Summary for a joint event with ReSA/SFA (Fotis, Anelda van der Walt (Talarify/RSSE Africa/ReSA African Community Engagement partner), Giacomo, Micheller Barker (ReSA), Caxton Murira (SFA), Monica, Sanje)

Context: during the runtime of the project EVERSE is required to facilitate a joint event with the Science for Africa Foundation as part of SFA's beginning plan for a pan-African community of practice for RSE

Training or marketing focus? Both rather no.

First trying to identify if we do a full conference or tap into an existing conference (in Africa) with a session or workshop. Options:

- UbuntuNet Connect
- CHPC conference in South Africa
- ZA-REN week is very young and only South Africa (https://events.tenet.ac.za/event/33/) - is South Africa conference for research software engineers in higher education and research
- National Annual Technology Event (NATE) is exclusively attended by IT staff
- Deep learning Indaba - https://deeplearningindaba.com/2024/ (machine learning, AI focus)

Then discussion on incorporating feedback/experience from African RSE communities in the Network.

Funding? One option is Wellcome Trust, already helping with the Climate Senstitve Infectious Diseases network (CSID); also ask John Chevers (Wellcome) and in general have a proposal ready for the Funders Forum.

Difficulties: different levels of RSE practices all over Africa, infrastructure and travellin costs/connections inside Africa

Timeline: end of 2025

Follow-up (Monica, Giacomo, Marco, Sanje)

Work on proposal ideas.

Main idea: join an existing conference with a workshop that acts as a "needs assessment" → what do RSE communities in Africa need and what out of these needs can EVERSE provide. The results from the workshop can then be used to shape content for future joint/international RSE conferences in Africa.

Domain-agnostic as default and if needed a domain-specific event can be shaped.

Important: plan something sustainable – no parachute science/white saviourism

<u>Follow-up Sanje & Anelda (and Caxton), e-mail</u>

first ask if this initial workshop idea would be something that fits: generally yes. Important to consider: RSE needs based in Europe might strongly differ from African needs. Many people in Africa work in different scientific fields, more as researchers who code and fewer as actual developers; significant isolation from global RSE movement, so EVERSE resources might not fit.

Problem: hardware availability/affordability, travel expenses (location)

Suggestion (Sanje): maybe training might be useful after all to create a sustainable impact (accompanied by materials) but in general having a follow-up workshop based on identified needs might help most in the sense of "training the trainers"

Suggestion (Anelda): maybe do not only focus on EVERSE resources but also other organisations & communities. Also what does EVERSE want to achieve with such an event? (depends on funding/budget too). So, staying joint with RSE communities with ReSA, African ones and identifies EVERSE communities might be best.

Anelda will be in Sweden to discuss further with the ones there (Michelle Barker will go, EVERSE people too). Also available for another call if needed (probably yes before the Funders Forum to talk about a proposal).