To kickoff 2026 we invite you to the EVERSE Community Engagement event on February 5th, an overview of WP5 on Training and Recognition and a report from the S3 School.

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About us

Into the EVERSE

How to learn more about the EVERSE project? Attend the EVERSE Community Engagement Event on February 5th at CERN or online; we also learn about EVERSE WP5, that's involved in capacity building and recognition; we have a report from the S³ School – Sustainable Scientific Software School; or check-out our services and website.

EOSC-EVERSE

EVERSE Project

Enjoy exploring our newsletter!

John Apostolakis

Communications Officer

John Apostolakis

The EVERSE Community Engagement Event 5 Feb 2026

Your chance to hear about the **{RSQ}Kit**, **TechRadar**, Indicators and workflows and to converse with others from the science clusters and communities; follow the panel discussion on the 'State of the RS Community' and ask the panelists questions; and especially to give us your feedback on EVERSE services!

The **registration deadline** to participate in person is Tuesday 27th January, so don't delay!

Else, to join us online, you can register until Monday 1st February.

Register to join us in person at CERN or online

More about the Event:

The **EVERSE Community Engagement Event** on **5 February 2026 at CERN (hybrid)** will bring together members of the research software community for a full day of updates, discussion, and hands-on engagement around EVERSE activities and the wider research software ecosystem.

The event will provide updates and an in-depth look at EVERSE services and outputs, including the **RSQKit**, **TechRadar**, indicators and workflows, training activities, and recognition initiatives. These sessions will cover recent progress and highlight areas where community input is especially valuable.

We will hear from representatives of **EOSC Science Clusters**, who will share cross-domain experiences and challenges, helping to identify common needs and opportunities across disciplines. A series of **community lightning talks** will showcase perspectives from research infrastructures, open source programmes, and applied research domains.

We are pleased to host a **panel discussion** on the "**State of the Research Software Community**", spanning a full range of topics, with opportunity for a dialog with the audience.

Afterwards at parallel co-working and demo sessions, we'll offer hands-on opportunities to explore EVERSE tools, provide feedback, and contribute directly to shaping their future. Gathering back together we'll discuss next steps and future community activities.

The event is open to **research software engineers**, **researchers** who code, **community** managers, **policy makers**, and others engaged in improving the quality, sustainability, and recognition of research software.

The full Event Agenda

Building Capacity and Recognition in EVERSE WP5

WP5 is creating a catalog of training resources and seeking to create a recognition framework for rewarding scientists, engineers and trainers for their contributions. We talked with Stefan Roiser (CERN), Kenneth Rioja (CERN) and Daniel Garijo (Univ. Politécnica de Madrid) about the progress of this work.

How did you get involved in EVERSE and WP5 ?

Stefan: During 2020 a colleague, Sebastian Pons, and I took his C++ course online. The interest from young people in high energy physics was overwhelming – one course was full in minutes. Many young physicists hunger for practical software engineering skills for their day-to-day work at CERN. So it was a natural step for me to join EVERSE and WP5.

Kenneth: My interest came as I am an instructional designer by training, and studied computer science. I enjoy helping trainers improve their work through technology. When I joined CERN, I was immediately drawn to EVERSE. And as a former researcher I know how important it is for work to be made visible, so it is valued and recognised.

Daniel: As a researcher and Open Science evangelist, I tend to keep an eye open for training materials to include in my courses and good practice recommendations. With the adoption of the FAIR principles for Research Software and an increasing demand for quality in Digital Objects, I thought

the opportunity in WP5 to bridge the gap between good practices and training materials was unique.

Could you describe WP5's work on training in research software quality?

WP5 focuses on building capacity in research software quality through training. The team has collected and curated a growing set of training resources on research software best practices and brought them together in the EVERSE Training Catalogue, based on the TeSS platform. The catalogue is open to contributions, in case any users want to upload new materials on their own.
In parallel, we run regular webinars, workshops, and pilot-based training, and include these in the live catalogue.

How is a training course included in the curated catalogue and the RSQkit?

A training course can be included in the EVERSE catalogue if it is relevant to research software quality and aligned with good practices. We also need a description and basic metadata so that it can be found and reused.

