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D8.1 ElasTest Open Source Software Community v1

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Contributors

Name	Affiliation
Francisco Gortázar	URJC
Malena Donato	ATOS
Enric Pages, David Rojo	ATOS
María Martínez Carbonell	ATOS

Version history

Version	Date	Author(s)	Description of changes
0.1	17/07/2017	Malena Donato	Section on components
0.2	28/05/2018	María M. Carbonell	ElasTest Community Governance
0.3	30/05/2018	Malena Donato	ElasTest approach
0.3a	30/05/2018	Juan Navarro Francisco Gortázar	ElasTest community
0.4	31/05/2018	María M. Carbonell	ElasTest the process and community vs project
0.5	28/05/2018	María M. Carbonell	ElasTest Community Governance
0.6	04/06/2018	Malena Donato	Section community
0.7	07/06/2018	Francisco Gortázar	Modifications to Sections 2 and 3, References
1.0	29/06/2018	Francisco Gortázar	Final version

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Glossary of acronyms

Acronym	Definition
CLA	Contributor License Agreement
DoA	Description of Action
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software
GA	Grant Agreement
WP	Work Package

1   Executive summary

The present deliverable summarizes the **ElasTest Open source community** the approach and the process for creating the rules and governance model for the community. At the same time, we propose how the community could maintain the project results and help maintaining, evolving and disseminating the results of the ElasTest research project.

The community is expected to be enriched with the help of outsiders who are willing to be part of the community, either to be active contributors or simply to follow the project progress and be able to see the tangible ElasTest results. We propose in the present document how to engage with our community and set forth certain rules.

2   Introduction

The objective of this document is to specify how the activities of the ElasTest project (a research project funded by the European Commission) can be used for creating the ElasTest community (an open source software community). In the end, this community should contribute to maintain and extend the assets generated in the project, enhancing the exploitation and dissemination of results, and providing a mechanism to survive beyond the end of the project.

To achieve this objective, a balance is needed between two forces: the needs of the project, driven by their own boards and by the objectives set up in the Description of the Action; and the needs of the community for which attracting users and contributors is critical.

On one hand, the needs of the project are clear, they are defined in the Description of the Action (DoA) of the project, and partners shall pursue what it is stated there. In relation to the community, these are the objectives of the project:

- To create an open source software ecosystem and community around ElasTest suitable for guaranteeing the long-term sustainability of ElasTest technologies.
- Availability of a community site and of the community social channels.
- To have 1,000 individuals having participated in the community by month 36.
- To have, at least, 50 organization and/or individuals external to the project having actively used, contributed or supported the community by month 36.

In addition to these objectives, the partners are in charge of developing the software assets defined in the DoA. The community should become a catalyst for achieving these objectives. Partners cannot dismiss their tasks within the project in pursuit of different objectives from the community. In this sense, from the project's point of view, the community should be able to accept contributions, but should not be able, until the end of the project, to change the focus of the partners' contributions to the project.

On the other hand, the needs of the community are different. The needs for building a successful community requires at least the following ingredients:

- Transparency, who can made decisions, who can accept pull request or commit code to the project, who decides the roadmap of the project. These are all issues related to the governance of the community.

- Embracing contributions. Either in the form of documentation, bug reports, pull requests, or just comments on issues. Allowing any external individual or corporation to contribute seamlessly. To reduce friction, contributors should have a clear description available about IPR ownership of the assets contributed to the community.
- Adaptation, to maximize impact, and being able to incorporate all kinds of individuals, organizations or business models, in order to guarantee the survival in the mid-term. Sometimes these adaptations are not aligned or compatible with the objectives of the partners or the project.

The community governance model chosen for ElasTest balances these opposite forces.

3 Community governance and structure

3.1 The process

Since the beginning of the ElasTest project, the team had the clear objective to dedicate efforts to define and create the ElasTest FOSS community for outsiders that will likely join it. Those outsiders could be developers, testers or managers involved in testing activities, or simply people that are interested to see how the project progress and evolves and see the project results. The community is a way of supporting our activities and a way to engage a wide range of engineering profiles involved with the world of software and technology.

