

Summit Schedule

Saturday: Shared Vision, Shared Needs, Shared Opportunities

Session	Time	Topic	Description
	10:00-10:30	Welcome Coffee and Informal Networking	Participants arrive, connect/reconnect, and meet colleagues from across Europe.
1	10:30-11:00	Opening Remarks and Summit Goals	Welcome from host. Organizers introduce the purpose of the summit, outline the desired outcomes, and describe how the two days will build toward establishing a European Specify community.
2	11:00-11:30	Why a European Specify Community Now	Short talks that highlight the value of regional collaboration: benefits of SCC membership and growing importance of coordinated support, and perspectives on shared needs, and the benefits of a unified European voice in the Specify ecosystem.
	11:30-12:00	Break	
3	12:00-13:00	Understanding Our Landscape: Benefits, Challenges, and Priorities	A guided discussion exploring what institutions across Europe gain from working together. Participants identify common challenges such as training needs, onboarding, data quality, and technical support, and begin outlining shared priorities.
	13:00-14:00	Lunch	
4	14:00-14:45	Community Models: What Kind of Community Do We Want	A structured conversation about possible forms the community could take. Topics include informal volunteer networks, more formal structures with governance, hybrid models, and potential attachments to existing organizations such as CETAF or DiSSCo.
5	14:45-15:30	Small Group Discussions: Community Models	Participants break into small groups to explore the advantages and challenges of different community structures. Each group considers what would work best for European institutions and what support structures would be needed.
	15:30-16:00	Break	
6	16:00-16:45	Report Back: Community Models	Groups share their conclusions with the full room. Facilitators identify areas of alignment and topics that need further discussion on Day 2.
7	16:45-17:30	Working Group Topics: Identifying Areas for Collaboration	Participants identify priority areas where working groups could provide value. Potential topics include training, documentation, data standards, development coordination, and communication channels.
8	17:30-18:00	Day 1 Wrap Up	A brief summary of the day's discussions and a preview of Day 2, which will focus on decisions and next steps.
	19:00	Dinner out	

Sunday: Decisions, Structure, and Next Steps

Session	Time	Topic	Description
9	10:00-10:45	Institutional Perspectives: Lightning Talks	Five minute presentations from each institution. Speakers share their local needs, goals, and how they envision contributing to a European community. This helps surface common themes and unique strengths.
10	10:45-11:30	Governance and Leadership Discussion	A focused session on leadership needs for the first period of the community. The group discusses expectations for the chair and co-chair roles, the responsibilities of the initial leadership team, and the volunteer candidates already identified.
	11:30-11:45	Break	
11	11:45-12:30	Small Group Discussions: Defining the Community Framework	Participants divide into small groups to work on key components of the community: • Aims and mission • Governance structure • Meeting schedule and communication channels • Working group topics and scopes • Benefits of membership Each group prepares a short summary to share with the full group.
12	12:30-13:00	Report Back: Defining the Community Framework	Breakout groups present their proposals. Facilitators consolidate the ideas into a draft framework that reflects shared priorities and areas of agreement.
	13:00-14:00	Lunch	
13	14:00-15:00	Parallel sessions: 1) Make proposal: Defining the Community Framework (Steering group) 2) Networking, more discussion on working groups suggested on Day 1 (the rest)	Steering group work toward agreement on the minimum outcomes for the summit: • Selection of a leader and co-leader for the initial period • Agreement on aims and governance structure • Scheduling of first steering group meeting and agenda This session aims to finalize the core decisions needed to launch the community.
14	15:00-15:45	Decision Session: Establishing the European Specify Community	Steering group reports back to everyone: vote of steering group's proposal. Launching the community.
15	15:45-16:00	Closing Remarks	Final reflections, acknowledgments, and confirmation of next steps.