We either register it directly or ingest it from an existing source, such as GitHub repositories or event platforms. WP5 then reviews and classifies it, completes the metadata where needed, and assigns quality themes to link it to the relevant guidance in the RSQKit.

How will researchers and software engineers find the training resources?

We expect them to find them primarily through the RSQKit, which EVERSE designed as a practical, task-oriented entry point to research software quality. Users can begin with concrete topics - such as testing, documentation, sustainability, or reproducibility - and each RSQKit task or guidance page links directly to curated training materials that support that practice. This way, training appears in context, exactly when needed.

In addition, a user can search for or browse training materials in the EVERSE TeSS training catalogue.

Recognition for software work has been lacking for a long time. How are you seeking to address this?

WP5 includes a dedicated task to build a recognition framework. We leverage tools like APICURON and BIP! Scholar, which record research software engineering contributions from researchers and link them to their

ORCID. This allows researchers to present verified records of their software work in CVs and job applications.

How is WP5 adapting existing platforms?

Stefan: APICURON originated in biology to credit people who curate large databases. We're adapting similar mechanisms for software engineering — for example, using metrics from Git repositories and connecting them to publications via BIP! Scholar. These linkages help demonstrate the impact of software contributions.

What part of your work do you find most rewarding?

Kenneth: For me seeing the connections emerge between services is rewarding. For example, deploying the EVERSE training infrastructure and having it featured in the RSQKit shows our work fitting into a larger ecosystem.

Stefan: For me it is the appreciation our services are receiving as we deploy them, as they meet real needs. And beyond the project, our department (CERN IT) was looking for exactly the kind of training catalogue we had just deployed in EVERSE. This validation is motivating.

Daniel: The most rewarding part of this work is aiding researchers adopt good practices while minimizing the time they require to do so.

S³ School 2026: embedding sustainability into everyday coding practices

We have a report on the **S³ School – Sustainable Scientific Software School,** a one-week training program designed to teach good and modern coding practices tailored for scientific software development.

Its goal is to empower researchers, scientists, and Research Software Engineers (RSEs) with the skills to build sustainable, open, and reproducible research software following recognized best practices.

A recent session was organized jointly by two key Horizon Europe projects: OSCARS and EVERSE and held at LAPP (Laboratoire d'Annecy de Physique des Particules, CNRS/USMB) in Annecy from 14 to 21 January 2026. It was an intensive week of training and hands-on practice dedicated to one challenge shared across disciplines: **how to build scientific software that remains usable, understandable, and maintainable over time**.

This article overviews and summarises the activities in days 1 to 3.

School presentations and lectures material are available on github.io

For the school material

Day 1: building foundations for sustainable scientific software

Learning by doing: a realistic scientific software scenario

From the first session, the S³ School set the tone with a scenario many immediately recognised: inheriting a piece of scientific code left by its original contributor, and trying to understand it, make it work, extend it, or reuse it responsibly.

This storyline is embodied through the practical project, **“pkoffee”**: start from a simple script used for a scientific study and turn it, step by step, into a more reliable and reusable research software product.

Across the week, participants followed a structured learning path aligned with key steps of the software lifecycle: **Start your project → Build & Code → Test & Improve → Secure & Deploy → Evaluate & Publish.** Each concept introduced was directly applied, tested, and discussed through concrete exercises — to make sustainability a practical skill rather than an abstract goal.

FAIR principles, Open Science and Reproducibility of results: A Path Toward Reliable Knowledge

A major focus of Day 1 was the role of **FAIR principles in Digital Object management** — *Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable* — and how they contribute to stronger, more transparent science.

The session connected FAIR to a persistent challenge in research: reproducibility. Many researchers have experienced the difficulty of reproducing published results — including, sometimes, their own past work.

FAIR principles and Open Science were presented not as a formal requirement, but as a powerful way to improve **clarity**, **traceability**, and **trust**, by strengthening documentation, metadata quality, and interoperability from the start.

Seen through this lens, FAIR supports not only data reuse, but also better research software outcomes (FAIR4RS): when inputs, outputs and assumptions are better described and shared, code becomes easier to validate, understand, and maintain.

