NCC Turkey Best Practice – Training; Winter School Perspective

1. Problem faced / Reason for Best Practice

- Since the industrial access to HPC infrastructures is limited, it is necessary to organise training activities at an introductory level to support HPC expertise of the communities and create awareness on the importance of HPC usage among the industry and public.
- Lack of an environment for academia, industry and HPC representatives to come together to address and discuss the current status, needs and requirements, and challenges of the HPC ecosystem.

2. Solution / Best Practice:

The EuroCC@Turkey HPC Winter School was held online between the dates 8-13 February 2021. As the first nationwide event to be organised within the EuroCC@Turkey.

- Organise agenda for a diverse number of topics ranging:
  - Parallel Programming
  - GPU Programming
  - Big Data, AI, and Machine Learnings
  - Computational Fluid Dynamics
  - Materials Modelling

- Organise HPC Panel to bring together the main HPC stakeholders from academia-industry and public to discuss the ecosystem from several aspects.
  - Sectoral and academic usage of HPC
  - How increase HPC awareness and support
  - The current status; competencies, requirements and needs of the ecosystem.

- Organise informal café events which create more interactive and relaxed platform for sharing.
  - Academy Café - for researchers who use HPC in their academic research and apply to the industrial projects
  - SME Café - for SME representatives and R&D employees who are willing to use HPC and/or enhance their knowledge about HPC capabilities to improve their business.
  - Start-up Café - for recent graduates with fresh ideas that require HPC.

- Train the trainers and prepare the training accounts for the hands-on sessions:
  - Due to high number of registrations, limited number of accounts were provided based on the brief applicant form.
  - The questions concerning basic Linux and HPC experience level as the hands-on requirements were covered by the form.

- Priority was given to industrial users and academics familiar with HPC at an introductory level.
- Participants without training accounts were also able to follow the hands-on sessions.
- The hands-on materials were prepared before the event and accessible for all registered participants.
- The winter school was promoted via social media platform such as LinkedIn and Twitter. The school announcement was also distributed through the e-mail lists.
- Provide access to the lecture and seminar recordings, presentations and materials.

3. **Learnings (optional):**
- *Less is more*: Planning a five-day event in a broad scope is very difficult to coordinate besides it's even more challenging to keep participants interest for such a long time. 1 or 2- day courses with shorter sessions would be more effective. This led us to plan thematic summer schools and SME webinars as 1 day or 2-day events.
- There are potential risks to live streaming on YouTube. The recordings should be uploaded after the event for participants who were unable to attend the event.
- GDPR consent forms should be collected before the event from all the contributor as the legal issue.
- If a survey will be conducted after the event to get feedback, keep it short and more focused.

4. **Adaptable to other cases (optional):**
- Indico event page is used both for registrations and content distribution. Attendees can also see the upcoming events on Indico.
- Two detailed feedback surveys (overall assessment and training session evaluation) were distributed to the participants. The obtained results from the survey shed light on several issues (online training, the content, exercises etc.) for future training events.

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