

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ANALYSIS AND EXPERIMENTATION ON ECOSYSTEMS



Newsletter 8

ISSUE EIGHT

Dear Reader,

As you may have seen if you've been following our website or LinkedIn group, AnaEE has continued to make progress in building our shared European infrastructure.

We are now working on concrete governance and funding models that we will be validating throughout the year as we consult with national shareholders and funding bodies.

We are also aware that our European Preparatory Phase project under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme (FP7) is coming to a close at the end of April 2016.

That is why we are also beginning to lay the groundwork for our pre-implementation phase governance for the period from May 2016 until the creation of a permanent legal entity for AnaEE

(a European Research Infrastructure Consortium, or ERIC).

We have much work to do between now and the moment when we officially inaugurate our AnaEE ERIC in 2018, and we need the support and input of all of our stakeholders to succeed.

At the same time, April saw us begin to analyse the responses to our Call for Expression of Interest.

We have so far received over 150 responses from 13 countries, with more expected in the coming weeks. This shows a clear desire to build AnaEE in many countries, and we are continuing to receive proposals.

We are now beginning work to look at how each of these distributed platforms fits into AnaEE. Do they fit our criteria already? Would they benefit from an upgrade? Our door is open to all proposals, but we aim to

ultimately select the best and work with national funders to ensure that those which may not currently fit receive the support they need.

You can find out more about what we're doing by coming to our upcoming Stakeholder Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, on June 10th, which is open to all interested parties, with a focus on senior scientists and science managers.

We were also present at several conferences and meetings, most notably the Climate Smart Agriculture conference in Montpellier.

More information is available in the newsletter and on the website. We hope to see you in Prague!

Kind regards,

Abad Chabbi

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INTERVIEW

FACCE-JPI AND AnaEE - WORKING TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Niels Götke

Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI)
Chair, Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security
and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI)



Do you think Europe's researchers currently possess enough resources in terms of climate and food security research?

One of our greatest societal challenges is food security - we need to find more innovative ways to feed a growing and increasingly affluent world population.

Meanwhile climate change is already affecting agriculture and natural resources are dwindling.

Sustainable systems are more important than ever, and more and more government, civil

society actors and other stakeholders are aware of this.

It is in this context that the European Council in October 2010 launched the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI).

This initiative brings together 21 member states and associated countries.

It aims to foster collaboration among national research actors to work toward alignment of research programming.

FACCE-JPI has put Climate Change and Food Security high on the

European and National research agendas.

It has also opened many people's eyes to the need to establish a genuine European coordination around a common vision, shared objectives and instruments.

But although FACCE has initiated many initiatives in the recent years, we need to continue focus over the long term and allocate even more resources for climate and food security research in the coming years.

This is what FACCE aims to do in the coming months as it reviews some of its key strategic priorities.



Agriculture,
Food Security
and Climate Change

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INTERVIEW

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What are the key goals of the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI) in the field of climate and food security research?

The Joint Programming Initiative FACCE has the objective to tackle a grand societal challenge that cannot solely be solved at a national level.

The vision of FACCE-JPI is to achieve sustainable growth in agricultural production to meet increasing world food demand.

But this must be combined with a commitment to contribute to sustainable economic growth and a European bio-economy.

At the same time, we must maintain and restore ecosystem services under current and future climate change.

The mission of FACCE-JPI is to achieve, support and promote integration, alignment and joint implementation of national resources under a common research and innovation strategy.

This strategy will help to address the diverse challenges in agriculture, food security and climate change.

How can AnaEE fit into meeting those goals?

FACCE-JPI has a strong interdisciplinary research base.

FACCE has from the beginning seen a need for a creative approach in partnering and in using the existing EC instruments.

The research undertaken to achieve the objectives of FACCE will require strong links to world class research infrastructures.

FACCE has from the beginning in 2010 been informed about AnaEE and interested to connect to AnaEE. It's very much in the interest of FACCE for AnaEE to succeed.

The aim of AnaEE to bring together highly instrumented, experimental, modelling and analytical platforms from different European countries is very relevant for FACCE-JPI.

AnaEE has the potential to provide a unique experimental infrastructure to understand and forecast how ecosystems will respond to current and future changes in climate, land use, loss of biodiversity etc.

AnaEE is also at the heart of our Strategic Research Agenda, which makes reference to AnaEE on several occasions.

AnaEE can help FACCE meet its goals.

