

Heraklion, 30 June - 3 July 2025



Sharing and Reusing Computational Workflows

(WorkflowHub and FAIR Workflows in Biodiversity)

Presenter: Professor Carole Goble
Joint Head of Node ELIXIR-UK

https://www.lifewatch.eu/bees-2025/



Biodiversity Research Infrastructure and me













BioVel: Biodiversity Virtual e-Laboratory 2011-2014





European Research Infrastructures and me

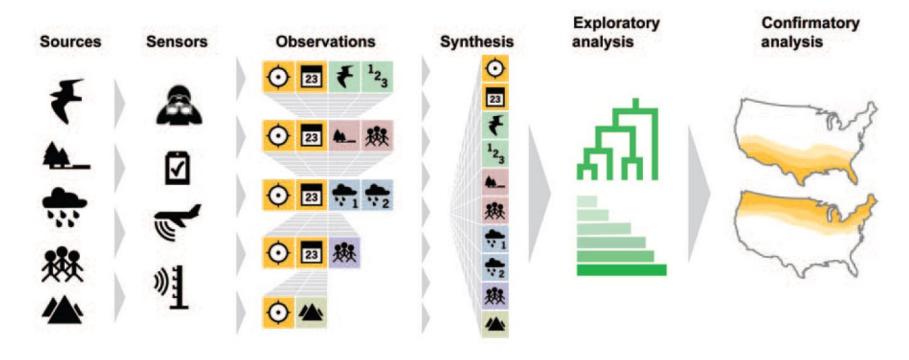


Complementary science, Technical synergy



Data-Intensive & Computational Science

access to large volumes of data from multiple sources and compute



Scale up from laptop to HPC & cloud

Scale out prep, integration and analysis (incl. AI)

Trust transparent and validated methods/results

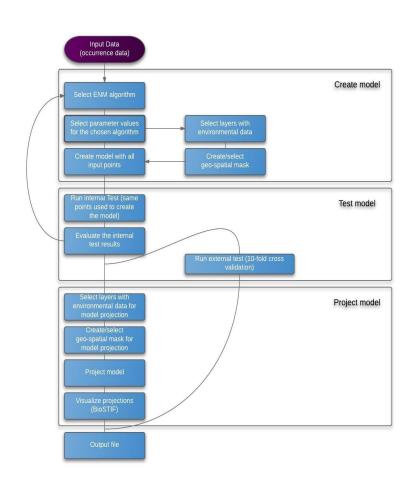
Widen user base to democratise analysis

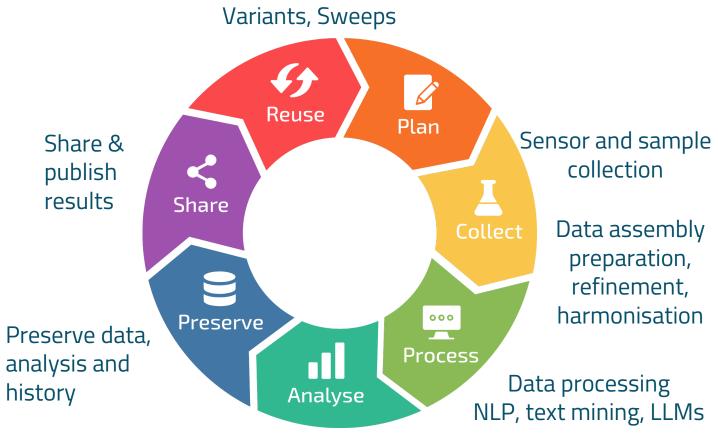
Figure: Steve Kelling et al , Data-intensive Science: A New Paradigm for Biodiversity Studies, *BioScience*, 59(7) 2009,

https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2009.59.7.12



Pipelines: Data Preparation, Processing, Prediction Variants: Parameter Sweeps & Pipeline Versioning



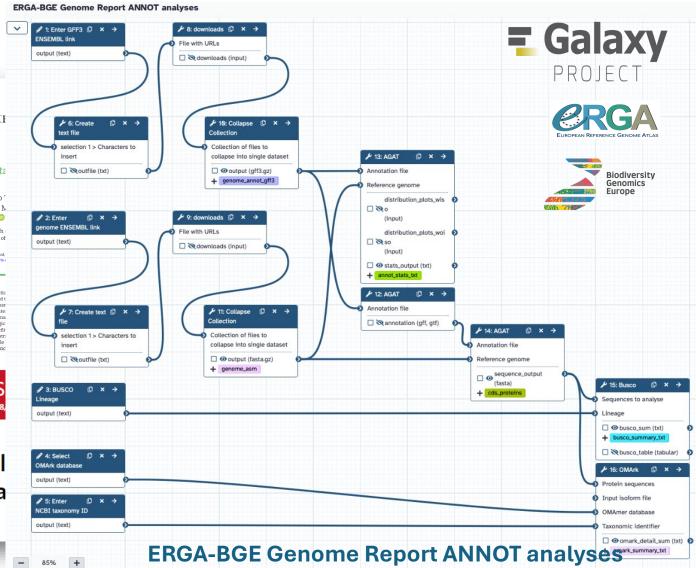


Analytical pipelines, digital twin modelling, statistical analysis, ensemble comparisons, visualisation, secure sensitive data analysis

[figure: Matthias Obst]

BEeS FIGICIS **Future Generation Computer Systems** Volume 75, October 2017, Pages 216-227 Editorial Scientific workflows: Past, present and future Malcolm Atkinson ^a ⋈, Sandra Gesing ^b ⋈ ⋈, Johan Montagnat ^c ⋈, Ian Taylor ^{b, d} ⋈ Show m (GIGA)ⁿ SCIENCE + Add THAT'S THE WAY https://do Streamlining data systems Computational pipelines turn raw data into reproducible scientific knowledge. Taylor Reiter 1, Phillip Abstr E.K. Joslin† 62, Charles M N. Tessa Pierce-Ward* 10 This st ¹Department of Population Health CA 95616, USA and 2Department of intensi *Correspondence address: N. Tessa Pierce-Ward Davis, CA 95616, USA. E-mail: ntpierce@ucdavis represe system signific As the scale of biological data generation analysis. Researchers commonly need fertilis: incremental development as experime produce hundreds to thousands of inte as WM are reshaping the landscape of biologic scale. Adoption of these tools can facili lacking. Here, we provide a series of str management to streamline large-scale nature methods PERS https://doi.org/10.1038 Reproducible, scalable, and shareable anal pipelines with bioinformatics workflow ma Laura Wratten ¹, Andreas Wilm² and Jonathan Göke ¹ Nature 573, 149-150 (2019) https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-02619-z

Computational Workflows





What is a computational workflow?

