

Email Groups for the Thematic Topic Communities of Practice

Version 1 Feb 2024 Bob Earll

This note explains the background and thinking behind the Thematic Topic Communities of Practice being used in the EASTME project.

EASTME Outputs

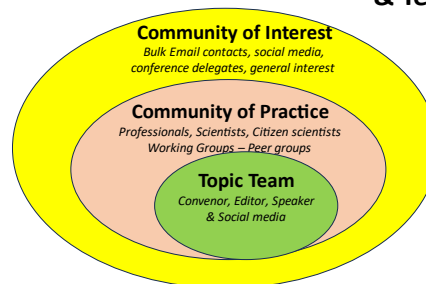
One of the products of the EASTME project will be the creation of eleven Communities of Practice (CoP) for each of the thematic topics (see footnote). These CoPs will exist as email groups that might cover a number of functions but would be convened to enable the EASTME annual review process to take place. Excel spreadsheets and email groups will be the product of this process, and these will be made widely available.

The idea of CoPs has *not* been widely used in SWME but has arisen here to do two things:

- To provide a wide range of expertise that can be called upon in the EASTME annual reporting process. This differs from the SWME webinars but might be a more inclusive way of canvassing for views on events and change in any one year.
- To avoid the big weakness of SWME which is over-reliance on single editor - speakers for particular thematic topics.

The context of CoPs within the wider community of interest, and the need for small teams to share workload is demonstrated in the diagram. A community of practice (CoP) is a *group of people who 'share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact'* and CoPs [are now well recognised in terms of social science](#) theory.

Social Capital: Communities, Relationships & Teams



EASTME – Forming the Communities of Practice

Various requests and sources have provided the names of *practitioners* related to each of the Communities of Practice. *Practitioners are people who are working professionally or in the voluntary sector who are highly committed and focussed to work on the thematic topics* – i.e. not just generally interested. Our information will make this point clearly.

The names of CoP Practitioners have emerged gradually from a number of sources including:

- The National Steering Committee members – agencies, MMO, Natural England & Environment Agency
- The Regional Steering Group process and its members
- The CMS mailings

- The talk at Coastal Futures
- Miscellaneous ... word of mouth

The EASTME Process

The names of these contacts have been compiled into an overall Thematic Topic Community of Practice (TT CoP) Excel spreadsheet.

An email group will be developed for each thematic topic – in the process associated with the Individual CoP meetings. These email groups will be an output from the EASTME project.

These TT COP email groups will be emailed from Feb 5th onward; this email will include:

- The customised specific details of the CoP meeting with the standard information
- The three point agenda – 1. Whose who and is doing what – 2. 2023 events and change 3. Team building
- Saying that the first two points will be recorded for the YouTube channel
- With the date of the specific CoP meeting and zoom link
- With the details thus far of the [thematic group \[link\]](#)
- With the request that recipients should share and get other interested practitioners to contact Bob Earll (bob@bobearll.co.uk) by Friday 23rd.

From the 28th Feb – March 1st revised briefings will be sent to the specific CoP TT email groups, including more contacts and more details of the content.

The CoP meetings will be highly participative with all attendees being asked to contribute to the agenda.

The people who have signed up to the CoP email group will speak first - *because they will have had time to prepare*

Others attending on the day – who have not registered beforehand- will speak second

The contact point will be Bob Earll bob@bobearll.co.uk

I will be away from the 15-27th Feb – and not answering emails.