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NEWS UK

The UK's response to the Call for Expression of Interest has now begun, with one platform - the North Wyke Experimental Farm Platform - in England, while six more were contributed from Scotland.

More contributions will be expected further down the line, as the complex consultation process continues.

NEWS Poland

Via the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation - State Research Institute in Puławy, Poland has now responded to the Call for Expression of Interest, thereby joining the Czech Republic and Estonia among Central European countries involved in AnaEE.

NEWS France

In addition to the over 50 platforms already submitted in France, there will also be a submission from the Magnetic Nuclear Resonance infrastructure in France (IR-RMN) in the coming days. This will be a key link to additional communities not already covered within AnaEE.

INTERVIEW

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But the reverse is also true. FACCE can be a key driver for the success of AnaEE.

Joint Programming brings together a wide range of actors from many European countries, and FACCE is no exception.

The FACCE governing board, which I chair, brings together representatives of 21 countries - from government ministries and departments like Britain's DEFRA and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, but also agencies like the French ANR or the Danish DASTI.

These bodies decide on strategic priorities in their countries in terms of funding research.

We are a forum *par excellence* for discussion on pooling resources and sharing best practices on research into agriculture, food security and climate change.

This includes thinking at all levels on high-level strategic research infrastructures.

As we know, the use of infrastructures is key and crucial. Infrastructures are as important as they are expensive.

That is why we must do things on a European level.

Infrastructure was a key topic in our early years, and I see a chance to have it on the agenda again now because we are soon going to revise our

existing research and innovation strategy.

Alongside the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), FACCE will continue to explore how to build links between infrastructures and research.

AnaEE can and should be a partner for FACCE in these endeavours, and we hope to work together further in future.

What more can be done to make sure Europe's research infrastructures fit the needs of policymakers, scientists and society?

FACCE-JPI is a high level intergovernmental collaboration effort.

Therefore if AnaEE is linked to FACCE it should also be fit to the needs of policy makers.

This is indeed relevant for all key European research infrastructures.

The importance of continued dialogue not only with funding bodies but also other policy-making and priority-setting groups is clear.

AnaEE can be a positive example of how infrastructures can engage with the policy world to ensure social relevance.

How can we grow cooperation on these vital issues beyond Europe's borders?

FACCE-JPI already has a good dialogue with countries outside Europe.

This dialogue will be further developed in the coming years.

AnaEE could be linked to that process.

Where AnaEE has privileged links to infrastructures elsewhere, this can be a natural link for FACCE too. The reverse is, of course, also true.

How do you view Europe's research infrastructures, including AnaEE, evolving in future to meet changing scientific and societal challenges?

I see a need to assemble European research infrastructure to meet the scientific and societal challenges.

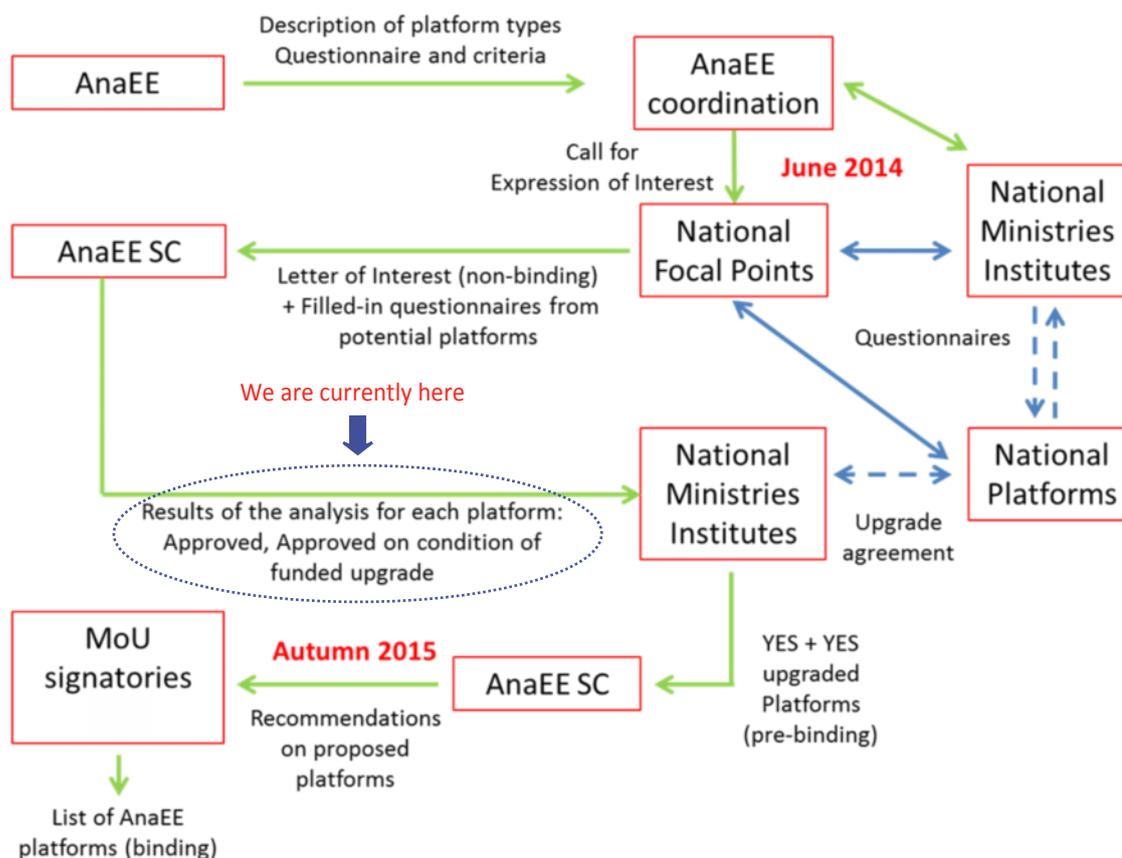
World class infrastructures are expensive.

