Working-group report #1

Establishing a community-wide communication platform

08.02.24

1.   Summary

Our working group aimed to discuss the potential of an open communication platform for natESM. We identified key features such as personal exchange, status updates on components, and code collaboration. Despite meeting only twice, we efficiently achieved the working-group goals. We established a Mattermost platform for personal interaction and a GitLab platform for code exchange and visibility. Additionally, we propose a review process after 6-12 months to evaluate decisions made by all working groups, ensuring community acceptance, and guiding new group objectives. Furthermore, establishing the working group was an invaluable experience in itself, as it enabled us to pinpoint crucial contacts for sustained communication beyond the boundaries of the group's initial objectives.

2.   General information

Estimated duration: 3 months

Responsible contact: Iris Ehlert (DKRZ)

WG-members: Bockelmann, Hendryk (DKRZ)
                              Budich, Reinhard (MPI-M)
                              Jöckel, Patrick (DLR)
                              Müller, Ralf (DKRZ)
                              Potthast, Roland (DWD)
                              Rompe, Maria (DKRZ)
                              Schättler, Ulrich (DWD)

KickOff: 05.05.23

De facto WG dissolution   28.07.23

Official WG dissolution: 08.02.24

3.   Working-group objective

The objective of the working group was to explore options for establishing an open communication platform for natESM.

The envisioned platform was designed to provide the following features:

1. A means for personal interaction on various topics such as ESM and events (social aspect → chat, potential for spontaneous video conferencing etc.)
2. Information regarding the status of natESM components and modules (including future release plans, workflow overview, repository, and more...)
3. Capability to exchange and collaborate on code.

4.   Outcomes

1. We established a [natESM Mattermost platform](#) for personal interactions, which is currently in active use. This platform has proven highly effective, particularly for facilitating

communication between RSEs and scientists within the community, which is vital during sprints.

2. To provide visibility into the current status of natESM components, we agreed to establish a [natESM GitLab platform](#).

3. On this GitLab platform, community members not only have the opportunity to exchange and collaborate on code but also to showcase their models and/or modules.

4. To establish an automatic feedback loop for critically evaluating decisions across all working groups, we propose that the decisions made by each group undergo a review process after 6-12 months to gauge their acceptance within the community. This process would also offer the opportunity to delineate the objectives of any new working group addressing emerging challenges.

Additionally, a significant outcome of this working group was the identification of key individuals for ongoing communication purposes, even after the group's formal conclusion.