D3.2 - Final report on the HPC-Europa3 collaborations

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ABSTRACT:
This document summarises the collaboration established between the HPC-Europa3 project and other initiatives in the HPC arena, together with the carried-out joint activities.

KEYWORD LIST:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary

This document summarises the collaboration established between the HPC-Europa3 project and other initiatives in the HPC arena, together with the carried-out joint activities.

In particular, collaborations were established with the HPC Centres of Excellence and with other HPC-related projects running in the same time-span of HPC-Europa3. Focus was also given to the collaboration with PRACE.

All collaborations focused mainly on joining forces on dissemination and in outreaching researchers potentially interested in applying to the HPC-Europa3 programme. These activities resulted in a very high number of cross-posting of events and news on social media with engagement of CoEs also in some of the HPC-Euroap3 workshops.

While it is impossible to get quantitative measures of the effectiveness of the collaborations, it is evident that all collaboration were very active and that some of the HPC-Europa3 applicants were coming from those initiatives with which we worked together.

1 Introduction

Throughout the whole duration of the project, the HPC-Europa3 partners have actively pursued collaboration with other initiatives in the HPC arena.

The objective of such collaborations was, first of all, to increase awareness of the programme in Europe by exploiting their relevant networks of contacts to help us reach potential visitors and hosts who were not already in our contact lists.

This document is thus describing the achieved agreements, their objectives, and the outcomes of those collaborations.

2 Formalisation of the collaborations

At the start of the project, the partners involved in the activity began by analysing which initiatives/projects were to be contacted to discuss possible collaboration.

Looking at the HPC initiatives which were running at that time, it was evident that the HPC Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were ideal candidates to be contacted. CoEs involve many researchers in different scientific domains around Europe and for their research activities they are making use of HPC. Young members of the CoE partners might thus be interested in spending some time in close contact with a scientific host to make better use of the computational resources provided by HPC-Europa3.

Besides the Centres of Excellence, the HPC-Europa3 partners were, and are, all actively involved in other EU initiatives which were also addressed when relevant.

The first contact was facilitated whenever possible by a team member of HPC-Europa3 who was also involved in the project targeted for collaboration. Discussion would then take place to define which type of activities would be interesting for both sides, and these would then be detailed in the collaboration agreement.

In general, the proposed collaboration was specifically addressing mutual dissemination activities:

- Dissemination of HPC-Europa3 calls to the collaborating initiative network.
- Dissemination of training, courses, other relevant material from the collaborating initiative to the HPC-Europa3 network.

Specific activities were also discussed and included on a case-by-case basis.

3 Achieved collaborations

In most of the cases, the collaboration was formalised as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) describing the activities to be carried out and signed by both parties. In some specific cases, the signature of an MoU was not possible even if interest in supporting the HPC-Europa3 programme was stated.

As mentioned before, HPC-Europa3 partners contacted all nine CoEs which were active at the time, as well as other HPC initiatives in Europe. Those collaboration are listed in the table below, which summarises all the formalised collaborations.

Project/initiatives	Type of collaboration
BioEXCEL	Signed MoU
CoeGSS	Ending in 2018. So, it was agreed to proceed with signature only in the case of a second phase of the CoE being funded.
CompBioMed	Signed MoU
E-CAM	Signed MoU
Elixir	MoU has not been signed, however the project agreed on unofficial collaboration.
EoCoE	Signed MoU
ESiWACE	Signed MoU
ETP4HPC	Signed MoU
EXDCI	Project was at its end and the collaboration restarted when EXDCI-2 have been funded (signed MoU).
Fortissimo	Signed MoU
HIPEAC	Signed MoU
MaX CoE	Signed MoU
NOMAD CoE	Signed MoU
PoP CoE	Ending in 2018. So, it was agreed to proceed with signature only in the case of a second phase of the CoE being funded.
PRACE 5IP	Signed MoU
PRACE 6IP	Signed MoU
VI-SEEM	Signed MoU (Project finished on 30/09/2018).

Unfortunately, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 really affected the mobility and thus the possibilities for researchers to apply to HPC-Europa3 programme. For this reason, also the dissemination activities have been reduced and no recent MoUs have been signed in the last two years of the project, even if informal collaborations continued and are still ongoing thanks to the network of the HPC-Europa3 partners.

4   Activities carried out as part of the collaborations

In this section we are providing a summary of the activities carried out as part of the established collaborations. For each activity, examples are provided.

- A web page was created in the HPC-Europa3 website to announce the collaborations with other initiatives (http://www.hpc-europa.eu/external).

