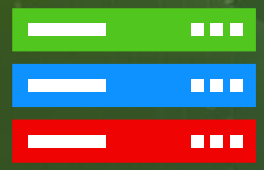

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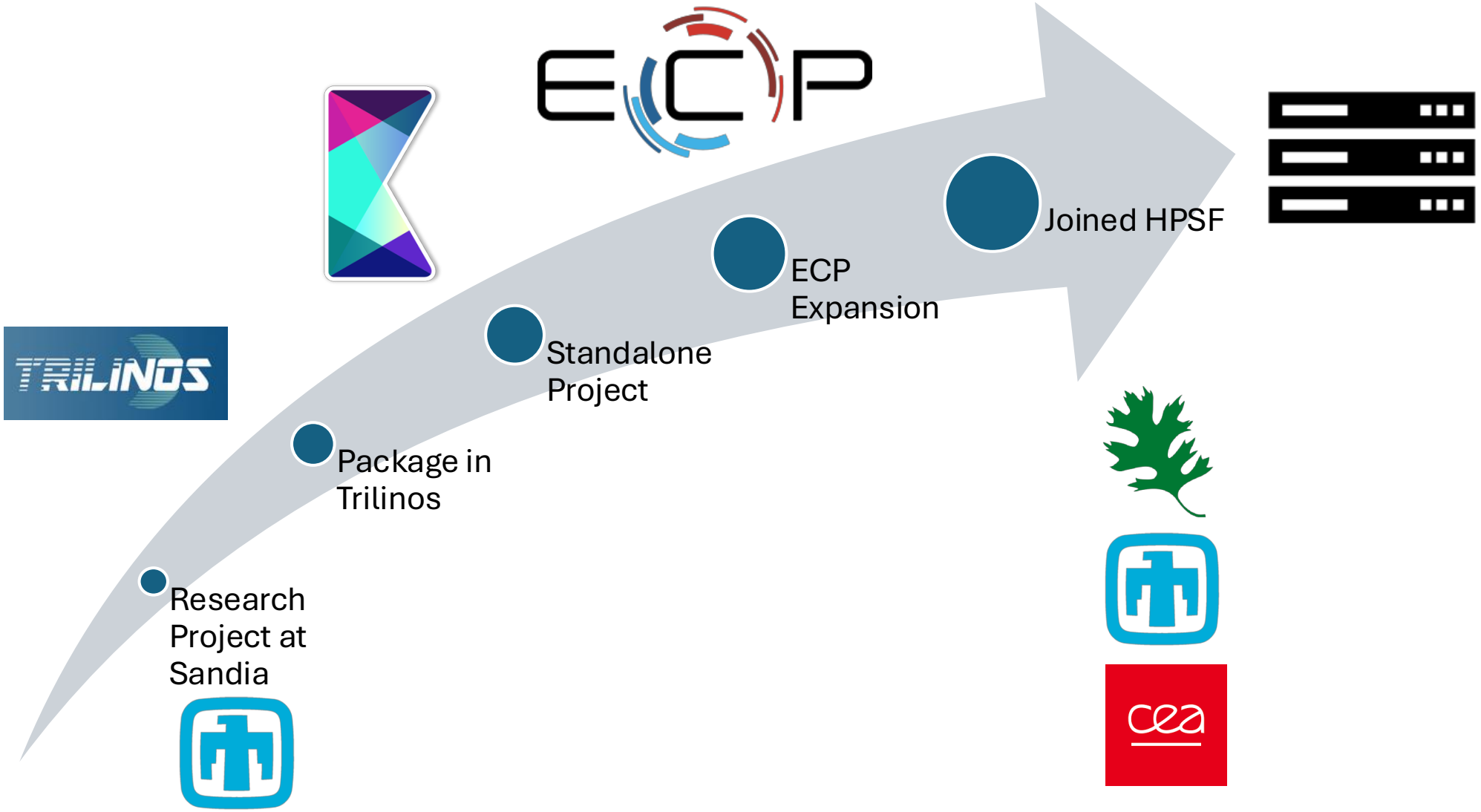
Performance Portability for People: The Kokkos Community Playbook

Damien Lebrun-Grandie
Luc Berger-Vergiat

Scaling from a Reseach Project to a Global Ecosystem



Learning to Lead a "Flock" (Birdaro)

- Birdaro Training Program for Open-Source Leaders
- Pilot cohort: 24 open-source project teams
- 12 weeks until mid-December 2025
- Damien and Luc representing the Kokkos Ecosystem

Stepping back from C++ templates to focus on leadership frameworks

Program Overview – 3 components

- Mini-workshops
  - Giving and receiving feedback
  - Making collective decisions
  - Community governance structures
  - Designing for collaborative activities
  - Working with volunteers
- Lightning talks
- Creating community playbooks

Creating a Community Playbook

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What is a community playbook?

A community playbook can be called several different things:

- Contributor guide
- Best practice manual
- User guide
- Onboarding packet
- Etc.

Why create a community playbook?

- Smooth collaboration across structural barriers
- Advocate for the community – and community management
- Be strategic – and avoid burnout

Four key questions about playbooks

Who (and what) is your playbook for?

What is the appropriate format for your playbook?

- How does the intended use and audience for the playbook influence its format and where it lives?

How will you maintain the playbook?

- Documentation needs to stay up to date – who's going to help with that?

How will socialize your playbook?

