

Notes from the 2nd plenary meeting of PLAN-E, the Platform of National eScience/ Data Research organizations in Europe

Copenhagen, April 9,10 2015.
Plenary meeting report no.2

Present: Patrick Aerts (nl), Lajos Balint (hu), René Belsø (dk), Juan Bicarregui (uk), Marian Bubak (pl), Federico Ruggieri (it), Sverker Holmgren (se), Kashif Iqbal (ie), Dieter Kranzlmüller (d), Lene Krøl Andersen (dk), Michele De Lorenzi (ch), Panos Louridas (gr), Norbert Meyer (pl), Dana Petcu (ro), Frank Seinstra (nl), Karolj Skala (hr), David Wallom (uk, via skype), Ingela Nyström (se, key note), Peter Doorn (nl, invited)

Not present with prior notice:

Vincent Breton (fr), Mauro Campanella (it), Wilco Hazeleger (nl), Dan Henningson (se), Aneta Karaivanova (bg), David de Roure (uk), Ignacio Blanquer (es), Rosette Vandenbroucke (be)

Observers: Sergio Andreozzi (egi, skype)

Guest: Linn Hoff Jensen (nordforsk)

DAY 1

Opening, logistics and Introduction

The meeting is opened by Sverker Holmgren, formally representing the local host. He invites the participants for a short round of introductions. Next René Belsø on behalf of the hosting country welcomes all to Denmark. He introduces Lene Krøl Andersen, who will lead the new Danish eScience Center.

Information about the format of these days and the logistics are presented by Patrick Aerts. After thanking the local host and hosting country in advance, he notes that this meeting is formatted differently than the constituting meeting, where every party presented his organisation in a 15 minute pitch. This time key notes, introduction new members, best practices and practical workshops have been introduced. The program was formally compiled by the Kernel Group, acting as Program Committee for this purpose.

Keynotes

Two key note addresses were scheduled, one by Frank Seinstra and one by Ingela Nyström.

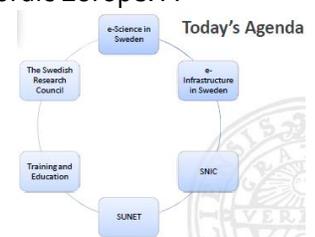
Frank Seinstra (NLeSC): Broadening the Scope and Impact of eScience. Following quite a few practical examples of break through research activities at NLeSC, Frank elaborated on the very potential of eScience. eScience requires both the application domains and the worlds of ICT and e-infrastructure. But bridging the gap is no easy task. Application domains often are not aware of the available potential of ICT and ICT does not always recognize the very requirements of the application domains. The last mile remains tricky. Messages from Wilco Hazeleger, director of NLeSC who could not be present, included in Franks presentation:

- Work as a consortium to set eScience on the international agenda
- Collaborate in projects (not necessarily with entire consortium)
- Strengthen ties with scientific domains
- Support e-IRG with their work of e-Infrastructure
- Be a stakeholder to them from scientific domains
- Develop PLAN-E's own position as eScience stakeholder for European Commission
- Connect to DG-Connect & DG-Research
- Have clear activities
 - e.g. workshop in Brussels, and invite key persons from EC
 - Robert Jan Smits in general,
 - DGs per research domain from DG Research

The input provided was used later in the workshop on awareness creation etc.

The second keynote was given by Ingela Nyström, eSENCE Director, eScience in Nordic Europe: A case study: Swedish Strategies for Research Infrastructures from an e-Science Users Perspective.

She used the circle of activities and parties involved: Three main players in the field of eScience: SeRC, eSENCE and the Chalmers escience center (CheSC). Other parties involved are SeSE for education, SNIC for the resources infrastructure and SUNET for the network. The latter are parties under the umbrella of the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet, VR). The following definition of eScience is used in this context: Advancing science through leading computation, information and communication technologies.



Introduction of new members

The following new member organizations/countries presented themselves:

ETH Zürich, CSCS, Thomas Schultess, Michele De Lorenzi (CH)

ICHEC, Irish Center for High-End Computing, Kashif Iqbal (IE)

STFC, eScience Center of the Science and Technology Facilities Council, Juan Bicarregui (UK).

Best practices session I

- 1) Lene Krøl Andersen (DK), The establishment of DeIC's eScience Center of Competences in Denmark
- 2) Dieter Kranzlmüller (D)/Sergio Andreozzi (IT) Distributed Research Infrastructure for Hydro-Meteorology
- 3) Panos Louridas (Gr), Greek Research and Technology Network S.A. GRNET) Success Stories.

State of affairs PLAN-E

This is the formal meeting by PLAN-E members concerning PLAN-E as an organization.

