



The Society of Research Software Engineers

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► CSCCE Community Profile

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Research Software Engineering (RSE) Community is primarily made up of Research Software Engineers (RSEs) based in U.K. research institutions, (universities and research institutes such as the Francis Crick and the Turing Institute). The community received funding to formally organize starting in 2016. It seeks to bring together professionals who are often isolated in their work to share best practices and learn about career pathways, and, beyond the community, to raise awareness and increased appreciation of the role of RSEs in research. Roughly 350 members actively meet on Slack where they participate in initiatives and working groups supplemented by an annual in-person conference. 376 community members have paid membership to the Society of Research Software Engineering (a charity recently set up). Funding for the community manager comes from the Software Sustainability Institute, which in turn is funded by the EPSRC (a government research funding body), while community funds have come from sponsors at the annual conference.

- SOFTWARE SKILLS
- SOFTWARE SUSTAINABILITY
- STANDARD SETTING
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- MENTORING
- ACADEMIA-POLICY INTERFACE

► Website: society-rse.org

COMMUNITY BASICS



250 core members in a larger group of 2000



Mostly online with some in-person events



Mostly national (UK), but work internationally, and have inspired national groups in other countries



Open



Infrastructure organization that inspires research collaborations and communities of practice

These numbers are an estimate

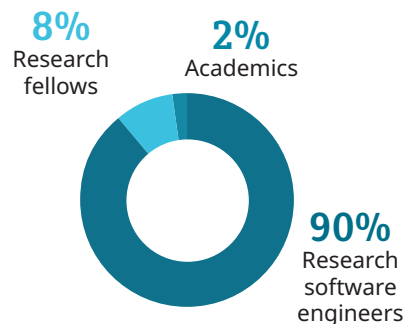
COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Community Management

Community management is provided by 1.0 FTE **Community Manager** and 0.2 FTE **RSE Theme Lead** for the Northern 8 Universities (N8) working together. There are 12 **trustees** who take on focus areas like finance and membership. Some community members take the initiative to organize regional events with little (the Society or the CM) involvement.



Members



Community Configuration

RSE Slack

Subgroups

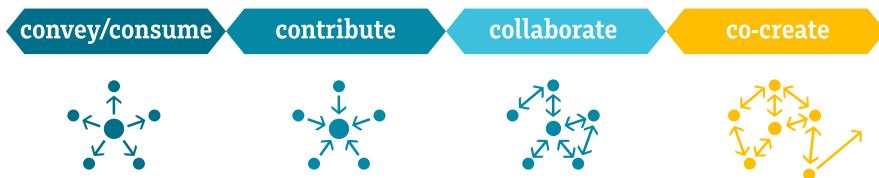
Working groups

PROGRAMMING

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community: CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes - or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community. For more information, see the [CSCCE community participation model](#).

IN THIS COMMUNITY

Online activities include discussions and networking in Slack, coding, working groups, and committee meetings / doing work online. Offline activities include community-led events such as an unconference, workshops, and a yearly conference



- newsletters
- community platform
- Twitter
- website
- in-person meetings

- contacting community manager
- asking questions
- guest blog posts
- providing code

- contacting one another directly
- sharing resources

- participating in working groups
- collaborating on a paper or other output

OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

- ✓ **Success looks like permanent changes in the academic climate for RSEs, including a clear career pathway to promotion, appropriate salaries, inclusion on research papers as the default, and recognition that the role is vital and specialized.**

Challenges

- Evaluation
- Time management
- Instability in industry
- Too few staff

Opportunities

- New events
- New program
- Branch into new domain
- Diversify digital engagement

Successes over the last year

- **Engagement** – increased activity of members (commenting or attending)
- **Productivity** – co-creating community outputs
- **Financial** – new funding stream
- **Recognition** – members see value



COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

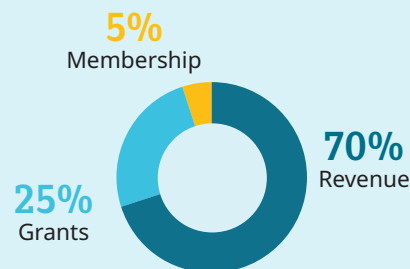
Communications

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| Email | Zoom |
| Slack | GitHub |
| Blog | LinkedIn |
| Twitter | Wordpress |

Productivity

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Google Drive | SurveyMonkey |
| Whitefuse | |

FUNDING



Funding Streams

- 70% revenue from providing services e.g. training
- 25% grant from EPSRC's Software Sustainability Institute
- 5% individual members pay specifically to join the community

Members can apply for travel stipends to internal and external events, community leader / ambassador stipends, and pilot projects funding through RSE.