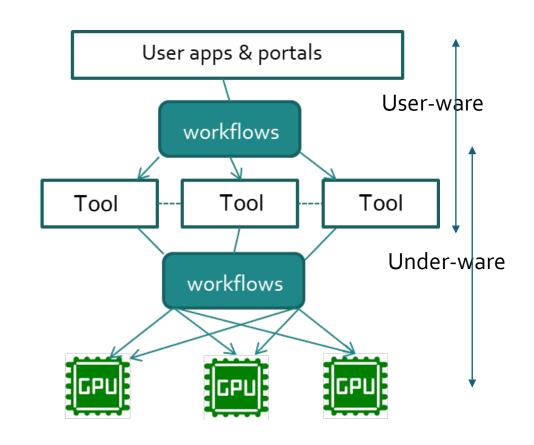
Multi-step processes

Precise description linking computational steps with data and control flow, interoperating heterogeneous codes

handle data and processing dependencies, execution and reporting

operate across heterogeneous data and computational infrastructures

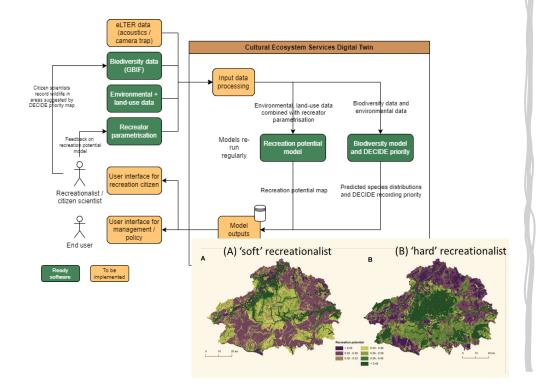
batch <-> human in the loop tool chains <-> job orchestration



Suter et al A terminology for scientific workflow systems, FGCS, 174, 2026, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.future.2025.107974. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2506.07838



Cultural Ecosystem Services modelling Mapping habitats for resilient crop wild relatives Invasive Alien Species modelling



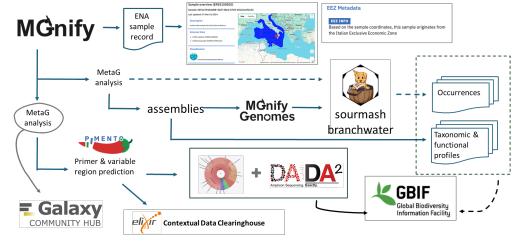






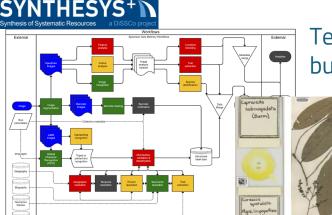


Genomic and Metagenomic assembly and annotation pipelines



em of Scientific Collections

The Specimen Data Refinery: Digital Mobilisation of Natural History Collections



Text and Image (now LLM!) analysis, building a Digital Specimen





JUL 1 TUE



TAXONOMY: IDENTIFYING THE UNITS OF DIVERSITY IN LIFE

The Biodiversity Genomics Europe (BGE) Project: Europe's drive to reverse biodiversity loss through genomics research

Speaker: Robert Waterhouse • Project Oral Communication

15:30 - 15:45 UTC+3

Amphitheatre

JUL 2 WED



BIODIVERSITY OBSERVATORY: SMART SYSTEMS FOR A LIVING PLANET – REVOLUTIONISING BIODIVERSITY MONITORING WITH AUTOMATION

<u>BioDT's biodiversity digital twin prototypes: examples from species distribution</u> <u>models to population dynamics</u>

Speaker: Gabriela Zuquim • Oral Communication

12:00 - 12:10 UTC+3

Amphitheatre



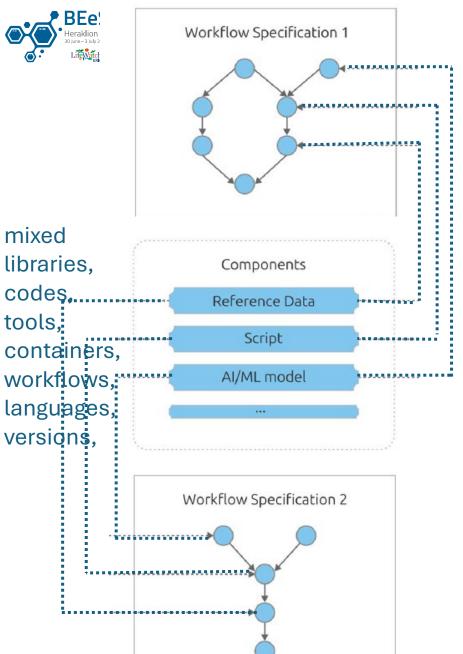
mixed

codes.

tools.

libraries,

versions.



Share & Reuse Description of Method to do

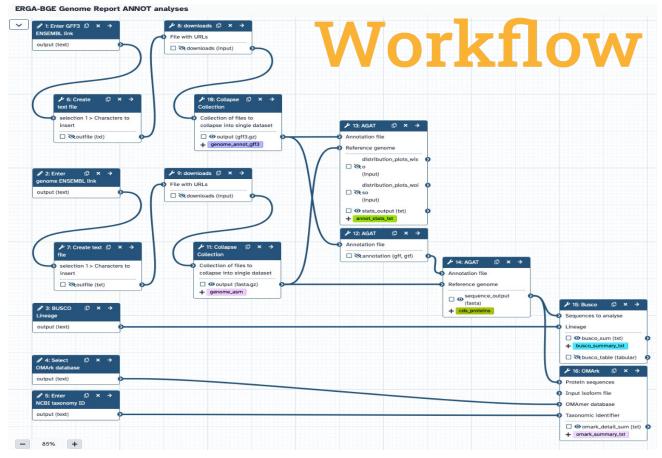






Figure: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04451-9



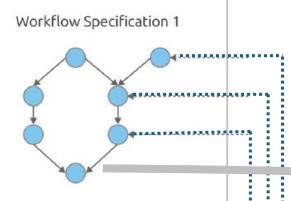
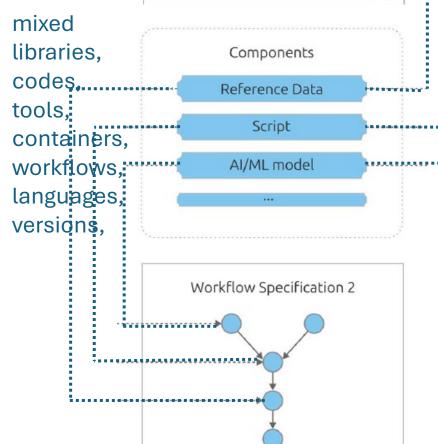


Figure: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04451-9

Share and Reuse Description of Method done



Workflow Run

Outputs

Output data

Logs and

provenance

Parameters

Experimental / observational data

Workflow Run 1

Workflow Run 2

...

