

Notes from the 4th plenary meeting of PLAN-E, the Platform of National eScience Centers in Europe

Dublin, May 9-10, 2016.

Plenary meeting report no.4

Present: Patrick Aerts (NL), Lajos Balint (HU), Lene Krøl Andersen (DK), Michele De Lorenzi (CH), Dana Petcu (Ro), David Wallom (UK), Simon Wong (IE), Can Ozturan(Tk), Genevieve Romier(F), Rob van Nieuwpoort (NL), Sverker Holmgren (SE), Federico Ruggieri (It)

Associates: Colin Wright (SA)

Guest (via skype): Joshua Ryan-Saha

DAY 1

Opening, Logistics and Introduction

The meeting is opened by Patrick Aerts. After a small round of introductions, he informs the audience about the format of the days and the logistics. The program was communicated already with the PLAN-E members and contains the regular topics and room for a.o.b. No further comments were received at the start of the meeting. It is unfortunate, that the PLAN-E meeting coincides with a PRACE Industry meeting, that required the attendance of quite of few of the PLAN-E members.

Patrick introduces Simon Wong, representing the local host.

Local Host presentation

Simon presents an update on the state-of-affairs at Ichech.

Evaluation and follow up of the meeting with Robert-Jan Smits, DG Research&Innovation

Short presentation about the meeting.

Patrick Aerts gives an overview (powerpoint on the website) of the meeting with Robert-Jan Smits, which took place as a satellite meeting to the formal presentation of the ESFRI Roadmap update meeting in Amsterdam (March 10th 2016). This meeting was attended by quite a few PLAN-E members, some of whom came over especially for this occasion. The meeting was also attended by Augusto Burgueno-Arjona of DG Connect. The meeting itself consisted of three presentations, by Wilco

Hazeleger (on eScience as a concept), Patrick Aerts (on what PLAN-E intends to do with that) and Sverker Holmgren (Plan-E from other points of view (e-IRG and NeSC)), followed by a response and discussion.

The outcome of this meeting was threefold as R.J. Smits expressed his interest in three topics:

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

How to have a good follow up

These take home messages are at the table of PLAN-E, awaiting a formal response.

The topic of Data Stewardship and Software Sustainability are on the agenda for the second day. The outcome will be joined with the publication (A Conceptual Approach...) issued earlier and which was presented to R.J. Smits. eSkills are on the agenda for the first day. The outcome of that discussion will yield a representable document, hopefully. So there will be material to present to R.J. Smits. Furthermore the White Paper is to be finalized during the meeting.

How to link to ESFRI-projects

One of the suggestions by R.J. Smits was to require to have eScience skilled people on board of selected H2020/ESFRI projects. In order to make that happen, it is up to PLAN-E to sketch a profile of an eScientist. Next, DG Research, DG Connect and PLAN-E should have formal interactions to get these requirements in solid texts for future calls. But how to get the discussion started formally?

The suggestion, which was agreed on by the PLAN-E representatives, is the following:

First, PLAN-E agrees on the final text of the White Paper and on a two-pager on top of it with the conclusions and recommendations (see for the outcome of that discussion under White Paper finalization). Then Patrick Aerts will compile a letter to Robert-Jan Smits to present this White Paper, in such a way that the letter will invite a formal response with reference to the points raised. In that way we will hope for continued formal contacts on the subjects of common interest.

Introductions to the first workshop

Most presentations are on the website.

Open Science Conference (Patrick Aerts)

On April 5th 2016 the Open Science Dutch Presidency Conference was held which focused on all aspects of Open Science, including skills, methodologies, rdm, interactions with publishers, ec. A short overview is presented.

eSkills for Science (Lene Krøl Andersen)

Lene Krøl Andersen, DeIC eScience Center, Denmark: Besides informing the audience about the escience developments in Denmark and the particular role of DEIC in that- sketched eSkills as one of

the more urgent challenges faced. New generations can be lectured in due course on how to approach Big Data (analysis, data set interaction, data base technology, etc.), but today's PhD students, post-docs, and other staff need to be educated as well, in order to get access to the wealth of information hidden behind Big Data. Education is also required to deploy efficiently and expediently all elements of modern ICT-infrastructures, not just its single components. Hence, both tracks (curriculum education and courses for more advanced scientists) need full attention.

eSkills in education and post graduates (Sverker Holmgren)

Sverker Holmgren sketches the progress made by the Swedish national graduate school in scientific computing (NGSSO, <http://ngssc.se/> (in Swedish)). NGSSO went through two major phases. One from 1996-2006 and one from 2007-2012. During these phases the emphasis on approaches to skills building differed quite a lot.

Skills for eScience (Joshua Ryan-Saha)

Joshua Ryan-Saha, presently employed by the Scottish Datalab facility, gives an overview of data science related activities and skills requirements to be delivered by different societal or stakeholder groups. The Datalab in Scotland is an example of an innovation effort funded through The Innovation Centre Programme, whose objectives are to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship across Scotland's key economic sectors, create jobs and grow the economy. He gave the details on how this is done.