Agenda

1. Opening.

At the end of the two days the members present will comment on the format. The outcome is as follows:

The conclusion was that having the Kernel Group as Program Committee will be continued. The format was basically agreed, with the following comments. Due to the fact that at a late moment it was decided that we would have the workshops consecutively rather than in parallel –for logistical reasons- there was not enough time to exercise through all topics in enough depth. If future workshops will be held consecutively as well, the number of topics need to be reduced. The introduction of key notes, introduction of new members and best practices is accepted. Best practice presentations should focus more on the nucleus of activities of PLAN-E, rather than on all aspects of service provisioning and be shorter to fit the schedule. With that the format was agreed.

2. Approval of the notes

Notes of the constituting meeting have circulated among all and comments were taken into account in the latest version. The notes are approved.

3. Annual Plan 2015

The draft Annual Plan was compiled from input from the Kernel Group members and has circulated among all. No further comments were received. Last changes (typo's) adapted in the text. Version 0.91 will go as the final version.

4. Launch of the PLAN-E website

With pleasure PLAN-E members applauded the first website of PLAN-E. It is a business style, colourful, yet sober website with all relevant information readily available in one or two clicks.

5. Presentation on the next PLAN-E meeting

Dieter Kranzlmüller presented the IEEE eScience meeting in Munich, which takes from August 31st to April 4th 2015. PLAN-E will have all opportunities to organize workshops and meetings with and without external participants. Dieter will clear registration for members only participating in the PLAN-E sessions. It was agreed that PLAN-E will focus most of its activities on Thursday, but there is time

available on Friday as well. Patrick and Dieter will stay in touch about the details. The Kernel Group will act as Program Committee.

6. Updates from members

As the participants had already the opportunity to present themselves, while newcomers had a slot to present their organizations, it was decided that no further updates were necessary at this time.

7. Time and date next meeting

During the meeting Kashif Iqbal has contacted his organization to see if Ireland could host the PLAN-E meeting in March 2016. Kashif is happy to confirm through these notes that Ireland is prepared to do so. We thank ICECH, JC Desplat and Kashif Iqbal for this positive result.

Dinner

An excellent and well-crafted dinner was served at "Le Sommelier, (www.lesommelier.dk), offered by the Nordic eScience initiative (NeGI).

DAY 2

Best Practices Session II

- 4) Michele De Lorenzi (CH), Best Practices Supporting Science at CSCS
- 5) David Wallom (UK) by Skype, The Oxford e-Research Centre, interdisciplinary research from the institutional to the international
- 6) Sergio Andreozzi (EGI) by Skype, Open Science Commons for the ERA

This last presentation was by EGI, so one of the observer parties. The presentation was discussed shortly afterwards. The ideas were considered visionary and idealistic rather than fully practical in most aspects. The financial basis of the e-infrastructure (resource sharing) seem rather weak. But basically, PLAN-E supports the Open Science Commons idea as parts of it are prerequisite to conducting eScience and data research in the first place and will co-operate to its implementation where it comes to the interests of eScience/Data Research researchers.

Workshop session I

Due to logistical reasons it was decided on the fly that the sessions scheduled for parallel would be done consecutively. The extra time needed this way could be compensated by the last plenary, because exchange of the outcomes would not be necessary. Unfortunate is that there are also no reports in .ppt format that otherwise would have been made for the plenary.

Knowledge exchange and website (Panos Louridas and Lajos Balint)

- i. What (kind of) knowledge to share?
- ii. By what means?
- iii. Advise for the website

Lajos Balint/Panos Louridas prepared an excellent list of questions (see https://planeurope.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/plan-e-small-session-i-knowledge-dissemination_copenhagen-9-10-april-2015.pdf). The details will be elaborated on in the next few months by using the "Discussions"-page (under construction presently), in preparation for the next meeting. The series of questions really cover most of the topics that may help to create a proper PLAN-E identity.

Awareness creation eScience, Data Research and PLAN-E (Dieter Kranzlmüller, Patrick Aerts)

- iv. Actions directed to Europe, H2020
- v. Actions directed to ESFRI and other European bodies

During this discussion it was concluded that concrete actions be prepared to address entities related to DG Research and DG CNECT. Other DG's may be considered too (a complete list is attached to these notes) The e-IRG raised some questions such as i) whom are we addressing; ii) What is the relevance; iii) Is there a need; iv) do we have national or institutional representations; isn't there more eScience than covered by the PLAN-E centers?

