

# Plan-Europe

Platform of National eScience/Data Research Centers in Europe

# PLAN-E Workshop

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PLAN-E

NLeSC

# PLAN-E is:

- A social platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange on eScience and data research;
- Based on agreed Terms of Reference,
- With action lines, annual plans and targets and a kernel group;
- Participated by members/organizations from 20 European countries;
- Open to European eScience/Data Research Centers with a national or regional scope

# PLAN-E

- Members meet twice annually
- Has a website: [www.plan-europe.eu](http://www.plan-europe.eu)
- Is neutral and does not receive funding
- Basic idea behind PLAN-E:
  - eScience and Data Research centers have common interests to share
  - Combining forces creates critical mass
  - Cooperate where you can, compete where you need
  - Define the new research domain as a *community of practice* and grow from there

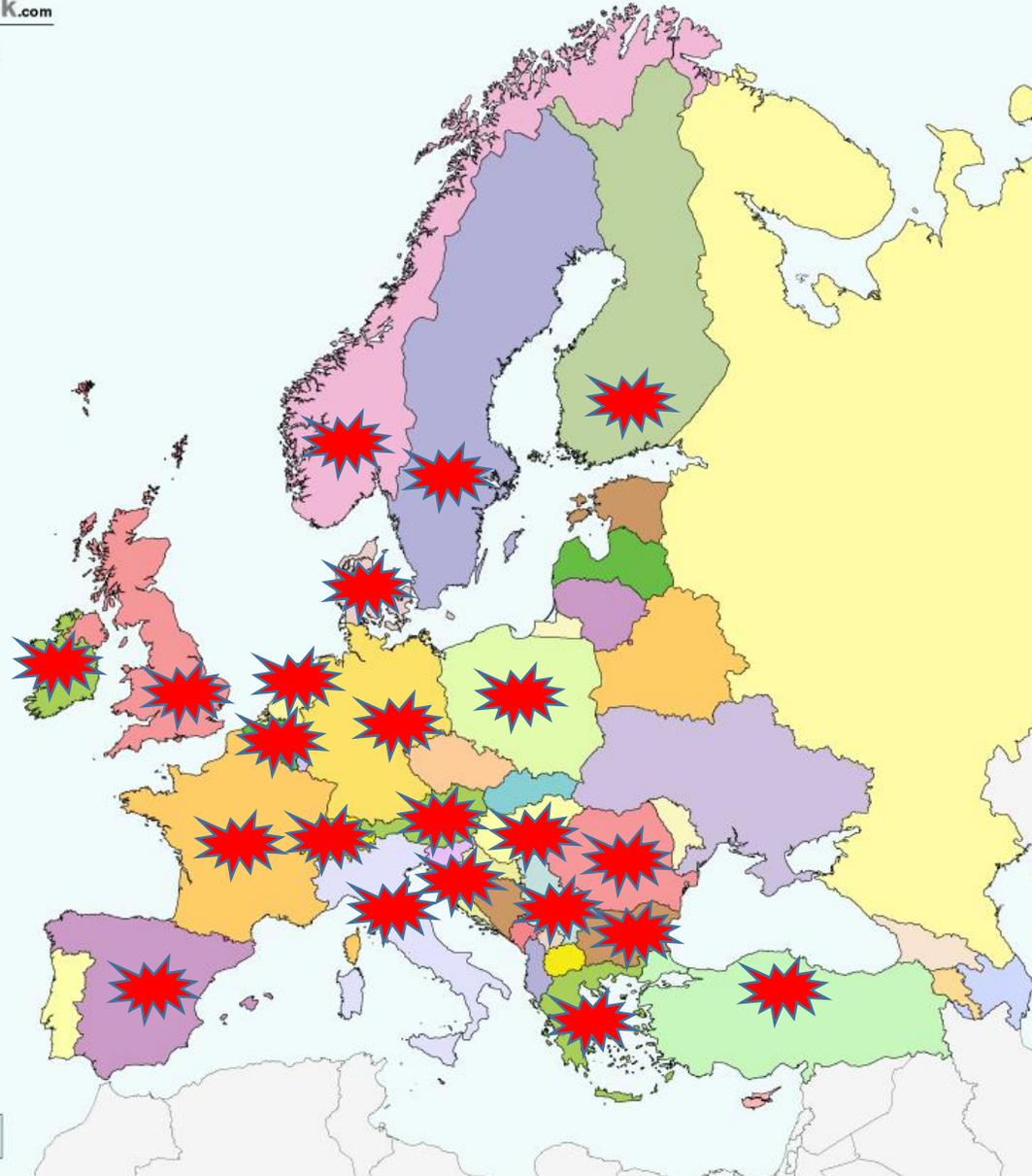
# Pre-ambule of the ToR

“Collaboration between disciplines, the combination of research and instrumentation –including networks and computational and data resources- has brought about new ways of conducting research. The approach is problem driven, viewed from different disciplinary angles, and usually strongly data intensive. Organizations involved in bridging the gap between the science domain –where the research questions are formulated – and the underlying ICT and e-infrastructural technologies in support of solving those questions, seek to organize themselves in a community platform in support of their activities.”