Due to the increased potential of the ElasTest tools far from the project frame, it was an interesting option to build a non-profitable and non-legal community (at least at this point). So, a task force was established to follow the process of community building. The task force, within the WP8 (Exploitation and Dissemination) gathered all the approaches, activities & tasks, members and actions to put in practice this entity. So, through Slack´s platform (heavily used in ElasTest to communicate among members about daily issues and news) a space was made for this specific task, called *elastestcommunity*.

The task force analyzed different FOSS communities and resources [2], and people from different institutions such as ATOS, URJC, CNR and Naevatec were on the board:

- Francisco Gortázar (URJC)
- Boni García (URJC)
- Malena Donato (ATOS)
- Enric Pages (ATOS)
- Guglielmo de Angelis (CNR)
- Guiomar Toñón (NAEVATEC)

Furthermore, it was considered important to investigate and understand what other similar communities were doing on their own environments. We researched and studied the following communities: Kurento, FIWARE & Nubomedia [3][4][5]. These communities serve as inspiration for determining the ElasTest community, as those are close to the purpose of our FOSS community, and their governance models show the

best practices in the area and strategies to reinforce projects and members. Based on the understanding of other successfully communities and the discussion among the members of ElasTest team, we finally propose a governance model for the FOSS community that it will be exposed onward, in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**.

Why do we need a Governance Model Structure? This model describes not only the role of every participant and an accurate decision making process, but also inner communication, rules to get part in the community and the relationship within the project team. The structure of the Governance models can vary depending of the strategy of the community but in all scenarios shall cover the decision making process and the roles of the participants.

The different models range from centralized control (*benevolent dictatorship*) to distributed control based on project´s relevancy (*meritocracy*). However, there are models associated to project contributions from diverse sources (*Bazaar-style*) and when the sources come from small number of sources, more restrictive (*Cathedral*) [1].

In the case of ElasTest Community, a **benevolent dictatorship** fits perfectly with the objectives previously established in the project. We chose this model for two main reasons:

- It is a model well suited for small communities, were flexibility should be favored over a stricter model based on a steering board. Communities exhibiting a simple and unified structure tend to be more attractive for developers and, very particularly, to newcomers. This is due to their ability to communicate a more simple and direct message in relation to the capabilities of the distributed software.
- The partners in the project need to fulfill a set of objectives set in the Grant Agreement. This governance model ensures that in case of conflict, the benevolent dictator can prioritize objectives set up in the Grant Agreement, over those of the community when needed, until the end of the project.

As a result, we can conclude that organizing the ElasTest open source software community using the benevolent dictatorship model provides a good balance between starting to build a community around the project and achieving the objectives set out in the Grant Agreement of the project.

In addition to the Governance model, the project consortium has decided to include a Code of Conduct to promote a healthier community, where no harassments or unfairness are allowed. The following sections describe both the Governance model and the Code of Conduct of the ElasTest community.

The Governance model can be reevaluated in any moment during the duration of the project or after its finalization.

3.2 The ElasTest Community governance model

This section specifies the ElasTest Community governance model that has been approved by the ElasTest Executive Board and which shall be used for launching the community in an ordered way.

3.2.1 Definitions

- The ElasTest Community (or Community in the following) refers to a collection of Assets and a group of Members who act fulfilling the ElasTest Governance Model.
- The ElasTest Governance Model refers to the rules specified in this document.
- The ElasTest Platform refers to the collection of open source software artifacts providing the functionalities described in the ElasTest Project.
- The ElasTest Project refers to a research project funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme Horizon 2020 with reference number GA 731535.
- The ElasTest website, also called ElasTest Community website or Community website, refers to the website reachable at http://elastest.io.

