



**SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME  
Research Infrastructure**

**FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-2 – INFRA-2010-1.2.3:  
Virtual Research Communities**

**Combination of Collaborative Project and Coordination and Support  
Actions (CP/CSA)**



**LinkSCEEM-2  
Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern  
Mediterranean – Phase 2**

**Grant Agreement Number: RI-261600**

**D2.5  
Cyber-platform providing user forum and networking services**

***Final***

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## Project and Deliverable Information Sheet

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## References and Applicable Documents

[1] <http://www.linksceem.eu>

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CaSToRC	Computation-based Science and Technology Research Centre of the Cyl
Cyl	The Cyprus Institute
EC	European Community
FZJ	Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany)
HPC	High Performance Computing; Computing at a high performance level at any given time; often used synonym with Supercomputing
JSC	Jülich Supercomputing Centre (FZJ, Germany)
LinkSCEEM	Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean
LinkSCEEM-2	Linking Scientific Computing in Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean – Phase 2
MPI	Message Passing Interface
MPP	Massively Parallel Processing (or Processor)

## D2.5

### Cyber-platform providing user forum and networking services

PRACE	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe; Project Acronym
PRACE-1P	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe – First Implementation Phase
PRACE	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe – Research Infrastructure
TB	Tera ( $10^{12}$ ) Bytes (= 8 bits), also TByte
TFlop/s	Tera (= $10^{12}$ ) Floating-point operations (usually in 64-bit, i.e. DP) per second, also TF/s
Tier-0	Denotes the apex of a conceptual pyramid of HPC systems. In this context the PRACE Supercomputing Research Infrastructure would host the Tier-0 systems; national or topical HPC centres would constitute Tier-1
VRC	Virtual Research Community
WP	Work package

## Executive Summary

A key set of activities of LinkSEEM-2 involves networking with scientific user communities in the Eastern Mediterranean aiming at the emergence of Virtual Research Communities in fields of regional scientific importance. These activities, pursued within the scope of work package 2 of the project, include organizing a series of focused, thematic and cross-disciplinary user meetings bringing together scientists interested in HPC, data management and visualization techniques, facilitating communication among them and, enabling structured communication and collaboration with related EU projects. Within the framework of this work package LinkSCEEM-2 has implemented and made available an online tool to facilitate communication among researchers in the region, enable the establishment of relations and map the regional computational science community. This online user forum, part of the LinkSCEEM cyber-platform and available at <http://www.linkedin.com/>, provides the means for the formation of an online community and for communication to occur among the members of the group. Specifically, the forum will provide functionality similar to an interactive announcement board, member search and commenting to interested members of the scientific community and to the wider public throughout the duration of the project.

For the LinkSCEEM-2 research (user) community, the forum will serve as a portal to recent and past announcements of the computational science community of the Eastern Mediterranean, comments contributed by members of interest to the same community, job ads as well as individual members of the community. The general aim is to facilitate communication among researchers in the region.

To facilitate the joint contribution and editing of content by project participants and the entire community targeted by LinkSCEEM, partners have already announced the implementation of the forum to the LinkSCEEM user database. Nearly 45 users have joined the group by mid-June 2011. The forum will be promoted through project activities in an effort to engage more members of the user community and enable an effective, informal platform for project related information and user interaction.

## 1 Introduction

Work on creating and maintaining the LinkSCEEM-2 online user forum occurs in the scope of the networking of user communities, under WP2. The main objectives of the work that took place to create the online user forum are described in this document. Section 2 elaborates on the LinkSCEEM-2 user forum task, while section 3 describes the details of the hosting platform. Section 4 elaborates on the forum structure, targeted audience and objectives. Finally, Section 5 covers the content management procedure.

## 2 Implementation and Maintenance

The implementation and maintenance of the online user forum of LinkSCEEM-2 is part of WP2: Networking of user communities”, Task 2: “Relations with regional users and monitoring of needs”. The task was led by CyI with SESAME involvement in the platform selection. All consortium members are expected to join the forum and provide content for publication as well as comment on posted user comments. The present deliverable, D2.5 due on Month 10 of the project, refers to the development and deployment of the initial version of a Cyber-platform providing user forum and networking services.

According to the proposal, the cyber-platform services will be provided via an online networking tool providing a user forum and a virtual community environment promoting member interests and expertise and facilitating contacts and collaborations among researchers from the region. Moreover, the tool will enable scientists to submit their profile and interests and grow their professional network of contacts by linking to colleagues with the right combination of scientific knowledge, experience and interests.

The partners have adopted the popular social networking tool LinkedIn for the implementation of the LinkSCEEM-2 cyberplatform. The LinkedIn tool, available at <http://www.linkedin.com>, is already widely used by several consortium partners as well as numerous members of the regional scientific community. Moreover, the tool meets all the requirements and goals set for the LinkSCEEM cyber-platform, and is free of charge.