Co-designing a practical checklist for sustainable research software

A major outcome of Day 1 was the launch of an **action-oriented sustainability checklist** for PhD students and developers. Designed to be a practical guide, it helps teams adopt good practices progressively. Participants will contribute as co-authors, ensuring the tool supports projects from development through to publication.

Radical collaboration as a co-design method

To ensure the checklist meets diverse needs, the school utilized "radical collaboration." This method emphasises openness and accountability to help participants converge on shared outputs. The approach is vital for software sustainability, as research code often evolves through team contributions and long-term handovers rather than isolated work.

Recognising contributions and creating a shared community

The school uses the EVERSE recognition framework based on Apicuron and BIP! Scholar to acknowledge and credit engagement from both instructors and participants, showing how important training efforts are to build a better and more sustainable science. With **38 participants**, the group represents a strong community of practice, combining scientific domains and technical cultures.

Looking ahead

By the end of the week, participants seek not only to strengthen their own practices, but also contributed to a concrete output designed to help future researchers and developers make scientific software **more sustainable, more reusable, and easier to build upon**.

Day 2 & Day 3: writing and testing code

The second and third days moved into the practical core of sustainable scientific software: **reproducible development environments, collaborative version control, and systematic testing supported by automation**. These sessions helped participants transform the principle of sustainability into concrete routines that can be adopted progressively in day-to-day research coding.

Day 2: reproducible environments and collaborative development practices

Day 2 focused on making research software easier to run and maintain across time, machines, and contributors. It emphasised project-scoped environments, explicit dependency management, and approaches to version pinning that reduce “works on my machine” situations and support reliable re-execution of workflows.

It introduced practical guidance on Git and GitHub workflows. Version control was framed as a mechanism for **traceability and controlled evolution**, allowing teams to experiment safely while being able to understand and justify changes. Core collaboration patterns were explored including branches, small and meaningful commits, and pull requests to integrate changes through pair review.

In the day’s hands-on exercise session participants applied these concepts directly in a shared learning context.

Day 3: debugging, layered testing, and CI/CD automation

Day 3 focused on **debugging** and **testing strategies**. The morning module addressed practical debugging approaches and the role of unit tests in validating the behaviour of individual components. Unit testing was presented as a way to support safer refactoring and to prevent regressions, particularly in research contexts where software is frequently adapted to new data, parameters, or experimental assumptions.

The afternoon module extended quality assurance to workflow-level validation through integration tests, which capture failures that emerge when components interact through real data flows, file I/O, and dependencies. Participants also explored the value of CI/CD practices: automating tests so that checks are applied consistently on every change and before being merged into the main branch, reducing

reliance on manual verification and detecting problems earlier in the development cycle.

A common message: sustainability through actionable routines

Across these two days, the key message was pragmatic: sustainable research software does not require perfection from the start, but it does benefit from a sequence of simple actions applied consistently. By combining reproducible environments, disciplined version control workflows, and layered testing supported by automation, teams can preserve research agility while progressively increasing reliability, maintainability, and reuse potential.

This article was adapted for the EVERSE Newsletter from a workshop summary written by S3 School participants as part of a collaborative paper to be published later.

Click & Connect

Webpage

EVERSE operates under the motto ”from the communities, for the communities”. We want to engage with professionals in research software engineering and exchange ideas and guidelines. While we offer services like the Network, the reference model and the Research Software Quality Kit, we invite anyone who is interested to elevate the standards of research software excellence. Individuals as well as organisations can contribute by joining us a member.

On our dedicated Network webpage you can find the description of the Network and how to join us. For this, we would ask you to fill out a quick survey to let us know your interest and so that we can add you to our mailing list.

For news updates you will receive this newsletter and you can also follow us on social media:

Follow us here:

Announcements & Outlook

Still enough time for register to attend the German conference on research software engineering DeRSE26.

Want to join from 25-27 February at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology? Sign up here:

Click here

Want to exchange experience with colleagues from Africa about Research Software & improving its Quality across the continents?

Join us for the online **EVERSE African Community Engagement Workshop** on Tuesday April 14th (10:00-14:30 CET).

SAVE the date!

For the latest click the agenda link.

Agenda