

PLAN-E Platform of National eScience/Data Research Centers in Europe

p/a NLeSC
c/o Dr. Patrick J.C. Aerts
Science park 140
1098 XG AMSTERDAM
The NETHERLANDS

Mr. Robert-Jan Smits
Director-General DG Research and Innovation
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels – Belgium

Amsterdam, 31-10-2016.

Subject: The PLAN-E White Paper and additional documents

Dear Robert-Jan,

The meeting with you on March 10 2016 in Het Trippenhuys, Amsterdam, has been highly appreciated, not only by the participants from PLAN-E during that meeting, but also by the larger PLAN-E membership group, to whom we reported. This is mainly due to the very constructive way your and our visions could be exchanged and due to the outcome of this small event.

You expressed your interest in three topics:

- Systemized approaches to Data Stewardship and Software Sustainability
- Requiring explicitly eScience-skilled people on board (ESFRI)-projects
- eSkills: accelerating eSkills for eScience.

Before entering into the follow-up on these topics from our side, I would like to present to you the PLAN-E/eScience White Paper, titled **eScience: Insight out!** - Enabling digitally enhanced research through efficient utilization of data, software and e-infrastructures. It describes the background of eScience, gives an overview of the type of work being executed under this label and the ambitions for the future. It also fits well in the ongoing discussion on the formation of a European Open Science Cloud.

Regarding the follow-up on the three topics raised, I am happy to inform you that meanwhile the Science Europe Working group on Research Data has adopted the paper presented to you under the title “A Conceptual approach to Data Stewardship and Software Sustainability”, as one of its lead documents for a future format. We would be happy to present this paper at a suitable occasion for later and further development of a streamlined Research Data Management and Sustainable Software process for ESFRI and other European projects.

PLAN-E has compiled a list of experts -with their records- from its member countries, which will be communicated to you as soon as we have the individual approval of the researchers on that list. The list can be used for PLAN-E internal exchanges of knowledge, but also for external parties to obtain qualified eScience Researchers from.

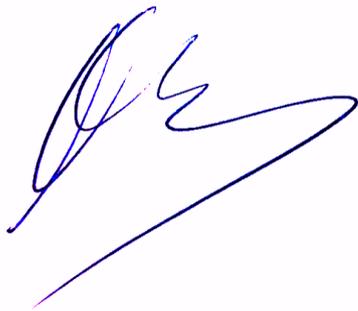
The topic of “eSkills” was part of our Workshop program during the 4th Plenary meeting of PLAN-E hosted in Dublin. And the topics “Data in Depth” and “Incentives and Rewarding systems” were subject of the 5th Plenary meeting in Lugano. These reports are attached to this letter, but the topics will be continued at later assemblies.

In order to formalise the link between your Directorate and PLAN-E, however lightly, we would welcome observers from your (or any other department) to the PLAN-E plenary meetings, or a contact through which we can exchange development information on a regular basis.

I hope that with the material presented so far we lived up to the expectations that we raised presenting our case to you in March. We hope to get your reflections in return.

Best regards,

On behalf of the PLAN-E,
Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Dr. Patrick J.C. Aerts
Chairman

Attachments:

eScience Insight out!, White Paper

Two-pager to the White Paper

PLAN-E Workshop reports:

eSkills

Incentives and rewarding systems

Data in Depth

More at PLAN-Europe.eu