IS-ENES3 Milestone M1.4

IS-ENES3 Virtual Second General Assembly
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ABSTRACT

The virtual IS-ENES3 Second General Assembly took place from the 4th to 6th of October 2021. The milestones M1.4 describes its organization, structure and main outcomes.

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1. Objectives

The IS-ENES3 2nd General Assembly is a key step in the lifetime of the project. The consortium is gathered to discuss the actions achieved during the project 2nd reporting period (started in July 2020), identify the main obstacles to the implementation of the Description of Work and the next steps for the continuation of the project.
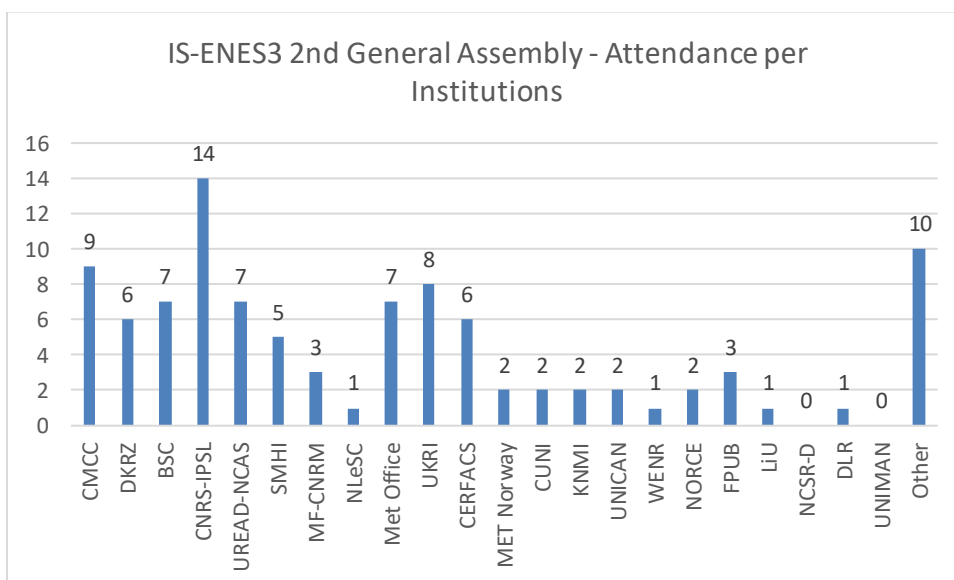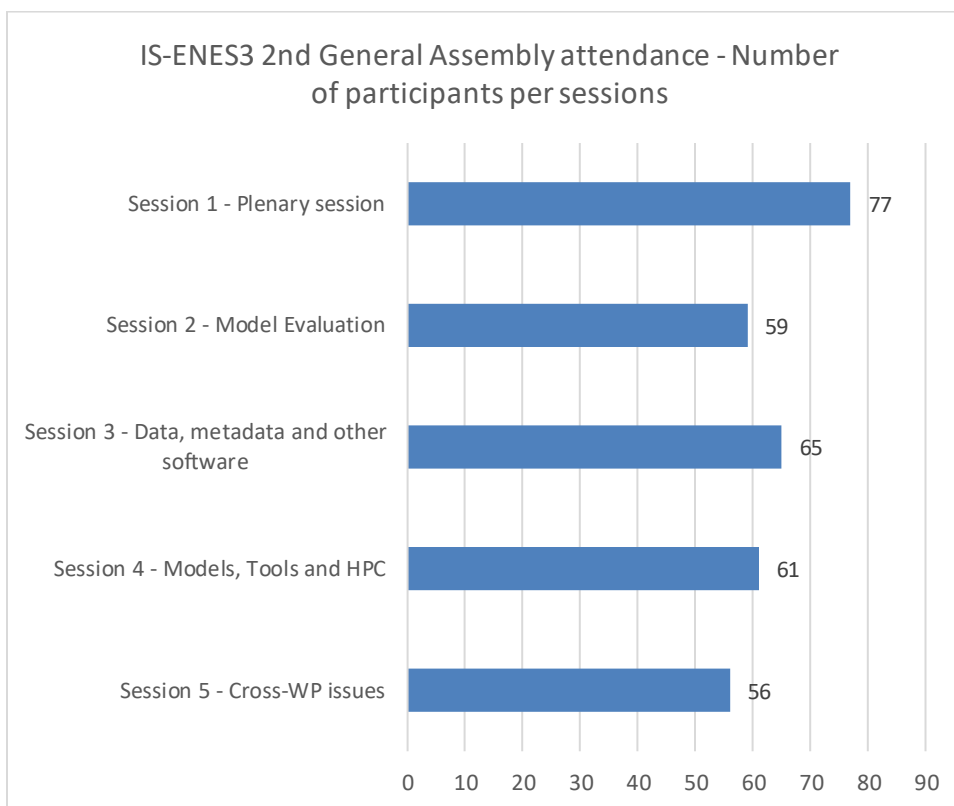
2. Description of the 2nd General Assembly meeting program

