

Nordic Basic Scientific Computing 2026

Finnish (+ friends) RSE Meetup

About the Event

The Finnish and friends RSE (Research Software Engineer) Meetup brings together people in Finland (and beyond) who develop or support research through software, data, and computing. Whether your title is RSE, scientist, data specialist, or IT support, if you're helping research through code or computational tools - this event is for you. This is also for you, the RSE enthusiast, just enjoying the coding part of research work more or just as much as the research part.

Why a Finnish RSE Meetup?

While Nordic-RSE connects the regional community, this Finnish meetup provides a national focus for collaboration and sharing. It helps us:

- Discuss challenges and opportunities specific to Finnish institutions and funding structures
- Strengthen local networks and identify national needs (training, recognition, career paths)
- Coordinate efforts between universities, research institutes, and infrastructure providers like CSC

This meetup complements the Nordic-RSE community by creating a space for practical cooperation within Finland, while staying connected to the wider Nordic and international RSE movements.

Who Should Join

- Researchers and research software engineers developing or maintaining research code
- Data and computing specialists supporting research workflows
- IT staff, educators, and research managers interested in improving research software practices
- Early-career researchers curious about RSE career paths

No formal RSE title is needed - if you develop, or support research software, you belong here.

Why Participate

By joining, you can:

- Meet peers from across Finnish universities and research institutes
- Learn how RSE groups and initiatives are organized in Finland
- Share your own experiences, needs, and ideas for national cooperation
- Help shape the future of Finnish/Nordic RSE activities - training, recognition, and community events

Travel funding

Thanks to the Software Sustainability Institute we have some travel funding (travel + one night accomodation) available for you to visit the RSE-FI meetup.

More information coming soon.

Organizers

The meetup is organized by Finnish members of Nordic-RSE with support from the Software Sustainability institute (via SSI fellowship of Samantha Wittke). Facilities are provided by Aalto Scientific Computing (ASC).

For any questions, ideas or if you would like to join the organizing committee, please contact samantha.wittke@csc.fi.

Research/scientific computing team meetup

About the event

This meetup is targeted towards people in local Scientific Computing (SciComp)/Research computing/Research Software Engineer support teams, for example university local HPC teams. We work in local capacity and are often overshadowed by the big national e-infrastructure providers (CSC, EuroHPC, etc) in attention and funding, yet we are the ones “on the ground” with the researchers. What’s our place in the world?

We have our own unique challenges and opportunities. This is a time we can talk together and learn from each other. (Others are of course welcome.) Maybe we can make a strategy for working together or getting some national funding?

Who should join?

For example, many of the teams that were part of the old Finnish Grid Infrastructure at univerities or local partners of the CodeRefinery collaboration. Really, if you work with Aalto Scientific Computing you are strongly invited and we’ll have some fun discussions. If you

don't, you are invited anyway.

We especially welcome people who support academic research through computing and data expertise in universities and research institutions, for example those in local HPC or RSE teams, cloud computing, and other computing services for researchers. But everyone is welcome: including Academic researchers, data managers, open science experts and anyone interested in these topics.

Program ideas

We can especially talk about:

- Local resources and teams in a time when computing is becoming more centralized.
- Local services we run, how they compare to national services.
- Advantages and disadvantages of being positioned locally.
- What types of infrastructure funding we could apply for to increase our benefit or make (inter-)national collaborations. (Dedicated session: Wednesday afternoon)

Organizers

Richard Darst (richard.darst atsign aalto.fi) is organizing this half.

Practical info

Location

Aalto University Campus, (Espoo), Helsinki Area. If you search `Dipoli` it should find it, the address is `Otakaari 24, 02150 Espoo`.

Food

Reservations at restaurants in the campus area. These restaurants can generally cater to all common diets, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, and lactose free. There are also two grocery stores at the metro station (A entrance).

Map

[See full screen](#)

Tourist information and other activities

[Wikivoyage Helsinki](#) [↗] is usually pretty accurate and has information about the area and other sights to see.

