



## ELIXIR Compute Platform 2022 Face-to-Face Event Summary Report

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### Background

ELIXIR is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together life science resources from across Europe. ELIXIR's technical activities are organised in 5 areas known as Platforms including: Compute, Data, Interoperability, Tools, and Training. The Platforms are coordinated by each Platform Executive Committee and work is carried out by members within these Platforms organised into Tasks. Each Platform typically hosts an annual conference known as the 'Face-to-Face' Platform meeting. This is a venue for updates and discussion about the Platform's work and shaping strategies for current and future activities. The ELIXIR Compute Platform held its first annual Face-to-Face event since the COVID-19 pandemic on the 25-26th of April 2022 in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was co-hosted by the ELIXIR-DE Node with members participating both in-person and online. There was an emphasis for the meeting to re-connect the Compute Platform members after the lack of in-person meetings during the previous two years.

### Event format and participation

The event took place over one and a half days at the Hotel Berlin, Berlin. Thirty Platform members from across Europe travelled and attended in-person. A live stream of the event was set up to facilitate remote ELIXIR members to watch the event and remote speakers unable to travel were connected via hybrid teleconferencing to allow interactive discussions with those in-person.

### Event content

The event programme kicked-off with an introduction from the local ELIXIR-DE hosts with an oversight of their ongoing Node activities and associated academic cloud federation '[de.NBI](#)'. This was followed by sessions from the Platform Coordinator Jonathan Tedds and Executive Committee (ExCo) members. The recently appointed Compute Platform ExCo Juha Törnroos (ELIXIR-FI) was introduced and then a historical overview of the development of the Compute Platform was provided by fellow ExCo and Platform co-founder, Ludek Matyska (ELIXIR-CZ).

The subsequent sessions of the event involved a bilateral approach of targeting internal and external topics. Looking internally to the Platform, the Task Leads provided in-depth project activity updates and shared their valuable experiences to date. Looking externally, speakers provided an overview of both established and upcoming European level compute related activities such as [GAIA-X](#) and focussed on significant human health data projects such as the forthcoming GDI Project. The event culminated in a final open discussion session to tie together the diverse range of topics and consolidate new Compute Platform ideas and next steps.

### Significant event outcomes

The event was successful in fostering new connections and collaborations:

- Platform ExCo's aligned to share historical Compute Platform knowledge with the members crucial to the strategic 2022-2023 work plans and beyond.
- New connections were fostered and information shared relating to the computational

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activities of the host ELIXIR-DE Node.

- A detailed roadmap to production is subsequently being coordinated by Alexander Kanitz (ELIXIR-CH) for the ELIXIR GA<sub>4</sub>GH cloud project entitled 'ELIXIR::GA<sub>4</sub>GH Cloud infrastructure: Roadmap to Production'.
- Platform member connections are being maintained through a new monthly call series of all three Task projects of the Compute Platform. The calls aim to coordinate updates and attendance on relevant Compute topics and projects in the areas of Researcher Identity and Access Management (AAI), Hybrid Cloud and Container Orchestration and the ELIXIR::GA<sub>4</sub>GH Cloud and AAI Driver Project.
- Closer ties have facilitated ongoing and new collaborations between the use cases of Compute Platform Task 2 (Hybrid Cloud) and the work ongoing in Task 3 (Container Orchestration) by targeting the use cases with GA<sub>4</sub>GH Task Execution Service (TES) standard and associated support. The primary aim being to better enable support for TES and Nextflow which will be beneficial to the use cases.
- Requirements for implementation of the GA<sub>4</sub>GH Passport standard for managing secure data access alongside cloud standards were considered through a session led by the ELIXIR AAI (Compute Platform Task 1)
- Compute Platform members were engaged in discussion for engaging with present and future external European genomic and health data projects requiring well-developed federated compute and analytics infrastructure.

### **Participant feedback on the event**

A post-event survey was distributed to all members who took part in-person and online at the event. Additional feedback was gathered through the regular, online Platform meetings post-event. The feedback collected indicated an overall positive experience for those attending the event in Berlin. These in-person attendees highlighted the value of reconnecting with fellow Platform members in-person, had a renewed enthusiasm and gained a broader outlook on the range of activities ELIXIR within the Compute Platform. Online participants live streaming the event reported minor audio issues during the final session and challenges to for in-room interaction but we note that this was not planned by Platform leads as a full hybrid meeting. A consideration for a more connected hybrid environment enabling better remote participation beyond the speakers will be taken on-board for planning future Compute Platform meetings. An additional element wishing to be explored based on member feedback is for future Platform co-location with overlapping activities of those in the other ELIXIR Platforms such as the Tools Platform. The aim of this co-location would be to further interconnect on common themes of the Platforms such as the ongoing joint Compute and Tools Platform strategic project on [Container Deployment](#).

### **Conclusion**

The ELIXIR Compute Platform Face-to-Face event was run successfully and facilitated a positive experience for all participants over one and a half days. The goal of reconnecting the Platform members after the lack of in-person events in previous years was achieved. Event feedback collected was overwhelmingly positive and feedback considerations have been taken on-board for future planning. Overall several positive outcomes have arisen from the event and new connections fostered across the Platform which has set the foundation for future Compute Platform Face-to-

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Face events. The organisers wish to thank the local organising committee in ELIXIR-DE for their excellent preparations for the event.



Members of the ELIXIR Compute Platform in Berlin, April 25th 2022.