Quick answers are there also (partly given by the e-IRG already): i) PLAN-E addresses firstly the participating parties among themselves and secondly the European parties that could or should have a role in establishing, promoting or supporting eScience, including data research; ii) An obvious need for an organization like PLAN-E can be concluded from the enthusiasm of the participants so far, by the friendly support spoken by the previous and present chairs of ESFRI, by the factual actions taken and scheduled by the PLAN-E members and by the lack of any other European party dedicated to promoting and maturing eScience and data research; iv) PLAN-E is based on organizations that have –in addition to a local function- a national or regional scope of activities, *de facto* or by charter; v) It has proven by no means trivial to find representatives and institutes in all European countries, who are seriously involved in eScience. So although there may be other parties involved in eScience than those represented in PLAN-E, those will not be many and are anyway allowed to join PLAN-E as well. Input is well appreciated.

Regarding ESFRI it is advised to establish links to the so called ESFRI Clusters. It is anyway good to be visible for ESFRI, as eScience provides means to enhance much of the research supported by ESFRI through its infrastructural support.

During the discussions it was brought up to co-compile a White Paper on eScience/Data Research. This may be helpful in making more explicit what eScience in this data dominated era can mean for science and research and clarify the anticipated role of PLAN-E as ambassador for this development towards policy makers and funding agencies.

In order to get directions for this White Paper, everyone agrees to provide a few lines (5-10) to depict his or her vision or focal points for this document.

The kernel group will continue to discuss these and further concrete actions, including a visit to Brussels to meet with EC-bureau officials.

Lunch break

Workshop session II

Data stewardship and software sustainability

(Norbert Meyer, Patrick Aerts)

External speaker: Dr. Peter Doorn, DANS

- i. Minimum requirements for a framework/protocol
- ii. How to set up disciplinary protocols

For this topic Peter Doorn was invited as an external guest. DANS has great experience in servicing data in the broader domain of humanities, social sciences and beyond. DANS is supported by both the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research and the Royal Academy of Sciences, both parties caring a lot about the present and future data maintenance, hosting and servicing.

RDA provided two slides on the matrix of TRUST and CONTINUITY against DATA and SOFTWARE.

Patrick Aerts presented a systematical approach to addressing data stewardship and software sustainability in mutual coherence, by presenting the model consisting of a general framework under which discipline-defined protocols are to be defined and published, referring to long standing and accepted work processes in the Medical Sciences.

It was agreed that both topics, data stewardship and software sustainability are becoming increasingly important for the future and continuity in science and that PLAN-E has a role bringing this forward.

Education and academic positioning of e-Science researchers (Federico Ruggieri)

- iii. How to achieve/maintain academic level recognition for Data Research workers
- iv. How to exchange course material and opening courses to international audience

Federico prepared this part of the workshop. In a clear set of slides he addressed all relevant aspects of (cross-)education, the issues at hand, such as the profile of escience/data research researchers and ideas to be worked out to improve the situation. Also the website leans itself well to address matters of exchange of experience or providing lists of relevant information.

Closing remarks

Most of the closing remarks have already been documented in these notes. It was agreed that a mail will be sent out the request topics for the IEEE escience meeting in Munich.

With that the hosts are thanked again and the participants wished a good trip home.

Meeting closed at 15.00

PJCA

Appendix

List of Directorate Generals EC

For future reference a list of DG's is attached to these notes:

- [Agriculture and Rural Development \(AGRI\)](#)
- [Budget \(BUDG\)](#)
- [Climate Action \(CLIMA\)](#)
- [Communication \(COMM\)](#)
- [Communications Networks, Content and Technology \(CNECT\)](#)
- [Competition \(COMP\)](#)
- [Economic and Financial Affairs \(ECFIN\)](#)
- [Education and Culture \(EAC\)](#)
- [Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion \(EMPL\)](#)
- [Energy \(ENER\)](#)
- [Environment \(ENV\)](#)
- [Eurostat \(ESTAT\)](#)
- [Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union \(FISMA\)](#)
- [Health and Food Safety \(SANTE\)](#)
- [Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection \(ECHO\)](#)
- [Human Resources and Security \(HR\)](#)
- [Informatics \(DIGIT\)](#)
- [Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs \(GROW\)](#)
- [International Cooperation and Development \(DEVCO\)](#)
- [Interpretation \(SCIC\)](#)
- [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#)
- [Justice and Consumers \(JUST\)](#)
- [Maritime Affairs and Fisheries \(MARE\)](#)
- [Migration and Home Affairs \(HOME\)](#)
- [Mobility and Transport \(MOVE\)](#)
- [Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations \(NEAR\)](#)
- [Regional and urban Policy \(REGIO\)](#)
- [Research and Innovation \(RTD\)](#)
- [Secretariat-General \(SG\)](#)
- [Service for Foreign Policy Instruments \(FPI\)](#)
- [Taxation and Customs Union \(TAXUD\)](#)
- [Trade \(TRADE\)](#)
- [Translation \(DGT\)](#)