Hotels

There are various hotels within easy walking distance. We don't have any particular discounts. "Radison Blu Otaniemi" is the default location for university visitors. Other hotels in Helsinki downtown are fine also, the metro trip is 11 minutes (and costs ~3 euros).

Arrival

tldr: Aalto University is at the "Aalto University" metro stop. An "ABC" ticket manages the train from airport AND metro (and trams, busses, etc).

Air: Helsinki Airport. Between the airport and Aalto University, plan for max 1.5 hours (less than one hour is possible if you are efficient). From the airport, follow signs to the train station. Board a train and immediately use a contactless payment card to buy an ABC ticket at a card reader; this will get you all the way to the university (see public transport). Take the first train that comes (either way gets to downtown in about the same time). From the main station, walk to the connected metro station. Take a metro to the stop Aalto University (direction Tapiola or Kivenlahti), then continue in section “public transport” below.

Ferry: From Tallinn or Stockholm, there are ferries. Expect well under an hour to get from the ferry harbors to Aalto University. Take trams to the metro, but from each harbor walking to the metro is reasonable (not too far and nice walks). (Some attendees are also attending the Nordic e-infrastructure Conference in Tallinn on 27-29 May, they will be taking ferries from Tallinn the evening of 29 May. More info to be announced)

Bus, Train, etc. within Finland: You probably know how to get to the center of Helsinki. Follow public transit below.

Private vehicle: There isn't free parking, but there are paid lots around.

Public transport: The public transport system is good and easy to use. The metro stop name is “Aalto University”, and the A exit is closer to us. Tickets can be bought at ticket machines, or via the “HSL App”. Aalto University is in the zone B, downtown is in the zone A, the airport in zone C, and tickets last a bit more than an hour and work on any public bus, train, metro, or tram (and as many transfers as you need). AB zone tickets cost about 3€.

If coming from airport: use single tickets, day tickets not worth it even with one extra trip to/from downtown.

Now, all tickets can be bought using contactless payment cards ([details](#)[↗]). Select the appropriate zones (AB or ABC) at the blue readers (before getting on the metro, after boarding bus/train/tram), then show your card. [More info and ways to pay](#)[↗].

Registration

There is no registration fee, but also no food, snacks, coffee, and dinner provided. We will have to divide into smaller groups for lunch and dinners and distribute to various restaurants. We will provide long times for coffee breaks and lunches and make sure that everyone can find an engaging group to be a part of.

Maximum capacity 50 but ideal size 30.

Online attendance will probably be possible, but we haven't set it up yet.

Code of conduct

Attendees are expected to follow the [Aalto University code of conduct](#). Realistically you won't read it, but the general idea is in the next section:

Discussion starters

- There will be attendees at a wide variety of points in their RSE/SciComp career. Understand them and help them go.
- There will be attendees who know more or fewer other attendees. Take active steps to include them in your conversations:
 - Leave spaces in your circle for others to join, if you see someone hovering, invite them in and fill them in on what you are talking about.
 - Give special attention to understanding who is in your discussion groups and making sure you are talking at the right level.
- There is no major funding or supporter. Please help out if you have time and ability.
- Tell the organizers (Richard and Samantha, or anyone else) if you need something.

About

Organizers

- Richard Darst, Aalto University (co-lead, RC/SciComp part)
- Samantha Wittke, CSC - IT Center for Science (co-lead, RSE-FI)
- Local volunteers: open

The organizers welcome others to take part in planning, either in short or long term. We communicate via the [CodeRefinery chat](#), [#NoBSC channel](#). This is the same place that Nordic-RSE people hang out.

Supported by

- Aalto Scientific Computing (Science-IT): (Staff time, sponsoring all facilities)
- CSC - IT Center for Science (EuroCC2 project) : (Staff time)
- Software Sustainability Institute (through fellowship of Samantha Wittke): (Travel funding, planning support)

History of NoBSC

You could say this event was first inspired when Richard Darst went to the [Nordic e-Infrastructure Collaboration conference in 2017](#). This event had a variety of infrastructure and open science people not advertising why their stuff was so good, but discussion how to

make things better. (At least that's what it looks like with rose-colored glasses looking back.) This also kicked off the collaboration between ASC and CodeRefinery (a NeIC project dedicated to teaching basic software tools for researchers), which continues to this day.