If these can be connected within the frame of societal challenge, it would have a great potential for a good impact.

I hope that AnaEE and other infrastructures can therefore play a positive role.

AnaEE CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: THE FIRST RESULTS, AND WHAT COMES NEXT

STEPS TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS INTO AnaEE



AnaEE's Call for Expression of Interest has now effectively closed, though we are still accepting submissions on an ad-hoc basis, especially for countries who have not had National Focal Points.

Overall, we have had more than 150 contributions of platform submissions, including more than 80 *in natura* sites, as well as a considerable number of *in vitro*, analytical and modelling platforms.

These contributions came from across Europe and beyond - 13 countries so far, including five

countries that were not in the initial Preparatory Phase consortium - Estonia, Israel, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland.

Where are we now, and what comes next?

AnaEE's Work Package for Technical Development and our Steering Committee met to analyse all of the Call responses in Paris on April 22-23.

This analysis will lead to recommendations on which platforms should be integrated 'as is'

and which ones would benefit from upgrades to fit all of the criteria set out by the AnaEE consortium.

Following additional consultation with national ministries and institutes, we will draw up a formal list of platforms later in the year.

This process will coincide with our efforts to begin collecting Letters of Intent from national authorities expressing a desire to work together beyond the end of the Preparatory Phase project to build AnaEE.

COMMENT FROM AnaEE: WHY AND HOW COUNTRIES SHOULD JOIN US

Being part of AnaEE means being part of a unique world-class infrastructure. It means access to centralised facilities, pooling of techniques and skills, the best projects, increased visibility, and a place at the centre of Europe's science community.

AnaEE aims to foster capacity building in ecosystem science by providing state of the art facilities and structuring tools for the European ecological and agricultural research community. AnaEE's national focal points and future national nodes will structure national research communities while also bringing them into a wider European infrastructure - **this will strengthen the European research area but also help ensure national research communities compete on a European level.** AnaEE's role as a focus for research projects and funding will help to increase the visibility of the ecosystem science community and essential research on ecosystem services, creating opportunities for new and better projects and experiments. **This capacity building will allow for a significant improvement in techniques and access to the best equipment in Europe.**

One of AnaEE's key benefits will be **economies of scale** - thanks to pooling of resources to deal with access and data requests, costs will be lowered by as much as 50%. This is coupled with **greater interoperability** and a **growth in access to a wider community of users** (AnaEE's participation in ENVRI_{PLUS}, a funded H2020 cluster project, will help work on the cross-fertilisation knowledge transfer of new technologies and also build synergies with related infrastructures). AnaEE platforms will therefore have direct access and increased visibility to a Europe-wide community of high-level researchers and research projects. Because there will be a single access portal, scientists will have access to a very wide range

of diverse and high-quality experimental, analytical and modeling platforms.

