



# GISELA

## 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH RESULTS

### EU DELIVERABLE: D2.3

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Document Full name	<b>GISELA-D2.3-v1.5</b>
Date	<b>31/08/2012</b>
Activity	<b>WP2 / Dissemination and Outreach</b>
Lead Partner	<b>ULA</b>
Document status	<b>APPROVED</b>
Classification Attribute	<b>PU (PUBLIC)</b>
Document link	<a href="http://documents.gisela-grid.eu">http://documents.gisela-grid.eu</a>

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#### Abstract:

This document presents the achievements of WP2 - Dissemination and Outreach - during the second year of the GISELA project (*Grid Initiatives for e-Science virtual communities in Europe and Latin America* - <http://www.gisela-grid.eu>).



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	Name	Partner/Activity	Date	Signature
<b>From</b>	WP2	ULA / WP2 - Dissemination and Outreach		
<b>Reviewed by</b>	Technical Board			
<b>Approved by</b>	Management Board		31/08/2012	B. Marechal Ph. Gavillet S. Jalife Villalón Luis A. Nuñez R. Barbera Ramon Diacovo

### Document Log

Issue	Date	Comment	Author
0-1	13/06/2012	First draft	B. Marechal
0-2	13/07/2012	First redaction of Sections 2 to 5	Y. Briceño & H. Hoeger
0-3	14/07/2012	Text updating, corrections and formatting	B. Marechal
0-4	17/07/2012	Minor updates	Y. Briceño & H. Hoeger
0-5	16/08/2012	Updates	Y. Briceño & H. Hoeger
1-5	31/08/2012	Final Review and approval	B. Marechal

### Document Change Record

Issue	Item	Reason for Change

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document reports the achievements of the Work Package WP2 “Dissemination and Outreach” during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the project.

For a comprehensive view of the Project and of the GISELA Consortium, the Description of Work (DoW)<sup>1</sup> and the Consortium Agreement (CoA)<sup>2</sup> should be consulted.

### 1.2. DOCUMENT ORGANISATION

The document follows with the Executive Summary as Section 2. While Section 3 presents the activities performed by WP2 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of GISELA, the WP2 human effort is shown in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 concludes the document.

### 1.3. APPLICATION AREA

The target audience for this document is:

- The members of the Project;
- The European Commission Services;
- The Project Reviewers;
- The External Advisory Committee (EAC);
- The general public.

### 1.4. DOCUMENT AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Amendments to this document can be requested by any Project Member to the Project Coordinator (PC), via the Project Office (PO) – [hlp-gisela@hlpdeveloppement.fr](mailto:hlp-gisela@hlpdeveloppement.fr).

### 1.5. GLOSSARY

CEDIA	Consortio Ecuatoriano para el Desarrollo de Internet Avanzado (Ecuador)
CENAT	Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (Costa Rica)
CHAIN	Co-ordination & Harmonisation of Advanced e-Infrastructures
CLARA	Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas
CLARA TT	CLARA Transition Team
CoA	Consortium Agreement
CUDI	Corporación Universitaria para el Desarrollo de Internet A.C. (Mexico)
DoW	Description of Work

<sup>1</sup> <http://documents.gisela-grid.eu/record/32?ln=en>

<sup>2</sup> Consortium Agreement (CoA) available upon request to the GISELA Project Office ([hlp-gisela@hlpdeveloppement.fr](mailto:hlp-gisela@hlpdeveloppement.fr))

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EAC	External Advisory Committee
GSG	GISELA Science Gateway
HLP	HLP Développement SA (France)
INNOVA RED	Red Nacional de Investigación y Educación de Argentina (Argentina)
KoM	Kick-off Meeting
LA	Latin America
PC	Project Coordinator
PO	Project Office
RAAP	Red Académica Peruana (Peru)
RedCLARA	New official name of CLARA
RENATA	Red Nacional Académica de Tecnología Avanzada (Colombia)
REUNA	Red Universitaria Nacional (Chile)
RNP	Rede Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisa (Brazil)
SECIU	Servicio Central de Informática Universitario (Uruguay)
UNAM	Universidad Autónoma de México (Mexico)
VRC	Virtual Research Community
WP1	Work Package 1 - <i>Administrative and Technical management of the Project</i>
WP2	Work Package 2 - <i>Dissemination and Outreach</i>
WP3	Work Package 3 - <i>User Communities Support</i>

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WP2 is caring of all GISELA Dissemination & Outreach actions. This takes the form of the organisation of the Project events and of the production of the relevant publicity material. The work package contributes to the outreach of the Project results through the GISELA Web site. During the second year of the Project, the numerous outcomes of WP2 were the following.