3.2.2 The ElasTest Community: Associated Projects and Members

For attaining its objectives, the ElasTest community is organized around two concepts: projects and members.

Projects are structured sets of software artifacts providing demonstrable value to the ElasTest project. Projects usually consist of open source software projects which have been designed for providing a capability to the ElasTest platform.

Members are individuals or organizations who support the ElasTest Community. These can be individual or institutional. Individual members are people who participate on their own without representing any specific organization, company or institution. The following requirements need to be fulfilled in order to become an individual member:

- To have provided relevant contributions to the Community in terms of donations, infrastructure donations, code, documentation or effort.
- To commit to comply with the Community governance model and practices.
- To commit to promote the Community and work constructively for defending the ElasTest good name.

Institutional members are companies, organizations or institutions. The following requirements need to be fulfilled in order to become an institutional member:

- To have provided relevant contributions to the Community in terms of monetary donations, infrastructure donations, code, or documentation.
- To appoint one or several physical people who shall represent the institution to all effects at the Community. This representative may be modified at any time at the discretion of the institution.
- To commit to comply with the Community governance model and practices.
- To commit to promote the Community and work constructively for defending the ElasTest good name.

3.3 ElasTest Governance model

This project is led by a benevolent dictator and managed by the community. That is, the community actively contributes to the day-to-day maintenance of the project, but the general strategic line is drawn by the benevolent dictator. In case of disagreement, the

benevolent dictator has the last word. It is the benevolent dictator's job to resolve disputes within the community and to ensure that the project is able to progress in a coordinated way. In turn, it is community's job to guide the decisions of the benevolent dictator through active engagement and contribution.

3.4 Roles and Responsibilities

3.4.1 Chairman / Board of Directors

Francisco Gortázar and Micael Gallego are appointed as the corporate governance committee and project leaders. The project leads are expected to understand the community as a whole and strive to satisfy as many conflicting needs as possible, while ensuring that the project survives in the long term.

In many ways, the role of the benevolent dictators is less about dictatorship and more about diplomacy. The key is to ensure that, as the ElasTest expands, the right people are given influence over it and the community rallies behind the vision of the project leaders. The leaders job is then to ensure that the committers (see below) make the right decisions on behalf of the project. Generally speaking, as long as the committers are aligned with the project's strategy, the project lead will allow them to proceed as they desire.

Additionally, the ElasTest Community considers the project leaders primary point of contact or first point of contact of the project for business purposes including technical services. For that reason, one of the most important activities from project leaders is evangelizing about the project.

3.4.2 Committers

Committers are contributors who have made sustained valuable contributions to the project and now relied upon to both write code directly to the repository and screen the contributions of others. In this case, Committers are members of the original research project consortium prior to the foundation of the ElasTest Community. A committer will focus on a specific aspect of the project and will bring a level of expertise and understanding that earns them the respect of the community and the project lead. The role of a committee is to provide guidance and support to the project leaders.

Committers have no authority over the overall direction of the project. However, they do have the ear of the project lead. It is a committee's job to ensure that the lead is aware of the community's needs and collective objectives, and to help develop or elicit appropriate contributions to the project. Also committers are given informal control over their specific areas of responsibility, and are assigned rights to directly modify certain areas of the source code (the ones developed within the funded project). That is, although committers do not have explicit decision-making authority, they will often find that their actions are synonymous with the decisions made by the lead.

It is expected that committers contribute actively to project evangelization.

3.4.3 Contributors

Contributors are community members[1] who have recently join the project, so they cannot be considered as committers. Contributors are supposed to make valuable contributions but do not have the authority to make direct changes to the project code. Contributors engage with the project through its communication tools.

Contributors can:

- Evangelizing about the project
- Support new users
- Report bugs
- Identify new requirements
- Submit patches
- Write documentation
- Fix bugs
- Add new features

Note, however, that in order to accept contributions like code and documentation contributors must sign the Contributor License Agreement (Section 3.7).