This will be achieved through the creation of a strong common governance *via* supra-national Service Centres. **These centres will ensure international access, improved measurements and data harmonisation, technology development, links between data and models, open access to raw data and syntheses. They will also allow researchers to network and provide an interface with key stakeholders.**

This centralised governance will help **foster the sharing of best practices and expertise** across the European scientific community. It will also **facilitate direct access to massive and quality controlled environmental datasets** from experimental ecosystem research in high-quality central databases, **as well as to data analysis and modelling tools specifically adapted to these datasets.** This data will be shared and centralised based on open data principles using a clear data and intellectual property policy that can be a model for the entire community.

AnaEE will help find solutions to the challenges of the bioeconomy, including food, fuel and fibre production and sustainable ecosystem services. AnaEE will work to synthesise and communicate data and results in ways that can be useful to all stakeholders. **AnaEE will also develop a strong technology transfer and innovation operation based on solid and long-term links with innovators.** AnaEE will also complement and add value to emerging research infrastructures in the agri-food, forestry, bioenergy, and aqua-culture sectors, as well as other infrastructures that already exist or are being developed at a range of spatial and temporal scales.

NEWS *Denmark*

In Denmark, the response to the Call for Expression of Interest was substantial.

The proposed platforms will be a strong sign to policymakers of the need for AnaEE in the context of the revision of the national roadmap.

NEWS *Germany*

Two German *in vitro* platforms have so far responded to the Call for Expression of Interest. More discussions are planned for the months to come to build a fully-fledged German national node.

RECENT NEWS AND UPCOMING DEVELOPMENTS

5th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOIL ORGANIC MATTER, GÖTTINGEN, 20-24 SEP 2015

Dr. Abad Chabbi will speak on 'Achievements, bottlenecks and research needs in the context of global change' at the upcoming International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter.

AnaEE 3rd ANNUAL MEETING AND STAKEHOLDER MEETING, PRAGUE, 9-11 JUN 2015

AnaEE will be holding its third annual meeting at Vila Lanna (<http://www.vila-lanna.cz/index.html>) in Prague on June 9-11. Day two (June 10th) will be the Stakeholder Meeting. You can find the full programme here: http://anaee.com/images/AnaEE_Stakeholder_Meeting_2015_-_programme.pdf. If you would like to attend, please register here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11Y7n8sCcte-vGoRhGy9cAU_puEV4Nt0IVMFWQg4XWi4/viewform.

AnaEE COORDINATOR PRESENTS AT ICOS-NEON MODEL-DATA FUSION WORKSHOP, PARIS, 20-21 APR 2015

AnaEE Coordinator Abad Chabbi will give a presentation on "Ecosystem manipulation experiments" at the ICOS-NEON model-data fusion workshop in Paris on 20-21 April 2015. The workshop aims to evaluate the combined value of observations from large networks and emerging approaches in earth system modelling.

AnaEE COORDINATOR PRESENTS ON "SOIL - AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE", IN FRAUENCHIEMSEE, BAVARIA, 16-17 APR 2015

The International Expert Group on Earth System Preservation (IESP) invited AnaEE Coordinator Abad Chabbi to speak on "Soil - An Essential Resource" at a workshop in Frauenchiemsee, Bavaria on 16-17 April 2015. The workshop was organised with the Bavarian Ministry for Environment. Dr. Chabbi covered infrastructures in particular, focusing on AnaEE experimentation and the link to soil security.

ANAEE PRESENT AT CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE IN MONTPELLIER, 16-18 MAR 2015

Climate-smart agriculture is a way to achieve short-and-long-term agricultural development priorities in the face of climate change and serves as a bridge to other development priorities. INRA, CIRAD and other institutes organised the Climate Smart Agriculture conference in Montpellier, which brought together 750 top scientists and policymakers for three days of high-level discussions. AnaEE was present with a stand, and consortium members Abad Chabbi, Evan O'Connell, Jacques Roy and André Chanzy were all in attendance.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ON AnaEE

PLEASE CONTACT:

Evan O'Connell
AnaEE Communication/Lobbying Officer
communication@anaee.com
+33 6 03 34 23 79

www.anaee.com

This newsletter was drafted by Evan O'Connell and Abad Chabbi (INRA) with input from the entire AnaEE consortium.

External input was provided by Niels Götke, Chair, Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI)

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