Actual set up, execution and results

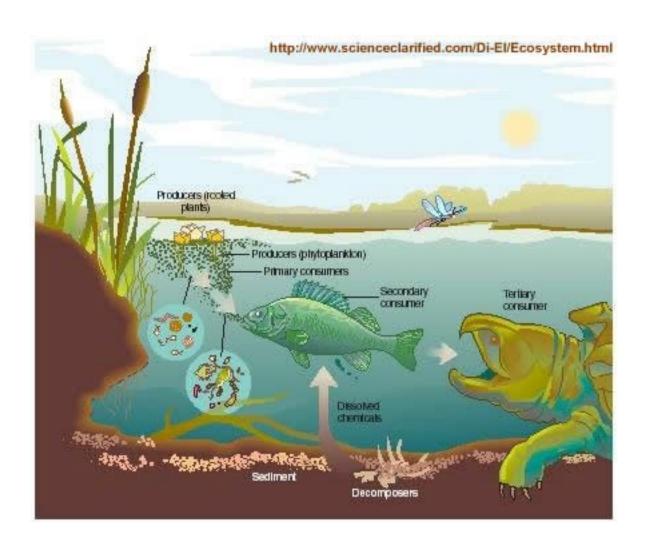
Where and how run

By whom and why

Immutable analysis record



Ecosystem of Workflow Management Systems



Each species has its own strengths and weaknesses,, dependencies and interdependencies, niches and habitats

Ecosystem resilience

- Adapt to change in tech/need
- Migrate between systems
- Maintenance



Species of Workflow Management Systems

Scripting environments

Executable Notebooks Workflow
Management Systems &
execution platforms

Workflow hosting services (WlaaS)

























DIY

Logic versatility

Automation: reproducibility, logging provenance, documentation ...

Heterogeneity: codes, dependency and containerisation handling ...

Scalability: compute infra, portability, optimisation, data transfer ...

Execution: secure processing, changes in infrastructure, error handling ...

Built in

Heavy lifting



Species of Workflow Management Systems

Scripting environments

Executable Notebooks Workflow
Management Systems &
execution platforms

Workflow hosting services (WlaaS)

























separate recipe from platform

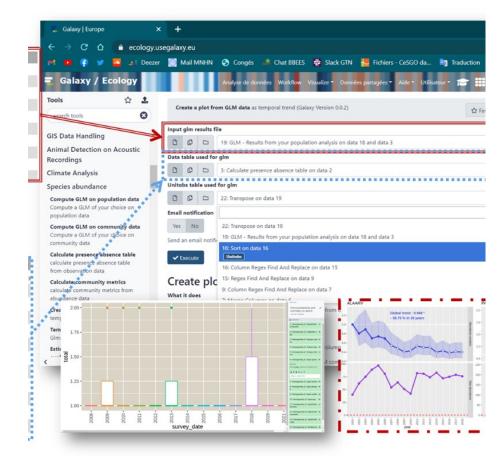
DIY

Built in

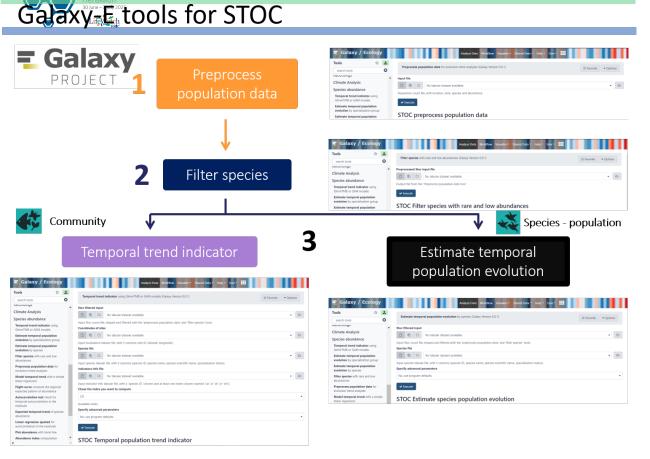
One-off analysis & prototyping

Pre-cooked workflows using my data, my models, my config.





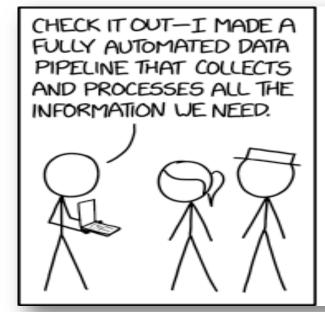
https://github.com/galaxyecology

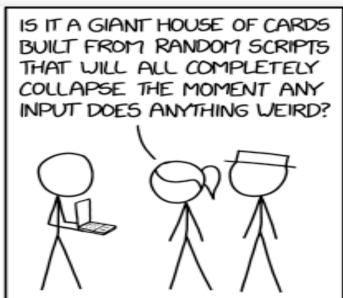


Entry point to pre-prepared tools, datasets, compute, secure processing

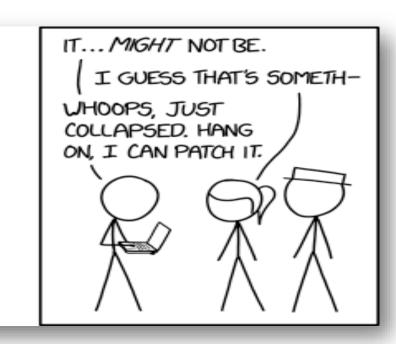
For production quality FAIR data processing









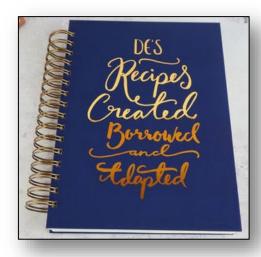


https://xkcd.com/2054/

Move labour from the workflow system



Epistemic Objects



Recipe of what to do
Transparent record of what was done
Trusted and Validated Method
Share and cite know-how

Executable Software Instruments



Labour saving productivity
Reproducibility & validated
Democratisation: variants, access to
know-how, computational gateway
Measures of use



Sharing



Epistemics

descriptions of process

Variants

repurpose adapt recode versioned forked

Reusing

Executables



download/port onpremise/cloud/HPC

hosted service portal/app

Not everything shared is to be reused encourage sharing



FIND

Associated with this (published) result?
Does the job I need doing?
Could be the basis of one I need?
Is recommended by my community?

