The session was introduced by the FIMig co-chair, Bob Jones, who reminded the audience of the focus of the interest group and presented the agenda. He highlighted that FIMig is a forum for bringing together the on-going work in the global regions with the intention of developing internationally aligned federated identity management services for the research communities. He went on to present the activities in Europe highlighting the work of FIM4R – Federated Identity Management for Research Communities (https://indico.cern.ch/event/358127) and gave a brief overview of the recently announced EC co-funded project called AARC - Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration that will start on 1st May 2015.

Ken Klingenstein showed how InCommon (https://www.incommon.org) is working with eduGAIN (http://www.geant.net/service/eduGAIN/pages/home.aspx) to satisfy the wide range of requirements coming from the research communities and other user cases in an international environment. He emphasised that while technological solutions exist, implementing the appropriate policy and trust mechanisms to ensure acceptable access control to digital resources while respecting sometimes divergence privacy legislation is a complicated process involving many actors. He drilled-down to explain the implications of a number of the requirements, such as attribute release and linking to commercial identity providers. He highlighted that the technology exists but it cannot solve the policy issues where an engaged dialog between the actors is necessary to reach agreement.

Dieter Van Uytvanck showed a concrete example from the social sciences and humanities domain. CLARIN (http://clarin.eu) is the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, which aims to provide easy and sustainable access for scholars in the humanities and social sciences to digital language data (in written, spoken, video or multimodal form), and advanced tools to discover, explore, exploit, annotate, analyse or combine them, wherever they are located. CLARIN is building a networked federation of data repositories, service centres and centres of expertise, with single sign-on access for all members of the academic community in all participating countries. CLARIN has established a Service Provider Federation across 22 European countries and the US involving approximately 20 service providers. He showed that engaging commercial or non-academic identity providers has proved problematic and that an ‘opt-out’ rather than the more usual ‘opt-in’ policy of federations has significantly simplified the involvement of service providers. The dedicated CLARIN service provider federation is necessary since not all the policy and ease-of-use issues can be currently addressed within eduGAIN but they hope to see improvements in the future.