As contributors gain experience with the project, they can be promoted to committers as long as they have support from other committers and the proposal is accepted by the project lead.

3.4.4 Users

Users are community members who have a need for the project. They are the most important members of the community: without them, the project would have no purpose. Anyone can be a user; there are no specific requirements.

Users are encouraged to participate in the life of the project and within the community. User contributions enable the project team to ensure that they are satisfying the needs of those users. Users' expected activities are:

- Evangelizing about the project
- Informing developers of project strengths and weakness from a new user's perspective
- Filing bug reports and features requests
- Participating on the discussion forums.

Users engaged with the community can become contributors following the process described above.

3.5 Support

All participants in the community are committed to provide support for new users within the project management infrastructure. This support activity is recognised as voluntary and is therefore provided as and when time allows. Support will be provided through the community communication channels.

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[1] https://elastest.io/community

3.6 ElasTest Contributor Covenant Code of Conduct

In order to promote a healthier community, embrace diversity and avoid harassment, the ElasTest Executive Board agreed to adopt a Code of Conduct for the ElasTest community. A Code of Conduct explicitly states that any kind of harassment is not allowed at the community and provides a mechanism by which any member can report privately and safely a harassment situation to a person of the community that will take care of the problem.

3.6.1 Our Pledge

In the interest of fostering an open and welcoming environment, we as contributors and maintainers pledge to making participation in our project and our community a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of age, body size, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, level of experience, nationality, personal appearance, race, religion, or sexual identity and orientation.

3.6.2 Our Standards

Examples of behaviour that contributes to creating a positive environment include:

- Using welcoming and inclusive language
- Being respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences
- Gracefully accepting constructive criticism
- Focusing on what is best for the community
- Showing empathy towards other community members

Examples of unacceptable behaviour by participants include:

- The use of sexualized language or imagery and unwelcome sexual attention or advances
- Trolling, insulting/derogatory comments, and personal or political attacks
- Public or private harassment
- Publishing others' private information, such as a physical or electronic address, without explicit permission
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a professional setting

3.6.3 Our Responsibilities

Project maintainers (who are the consortium that is involved in the ElasTest project) are responsible for clarifying the standards of acceptable behaviour and are expected to take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any instances of unacceptable behaviour.

Project maintainers have the right and responsibility to remove, edit, or reject comments, commits, code, wiki edits, issues, and other contributions that are not aligned to this Code of Conduct, or to ban temporarily or permanently any contributor for other behaviours that they deem inappropriate, threatening, offensive, or harmful.

3.6.4 Scope

This Code of Conduct applies both within project spaces and in public spaces when an individual is representing the project or its community. Examples of representing a project or community include using an official project e-mail address, posting via an official social media account, or acting as an appointed representative at an online or offline event. Representation of a project may be further defined and clarified by project maintainers.

3.6.5 Enforcement

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behaviour may be reported by emailing elastest-coc@googlegroups.com which only goes to Francisco Gortázar. To report an issue involving him please email micael.gallego@urjc.es.

The project team will review and investigate all complaints, and will respond in a way that it deems appropriate to the circumstances. The project team is obligated to maintain confidentiality with regard to the reporter of an incident. Further details of specific enforcement policies may be posted separately.

Project maintainers who do not follow or enforce the Code of Conduct in good faith may face temporary or permanent repercussions as determined by other members of the project's leadership.

3.6.6 Attribution

This Code of Conduct is adapted from the Contributor Covenant, version 1.4, available at http://contributor-covenant.org/version/1/4.

3.7 Contributor Licence Agreement

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References

[1] Eric S. Raymond, "The cathedral and the bazaar", O'Reilly Media, 1999

[2] GitHub and others, "Open Source Guides", https://opensource.guide/

[3] Kurento Project, http://www.kurento.org/community/

[4] FIWARE Project, https://www.fiware.org/community/

[5] Nubomedia Project, http://nubomedia.eu/