ACCESS

Public or private?
In a Git repository?
Can I run it in my infrastructure?
Can I access it in its hosted infrastructure?
Is it portable?

INTEROPERATE

What language is it written in?
Can I adapt it to use my code/tool?
Can I rewrite in another language?
Does it make data that is FAIR?
What codes does it use?
Is it a variant of another workflow?

(RE)USE

Does it still work? What version is it?
Is it well enough described I could use it
with my data and parameters?
Do I know the error bounds?
Can I benchmark? Are the steps working?
Is there example/test data?
Can I scale it?



onsistent with its immense significance. The software should be cited in the references and European E URL to where the software exists). Computational workflows should also be registered in workflowhub.eu and the DOIs cited in the relevant places in the manuscript. If an article exists that describes the software, it should be cited as an additional reference, as well as citing the software itself.

Policy statement UK Research and Innovation



This policy sets out UK Research and Innovation's (UKRI) expectations for sharing and managing research data and other research-relevant digital objects, including metadata, algorithms, software, code and workflows.



Epistemic Objects of Scholarship Peer review workflow and compare results
Assign credit to creators and contributors
Build citation graphs

Executable Instruments for Sustainability

Should be reused + infrastructure support
Have discernable impact
Which WfMS should be sustained



FAIR (not necessarily open) Computational Workflows

Epistemic Objects scientific data

The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship 2016



scientific **data** Software Instruments **Introducing the FAIR Principles for research** software 2022

scientific data 2025



Applying the FAIR Principles to computational workflows

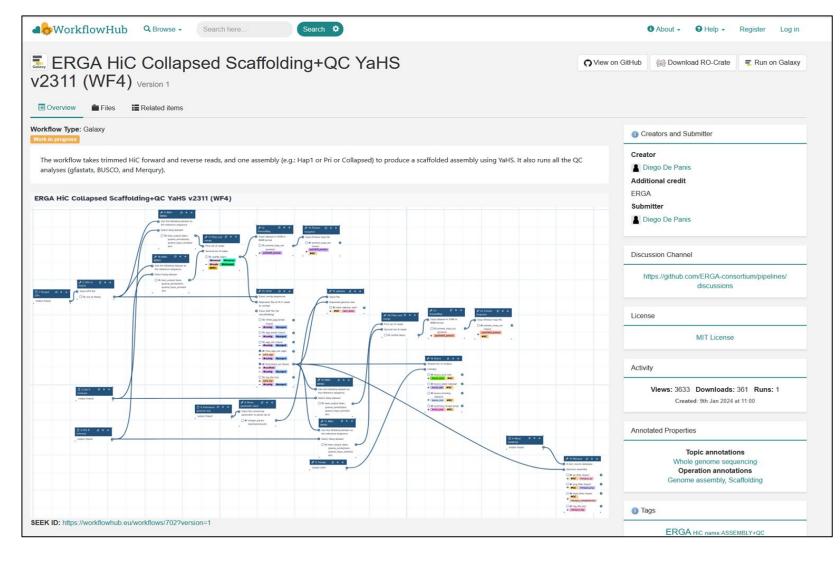
https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04451-9

Metadata Persistent Identifiers Registration / Search Licensing Access

More than a READ.ME in a Github Good Practice -> Quality



Workflow Registry





1200+ Workflows332 Teams26 Workflow languages

Any workflow system
Any discipline
Any time in lifecycle
Linked to your git repo

Gustafsson, O.J.R., Wilkinson, S.R., Bacall, F. *et al.* WorkflowHub: a registry for computational workflows. *Sci Data* **12**, 837 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-04786-3



Cite workflows in methods section of genome reports/papers, and credit workflow developers

GENOME REPORT

ERGA-BGE Reference Genome of the Striped Field Mouse (*Apodemus agrarius*), a Widespread and Abundant Species in Central and Eastern Europe

Franc Janžekovič^{1,}, Elena Buzan^{2,3}, Aja Bončina³, Nuria Escudero⁴, Rosa Fernández⁴, Astrid Böhne⁵, Rita Monteiro⁵, Laura Aguilera^{6,7}, Marta Gut^{6,7}, Francisco Câmara Ferreira^{6,7}, Fernando Cruz^{6,7}, Jèssica Gómez-Garrido^{6,7}, Tyler S. Alioto^{6,7}, Leanne Haggerty⁸, Fergal Martin⁸, Diego De Panis^{9,10*}

The genome was assembled using the CNAG CLAWS pipeline (Gomez-Garrido, 2024). Briefly, reads were preprocessed for quality and length using Trim Galore v0.6.7 and Filtlong v0.2.1, and initial contigs were assembled using NextDenovo v2.5.0, followed by polishing of

Summary analysis of the released assembly was performed using the ERGA-BGE Genome Report ASM Galaxy workflow (De Panis, 2024b), incorporating tools such as BUSCO v5.5, Merqury v1.3, and others (see reference for the full list of tools).

De Panis, D. (2024a). ERGA-BGE Genome Report ANNOT analyses. WorkflowHub.

https://doi.org/10.48546/WORKFLOWHUB.WORKFLOW.1096.1

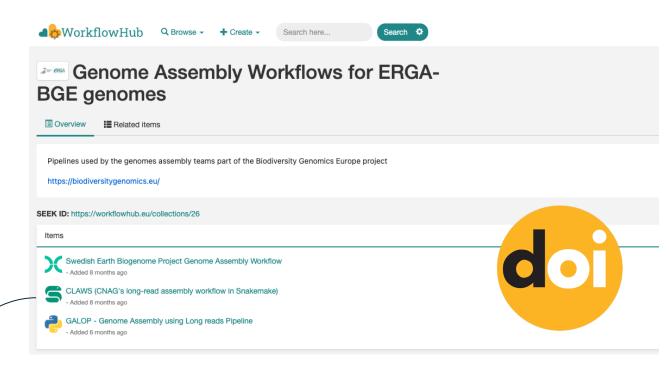
De Panis, D. (2024b). ERGA-BGE Genome Report ASM analyses (one-asm WGS Illumina PE + HiC).

WorkflowHub. https://doi.org/10.48546/WORKFLOWHUB.WORKFLOW.1103.2

Gomez-Garrido, J. (2024). CLAWS (CNAG's long-read assembly workflow in Snakemake).

