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SPECTRUM Project: Input to the European Particle Physics Strategy Update 2026

The amount of data gathered, shared and processed in frontier research is set to increase steeply in the coming decade, leading to unprecedented data processing, simulation and analysis needs. In particular, High Energy Physics (HEP) and Radio Astronomy (RA) are gearing up for groundbreaking instruments, necessitating digital infrastructures many times larger than the current capabilities. In this context, the EU-funded SPECTRUM project brings together leading European science organisations and e-Infrastructure providers to formulate a Strategic Research, Innovation, and Deployment Agenda (SRIDA) along with a Technical Blueprint for a European computer and data continuum. This collaborative effort is set to create an Exabyte-scale research data federation and compute continuum, fostering data-intensive scientific collaborations across Europe.

The present document reports on a specific work stream from the SPECTRUM project, conducted during the first 15 months within Work Package 3: the learning from establishing and working with a Community of Practice (a.k.a. SPECTRUMCoP) with more than 80 participants. It reports on discussions and findings, including a Community Survey which was active during the second part of 2024.

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