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Directorate C: Excellence in Science

Unit C1: e-Infrastructure

Deliverable 5.6: Pilot Portal final version

A project of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

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Periodical Progress Report

ELCIRA Deliverable: D5.6 Pilot Portal Final Version

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Abstract: The portal applications deployed under the work package 5 are in its final version, and this document describes present this result. The collaboration portal will be the main collaboration environment for academic communities.

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For more information on ELCIRA, its partners and contributors please see http://elcira.redclara.net (this website will be available in October 1st 2012).

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DELIVERABLE ROUTE

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1   DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

User: (or Final User) Researcher, teacher, student or other academic or R+D+I-related person who uses the systems. The user may be registered with the RedCLARA IdP, the GARR IdP or with other eduGAIN member IdPs.

NREN: National Research and Educational Network.

SAML: The Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML), developed by the OASIS Security Services Technical Committee, is an XML-based framework for communicating security information across administrative domains. SAML allows entities (like IdPs) to issue identity assertions about a subject to other entities (like SPs) (Internet2, 2011).

Shibboleth: An implementation of SAML2 framework. It allows people to sign in, using just one 'identity', to various systems run by 'federations' of different organizations or institutions. The federations are often universities or public service organisations (Wikipedia, 2013).

(Identity) Federation: Set of universities or others institutions organized in a hierarchical fashion to provide identity services.

IdP: Identity Provider – a service that provides user information (for the purpose of the current project, it provides user authentication).SP: Service Provider – a system that provides content and services to the user. For the purpose of the current project, there are four SPs: Wiki, FileSender, Webconference and Communities' Service.

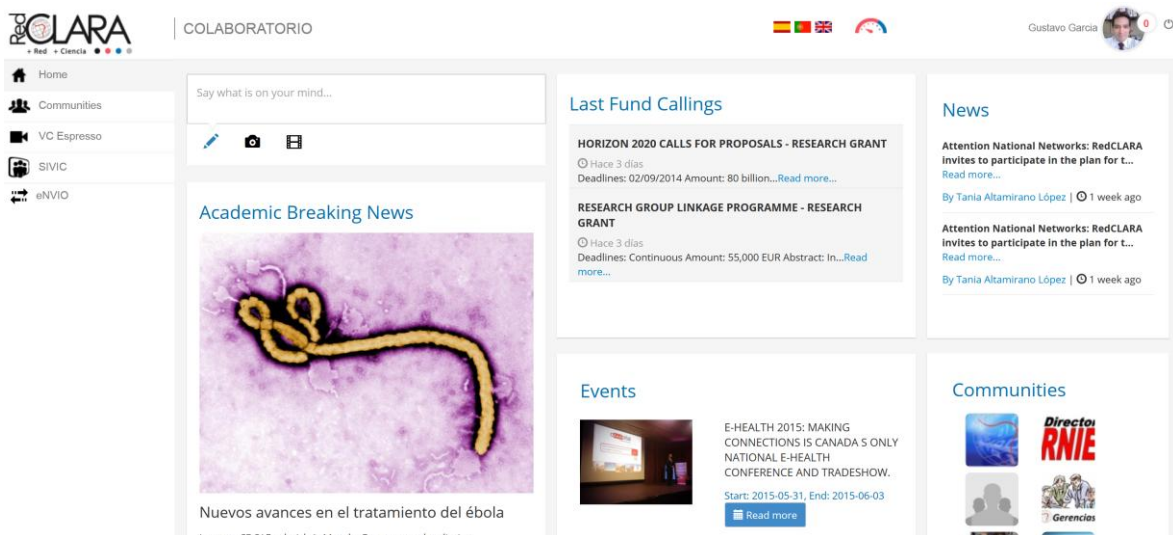A project of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
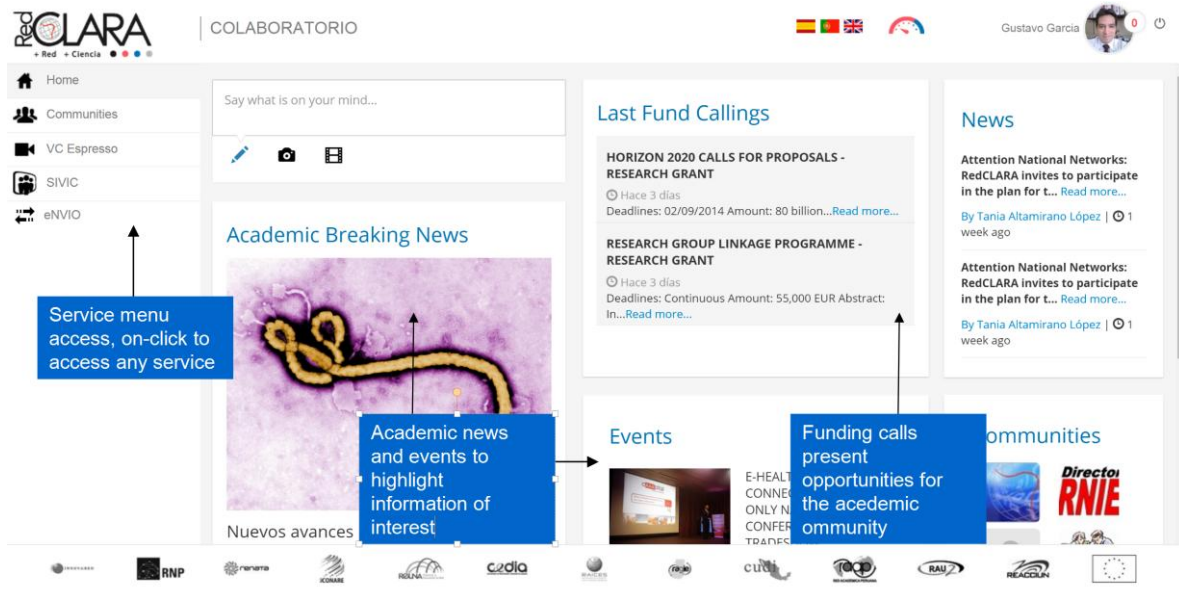
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2   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ELCIRA WP5 working group has been working to develop a federated portal system. The system was completed in September 15 in its final version with the services: a) Communities service, b) Web-conference system, c) Wiki and d) FileSender service. The portal presents a complete redefined design with a cleaner and smarter interface.