WorkflowHub. https://doi.org/10.48546/WORKFLOWHUB.WORKFLOW.567.2

ERGA-BGE Workflow Collection



https://workflowhub.eu/collections/26

[Tom Brown]





https://doi.org/10.3897/arphapreprints.e154773



Collect workflows and best practices from the Reference Genome Community of Practice

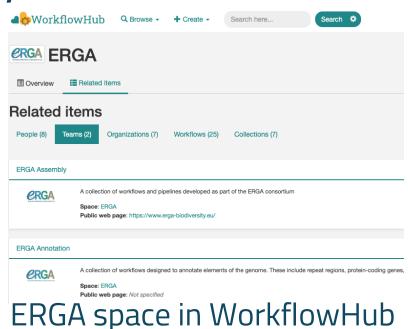


WM Language-agnostic pipelines for generation of high-quality genome assemblies and annotations



Collected from and developed with the community of researchers developing and implementing workflows for assembly and annotation of reference genomes

Training and capacity building

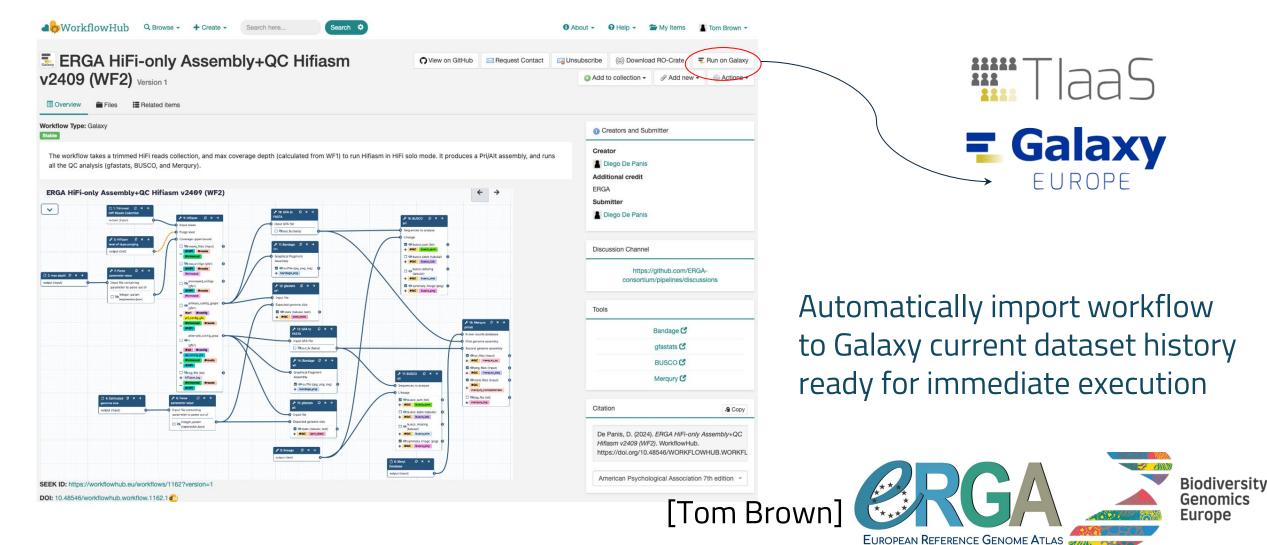






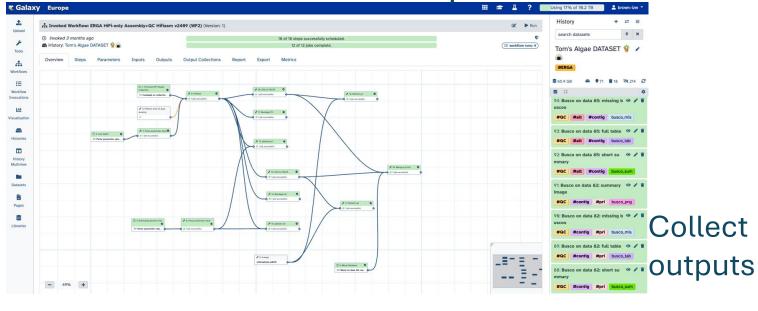


Reuse existing datasets, curated workflows and the Galaxy workflow infrastructure: launch automatically via WorkflowHub, collect metrics





View workflow step execution

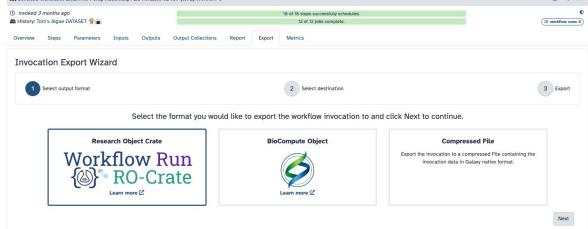


Run state-of-the art workflows for reference genome generation





Save workflow execution as FAIR Research Object (RO-Crate)



Workflow Run {\omega} RO-Crate

[Tom Brown]





A service ecosystem for FAIR: share & reuse



MGnify

x nextflow

nf-core 🛣











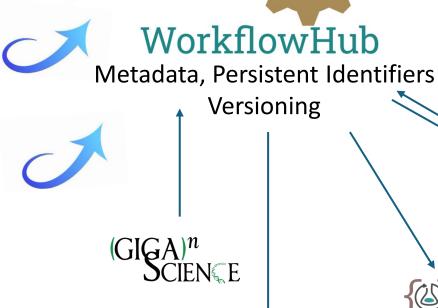


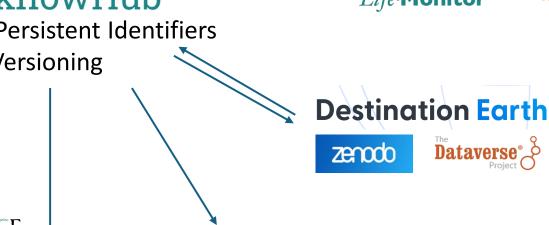












**** Workflow















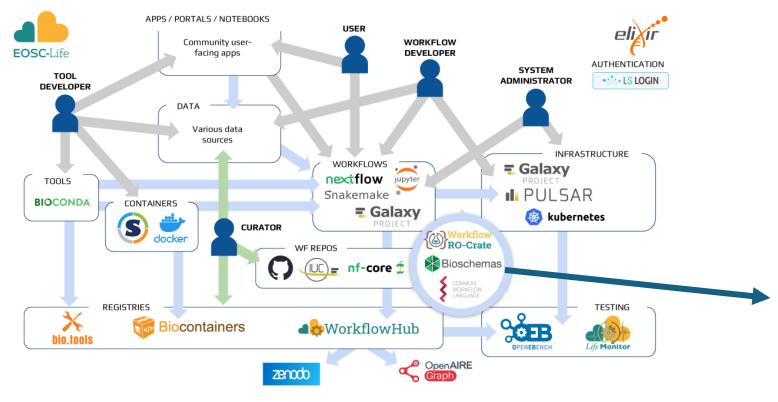








A service ecosystem for FAIR: share & reuse



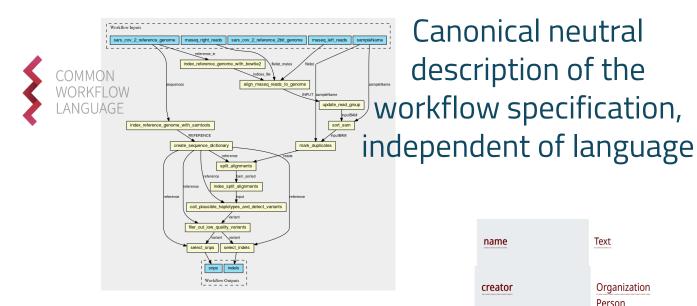
Opportunities for working with the LifeWatch Platforms

