.

Article 2

Assessment of access request

1. The Executive Director will be responsible for the technical assessment of the applications requesting access time for initiatives considered strategic for the Union.

2. Requests for access time to the EuroHPC systems for initiatives considered strategic for the Union should be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

   a. Relevance of the initiative to be considered strategic for the Union
   b. Technical criteria
       i. Technical feasibility;
       ii. Appropriateness of the requested resources;
       iii. Amount of support services needed
       iv. Plan for the allocation and use of resources

3. Within ten (10) working days following the submission of the request, the Executive Director shall assess in a first step the relevance of the submitted request and submit his conclusion to the Commission. Within ten (10) working days, based on the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Commission shall give an opinion on the eligibility of the request as being strategic to the Union and shall inform the Executive Director accordingly.

4. In case of a positive opinion by the Commission on the strategic nature of the initiative, the Executive Director shall assess in a second step the request on the technical criteria.

5. The Executive Director shall inform the Governing Board on the outcome of the opinion of the Commission regarding the eligibility of the request as being strategic by the Union.

6. For the technical assessment of the application, the Executive Director shall be assisted by a group of experts including representatives of the Hosting Entities from the targeted supercomputers. The Executive Director might contact the applicant with a request for clarifications and adjustments to the proposal, in particular if the request does not meet the technical requirements. In such a case, rather than rejecting the request, the Executive Director shall enter into a dialogue with the applicant to give them the opportunity to adjust the request to meet the minimum technical requirements.

7. The Executive Director will submit this assessment and the conditions for the special access to the Governing Board for endorsement via written procedure.

8. The Executive Director shall inform the applicants of the conditions for granting access, including the duration of the access, the allocated node-hours that is granted to each particular strategic initiative within the limits of the total access available for initiatives considered strategic for the Union as specified in Article 4, and any other condition necessary to comply with EuroHPC Joint Undertaking Regulation and procedures.

Article 4

Maximum access time allocation

1. The total access time allocated to all the initiatives considered strategic for the Union shall not exceed 10% of the Union's total available access time and shall be shared among them. In addition, the time allocated per EuroHPC supercomputers to all strategic initiatives shall not exceed 10%. Of the Union's share Allocations to individual projects shall be done on the basis of actual node-hours. Unused allocated time by an initiative in a given year shall not be carried over to future periods.

2. In case the requests for the total available time for strategic initiatives exceeds the maximum 10% of the Union's total available access time, the Executive Director will consult the Commission regarding the prioritisation for the distribution among the different requests. Prioritisation shall be made on the following criteria:

    a. Urgency – is the access time-critical, or could the application be run at a later stage without a negative impact

    b. Resources – is it possible to reduce temporarily the number of node-hours for any of the competing applications without negative impact on the quality of the output, or significant impact on the timeliness of the expected output/results.

    c. Temporary suspension – which competing applications could have temporarily access time interrupted without negative impact on the quality of the outputs, or significant impact on the timeliness of the expected outputs

    d. Alternative supercomputer(s) – can the access request be moved to a different EuroHPC supercomputer

    e. Other access modes – in case of underutilisation of the standard EuroHPC access time, can the request be positively evaluated and granted access under this access mode

Article 5

Review of allocation of access time

1. Time allocation requires a periodical technical and scientific review. For this purpose, the applicant shall provide annual reports of system allocation and usage, including the appraisal of the expected results and impacts and success criteria as well as their planning of resources usage for the following year. The annual report will be reviewed by a technical committee designated by the Executive Director.

2. The Executive Director shall include the annual report in the overall monitoring report for the allocation of the Union's access time as defined in the EuroHPC Access Policy rules

3. Based on the outcome of this yearly review, the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, by Governing Board Decision, shall agree on the continuation of the access. In case of approval, the new total time allocated to access shall:

   (a) take into account the projected resource availability of EuroHPC systems,
   (b) respect the overall maximum of 10% of the access time per system,
   (c) satisfy similar requests from other initiatives,
   (d) adapt to current strategic interests of the Union.

Article 6

Peer review process by strategic initiatives

1. Any peer review process carried out by an applicant which has been granted special access time shall follow the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking Regulation and procedures, in particular, regarding eligibility criteria, conditions and Access Policy rules.

2. Any project or user of special access time shall comply with the requirements and obligations as defined in the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking Access Policy rules.

Article 7

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Kajaani, on 14 June 2022.

For the Governing Board

[signed]

Herbert Zeisel

The Chair