# From the Annual Plan summary:

- PLAN-E will firstly address:
  - Knowledge exchange;
  - Data stewardship and Software sustainability;
  - Awareness creation through visible representation of PLAN-E;
  - Education and academic positioning of eScience researchers
- Workshops at the Copenhagen meeting addressed these topics
- A White Paper on eScience/Data Research elaborates on these and other topics – in the making
- The website is the main vehicle for sharing and exchanging visions

# Europe



Map not to scale  
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## Plan-Europe

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# Bridging science visions, ICT and e- infrastructures

We have  
visions to  
realize



eScience work domain

We know  
everything about  
ICT and e-  
infrastructures



**Plan-Europe**

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# On eScience, Data Research and Computational Science: a personal view

- *Computational Science* is a science, developed since the fifties, where domain research brings physical models (formula's) to life (simulation) through computer codes in close interaction with computer systems and architectures. Differences in calculated outcome and experiments may be due to (physical) model limitations, computer limitations and combinations thereof. It is the art of the trade to analyse that and improve the results.
- *Data Research* encompasses the handling, analysis and the science of gaining knowledge from data. It is not new, but for the very scale in which data are produced and become available.
- *eScience* is the new direction, with a problem driven, holistic approach, encompassing computational science, data research, making use of what comes out of Computer Science and of the e-infrastructure as a whole
- eScience is the domain that survives the hypes and temporary trends, because it adapts continuously

# Scope of PLAN-E (1). PLAN-E:

- ✓ Forms a forum for exchanging knowledge and expertise in the field in order to strengthen the European position in the eScience domain;
- ✓ Discusses common approaches to eScience;
- ✓ Communicates about eScience and the way it is showing results in all disciplines;
- ✓ Represents the European eScience scene as embodied by the PLAN-E community externally and internationally in addition to the individual representations from the participating members where applicable. In particular towards the EC in relation to future funding schemes;
- ✓ Proposes evaluation criteria for the quality, impact and benefits of eScience activities;

# Scope of PLAN-E (2). PLAN-E:

- ✓ Supports actions towards data stewardship and software availability and sustainability;
- ✓ Will take endeavours to stimulate quality and quality ranking of eScience publishing means;
- ✓ Facilitates the interaction between its members;
- ✓ Will encourage and provide eScience requirements towards improved e-infrastructure provisioning and usage;
- ✓ Will communicate best eScience practices regarding the use of e-infrastructures and ICT tools;
- ✓ Will strive for the improvement of the skills-level of students and researchers in eScience techniques and stimulate the upgrading of the status of eScience technologists and engineers.

# It may help to define what PLAN-E is not...

- ❌ PLAN-E does not service/host e-infrastructures
- ❌ PLAN-E adds value to the existing scene but is not led, governed or dominated by any specific e-infrastructure (provider)
  - *Rather PLAN-E can give policy directions from the science point of view*
- ❌ PLAN-E is not concerned with computer science (informatics), ICT development *as such*
  - *Rather eScience uses the result from those domains to bring science forward*
- ❌ PLAN-E is not concerned with services close to the e-infrastructure
  - *That is what service providers do*
- ❌ PLAN-E is not even closely similar to the e-IRG
  - *Rather PLAN-E may advise the EC and governments through suggestions for e-IRG endorsements*

# How PLAN-E makes a difference (1)

- eScience marks and represents a *transition* from e-infrastructure oriented policy to problem oriented policy
- e-Infrastructures remain indispensable, but the focus shifts to their optimal deployment to innovate research;
- Similarly ICT/Informatics/Computer Science remain indispensable, but the translation of scientific/social challenges into usable state-of-the-art products is the key to progress in science
- And all eScience/Data Research centers are confronted with this transition and/or lead that turn

# How PLAN-E makes a difference (2)

- So, go through the change collectively:
  - Share best practices
  - Advocate the new ways of doing science
  - Exchange courses and education schemes (what does it take to be an escientist or a data science specialist)
  - Adopt common topics of concern or involvement
  - Explain and re-explain what makes eScience different from traditional resaerch
  - Be a European party for international contacts

# Co-operation versus competition

- Co-operate where you can, compete where you need:
- Competition is good for science, co-operation is good for creating the best conditions for competition
- PLAN-E -at least for the time being- will not apply for grants as a collective. Rather it paves the way for collaborations between its members -also for funding-.  
(Possible exception: Support action for secretarial activities and workshops)

# PROGRAM of the PLAN-E workshop

- 09.20-09.50 About PLAN-E Patrick Aerts
- 09.50-10.20 eScience in Germany Anton Frank
- 10.20-10.40 Break
- 10.40-11.00 Challenges of providing a common format for up-to-date eScience graduate education at Swedish universities and HPC centres, Anders Hast
- 11.00-12.30 How can PLAN-E be instrumental in knowledge exchange and exchange of other escience/data science related information. Discussion moderated by Neil Chue Hong
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch break
- 13.30-14.10 Keynote: To get science from escience, Wilco Hazeleger
- 14.10-14.50 Keynote: Engaging the Public in Science Narrative - the use of modelling, simulation, visualisation and big data tools, Bob Bishop
- 14.50-15.10 eSTEP, an eScience Technology Platform, Rob van Nieuwpoort
- 15.10-15.30 Break
- 15.30-17.00 How can PLAN-E be instrumental to get a solid policy for software sustainability and data stewardship established for academia in Europe? Discussion, moderated by Neil Chue Hong