- Organisation of events:
  - WP2 helped WP1 and WP3 to organise 2 and 6 events, respectively, the most relevant one being the Joint GISELA-CHAIN Conference;
  - 4 Decision Makers Meetings took place;
  - 5 Workshops were held.
  - 7 Virtual Meetings are reported. WP2 assisted WP3 with the disseminations of the GISELA Science Gateway (GSG) virtual meetings.
- Production of dissemination material.
  - 3 regular bulletins and 2 special edition bulletin were released. Flyers on GISELA, the GISELA Science Gateway, the Joint GISELA-CHAIN Conference and a Portfolio for the Advanced Computing Services Model were also produced and released.
- Web site/Internet based outreach
  - The *GISELA Main Site* sections: *Hot News, Events, Publications, Outreach and Project Activities (WP2: Dissemination and Outreach), Monitoring & Statistics (WP2: Dissemination and Outreach)*; the *GISELA Web Bulletin* and the *Event Server* were regularly updated;
  - E-mail lists, GridCast, Twitter and Press Room of Partner Institutions & NRENs were used as well to inform about GISELA.
- Contacting users
  - A survey among EELA and ELLA-2 users that *gridified* application was performed in order to get their impression about the use of the e-Infrastructure and to search for potential new users. Potential users were also contacted via video meetings.
- The GSG
  - WP2 redesigned the look and feel of the GSG and worked with WP3 on its implementation.

Altogether, WP2 achievements are in line with, or exceeded, what has been committed and/or recommended during the First Year Project Review.

### 3. ACHIEVEMENTS

The promotion and socialisation of the e-Infrastructure and the possible modes to use it have been a permanent challenge. A learning process required an assessment of the features inherent to several aspects of scientific management, such as policies and regulations, and of the way researchers work. To pave a favourable path for the progressive growth of the services proposed and enhance its usability has driven the development of activities to publicise and promote the available supply for the scientific community, taking into account the specificities of region.

From September 2011 to August 2012 (M13 to M24), WP2 kept fulfilling its assignments mainly on, but not restricted to, the following tasks.

#### 3.1. CONTACTING POTENTIAL USERS OF THE GISELA E-INFRASTRUCTURE

The GISELA project inherited from EELA and EELA-2 a list of scientific applications with different degrees of use by communities in the region. The list included mostly applications related to Life Sciences, Earth Sciences and Bioinformatics.

To know about the experience of the user of these groups, only applications that had been properly *gridified* and tested were selected. Interviews were conducted via e-mail to a group of 33 users. Not all interviews were actually answered and only 17 were received.

The purpose of this review aimed to approximate the degrees of satisfaction with the **experience** of using applications in the Grid environment.

The results are not strictly quantitative because the mode of approach was the interview with open questions, so they were grouped according to the texts sent by the users. The users were asked to describe their experience in:

- **The *gridification* of the application:** the factors that stimulated the *gridification* of the application (e.g. initial training on the use of Grid, higher needs of computing and storage to preserve data, academic testing, other reasons);
- **Usage of the application on the Grid:** the current status of use of the application (e.g. current and permanent use, intermittent use, use only during a short period, use in a National Grid, use outside GISELA, reasons for discontinuing its use, etc.);
- **Grid and its features:** the most important advantages and limitations of the use of Grid, according to the user experience;
- **Potential uses of the tool:** adaptability to other areas or expansion of users, according to the expertise as a researcher.