Due to the Covid-19 situation, it was decided by the Coordination team to organise the project 2nd General Assembly virtually since it was difficult to foresee if travels could occur given the ever-changing national travel restrictions. Building on the experience of the virtual 1st General Assembly (25-27 March 2020, see M1.3), the agenda general structure was designed to fit adequately to a virtual format. The event lasts for three days, organised mainly in 2-hours sessions. The agenda was on a Google document, integrating the last-minute changes that could occur during the meeting (connections details, time slots…).

The general structure of the 1st General Assembly was the following:
-   Session 1: Plenary session – Project information
-   Session 2: Model Evaluation
-   Session 3: Data, Metadata and other software
-   Session 4: Models, Tools and HPC
-   Session 5: Cross-WP issues discussions
-   Session 6: "Around coffee" parallel discussions

The partners were encouraged to attend the Session 1, which is of interest to the whole consortium, and to attend at least one of the Session 2, 3 or 4, depending on the topic they are involved in. It appeared that the consortium expressed a strong interest in the entire project activities, given the high attendance rate of the four sessions.

IS-ENES3 2nd General Assembly attendance - Number of participants per sessions

Session	Participants
Session 1 - Plenary session	77
Session 2 - Model Evaluation	59
Session 3 - Data, metadata and other software	65
Session 4 - Models, Tools and HPC	61
Session 5 - Cross-WP issues	56

IS-ENES3 2nd General Assembly - Attendance per Institutions

Institution	Attendance
CMCC	9
DKRZ	6
BSC	7
CNRS-IPSL	14
UREAD-NCAS	7
SMHI	5
MF-CNRM	3
NLeSC	1
Met Office	7
UKRI	8
CERFACS	6
MET Norway	2
CUNI	2
KNMI	2
UNICAN	2
WENR	1
NORCE	2
FPUB	3
LiU	1
NCSR-D	0
DLR	1
UNIMAN	0
Other	10

The general sessions were organised through the visioconference tool Zoom, managed by the coordination team, which ran smoothly during the three days. In order to foster discussion, the coordination team prepared a Q&A document per session, accessible and editable by all participants, on which they could ask their questions and write comments. Therefore, multiple written conversations took place in parallel with

presentations, and it proved to be a very efficient tool, that will likely be kept even for future physical meetings. All presentations were accessible to the participants in a specific Google folder during the event. A visioconference tool named "Gather.town" was also set-up by the coordination team so that people could keep on interacting during coffee-breaks.

The session 1 was dedicated to project information, including an overview of the project as well as of the project sustainability activity (WP2). Two guest speakers from EU projects related to Earth System Modelling were invited (NextGEMS and ESM2025) to inform the IS-ENES3 members. A special emphasis was also put on the project carbon footprint, a voluntary initiative to discuss the project carbon footprint as well as those of the partners research institutions and the High-Performance Computing. Finally, a significant time slot was dedicated to the preparation of the 2nd periodic report, as well as financial and contractual issues. Indeed, some budget modifications and reallocations related to the preparation of a 3rd amendment to the grant agreement were discussed and approved by all partner institutions via one of their representatives, who attended the session or had given approval before the GA. The approved decisions were described within an internal minutes document that was then distributed to all partner institutions by email.

As in the Kick-off meeting and the 1st General Assembly, the WPL had prepared some slides presenting the work achieved during RP2 (since the last General Assembly) – as well as the next steps for RP3 – for their WP, presented during the corresponding sessions. Those "WP debriefing slides" were followed by some presentations on some IS-ENES3 highlights during RP2. At the end of each of the general sessions (Session 1 to Session 4), the cross-WP issues and the "Around coffee" discussions that would be discussed during Session 5-6 (Wednesday 6th) were introduced during 10 minutes so the participants could decide which discussion to join.
Indeed, half of the last day was dedicated to breakout groups discussions around cross-WP topics, and the other half to various general topics requested by the partners. Each discussion was organised by the work-package leader or the person responsible for the topic, with the videoconference tool of his or her choice, and the participants were free to join whichever they prefer.

In total, **99 persons** attended at least one of the sessions during the three days.

This virtual 2nd General Assembly has been greatly beneficial to the project since it allowed the different WP to actively interact between each other and gave to the partners a detailed overview of the work achieved so far in the project. The different discussions allowed the consortium to list the issues that need to be tackled, as well as the next steps to take to implement the planned work for the next remaining year ½.

The presentations are available on the official project website: https://is.enes.org/events/workshops/is-enes3-virtual-2nd-general-assembly