Metadata Middleware

An Ecosystem of Services for FAIR Computational Workflows (2025) https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2505.15988



1. FAIR -> Flexible metadata frameworks



Common metadata about the workflow, tools & parameters





name

Creator

Organization
Person

dateCreated

Date
DateTime

license

CreativeWork
URL

input

FormalParameter

output

FormalParameter

ComputerLanguage
Text

Developer Adoptable

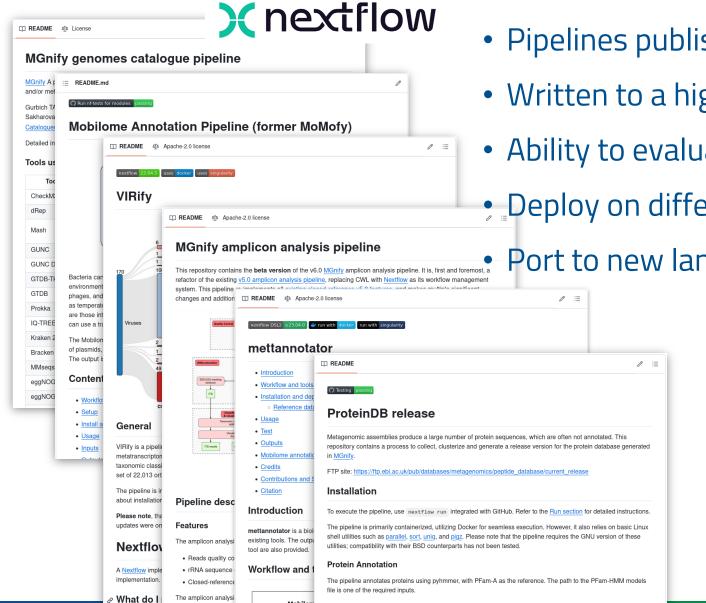
Low tech, web standards, retrofittable, "just enough"

Community Adoptable

Consensus, extensible, retrofittable, "just enough"



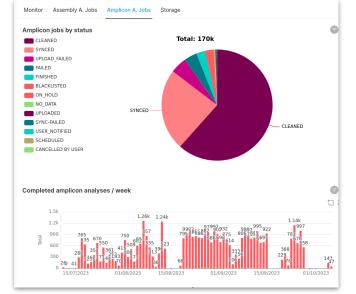
Benefits of adopting Formal Descriptions



Pipelines published in WorkflowHub

- Written to a high standard, complying to nf-core
- Ability to evaluate new tools
- Deploy on different compute infrastructures

Port to new languages





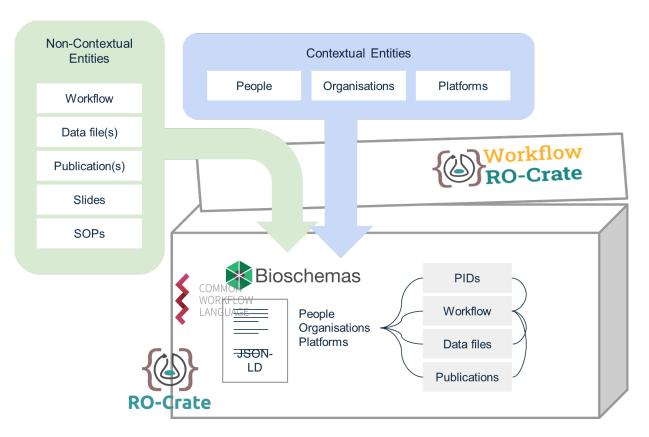
Rob Finn



2. FAIR -> Flexible metadata frameworks RO-Crate



"Webby" FAIR Digital Objects



Self-describe and package all the components (local and remote) and their relationships

documenting, archiving, sharing, exchanging

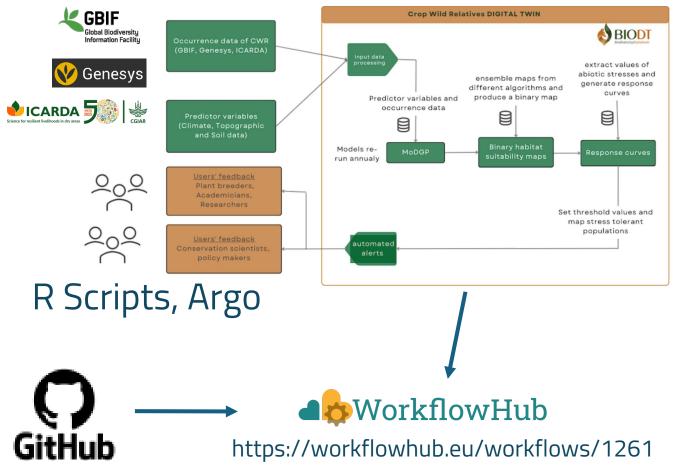
Low tech, web standards, consensus, extensible retrofittable, "just enough



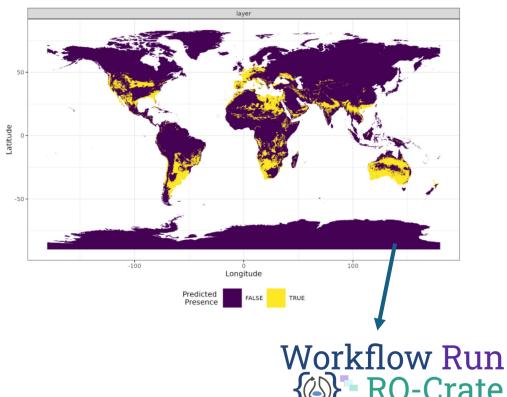


Benefits of adopting FAIR Digital Objects





Crop wild relatives prototype digital twin.