As a key trend, two results highlighted:

- Most of the applications *gridified* during the EELA - EELA-2 period are not more used in the platform offered; only in two cases the application kept being used, but off the shelf, with local resources;
- In bulk, users expressed satisfaction with the training experience to *gridify* applications in EELA - EELA-2, but several reasons led to suspend their use.

According to the user's feedback, the reasons for suspending the use of *gridified* applications can be classified as follows:

- **Logistical:**
  - Expiration of the certificate.



- **Technical:**
  - Updates of the versions or software where they were installed;
  - Development of a new platform;
  - Dissatisfaction with infrastructure: response delayed<sup>3</sup>.
- **Organization, community (inherent to users):**
  - People in charge of the project changed;
  - Lack of demand.

Among the reasons for dissatisfaction in using the Grid platform are:

- Difficult processes to obtain free resources;
- Poor service stability;
- Inadequate response time;
- Lack of documentation;
- Bureaucracy associated with obtainment and renewal of certificates<sup>4</sup>.
- Cloud as an alternative for the ease of use, low prices and support (case of applications for Bioinformatics).

Potential users were also contacted through virtual meetings: see Section 3.8 (*Organising Virtual Meetings*).

### 3.2. SUPPORTING THE OTHER WORK PACKAGES

WP2 supported mainly WP1 and WP3 in the organisation and dissemination of events:

#### With WP1<sup>5</sup>:

- The most relevant one, the Joint GISELA-CHAIN Conference, Mexico City, 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012<sup>6</sup>.
- The CLARA-TT f2f Meeting, Bucaramanga (Colombia), 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

#### With WP3<sup>7</sup>:

- Soporte y formación para administradores sistemas de CEDIA (Ecuador, January 2012);
- Virtual meetings to integrate applications on the GSG<sup>8</sup> started on February 2012;

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<sup>3</sup> In applications with low computing requirements, having to wait 0.5 to 1 hour to get simulation results were considered too much.

<sup>4</sup> This trend in the user experience is akin to similar studies. You can read in the work by Zimmerman and Finholt "Growing an Infrastructure: The Role of Gateway Organizations in Cultivating New Communities of Users" that "Historically, high-performance computing resources have been used by only a small portion of the science and engineering research community." ([http://misc.si.umich.edu/media/papers/Zimmerman\\_Finholt\\_GROUP\\_2007\\_08\\_09\\_30.pdf](http://misc.si.umich.edu/media/papers/Zimmerman_Finholt_GROUP_2007_08_09_30.pdf)), being one of the reasons the cumbersome process of certification. Similar results can be seen at work "Fostering the use of the Mediterranean e-Infrastructure with Science Gateways and Identity Federations" (Ardizzone and others).

<sup>5</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es/categoryDisplay.py?categId=7>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gisela-grid.eu/conference>

<sup>7</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es/categoryDisplay.py?categId=15>

<sup>8</sup> <https://gisela-gw.ct.infn.it/science-gateways>

- Taller de Grid Computing - Grid para usuarios (Mexico, May 2012);
- Latin America "special" 2012 - Joint CHAIN/GISELA School for Grid Site Administrators (Colombia, May-June 2012);
- Latin America "special" 2012 - Joint CHAIN/GISELA School for Application Porting to Science Gateway (Colombia, June 2012).
- Latin America 2012 - Joint CHAIN/GISELA/EPIKH School for Application Porting to Science Gateway (Mexico, June 2012).

Besides supporting other WPs with events, WP2 produced the *Graphical Proposal for the Gisela Science Gateway*<sup>9</sup>, completely redesigning the look and feel of the GSG and worked with WP3 on its implementation. Figure 1 illustrates the new design of the GSG.



Figure 1: The new look of the GISELA Science Gateway

<sup>9</sup> <http://documents.gisela-grid.eu/record/352?ln=en>

### 3.3. UPDATING THE GISELA WEB SITES

The sections of the GISELA Web site<sup>10</sup> that WP2 contributed to are:

- Hot News, Events, Publications, Outreach and Project Activities (WP2: Dissemination and Outreach);
- The Web version of the GISELLA Bulletin<sup>11</sup>;
- The GISELA Event Server<sup>12</sup>.

