

# The Ensembl training programme: finding the balance between in-person and virtual workshops

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**Ensembl Outreach**

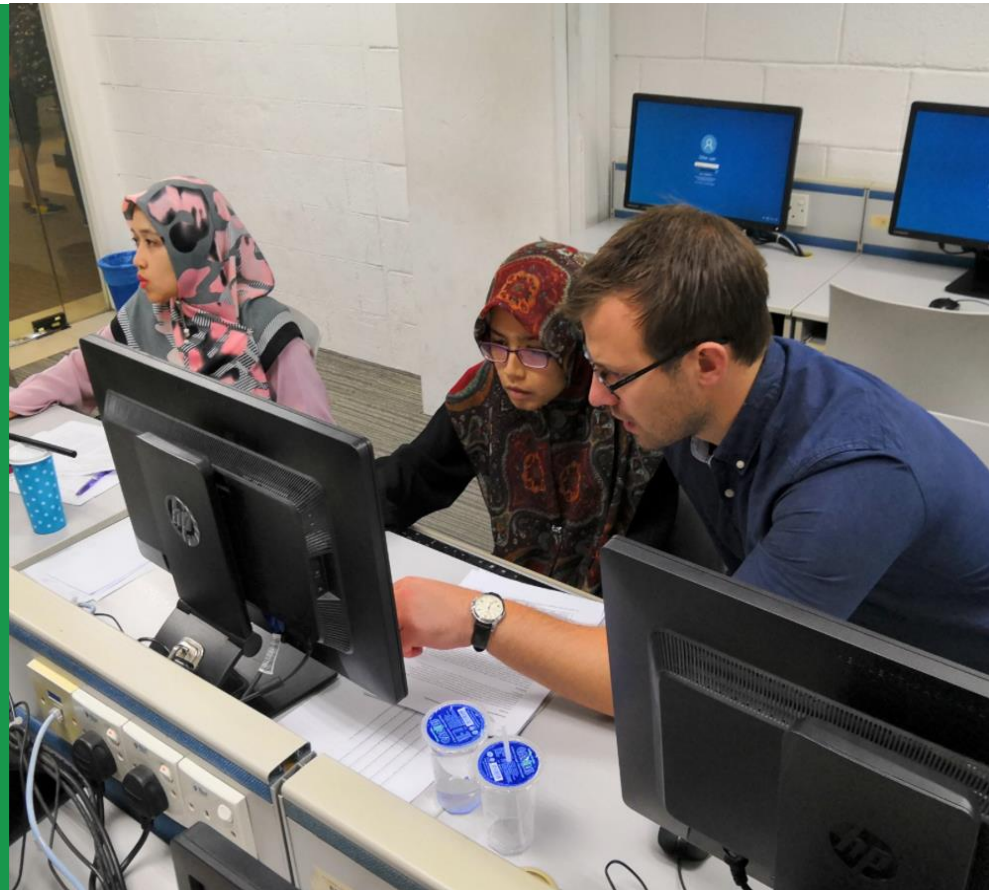
CoBLET, 12th October 2022

The Ensembl logo features a stylized 'e' with a red exclamation mark inside it, followed by the word 'Ensembl' in a blue sans-serif font.

EMBL-EBI The EMBL-EBI logo consists of a circular grid of green dots with a single red dot in the center.

# The Ensembl training programme

- Stand alone workshops delivered by Ensembl outreach team
- Browser and REST API workshops
- Organised by local hosts
- Training free but host covers travel, accommodation and subsistence costs
- <http://training.ensembl.org/>



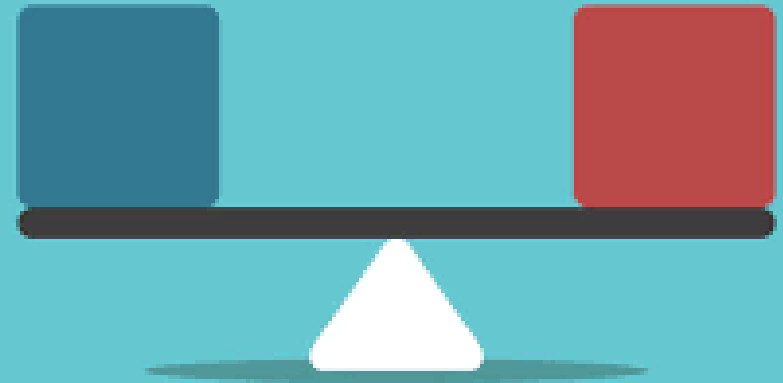
# Training formats

- **In-person training:**
  - Immersive learning environment
  - Networking opportunities
- **Virtual training:**
  - Lower costs
  - Extended reach
  - Accessibility
  - Environmental impact



# Finding the balance between in-person and virtual

- Guideline document for choosing most appropriate format
- Related to Ensembl training programme and training mission
- Not a one-size fits all approach