The new design is expected to fulfill user expectations, and increase services use due to advantages like:

a) Increased interface speed

b) Reduced steps to access services

c) More integration between tools

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3   DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOT PORTAL

The Pilot portal is available at the address http://colaboratorio.redclara.net where users can access using the federated authentication. The design presents a summarized menu with clear, and direct access to the services.
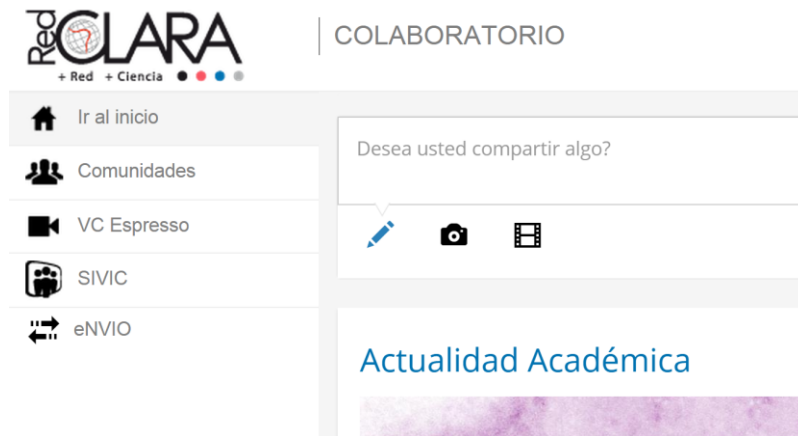
The Home page:

The home (initial page) present a set of widgets with high interest information. The braking news shows news worth highlighting because their importance to the communities. The last fund callings present funding opportunities for projects related to the academic environment. (This feature was one of the main request of the end-users).