### 3.4. EDITION OF THE GISELA BULLETINS<sup>13</sup>

- Bi-annual editions have assembled a journalistic narrative of the GISELA project progress with sections that often integrated spokesmen of member countries under various styles: interviews, special reports, press releases. Four editions (October 2011, April, July and August 2012) have been released during the 2<sup>nd</sup> project-year (PDF - English and Spanish). The last one being a *Goodbye* to the project.
- To strengthen the promotion of the GSG as a trend to access computational resources, a *special edition* (February 2012), called *Environment 2.0 for access to advanced computing resources* (PDF, English and Spanish).
- The WEB version of the GISELA Bulletin (English and Spanish) has been regularly updated as a material for the printed bulletins and special editions have been produced.

### 3.5. PUBLICISING THE GISELA BRIEFINGS

Since 3 bulletins and 1 special edition covered the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the project, no GISELA Briefings were produced. Short notes have been distributed by means of e-mail lists, twitter, press rooms of institutions and NRENs, as well as through the GISELA Hot News<sup>14</sup>.

### 3.6. PRODUCTION OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Obeying an integrated approach in terms of image, WP2 has generated material designed to promote different matters of the project such as a portfolio for the Advanced Computing Services model<sup>15</sup> and flyers about GISELA, on the use of the Science Gateway, and on the Joint GISELA-CHAIN Conference.

### 3.7. PUBLICATIONS

Publications are not under the direct responsibility of WP2. However, they are important to disseminate achievements by, or due to, the Project. There are currently 78 publications reported in the GISELA Web site<sup>16</sup>: 14 for 2010, 24 for 2011 and 40 for 2012.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.gisela-grid.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cecalc.ula.ve/gisela/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://indico.gisela-grid.eu/>

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=28](http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24&Itemid=28)

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=33&Itemid=39](http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=33&Itemid=39)

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=30](http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=30)

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=43&Itemid=41](http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43&Itemid=41)

### 3.8. ORGANISATION OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In order to improve the use of the e-Infrastructure, WP2 organised, together with members of the CLARA TT a series of virtual activities to convene stakeholders around common goals. In a first phase, regional sessions for e-Science were conducted in October-November 2011 with the participation of political actors, decision makers and researchers of different scientific areas. The most successful one was the session with members of the Seismology communities involved in management and prevention of natural disasters<sup>17</sup>.

The second phase of these initiatives paid attention to Virtual Days, following similar agendas proposed in Mexico by CUDI and RedCLARA. The Virtual Days focused on thematic areas and seek to bring together researchers, students and interested parties to discuss usefulness of e-Infrastructures. So far, they have been very successful, convening a significant number of people in Latin America during the *Virtual Culture Day* and the *Virtual e-Infrastructure Day*. These activities have been led by RedCLARA and well supported by NRENs from Mexico, Brazil, Colombia and Costa Rica.

The virtual meetings held are listed hereafter.

#### First phase<sup>18</sup>:

- La e-ciencia como propuesta para resolver problemas regionales - Sesión con redes académicas nacionales de América Latina. October 27th, 2011;
- La e-ciencia como propuesta para resolver problemas regionales - Sesión con expertos. October 28th, 2011;
- La e-ciencia como propuesta para resolver problemas regionales - Sesión con Directores de Tecnologías e Información de América Latina. November 1st, 2011;
- La e-ciencia como propuesta para resolver problemas regionales - Sesión con comunidades de gestión e investigación en prevención de riesgos y temas sísmicos. November 3rd, 2011.

#### Second phase<sup>19</sup>:

- Día Virtual de Cultura. March 28th, 2012.
- Día Virtual de e-Infraestructura. May 8th, 2012.

Last but not least, WP2 also helped WP3 to disseminate the GSG Virtual Meetings.