- Collaborating projects and their training opportunities were advertised via HPC-Europa3 social media and other channels (like project newsletters); for example:
    - Nomad presented in the first issue of the HPC-Europa3 newsletter in July 2018 (https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=cd11bc7f760317d47eebe00f9&id=ffa62c3354)
    - ETP4HPC presented in the second issue of the HPC-Europa3 newsletter in October 2018 (https://mailchi.mp/0efedbf20076/hpc-europa3-newsletter-2352181)
    - https://twitter.com/hpceuropa3/status/1364923474465103877
    - https://twitter.com/hpceuropa3/status/1364920786553823232
    - https://twitter.com/hpceuropa3/status/1364921756776075266
    - https://twitter.com/hpceuropa3/status/1384494583510302721

- Support between the respective social media campaigns was active, with reposting/sharing of announcements. Here are some examples (without the intention to provide an exhaustive list) of collaborating initiatives referring to HPC-Europa3:
    - https://twitter.com/Cheese_CoE/status/1432288604282363908 - ChEESE CoE
    - https://twitter.com/max_center2/status/1423191608950988805 - MaX CoE
    - https://twitter.com/max_center2/status/1321079693211258885 - MaX CoE (visitor from industry)
    - https://twitter.com/EU_HiDALGO/status/1255512253211856897 - HIDALGO
    - https://twitter.com/max_center2/status/1110831709363277827 - MaX CoE
    - https://twitter.com/BioExcelCoE/status/1087641285647876096 - BioExcel
    - https://twitter.com/EXCELLERAT_CoE/status/1067384613381775360 - EXCELLERAT
    - https://twitter.com/exdci_eu/status/1049974176692543489 - EXCDI

- Collaborating initiatives announced HPC-Europa3 calls on their websites. Moreover, researchers of collaborative partners of CoEs have been encouraged to apply for visits.
    - CompBioMed
        - https://www.compbiomed.eu/hpc-europa3/
        - https://www.compbiomed.eu/successful-applicant-for-hpc-europa3-programme/
        - https://www.compbiomed.eu/about/related-projects/
    - BioExcel
        - https://bioexcel.eu/hpce3-seventh-call-for-applications-is-open/
        - https://bioexcel.eu/strategic-partnership-with-hpc-europa3-project/
    - Nomad:
        - https://www.nomad-coe.eu/news/115/39/NOMAD-CoE-and-HPC-Europa3-have-signed-a-Memorandum-of-Understanding

- https://www.nomad-coe.eu/news/152/218/HPC-Europa3-funding-available-to-collaborate-with-NOMAD
  - o E-CAM:
    - https://www.e-cam2020.eu/vacancies/
  - o EXDCI:
    - https://exdci.eu/hpc-europa-3
  - o HiPEAC:
    - https://www.hipeac.net/jobs/mobility/

- Collaboration in the organisation or participation at events like the SMEs workshops (see D3.1 for more details):

  - o The 1St SME workshop have seen presentations from different collaborating initiatives like: C. Arlandini for FORTISSIMO, P. Graham for SHAPE, J. Garcia for POP CoE, L. Voort for NOMAD, and A. Ruopp for EXCELLERAT.

  - o The HPC for Industry 4.0 Workshop in Milan (2nd SME workshop) was organised in partnership with PRACE and also included a presentation from FORTISSIMO by G. Pringle "Fortissimo Marketplace: Industry4.0 experiments in HPC" and from MaX CoE by E. Molinari "MaX: screening and designing materials with HPC".

  - o CompBioMed was part of the 3rd SMEs workshop with a presentation on "Commercialisation of HPC tools for Personalised Medicine" (by A. Marzo).

- HPC-Europa3 has recently agreed to publicise the CompBioMed CoE visitor programme, which offers funding for individuals from SMEs, hospitals, academia, etc, to visit CompBioMed partners. The biomedical and life sciences domains have been increasingly represented in HPC-Europa3, and so we believe this programme will be of interest to a number of our HPC-Europa3 visitors, hosts, and followers on social media, especially as there will be no further Calls for Application under HPC-Europa3. An article about the CompBioMed programme will appear in a future issue of the HPC-Europa3 newsletter.

- ETP4HPC was announcing HPC-Europa3 calls to SMEs during their SME specific events and communications. ETP4HPC also included HPC-Europa3 in their ETP4HPC Handbook of European HPC projects in 2019[1], 2020[2], 2021[3].

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[1] https://www.etp4hpc.eu/pujades/files/ETP4HPC_Handbook_2019_web.pdf
[2] https://www.etp4hpc.eu/pujades/files/ETP4HPC_Handbook-European-HPC-Projects_2020_web.pdf
[3] https://www.etp4hpc.eu/pujades/files/European%20HPC%20Handbook%202021%20final.pdf

5 Conclusions

A number of collaborations have been discussed, agreed and signed with different actors in the HPC arena in Europe. The collaborations were all very positive, and the collaborative initiatives have provided valuable support in reaching out their networks to increase the visibility and awareness of the programme. Few examples of the collaborations were reported in the section before but the collaboration was a continuous effort from both sides to promote the respective activities.

It is very difficult to measure the impact of these contributions on the HPC-Europa3 visits as there is no way we can track for sure the origin of each HPC-Europa3 application. However, looking at the text of the applications in some cases explicit reference to the collaborating projects was made:

Collaborating initiative	# of application with explicit reference
CompBiomed	2
Nomad	3
Bioexcel	2
E-CAM	2
PRACE	9

This is an indirect confirmation that the respective networks of the collaborating initiatives were reached as planned by this activity.