The following figure provides an overall description of the main page:

The Communities service:

The communities page is the central access point to the communities social service within the portal. The page allows searching any community with different criteria, and presents the scheduled conferences in the system.
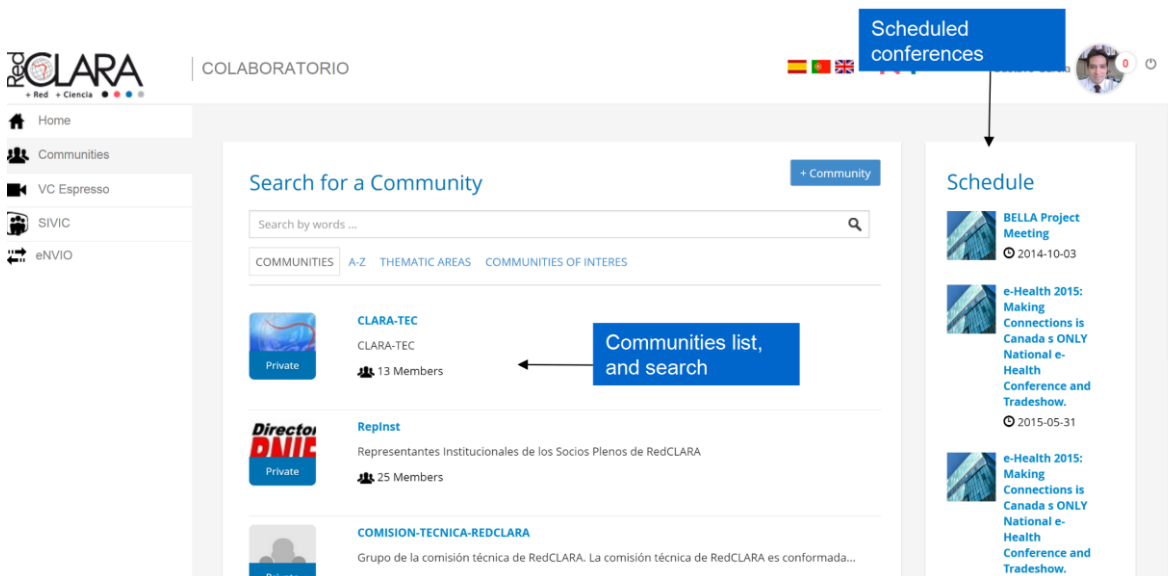
By accessing a community, the user will have access to services on it, notifications, post, and resources in the community:
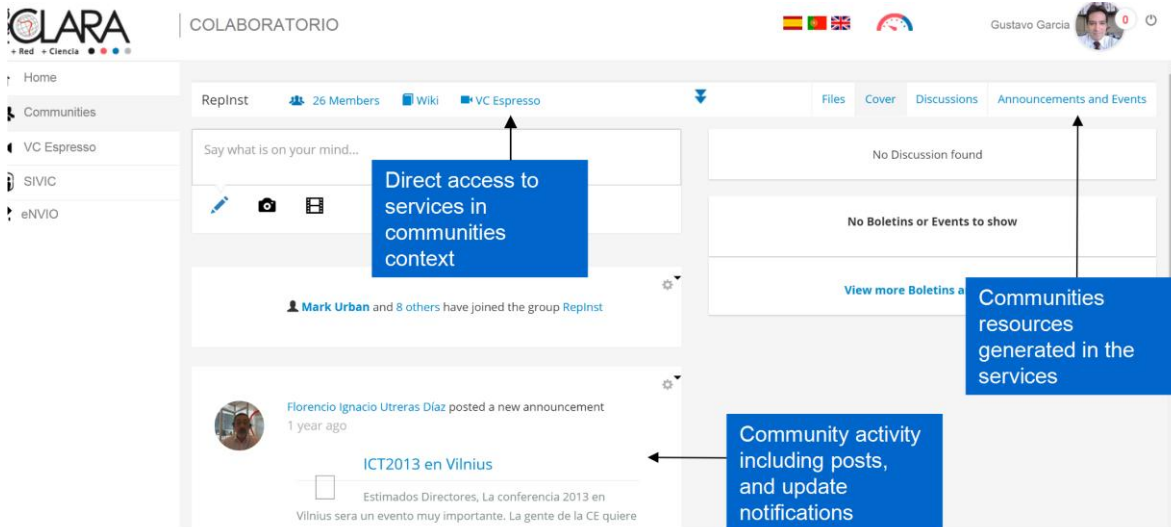
The VCEspresso service:

The communities page is the central access point to the communities social service within
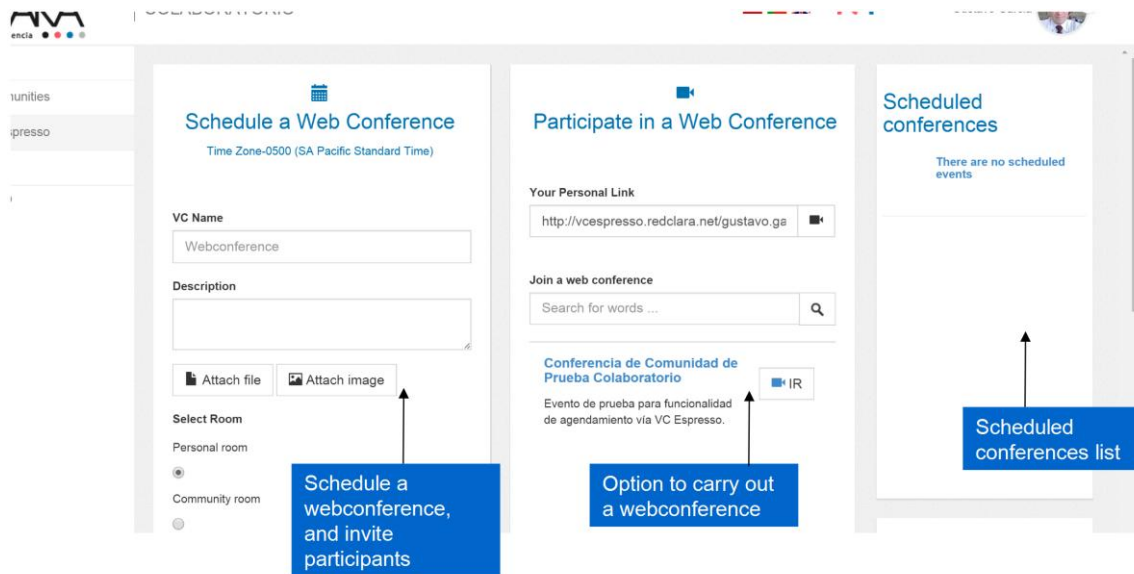
The FileSender service (eNVIO):

The FileSender service is integrated in the ELCIRA applications through the collaboration with the Italian NREN GARR. In the portal the users can send, transfer, and share files in the service.
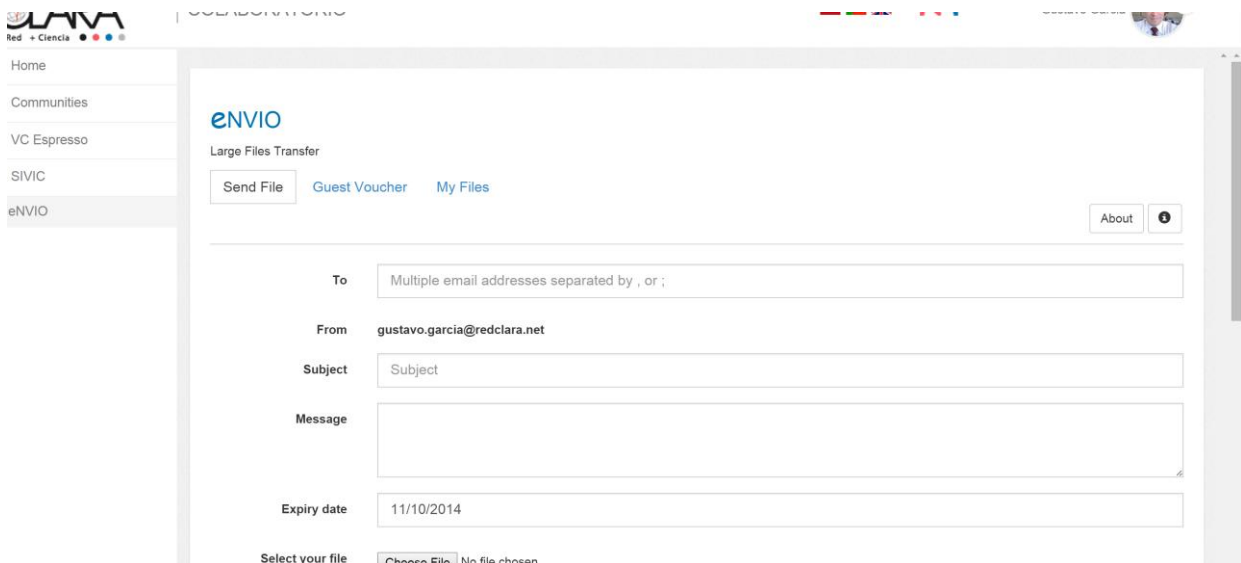
4   ACCESS LINKS

The pilot service can be tested via the following URLs:

http://colaboratorio.redclara.net