

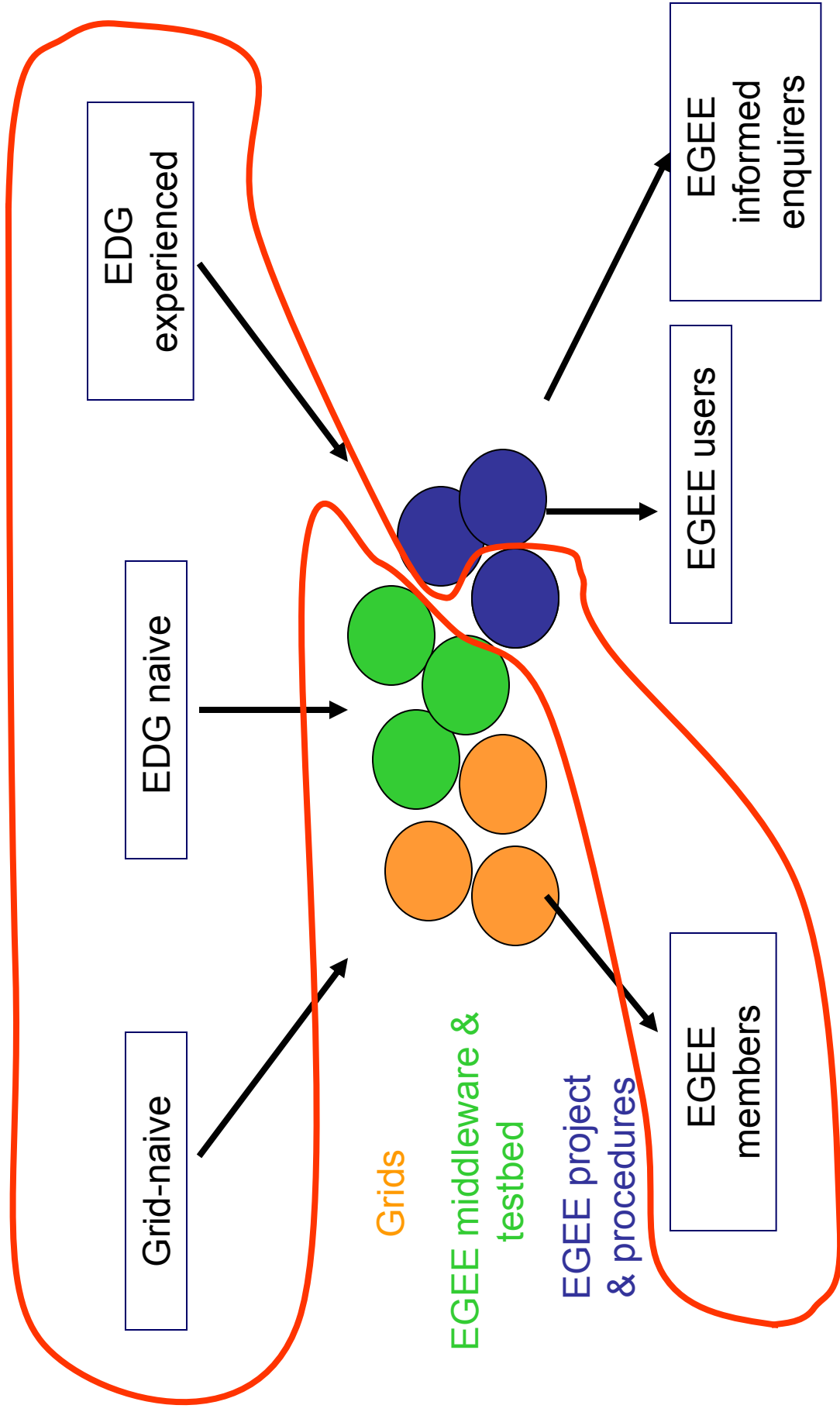
# Seeking collaboration across EGEE

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# Focus of talk in context of induction



## Goal of this module

- To respond to the requirement that the training team should “inculcate team spirit” in EGEE
  - “Team spirit” = a commitment to collaboration
- Background questions for today:
  - Should we have a session like this in the induction course?
  - Is this close to what it could be?!

- The size and goals of EGEE require explicit recognition of the “people dimension”
  - Illustrative comments from recent conferences
- The challenges of culture, scale and diversity in EGEE
  - Will EGEE be more or less than the sum of its parts??
  - The quality of collaboration and communication will determine this!
- Questions for discussion

## The scale and goals of EGEE

- 27 Countries
- 70 partner organisations
- ~600 people
- Key goal of EGEE:  
multiple application areas on production quality Grid...  
well inside 2 years
- EGEE to be a technological community
  - Creating interoperable software for productised services for end-users
  - Sustainable well beyond 2 years
  - Supporting virtual organisations

## Comments in recent conferences

- EDG was “One of the best examples of cooperating across Europe in research” ... quote from end of project review
- Dangers with EGEE:
  - “Stalls in a swirl of technical discussions”
  - Scale of enterprise, no. of partners, is “obstacle to community”
- Need to “reset relationships that can degrade through email”
- “Convergence” that missed: Web + Grid
  - “convergence not happening due to subtleties of culture and communication”
  - “World view represented in Grid did not quite connect with WS world view”

## Challenge 1: Strength from diversity

- Diversity of: Applications areas, organisations, nations
- Each has its own culture
- “Culture” = knowledge, values, habits, attitudes, set of learned activities, expectations, assumptions
  - Not only: How language (and jargon) is created and used but also...
  - How discussions are entered, knowledge acquired, insights shared, conflict resolved (or not...), decisions reached...
- If commit to high-quality communication, variety of cultures becomes an asset for EGEE
  - Range of insights, approaches,...
  - Same variety we expect VOs to integrate... so EGEE must do this!

## Challenge 2: EGEE-wide viewpoint

- Large number of activities each of which is critical to EGEE
- Each activity, each project member needs to maintain
  - Orientation to EGEE goals
  - Communication within and between activities



## Challenge 3: Timescales

- Establish best-possible modes of interaction NOW!
- No time to dismantle bad patterns of communication that get established

The extent to which EGEE will deliver is subject to:

- Technical competence
- Extent of members commitments to...
  - Establishing, and being willing to reset, communication
  - Achieving EGEE goals
  - Working with related activities
  - Seeing own activity in context of EGEE as whole

# EGEE-EGEE EGEE-tism

## with apolegees

## Discussion

- It is perhaps ok to raise these issues amongst trainers – to influence what and how we do - I'm not sure about explicitly doing so in the induction
- About the extent to which collaboration / cultural diversity are discussed in induction courses
  - I don't think it is likely to work as a stand-alone talk
  - Probably something to include in EGEE outline and introduction, in much less laboured, more positive way!