The LinkSCEEM-2 online user forum (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3806586>) utilizes the general LinkSCEEM name and displays the LinkSCEEM logo. A link to the forum has been posted on the LinkSCEEM-2 project webpage. Work on the cyber-platform will continue throughout the duration of the project via the addition of new content and the linking to upcoming project resources.

### 3 Hosting Site and System

The LinkSCEEM-2 cyber-platform providing user forum and networking services to the targeted community is hosted externally at <http://www.linkedin.com> and is maintained by CaSToRC/CyI as the task leader. The website was created using the LinkedIn group implementation and management system, which was selected for its popularity, capabilities and ease of use. The cyber-platform is backed up by the hosting organization, which guarantees continuous uptime.

### 4 Cyber-platform Structure and Objectives

The LinkSCEEM-2 cyber-platform serves multiple roles, as an online announcement board, a platform for networking among users and a tool for uploading and promoting user profile. Correspondingly, the platform allows individual users to create a profile on LinkedIn by entering their personal information and interests, to search and link with other users, to join the LinkSCEEM group, to read material posted on the forum site and post content or comments on existing content.

Content is structured under categories organized in main subject menus. Figure 1 shows the LinkSCEEM online user forum, with the *Discussions*, *Members*, *Jobs*, *Search*, etc. menus shown on the top of the page. To the right of the page one can see the announcement chosen by the forum administrator and the most recent updates to the forum. The following subsections describe the main menus of the forum.

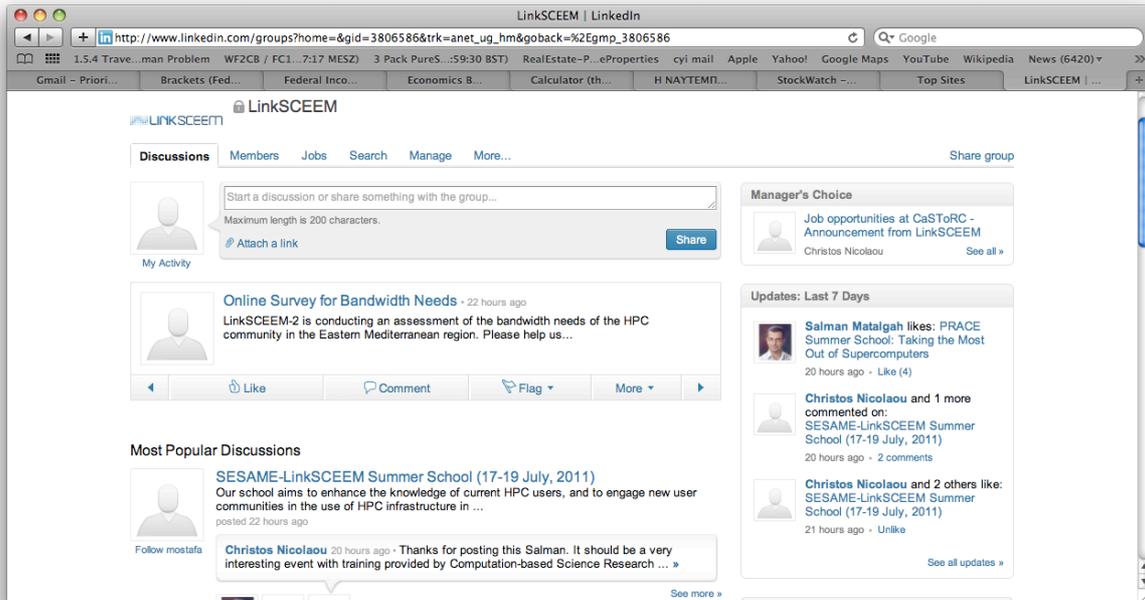


Figure 1: The LinkSCEEM online user forum

#### 4.1 Main/Discussions Menu

The Main menu of the forum presents the discussions posted/initiated by forum members. These articles contributed by the community are primarily aimed at the forum members; they may include announcements about project activities, postings of general interest to the regional computational science community, etc. Initially, all postings come from project partners, however the intention is to engage the user community and encourage it to contribute and participate to the updating of the content. Project partners are also committed to post articles describing key milestones reached and main results achieved.

#### 4.2 Members Menu

The *Members* menu includes information on members of the scientific community that have joined the group. The information listed includes the name of the user, their affiliation/title and the number of connections to other LinkedIn users they have. The members must already have uploaded their profile to LinkedIn and chosen to participate to the LinkSCEEM group. Note that users need not be approved for participation to the group to facilitate the process of joining the forum. The latest member additions to the forum are listed on the left column. A member search functionality is located at the top of the left column of page.