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<sup>17</sup> The virtual meeting via videoconference, held on November 3, main objectives were to publicize the advanced computing scenery and its main advantages; present the experience of Seismic Sensor, application developed in EELA-2 ([http://applications.gisela-grid.eu/application\\_details.php?l=20&ID=71](http://applications.gisela-grid.eu/application_details.php?l=20&ID=71)), and discuss possibilities of collaboration. As main concerns of this meeting, participants, potential users of advanced computer-services focused on: the format and data confidentiality and the process of migration of the tools being used to benefit from the Grid infrastructure. As an experience of integration of these researchers into the Grid platform environment, CLARA TT members agreed to try a thrust stage and organize the participants in a collaborative community, to transcend the mere use of tools and discover the added value offered by this type of collaboration; this activity is currently under development and has led, for example to an ongoing collaboration between the UNAM (Mexico) and ULA (Venezuela), and a review of projects in the area, to enhance the use of the e-Infrastructure.

<sup>18</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//categoryDisplay.py?categId=7>

<sup>19</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//categoryDisplay.py?categId=15>

### 3.9. ORGANISATION OF DECISION MAKERS MEETINGS

These meetings, as part of the strategy to ensure the sustainability of Advanced Computational Services, aim at:

- Ensuring the availability and the operation of the national or institutional resource centres (hardware, software and manpower) in a federation of academic institutions;
- Exploring mechanisms to guarantee the operation of a resource centre at the regional level to maintain both the organisation and the remote access to these resources.

To keep operating the institutions resource centres and get the support of the directors of NRENs, a project, Mesoamerica<sup>20</sup>, for information management and early warning for natural disasters in Central America, has been initiated. This proposal is driven by the Mexican government and supported by CUDI, with the participation of NRENs and academic institutions in Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. CUDI has been contacted to ensure the operation of a Regional Resource Centre, in cooperation with ROC-LA<sup>21</sup> (organisation of centres for High Energy Physics in Mexico, Colombia and Brazil) to take the responsibility of the Regional Coordination.

The following Decision Makers Meetings were held:

- By videoconference, with the Directors of Information Technologies in LA in November 2011 (see Section 3.8: Organisation of Virtual Meetings);
- At the plenary sessions with RedCLARA partners (Montevideo, Uruguay, in November 2011);
- At the Joint GISELA-CHAIN Conference (27th to 29th June 2012) during which the Mexico Declaration<sup>22</sup> was signed (see Section 3.10: Organisation of the GISELA-CHAIN Conference);
- At TICAL 2012 (Conference of Directors of Information Technology and Communication of Latin American Universities), where Costa Rica joined the Mexico Declaration (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 - [http://tical\\_2012.redclara.net/po/index.html](http://tical_2012.redclara.net/po/index.html)). See also Section 3.10 (Organisation of the GISELA-CHAIN Conference).

### 3.10. ORGANISATION OF THE GISELA-CHAIN CONFERENCE

The GISELA-CHAIN Conference (<http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//conferenceDisplay.py?confId=26>) was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from June 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM) hosted the event at the Unidad de Seminarios Dr. Ignacio Chávez.

The short summary<sup>23</sup> of the event follows.

- 83 on site participants;
- UNAM webcasted the conference<sup>24</sup> and reported a total of 366 connexions during the three days, of which 122 were on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>;

<sup>20</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//materialDisplay.py?subContId=5&contribId=7&sessionId=0&materialId=slides&confId=26>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.e-science.unam.mx/rocla.jsp>

<sup>22</sup> <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//materialDisplay.py?contribId=24&sessionId=2&materialId=0&confId=26>

<sup>23</sup> A final summary of the Conference has been provided by Federico Ruggieri: <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es//materialDisplay.py?contribId=18&sessionId=2&materialId=slides&confId=26>