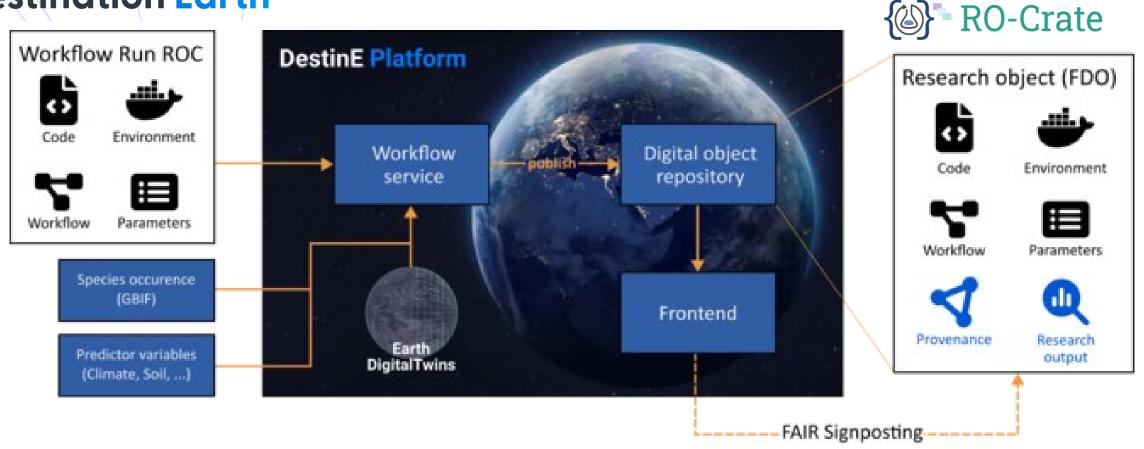


Benefits of adopting FAIR Digital Objects



Workflow Run





Weiland C, et al. (2024) Dataspace Integration for Agrobiodiversity Digital Twins with RO-Crate. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 8: e134479. https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.8.134479



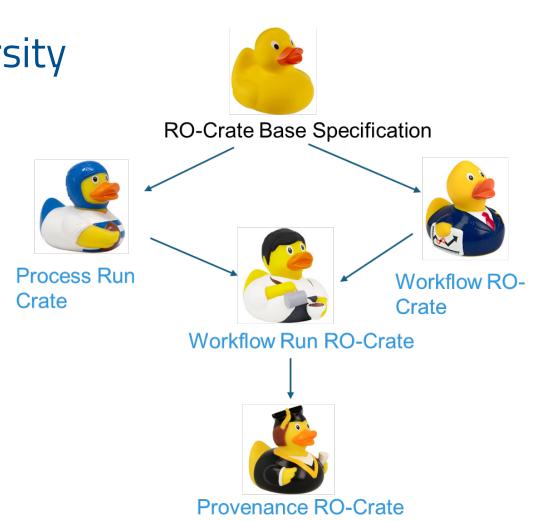
FAIR -> Flexible Metadata Frameworks Bring Your Own Data model

Thematic Profiles that Embrace Diversity
Set Expectations without Rigidity
Conventions by Consensus



Self-describing

Consensus, standards, extensible, retrofittable, using pre-existing ontologies





Together, how do we build a shared and reusable workflow cohort?

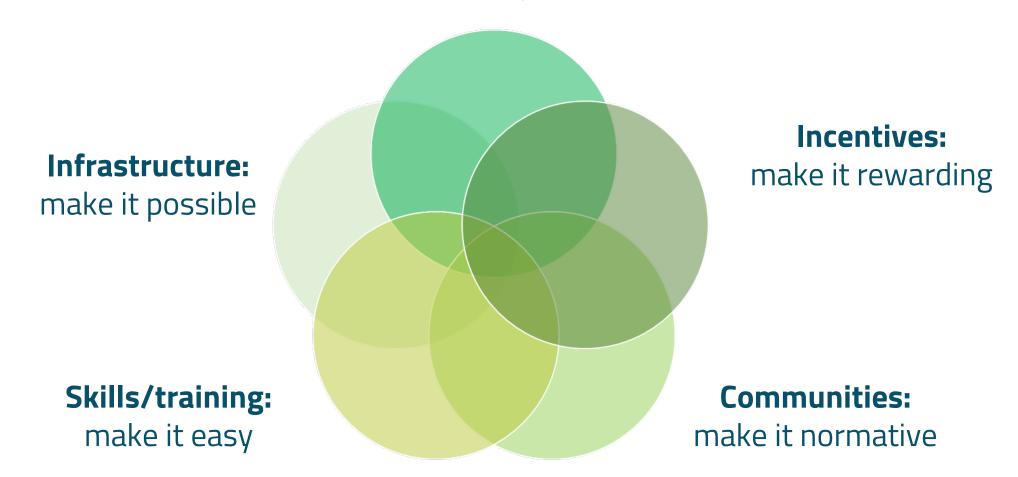








Policy: make it required



Adapted by Michelle Barker from Brian Nosek, Strategy for Culture Change (2019)



Encourage and reward sharing

nf-core **±**

All nf-core pipelines *must* follow the following guidelines:

Requirements

All III-core pipelines *must* follow the following guidelines

- Nextflow: Workflows must be built using Nextflow.
- Community owned: Pipelines are owned by the community.
- <u>Identity and branding</u>: Primary development must on the nf-core organisation.
- Workflow specificity: There should only be a single pipeline per data / analysis type.
- Workflow size: Not too big, not too small.
- Workflow name: Names should be lower case a
- Use the template: All nf-core pipelines must 'template.
- Software license: Pipelines must open so license.
- <u>Bundled documentation</u>: Pipeline documentation
 core website.
- Docker support: Software must be but
- Continuous integration testing: Pipelin
- · Semantic versioning: Pipelines must u
- Standardised parameters: Strive to hav
- Single command: Pipelines should run i
- Keywords: Excellent documentation and



Harnessing productive resistance

Findable and Searchable: Registered with at least some metadata

- Value, Time & ROI
- Playground behaviours
- Incentives fame metrics & money
- NUDGE: Automated and AI agents for metadata collecting, making and enriching
- Community practice, policy, skilling, champions



FAIR workflow makers ecosystem

Researchers who don't Code Reach

Numbers

Maintained reusable Tows

WfMS and Script **Libraries** software infrastructure

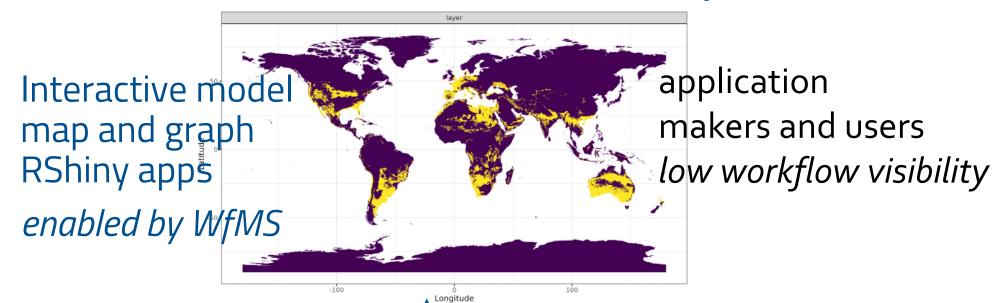
Copilot Readiness for LLM workflow generation

Sustained compute infrastructure to install codes, access data and access/reuse workflows (LifeWatch platform?)