CodeRefinery didn't feel like a collaboration not between organizations, but between the people in the trenches directly helping or users. This was an extremely productive collaboration, not just in the main teaching but in connecting people together to talk about their other jobs besides teaching.

In 2019, we had a meeting in Helsinki called [Nordic HPC](#), basically a lot of the CodeRefinery staff who were supporters of smaller university-based computing clusters. We enjoyed talking and sharing ideas, but soon we became closer together because we were all working online, and our [collaboration was focused on online events](#).

Now, in 2025, we are trying to meet again in person. Hopefully there are the best parts from NeIC conferences, NeIC all-hands meetings, and NordicHPC, with even more people welcome to attend.

In addition to the SciComp team meetup, we have noticed that Research Software Engineering community, or "researchers who code" appreciate the connection to each other too - and there is a lot of connections and career movement between the two groups. Samantha's fellowship with the Software Sustainability Institute looks at exactly that. Part of the fellowship is the contribution to the international RSE survey to get to know the Finnish and Nordic community needs a bit better. A short lunch meeting of RSE enthusiasts in Espoo to celebrate the international RSE day on October 9th 2025 was a good start to connect. For the Finnish RSE meetup, we aim to also get together RSE enthusiasts from all over the country, share what we do, learn from each other and also learn about the needs and wishes of the community.

Call for sessions

Everyone is asked to contribute to "cool things and problems".

Remember, the theme of this conference is how we actually work and "the problems we found along the way", not "advertising our product". You can present ideas, what you couldn't do, things you need advice on, and so on. You can request time slots for lightning talks, short talks, long talks, breakout sessions, discussions, etc.

Submissions will open later.

Submit a session

You'll be able to submit talks/demos/workshops/etc. you'd like to give.

Our facilities include one main room (reserved), one breakout room (reserved), and various other places you can find in the building lobby areas for smaller discussion sessions (not reserved).

Selection process: Right now our idea is to let attendees vote and allocate time based on votes. So, when submitting, make sure to make the abstract somewhat generally available.

Session inspirations

You are allowed to come with a question instead of a solution.

- Introduction to how my team/organization works.
- Cool procedure/practice/tool we have developed.
- Cool software I have developed.
- Book/video/event review and summary.
- Problem or concern I am facing now.
- Demo and/or hack times.

You can say how long your session should be: lightning talk (5 min), 30 min, longer breakout discussion/workshop. You can submit multiple events and your priority for each.

Cool things and problems

Everyone will have a chance to (and be encouraged) to contribute to the session “Cool things and problems”. In this, each team presents three cool things they are doing, and three problems they are facing. We can then see.

Unconference

We will also save some time for an “unconference”: sessions request right during the conference. Perhaps you’ll ask someone to make a session based on informal discussions.

Request a session

If you have things you would like to hear/do, but can’t organize yourself, please submit this as part of your registration or via the submission form and we’ll see if we can find someone to present. We’ll probably contact all registrants to see who can take one of them.

- Open OnDemand
- Research Software Engineer funding in your institutions or countries.
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Schedule

When to attend

- For NoBSC for service staff, attend 3 Feb until lunch on Feb 4.
- For the Finnish-RSE meetup, attend lunch (or earlier) on 2 Feb to lunch or dinner on 3 Feb.
- The overlapping day is events of interest to both groups.
- You are of course welcome to attend more, if you would like.

Timetable

Below is a draft of our schedule plan. This is in early stages and will be improved later (including making it not a spreadsheet screenshot).

