

Scoping workshop announcement - 22 June 2021

Building a sustained Climate Modelling European Research Infrastructure

Save the date

A 1-day virtual workshop (2 sessions of 2 hours) will take place on **Tue 22 June 2021** to discuss the proposed designs for a sustained European Network for Earth System Modelling Research Infrastructure (ENES-RI).

What is this workshop for?

Refine the scope of a new sustainable entity to ensure the service continuity after EC funding ends, and understand what is needed to maximise organisational involvement in that entity.

Why should I attend?

To help define the scale and objectives of the new entity and **be in a position to understand whether my organisation should engage**, and if so, how and when.

What happens after the scoping workshop?

The following step will be to meet in a smaller committee in Sep 2021 with representatives from interested partners to agree on one design and trigger the preparation of a legal entity.

Background

Climate modelling research activities largely depend on the skills and infrastructure required to develop, run, and analyse climate models. The existing infrastructure provides essential tools that the modelling community have come to depend upon; which need to be sustained to allow scientists to carry on their work smoothly. An efficient and well-maintained ENES-RI requires coordination and funding, both currently covered by the IS-ENES3 and ESIWACE2 projects funded by the European Commission - organised under the auspices of the European Network of Earth System Modelling (ENES). After several phases of funding, the bulk of these activities are unlikely to be further funded by the EC - they are expected to be mature enough that the community can take on their responsibility after 2022.

A series of ENES brainstorming workshops held in November 2020 has shown that the climate modelling community would encounter substantial struggle if services from the existing infrastructure were to be substantially reduced or disappear. Amongst other outcomes, some users would likely recreate their own infrastructure, introducing duplication and inefficiency. Moreover, Europe could lose its strong role within the international community (and especially in the Earth System Grid Federation, ESGF). These workshops also stressed that one benefit of a coordinated activity was the strengthened case for both national and international contributions or funding.

As a consequence, ENES is looking to establish a **sustainable model for funding and governance of the ENES-RI** that provides a long-term commitment to serving the needs of the climate modelling community.

Procedure

The current phase of the sustainability process (Scoping in Fig.1) aims at **defining the initial scope of the future ENES-RI and how it would operate**. We have worked towards developing some propositions with different levels of support, and would benefit from the feedback from our partners.

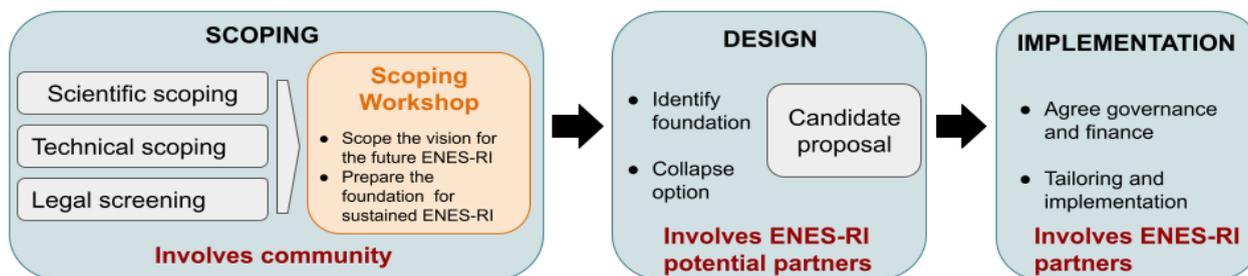


Fig.1: Overview of the process for setting up a sustained ENES-RI highlighting this (22 June 2021) Scoping Workshop.

The best longer-term choice will involve setting up a legal entity with a subscription model for partners, and associated governance structure. The ENES-RI membership subscriptions would fund a set of ENES-RI sustained activities, agreed by partners, with a roadmap agreed at governance level. Being a legal entity would also allow the RI to be a project partner when applying for external funding, allowing additional time-limited activities to be sought through external funding routes by both partners and the entity itself.

To start the discussion on possible future shapes of the ENES-RI, we present three initial possibilities (Fig. 2) with increasing coverage (recognising that the shape is likely to evolve and will almost certainly start smaller than it might eventually become).

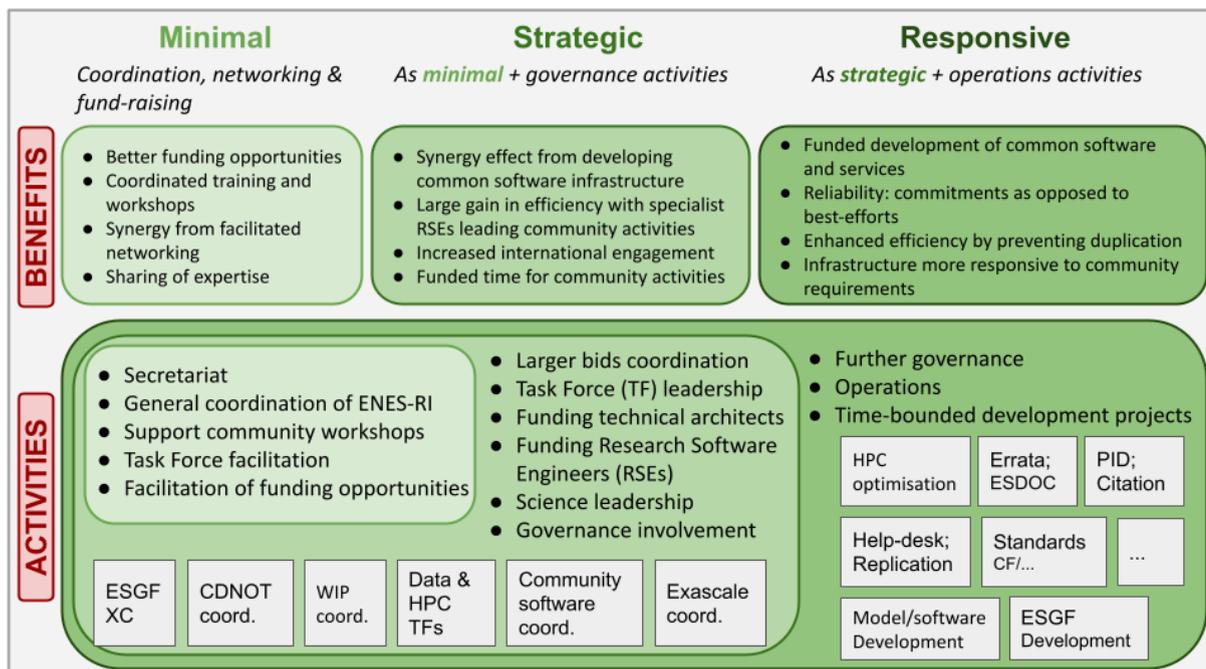


Fig. 2: Three possible shapes (Minimal, Strategic and Responsive) describing the range of activities carried out by the legal entity together with the benefits associated for each.

In order to make the workshop as efficient as possible we intend to

- (1) provide more information in advance of the workshop, **please pre-register in order to receive more information**, and
- (2) further discuss the information above (and the additional information) with interested parties between now and the workshop.

If you have initial thoughts about the proposition outlined above, please contact us at fanny.adloff@ncas.ac.uk. We will summarise any such discussions at the workshop itself.