Workshop 1

Two workshops are conducted in parallel (in order to maximize the output), both addressing both aspects of eSkills:

- eSkills for research, courses at post doc/PhD level;
- eSkills in education: what has to be brought into the university curricula and how to achieve this.

Plenary Warp up (1)

Conclusions from the two workshops are shared plenary. The outcome is available in a separate document and can be obtained from the website.

Dinner

A common dinner was organized at "The Farm".

DAY 2

Discussing the White Paper and converging to a final version

On the table is the White Paper in the distributed version 0.96 d.d. 09-05-2016, including the latest contributions.

The following comments are given:

- A White Paper is about principles -> replace the level 3 headed examples from Chapter 5 to an appendix;
- Paragraph 4.4 (Innovation through versatile re-use) needs partial reworking;
- An "Industry" lemma should be added to Chapter 6.
- Open Science, Open Air, should be mentioned (or more pronounced).

Patrick Aerts will take the task of making these changes in draft and circulate them for final comments. After that the White Paper will be considered closed. That will be the version to be sent to R.J. Smits.

It is requested that a two pager will accompany this document. The two-pager will consist of an amalgamate of the conclusions and executive summary, in such a way it will stand as a stand-alone document.

Also Patrick Aerts will compile a draft letter as described above, to be sent with the documents to R.J. Smits. The letter will circulate for comments in parallel with the White Paper and two-pager and a.s.a.p.

Introductions to the second workshop

All presentation are on the website.

The eScience technology platform (Rob van Nieuwpoort)

About a coherent set of technologies to tackle the grand challenges in eScience. Includes guidelines for proper coding behavior for future sustainability. eSTeP, the Technology Platform, will be open to Dutch national and PLAN-E members for sharing certified codes.

e-Science and Software Sustainability in France (Genevieve ROMIER)

Including national scope initiatives for software sustainability.

Involving the Science Community in Data Stewardship and Software Sustainability - A Conceptual Approach (Patrick Aerts)

A key note given at the Open Science Presidency Conference last April in Amsterdam. It addresses a methodology for involving explicitly scientists in the process of creating protocols for Software Sustainability and Data Stewardship. It is based on a paper published by DANS, which was also presented at the IEEE eScience Conference workshop by PLAN-E and to Robert-Jan Smits.

Workshop 2

Following the same format, two topics are discussed on two separate groups. The topics being:

- Software sustainability issues, technical (minimum conditions, software seal of approval)
- Plans for implementation of policies.

Plenary Warp up (2)

Conclusions from the two workshops are shared plenary. The outcome is available in a separate document and can be obtained from the website.

Final session

- Concrete actions for the PLAN-E activity list 2016-2017, including suggestions for the website;
- Presentation next meeting. Michele di Lorenzi presents the next meeting place and dates: Lugano, Switzerland, September 8-9 2016. (Presentation available on the web site).

With that Patrick Aerts concludes the meeting. He thanks the local host and the attendees. The agreed actions will be performed as soon as possible.

PJCA 23-5-2016

Appendix 1, the Plenary Meeting Program

PLAN-E Platform of National eScience Centers in Europe

PLAN-E meeting

Dublin, The Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Start May 9th 2016, 12.00h

End May 10th 2016, 15.00h

DAY 1 May 9th

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 12.00-12.30 | welcome reception (light lunch items); |
| 12.30-13.00 | Welcome and introductions by Patrick Aerts, including introduction to the program and logistics

Welcome by the local host |
| 13.00-13.30 | Evaluation of the meeting with Robert-Jan Smits <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short presentation about the meeting (Patrick Aerts)• how to have a good follow up (discussion)• how to link to ESFRI-projects (discussion) |
| 13.30-15.00 | Introductions to the workshop (1)
Open Science Conference (presentation)
eSkills for Science (Lene Krøl Andersen)
eSkills in education and post graduates (Sverker Holmgren)
Skills for eScience (Joshua Ryan-Saha) |
| 15.00-15.15 | Coffee/Tea break |
| 15.15-17.00 | Workshop 1, Two in parallel:
- eSkills for research, courses at post doc/PhD level
- eSkills in education: what has to brought into the university curricula and how to achieve this |
| 17.00-18.00 | Wrap up and conclusions |

DAY 2, May 10th

- 08.30-09.30 Discussing the White Paper and converging to a final version
Including distribution
- 09.30-11.00 Introductions to the second workshop
Rob van Nieuwpoort
Genevieve ROMIER
Patrick Aerts
- 11.00-11.15 Coffee/tea break
- 11.15-12.45 Workshop 2
- Software sustainability issues, technical (minimum conditions, software seal of approval)
- Plans for implementation of policies
- 12.45-13.30 Lunch
- 13.30-15.00 Final session:
- Concrete actions for the PLAN-E activity list 2016-2017, including suggestions for the website;
- A short update round along all members
- Presentation next meeting
- Other topics that might arise during the meeting
- 15.00 End of meeting