- Supporting effective use of your playbook to save you time – and avoid creating "documentation for documentation's sake"

Thinking through the content of a playbook

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Answering six core questions to identify your content

WHY	HOW	WHAT
Project vision, problem statements, specific aims, previous work	Strategy, programming, policies, and processes	Outputs, metrics, and evaluation
Outlining the vision for the project clearly upfront helps your team align around a shared goal, and guards against a project veering away from its original intention. This might include recapping the context for the work, such as previous activities or findings.	Outlining clear processes for communication, conflict resolution, authorship, data management, and more can help everyone involved in the project work together effectively. This might include template emails, workflows that are regularly repeated, and policies related to publication or data sharing.	Maintaining a register of project outputs, such as publications, datasets, and other artifacts, can aid communicating about the project. This might also include evaluation plans and target metrics.
WHO	**WHERE**	**WHEN**
Team members, collaborators, community members, and audiences	Collaborative tools, meetings, and events (online or in person)	Key deadlines, regular programming, reporting schedules, and conferences
Including information about who is working on the project and their defined roles helps keep everyone connected, while also setting expectations around responsibilities and availability. This might include staff members, community champions, or collaborators. You may also want to include relevant contact details, time zones, pronouns, and/or regular working hours.	Work likely takes place in multiple locations: Events, online tools, and maybe a community platform. Providing a table of tools, uses, URLs and administrators can help with setting expectations and troubleshooting technical problems. A meeting register can provide visibility on regular meetings.	Making visible key deadlines supports the creation of related materials and transparently shares the overall roadmap for the project. This might include listing personnel for each activity.

CSCCE

Challenges we hope our playbook will help solve

Norm setting: Establishing consistent coding and communication standards across different institutional cultures.

Scaling: Managing the growth from a single-site team to an international collaboration

Transparency: Making decision-making and contribution pathways visible to everyone, regardless of their location.

Smooth collaboration across structural barriers: Navigating the different workflows of US DOE labs and European research centers

Advocating for the community: Documenting successes via blog posts and the application registry to showcase impact

Format and Structure

Where the playbook will be hosted

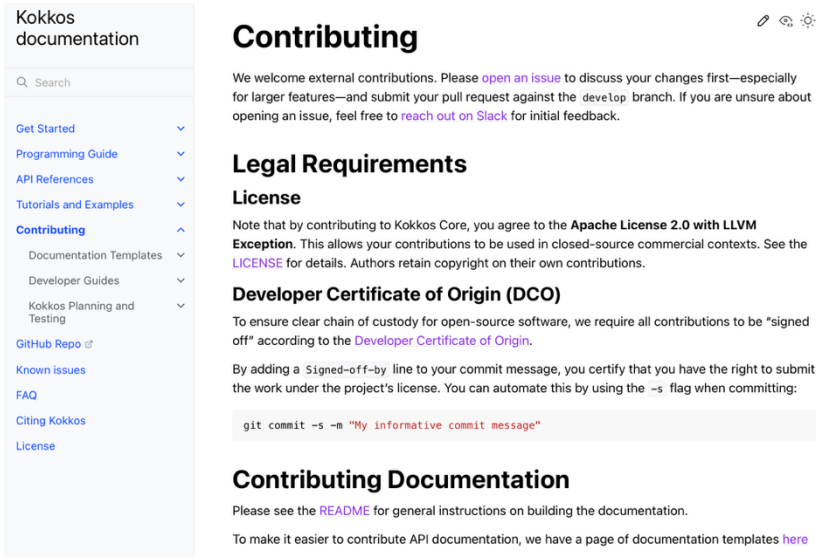
- Publicly on kokkos.org with the source code managed on GitHub.
- Documentation utilizes Sphinx for automatic deployment upon merge via GitHub Pages.
- Includes a "development" repository for internal agendas and working group notes.

How the playbook is structured

- Section 1: Community Foundations (Code of Conduct, Team Directory)
- Section 2: Development Workflow (Coding Standards, PR & Code Review Practices)
- Section 3: Project Operations (Release Process and Support Policy)
- Section 4: Governance (Working Group Agendas and Notes)
- Section 5: Impact (Downstream Applications Registry)

Anatomy of the Kokkos Playbook

- Governance: Who decides what? Defining the Project Leads vs. Maintainers vs. Developers
- Communication Rules: Harmonizing Slack, GitHub, LFX Insights, Mailing Lists across time zones
- Format: Integrated into kokkos.org community and developer corner



The playbook is a **living document** and **work in progress**

Beyond Developers: Advocacy & Success Stories

Application Registry: Mapping who using Kokkos and where

Success Stories: Standardize how we showcase impact to stakeholders/funding agencies

Sustainability: How the playbook supports the long-term health of the HPSF ecosystem

Maintenance Plan

Sections that will need to be updated

- Release Process & Support Policy: These require the most active maintenance to reflect current project cycles
- Working Group Agendas: Needs frequent updates to reflect active research thrusts.
- Team Members Directory: This will require active maintenance as developers join or move between institutions
- Applications Registry: Periodic review and curation of user-submitted applications to ensure the registry remains current and high-quality

How to keep things updated

- Frequency: A formal review will be scheduled every 4 months to align with the Kokkos release cadence.
- Responsibility: The entire development team shares responsibility, maintaining it as a "living document" similar to the API reference.

A Sustainable Ecosystem is a Human One

Takeaway: Your project is only as portable as your onboarding process

Visit kokkos.org/community

kokkos

Technical excellence gets you to exascale, but human infrastructure keeps you there.

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