#### 4.3 Jobs Menu

The Jobs menu allows users to post announcements related to job opportunities they would like to advertise. In addition to posting job positions members can also search for jobs and initiate a career discussion. The current set-up of the forum has been configured to allow postings of job postings from the entire LinkedIn social networking platform that contain keywords related to High Performance Computing in order to inform LinkSCEEM group members about existing opportunities.

#### 4.4 Search Menu

The LinkSCEEM online user forum and networking services are expected to be used extensively for communication among group members, the announcement of events of interest, the posting of jobs and the publishing of member profiles and interests among others. The Search menu provides a comprehensive search functionality to facilitate the retrieval of specific items of interest in the forum. The menu allows the user to focus the search to specific discussions or members through a menu conveniently located at the left column of the page. It is expected that with the gradual addition of more members to the group and content to the forum the search functionality will become essential to the identification and retrieval of specific information.

#### 4.5 Manage Menu

The Manage menu, accessible only to forum administrators, enables controlling and managing of all tasks related to the operation of the forum including membership settings, discussion and posting monitoring and moderation, invitation of members, definition and enforcing of rules etc. In the current implementation the forum has three administrators that have access to this menu and may perform any of the above actions depending on arising needs. A snapshot of the platform Manage menu is seen below.

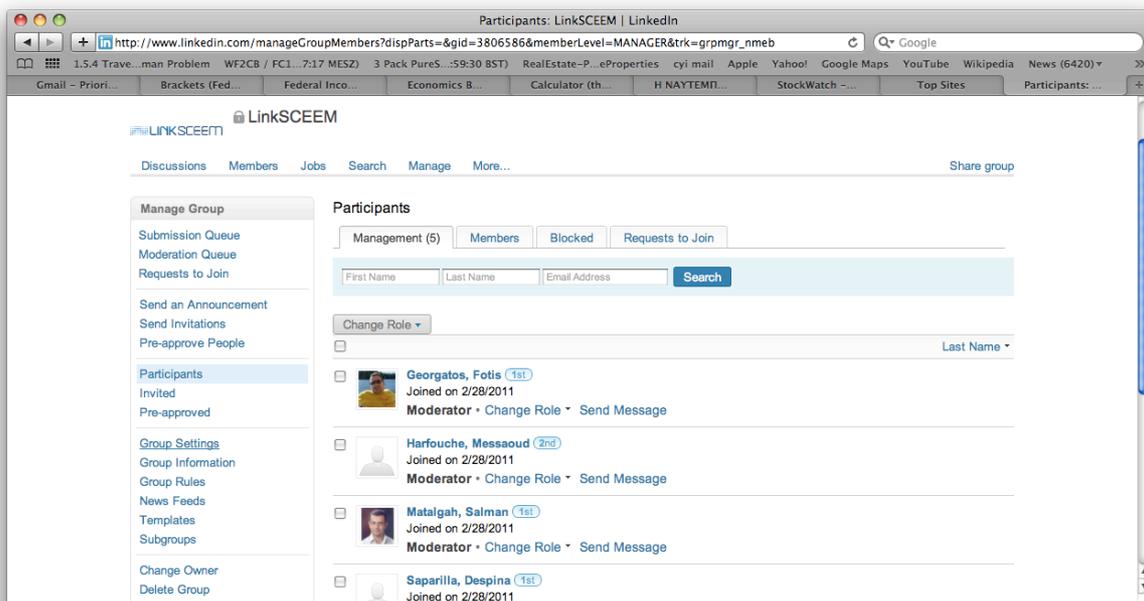


Figure 2. The Manage menu of the LinkSCEEM-2 user forum

### 5 Content Management Procedure

Initially, the promotion of the user forum and the contribution of content is a joint responsibility shared by all project participants. Project partners are expected to inform computational scientists from the region through personal contacts, announcements during presentations, etc about the existence of the group and invite them to join. Work package

members may contribute content relevant to the project activities they undertake to initiate a discussion on the forum. The contributions may be related to achievements such as successfully completing a LinkSCEEM milestone, requesting member input on topics of general interest or asking for information issues relevant to the objectives of the project. Members can freely publish content on the forum. However, administrators can moderate the submitted content and, if needed, remove contributions. Moreover, individual members can indicate whether they like the submitted content or flag it as inappropriate in which case the moderator is notified and can take the appropriate actions. The Project Management Office (PMO) of LinkSCEEM-2 together with WP5: Dissemination partners will also contribute content related to project achievements, project events and meetings.

It is expected that in later stages of the project, as the user forum grows and becomes an established medium for user communication, the participating community will be engaged and participate in the successful maintenance of the platform, including inviting new members and contributing content.

Administrative tasks related to the cyber-platform will be the responsibility of the administrators who will consult with the PMO on an as needed basis.