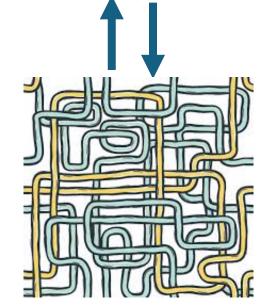




FAIR workflow makers ecosystem



R, Python and Bash workflow middleware enabled for FAIR workflowiness



workflow makers and users high workflow visibility

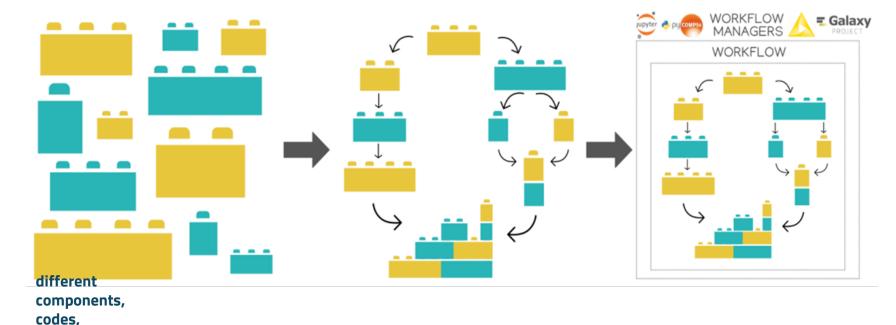


FAIR Workflow thinking for sharing and reuse

Abstract + Assemble

Building Blocks

CoPiloting



BIOCONDA









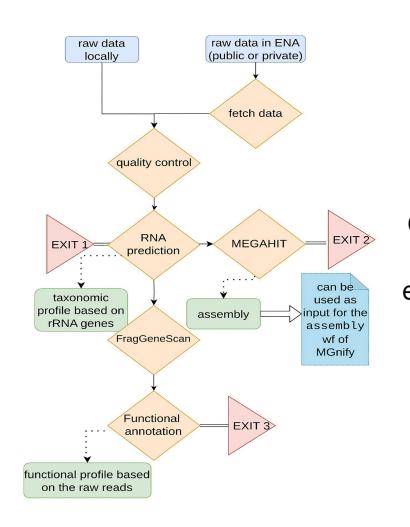
languages,

third parties





FAIR Workflow thinking for sharing and reuse



Marine Genomic Observatories Metagenomics

Change in the tech ways of ecosystem working

"reproducible pipelines, simplified codebase, testing, accelerated functionality, workflow reuse, shared digital objects"



Rob Finn ELIXIR-EBI MGnify

metaGOflow: a workflow for the analysis of marine Genomic Observatories shotgun metagenomics data *GigaScience*, 2023, https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giad078



Biodiversity has computational workflows...

...and will have more

Epistemic objects and Data Instruments

Deserve to be FAIR, shared and reused

Work to do, together





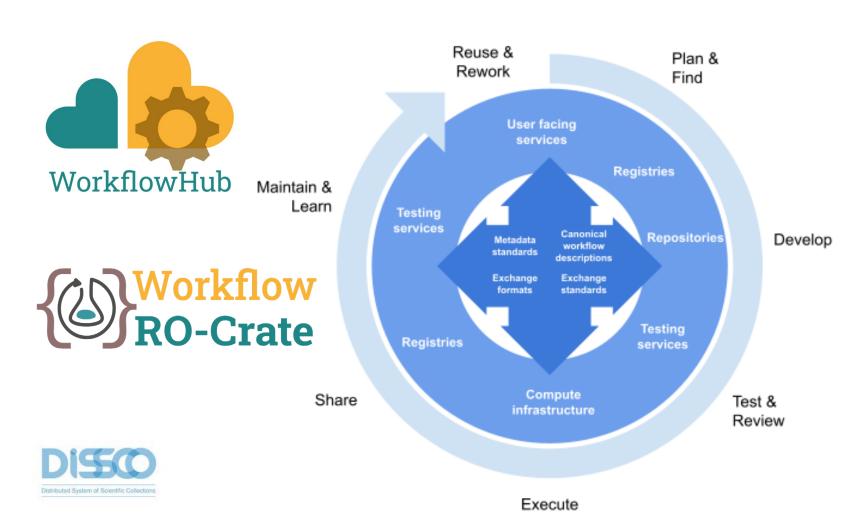


Image: An Ecosystem of Services for FAIR Computational Workflows (2025) https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2505.15988



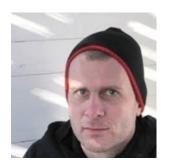
Acknowledgements



Tom Brown Leibniz Institute for ELIXIR-EBI Zoo and Wildlife Research, Berlin



Rob Finn



Claus Weiland Senckenberg Nature **Research Society**

+ RO-Crate, WorkflowHub and WCI Communities



Johan Gustafsson Australian **BioCommons**



Sean Wilkinson Oak Ridge National Labs



Yves la Bras U de Rennes



Simone Leo CR4S, Sardinia



Finn Bacall



Stian

Soiland-Reyes University of Manchester, UK



Eli Chadwick



Nick Juty



Acknowledgements



















































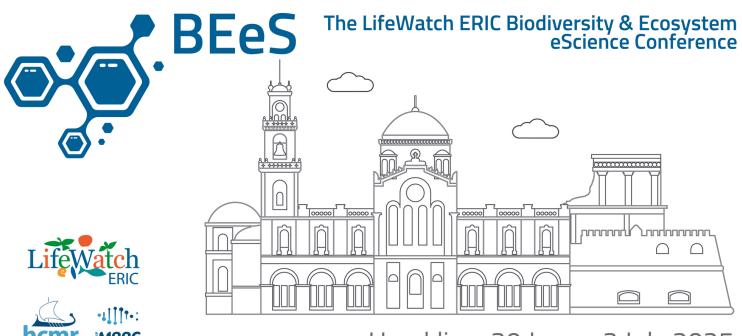








Thank you!



Heraklion, 30 June - 3 July 2025

Questions? carole.goble@manchester.ac.uk