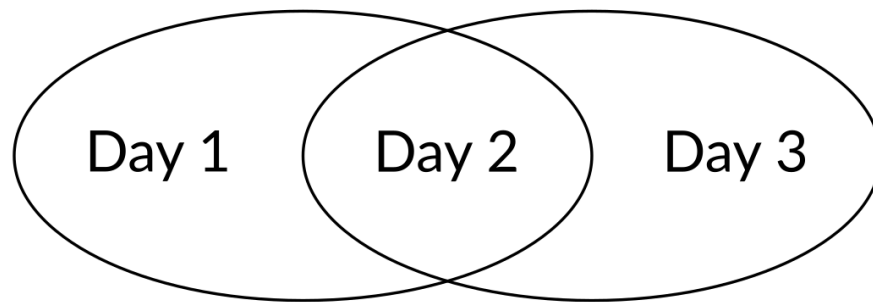
					RSE meetup attendance SciComp meetup attendance Title
Monday	9:00				
	10:00				
	11:00				
	12:00				Lunch
	13:00				Intro (RSE half) (RSE meetup events)
	14:00				(RSE meetup events)
	15:00				(RSE meetup events)
	16:00				(RSE meetup events)
	(dinner)				Social event or informal dinners
Tuesday	9:00				(contributed events)
	10:00				Keynote
	11:00				Keynote (Hardest legal and ethical problems)
	12:00				Lunch
	13:00				Intro (SciComp team meetup half) Cool things and problems
	14:00				Keynote (RSE and national funders)
	15:00				(contributed events)
	16:00				(contributed events)
	(dinner)				Organized dinner
Wednesday	9:00				(SciComp team events)
	10:00				(SciComp team events)
	11:00				Keynote (panel) Outro
	12:00				Lunch
	13:00				(Discussion: funding of local SciComp/RSE teams)
	14:00				(Discussion: funding of local SciComp/RSE teams)
	15:00				(Discussion: funding of local SciComp/RSE teams)

Aalto Scientific Computing (ASC) invites you to its early 2026 meetup - a gathering of everyone interested in supporting scientific computing (and a celebration of the diverse work that makes it all possible). Aalto Otaniemi Campus, 2-4 February 2026.

The first half is a [Finnish+friends RSE meetup](#) , the second half is a [meetup of local research and scientific computing teams more targeted to service staff](#). The overlapping middle day has events that are interesting to both audiences. People are welcome to attend both halves, but we expect many attendees will only attend one half or the other.

Research (software)
engineers

People who work in
a local SciComp team



This isn't a time to advertise how great our tools and services are. It's a time to look under the hood and talk about all the problems we encountered on the way (and the problems we expect in the future) so we can get better.

Topics

You can submit talks/events, and also there will time for last-minute “unconference” submissions. We can talk about whatever is interesting to us: from past achievements to future directions.

- Academic experience as a research engineer.
- Practical support (research software engineering, both practices and how we run our teams).
- HPC cluster management (day to day problems and usability for small projects and new users); infrastructure usability.
- Teaching and mentoring of our users (practical teaching done for the previous two categories).
- Our teams compared to giant national infrastructures; what is our role?

Schedule (general plan)

See also

[Schedule](#)

- Day 0 (Su, 1 Feb 2026): If anyone arrives early, grilling dinner in a Finnish forest (if enough people want to brave the cold).
- Day 1 (Mo, 2 Feb 2026): RSE meetup
- Day 2 (Tu, 3 Feb 2026): RSE/SciComp overlap day: events, lunch, evening dinner, some social activities scattered between.
- Day 3 (We, 4 Feb 2026): SciComp team meetup: events 9-12, lunch.

Example sessions:

- Plenty of time for [submitted events](#) and networking.
- **Cool things and problems:** each organization presents three cool things they have done lately and three problems they are facing right now. This serves as a basis for networking during the rest of the event.
- **Panel discussion with junior computational researchers:** Panel discussions are usually full of the most senior people the organizers can find. In this discussion, we'll hear from junior researchers, about how usable they find computing systems and the onboarding process.

Quick info

📌 See also

[Practical info](#)

Location: Dipoli, Aalto University, Espoo, Helsinki area, Finland

Price: Free (you pay your own food) or at-cost (depending on the number of registrations). Aalto Scientific Computing sponsors the facilities.

Food: Reservations at restaurants in the campus area.

Registration: To be opened later.

Online attendance: this will probably be possible.

Key dates:

- 1 November: Registration opens (closes when full)
- 7 January: First submission deadline, voting on talks begins
- 1 January: Reconfirmation begins
- 15 January: Final deadline for reconfirmation for meal reservations