



# Common Infrastructure for National Cohorts in Europe, Canada, and Africa - CINECA -

## Deliverable D6.2a Training Programme - M12

Work Package:	WP6 – Outreach, training and dissemination
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Contractual Delivery Date:	31 Dec 2019
Actual Delivery Date:	05 Dec 2019
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Dissemination Level:	Public
Grant agreement:	No. 825775 Horizon 2020 (H2020-SC1-BHC-2018-2020)
Type of action:	RIA
Start Date:	1 Jan 2019
Duration:	48 months

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## 1. Executive Summary

In this deliverable document, we report on the activities in task 6.2a - Training Programme and describe the CINECA training activities in the first 12 months of the project.

In the first phase of the CINECA project, many of the training efforts are focused on internal learning opportunities and knowledge exchanges. To this end, we have set up a staff exchange program. There are many interdependencies between the different CINECA work packages, and consortium members who feel they would benefit from collaboration with other work packages and CINECA partners may apply for a **staff visit**. We have received a number of requests for staff visits, the first of which will take place next year.

For training interventions targeted at a broader audience, we have set up a [webinar series](#)<sup>1</sup>, providing (approximately) monthly online learning interventions. We have run 3 of these webinars in 2019, and have a further 2 scheduled for the first quarter of 2020. Feedback from these webinars is collected and is used to further increase the utility of the webinars going forward.

We disseminated a **survey** to identify the training needs of CINECA's stakeholder community. Additionally, we ran our first **stakeholder engagement session** at the International Hundred Thousand Cohorts Consortium (IHCC) Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in April 2019. During this session, we gathered feedback on the challenges of managing cohorts and cohort data harmonisation. More extensive face-to-face **workshops and training events** are being planned for 2020.

## 2. Project objectives

This deliverable has contributed to the following objectives:

- a) Identifying training needs within and beyond the consortium through a survey and stakeholder engagement.
- b) Addressing training needs previously identified in the stakeholder survey, by utilising existing learning opportunities and creating new ones – both within the consortium itself and more broadly.
- c) Developing a training plan for the near future to address the needs of CINECA's stakeholders.

## 3. Detailed report on the deliverable

### 3.1 Background

The CINECA project is developing new standards and technical solutions to address existing challenges in responsible human data sharing across continents. The project comprises inter-related work packages addressing different needs. There is a need within the consortium for the training of staff within work packages and for knowledge dissemination across work packages, which are being addressed through staff exchanges. For training outside of the consortium, CINECA products are still being developed; therefore, the short term focus is on gathering the needs and developing training

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cineca-project.eu/webinars>

around current known challenges, such as cohort data harmonisation. A complementary activity is the ongoing webinar series, which serves as both a training and a dissemination initiative.

### 3.2 Description of Work

#### Training Programme

As mentioned above, the training programme has several parallel activities, including staff exchanges, webinars and training events. Progress on these is described in more detail below.

#### Staff Visits

The procedure around staff visits has been set up, and an application form with guidance text has been made available for CINECA partners to request staff visits<sup>2</sup>.

To date, one staff visit has been approved and planned as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Approved CINECA staff visits

Visitor	Host	Topic	Date
Alexander Kellmann (UMCG)	Melanie Courtot (EMBL-EBI)	Integrations between MOLGENIS and EMBL-EBI services	01/02/ 2020 - 29/02/2020

As the project progresses, we expect more intra- and inter-WP staff visits requests. Approval will be subject to the relevance of the visit and available resources. Below is a list of some staff visits that are tentatively planned for 2020, awaiting further confirmation and information from the requesting parties.

Table 2: Planned CINECA staff visits for 2020 and 2021

Visitor	Host	Topic	Date
Andrew Stubbs	EMBL-EBI	Secure Seamless integration with WP3	Q1/Q2 2020
Jorge Izquierdo Ciges	Elixir-Finland	Integration of EGA with CanDIG and ELIXIR AAI	Q4 2020 / Q1 2021
Michal Prochazka	Jonathan Dursi	Integration of CanDIG with ELIXIR AAI	2020

#### Webinar Series

We have set up a CINECA webinar series for delivery of training both within CINECA and to a broader audience. The CINECA webinar series aims to discuss ways to address common challenges and share best practices in the field of cohort data analysis, as well as distribute CINECA project results. All CINECA webinars include an audience Q&A session during which attendees can ask questions and

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cineca-project.eu/blog/cineca-staff-visit-program>

make suggestions. All webinars are recorded, made available via the [CINECA project YouTube channel](#), and embedded on the CINECA website (<https://www.cineca-project.eu/webinars>).

