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CASTIEL2 Do's and Don't's – Experiences from EoCoE-II

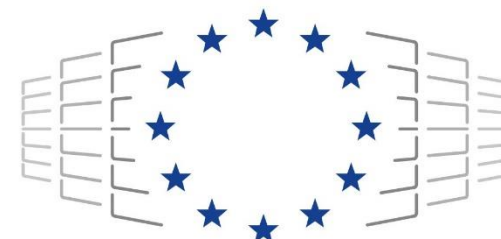
Or

“How to piss off your project officer and live to tell about it”



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High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking
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EuroHPC
Joint Undertaking

The context



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Joint event @

25-29 OCTOBER 2021
EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK
TOWARDS 2030: RESHAPING
THE EUROPEAN ENERGY SYSTEM

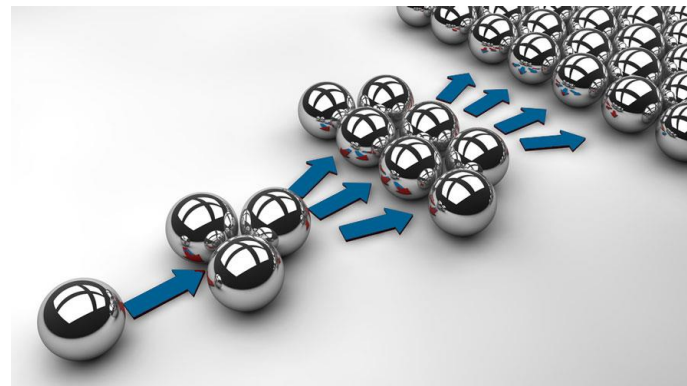


#EUSEW2021



Topic: “HPC and Big Data as key enablers of the Clean Energy Transition”

Problem: how do we maximize the impact?



Solution: involve the DGs!

bound to work, isn't it?



European Commission

Consequences...



Head of unit intervenes



EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

25-29 OCTOBER 2021
TOWARDS 2030: RESHAPING
THE EUROPEAN ENERGY SYSTEM



#EUSEW2021

The event is a success!

But...

Project officer is angry and lets us hear about it



We go through the whole communication process.
Show our good faith.



The situation is resolved.

What we learned – Do's

Define everyone's roles

- If you are going to involve institutional actors, make sure the topic matches their field. Engage the institution on topics of interest to them.
- Map your goals and define your needs. You are reaching out to them for specific things, not asking for a general advice.

Ensure you maintain the correct distance with the institution

- Keep your PO in the loop, but at arm's length.
- Follow protocol. Always follow protocol.
- Map your contact points. Find the right interlocutor, including amongst high-ranking people.
- Be patient. Institutions are slow-moving structures.

Track your communications

- Start early so you are not the one responsible for any rush.
- Use global mailing addresses whenever you can, on top of the individual addresses
- Save your mails so you can retrace the whole process

What we learned – Don't's & Dares

Don't rush, and don't be hasty!

- Don't wait before you put your PO in the loop!
- Don't rush into calling the higher-ups
- Don't dispense of EU etiquette.

Dares - When can I go over someone's head?

- Make sure you have exhausted other options
- Make sure you can justify doing it
- Be aware that there will be some blowback! Prepare for it.

Bend the rules, do not break them!

Thank you!

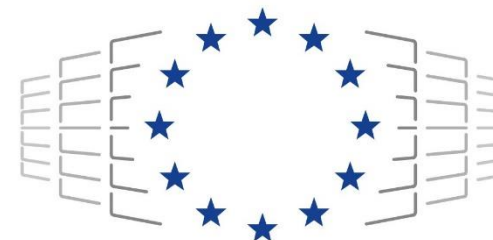


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