

## Focus group 2: Sustainability of ELN solutions

Facilitator: Ian Bruno

Problems that the group wants to solve:

- JISC. Revision of next generation research environment. Interested in ELN sustainability beyond projects.
- Problems on keeping people using the selected software. How to solve that?
- Which ELN would be useful for the research groups at one institution? Get to know ELN systems.
- Sustainability of notebooks in terms of availability of data at different time points, day-to-day, year-to-year
- Interested in exit strategies, good scientific practices, general sustainability and ELNs
- What can be provided as a central service, how to finding it, gathering information about different solutions to give suggestions to the institution, how to link ELN to archiving?
- Which data do you want to be sustainable. What to keep and what not?
- If going for an institutional solution what would be a sustainable solution? What to consider?
- Differences between open source and commercial solutions.
- Should be a 10 years period the sustainability of an ELN? The time period that data should be available it differs from project to project in many cases.
- To consider: Support of migration of data to new updated version of ELNs system might be critical when thinking about sustainability. Migration of data could be a major resources investment.
- Sustainability = institutional system vs local system?
- Do we build our own solution to fit all the needs at once?

Possible long-term solutions to these problems:

- Underlying data sustainability is thought to be critical. Systems come and go, but data should remain sustainable. Important to think about when talking about sustainability.
- If there is a support from the institution to adopt and/or to deploy a solution, gives an extra trust for researcher to use the system
- An ELN could maybe become a kind of Institutional repository, thinking that repositories are meant for keeping data in long-term
- Recovery of data from an ELN system is crucial when you want to opt for one ELN option.
- The link of the ELN with all other infrastructure used for research data management is very important to assure sustainability
- A lifetime of an ELN should be as long as a project is active, instead of thinking about it as a long-term repository or an archiving system
- Regular exports of data could prevent that you are affected by the problem of migration of huge amount of data at once, and you can to preserve your data.

- More distributed systems, could help for sustainability of an ELN system. It could minimize the chance that if data collection or one system collapse, you still have your data preserved
- EVP-IT to create a contract framework for a selected system?
- Option: Provide several solutions at one institutions that covers the different needs and give the researchers the option to choose.
- Whatever the solution, get internal resources to keep it running and to develop it further, plus support.