netherlands eScience center

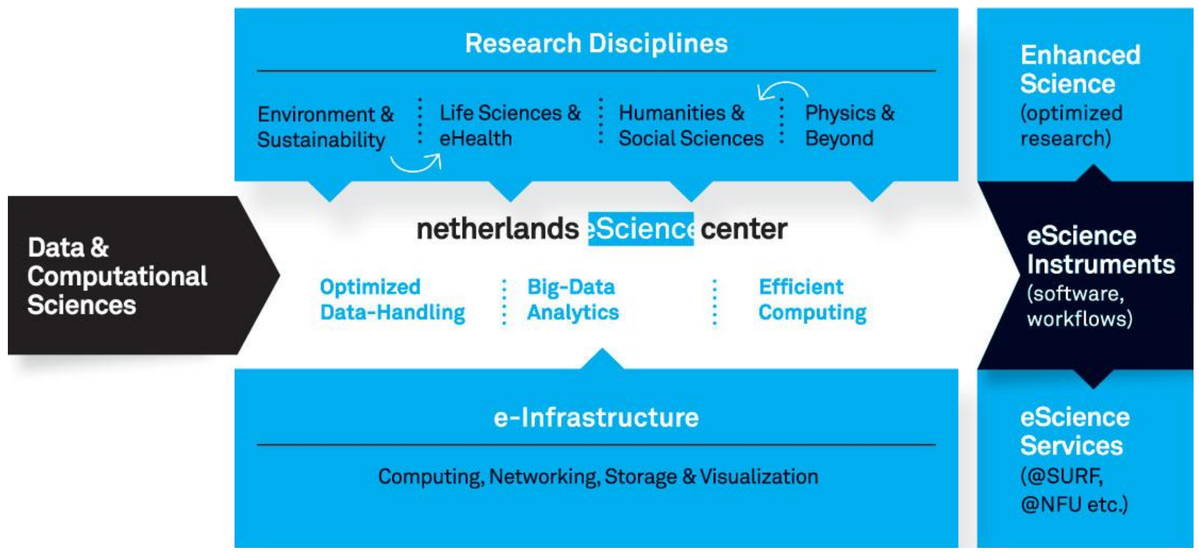
eStep:
eScience Technology Platform

http://estep.esciencecenter.nl

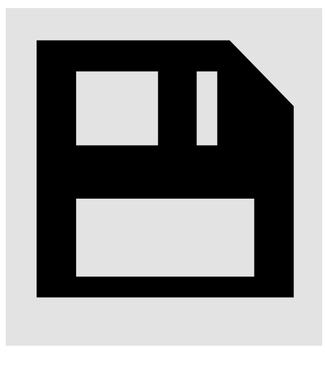
A coherent set of technologies to tackle the grand challenges in eScience

Why eStep?

An important aspect of science is the development of new software technologies. The route from data to information to insight should take optimal advantage of modern ICT facilities and e-infrastructures. This often requires specialist knowledge which is beyond the level of expertise of domain scientists. Our aim is to let researchers be engaged with scientific challenges rather than with the idiosyncrasies of ICT.



The two main tasks of eStep are to provide access to e-infrastructure, and to create eScience instruments.



Software

Research

Knowledge

What is eStep

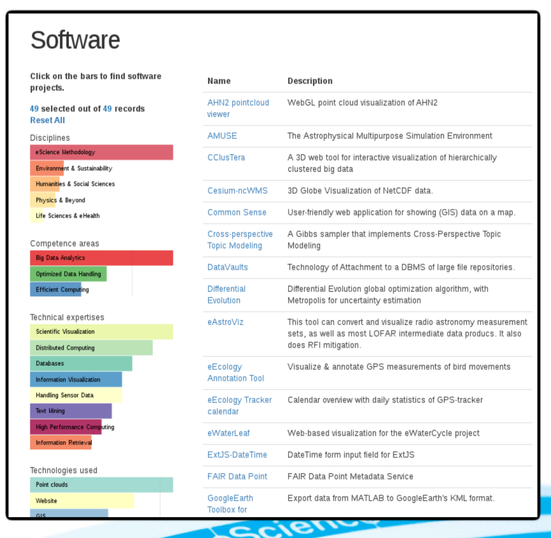
The goal of eStep is to offer an extensive and stable set of advanced scientific software technologies. It will scout, adopt, research, and develop new software technologies, integrate them, and make them usable for scientific applications.

For whom?

For everyone! eStep explicitly aims to promote the exchange and re-use of best practices and to prevent fragmentation and duplication. eStep contains both software that is developed in-house and externally developed software that we have expertise in. A key idea behind eStep is to have high-level, and sometimes domain-specific, solutions on top of generic low-level libraries, thus maximizing software re-use.

Roadmap

In the long term, NLeSC will strive for eStep to develop into the national platform for eScience instruments and technologies. eStep will be an open platform. However, since NLeSC cannot provide support for all national eScience software, this platform will be federated in nature. Other key players in the national eScience spectrum will be invited to contribute to eStep, and to co-develop eScience solutions.



(left) Screenshot of the eStep software page. The site allows easy searching and browsing on application domain, area of expertise, and technology. (below) Examples of technologies available in estep.

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