- 10 Keynote talks; 8 sessions, of which 2 on Sustainability and 6 for presentations with 29 talks.
- Information on the event was constantly distributed through:
  - Twitter (@gisela\_grid with hashtag #GiselaChainMX);
  - GridCast<sup>25</sup>;
  - iSGTW<sup>26</sup>;
  - Mailing lists;
  - Press Rooms of the following institutions and NRENs: CEDIA, CENAT, CUDI, INNOVA|RED, RAAP, RedCLARA, RENATA, REUNA, RNP, SECIU and UNAM.
- The most relevant outcome of this Conference was the commitment of several LA institutions & NRENs to inherit and sustain the GISELA e-Infrastructure. CEDIA, CUDI, RENATA, UNIANDES and UNAM signed a declaration (the Mexico Declaration). A few days later, at TICAL' 2012 (LIMA, Peru), Costa Rica, represented by the Executive Director of RedCONARE, Alvaro de La Ossa, was presented with the declaration for the sustainability of the e-Infrastructure and signed it.

WP2 took the full responsibility of the Indico conference site - <http://www.gisela-grid.eu/conference>. The logos and banner for the conference are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.webcast.unam.mx/index.php?view=details&id=2100:gisela-chain-conference>

<sup>25</sup> <http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.com/>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.isgtw.org/>



Figure 2: The GISELA-CHAIN Conference logo with and without dates



Figure 3: The GISELA-CHAIN Conference banner

#### 4. HUMAN EFFORT

The current WP2 human resources are given in Table 1.

**Table 1: WP2 Human Resources**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Herbert Hoeger	WP2 Manager TWP2.1 and TWP2.2 Task Leader	ULA
Ysabel Briceño	WP2 Deputy Manager TWP2.3 Task Leader	ULA
María Eugenia Hernández	Design/Art	ULA
Alicia Bohórquez	Translations	ULA
Tania Altamirano	Dissemination of GISELA news through CLARA bulletin/site	RedCLARA
Maria Jose Lopez	PR & Communications Manager	RedCLARA



## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Table 2 shows, quantitatively, a summary of what has been achieved vs. what has been committed in the DoW in terms of Dissemination and Outreach by WP2. Detailed information concerning the Events can be found at <http://indico.ceta-ciemat.es/categoryDisplay.py?categId=7>.

**Table 2: Summary of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year WP2 Activities**

Event / Activity	Done during the 1st year	Committed for 1st year	Done during the 2nd year	Committed for 2 years
KoM / Conference	1	1	1	2
Workshops & Tutorials	7	≥3	7	≥6
Decision Makers Days	3	≥3	4	≥6
Virtual Meetings	6	≥4	7	≥8
Posters	1	—	0	—
Brochures-Flyers	1	—	3	—
Briefings	3	—	0	—
GISELA Science Gateway Home page design	0	—	1	—
Bulletins	2	≥2	3	≥4
Special Bulletin	0	—	1	—

Concerning the Web sites, the following ones, are active:

- The *Main Site*: <http://www.gisela-grid.eu/>
- The *Event Server*: <http://indico.gisela-grid.eu/>
- The *Document Server*: <http://documents.gisela-grid.eu/>
- The *GISELA Web Bulletin*: <http://www.cecalc.ula.ve/gisela>
- The *Gisela Science Gateway*: <https://gisela-gw.ct.infn.it/science-gateways>
- A *Twitter* account: [http://twitter.com/gisela\\_grid](http://twitter.com/gisela_grid)
- A *Flickr* account for photos of Project events: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/gisela\\_grid/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/gisela_grid/)

During 2 years of rather intense activity in Dissemination & Outreach, WP2 did an excellent work, fulfilling all its commitments and having taken into account the Recommendations of the Reviewers. Concerning these recommendations, the following ones should be remembered.

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- *To establish a process for the user/partner feedback collection:* done in the GISELA Science Gateway, in collaboration with the CLARA TT and WP3;
  - *To disseminate the CLARA model derived from the Business Plan:* done thanks to the GISELA Technical Coordinator who, personally, disseminated the model in Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico and Ecuador. Furthermore, the Dissemination has been conducted via mailing lists, and NREN pressrooms:

[http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=30](http://www.gisela-grid.eu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26&Itemid=30)

Considering the skills of the WP2 manpower and the fact that these persons are tightly linked to RedCLARA and/or Latin American NRENs, no foreseen issue should affect the handover process with respect to Dissemination and Outreach.