# Safety and COVID regulations

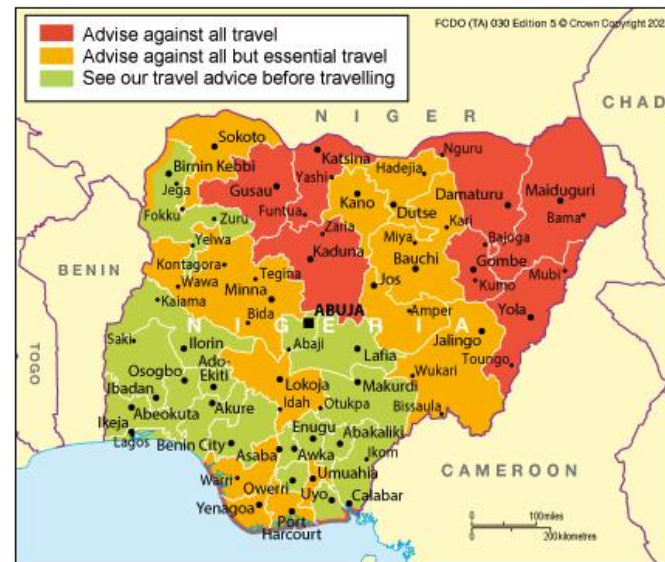
- Health and safety and/or security risks must be prioritised
- COVID outbreaks in different countries/regions are still likely and regulations are still subject to change at short notice
- Use local governmental travel advice

## Summary

Still current at: 4 July 2022

Updated: 23 June 2022

Latest update: Updated information on increased reports of violent crime in the suburbs of Abuja ('Summary' page)



# Economic status and funding

- Does the host have the funding to pay for the travel, accommodation and subsistence of the travelling trainer?
  - If the host does have funding and is based in a HIC, the workshop can be delivered in-person.
  - If the host does not have funding and is based in a LMIC, an in-person workshop can be organised depending on other factors.



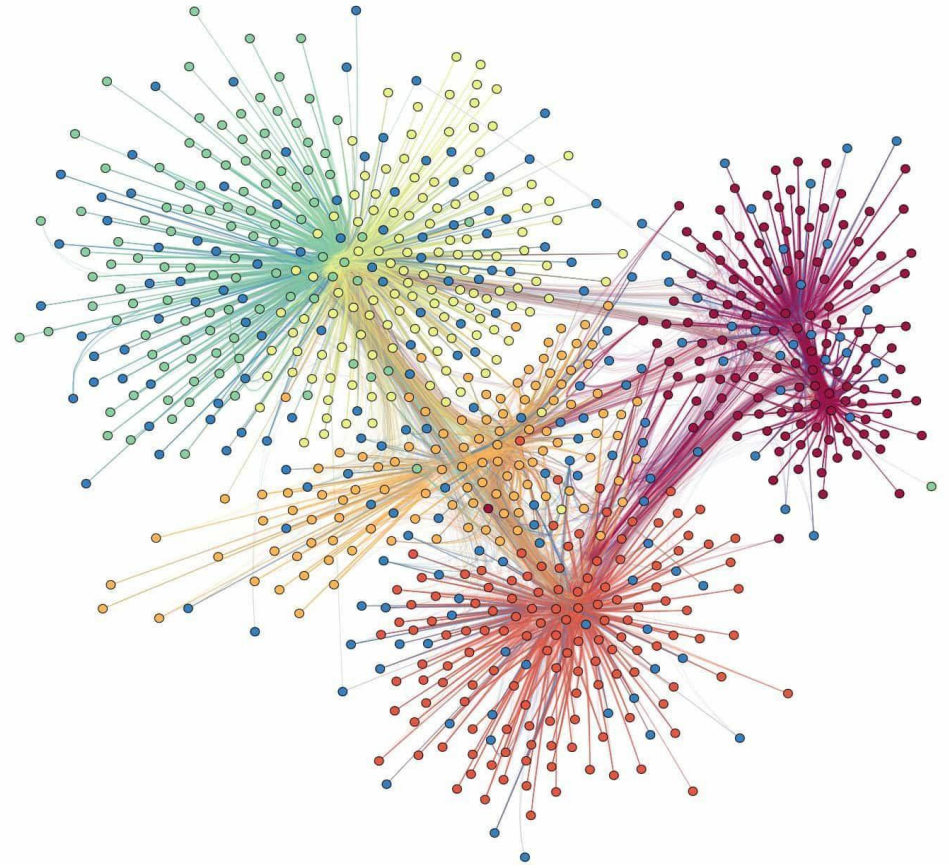
# Green Initiatives

- What mode of transport would be used?
- What is the number of airmiles associated with travelling for an in-person workshop?
- How many people will be trained?
  - Are there other hosts/institutes interested in hosting a workshop in close proximity?
  - Can an in-person Train the Trainer workshop be organised?
- Overall picture



# Communities and target audiences

- Is the host institute based in an EMBL-member state?
- Is the host institute serving underrepresented communities (e.g LMICs)?
- Is the host institute a long-term collaboration/workshop host?





# Host and audience preferences

- Does the host/audience have a preference for in-person or virtual training?
- Does the training content lend itself to in-person or virtual formats?
- Is any specialist equipment/software required?
- Can flexible travel options be booked in case workshops need to revert to a virtual format due to restrictions.



# Acknowledgements

**The Ensembl team**  
Ensembl Outreach  
Sarah Dyer



And all of our workshop collaborators and hosts!

If you would like to access our guidelines to modify for your own purposes, please do get in touch:

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**Thank you!**

**Questions?**