Three webinars were organised in 2019, and further webinars have been scheduled for early 2020:

Table 3: Overview of the webinars delivered and planned in the CINECA webinar series

Date	Title	Speaker	Notes
06/06/2019	The CINECA project - Addressing bottlenecks in cohort data analysis	Thomas Keane, EMBL-EBI	
15/11/2019	Connecting to AAI	Mikael Linden, CSC	CINECA internal
<b>Future webinars</b>			
12/12/2019	H3ABioNet Experiences in Phenotype Data Harmonisation and Standards Development	Katherine Johnston, UCT	
20-24/01/2020	Identification of ethical, legal and social issues with regards to the use of cohorts between Europe, Africa and Canada	Éloïse Gennet & Melanie Goisau	
13/02/2020	Making cohort data FAIR	Andrew Stubbs	

All webinars have a feedback form that automatically displays after the end of the webinar, and is sent to participants in a follow-up email. Table 4 displays the high level statistics and feedback collected for the CINECA webinar series. Note that at the time this deliverable was written, the last webinar of 2019 had not taken place, and therefore is not included in the table below.

Table 4: high level statistics and feedback collected from the CINECA webinar series

Name/nmb webinars	Nmb attendees	Conversion	Survey response	Average pace (1-5)	Average content (1-5)
The CINECA project - Addressing bottlenecks in cohort data analysis	36	75%	27.78%	4.4	4.4
Connecting to AAI	9	75%	22.22%	5	5
<b>Summary statistics</b>					
2	22.5	75%	25%	4.7	4.7

Webinar participants are asked what topics they would like to hear about in the future, requests have been received for additional webinars on the progress of the tools developed by CINECA (and CINECA partners), as well as similar webinars to “Connecting to AAI”, including more in-depth ones.

## Planned workshops and training events

Table 5: List of planned upcoming training events

Date	Topic	Location	Contact
March 2020	Hands-on AAI integration workshop (CINECA internal, preceding the CINECA AGM)	Toronto, Canada	Mikael Linden & Michal Procházka
May 2020	3rd International Cohorts Summit - International HundredK+ Cohorts Consortium (IHCC)	Santiago, Chile	Mamana Mbiyavanga
Q2/Q3 2020	The Galaxy data analysis platform	Rotterdam, NL	Saskia Hiltemann
Q3/Q4 2020	Data Harmonisation	TBC, likely Africa	Mamana Mbiyavanga

### Training material milestones from technical work packages

- **WP3 M12 milestone:** in collaboration with WP3 we have agreed to create a set of short training videos, introducing concepts and tools relevant to federated analysis of cohort data. These videos can be used as stand-alone training resources, resources to be sent out to participants attending future training courses to make sure participants have had exposure to prerequisite knowledge, and as teasers for future webinars. A pilot video on ‘EMBL- EBI Ontology Tools - Data Harmonisation and Enrichment’ has been created for the M12 milestone, and additional videos will follow.
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- **WP5 M12 milestone:** webinar scheduled for February 2020, and training materials for the 2020 Galaxy workshop have been developed and made available via <https://training.galaxyproject.org>

### 3.3 Next steps

As the CINECA project matures, the focus of training activities will increasingly shift from internal learning interventions to training activities targeted at a wider audience. We will continue to gauge training needs among CINECA partners and stakeholders and gear training planning to meet these needs. Discussions on the training needs of CINECA partners will occur at the annual consortium meeting taking place in Toronto in March 2020, and a face-to-face pilot workshop on cohort harmonisation is planned for the IHCC meeting in Santiago in May 2020. This will provide valuable feedback for a full data workshop later in 2020.

## 4. Abbreviations

AAI: Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure  
EGA: European Genome-phenome Archive  
IHCC: International HundredK Cohorts Consortium