

Future of EasyBuild, incl. outlook to EasyBuild 6.0

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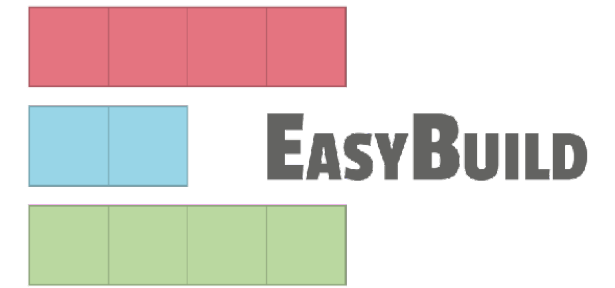
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11th EasyBuild User Meeting

21 April 2026 - Guimarães (Portugal)

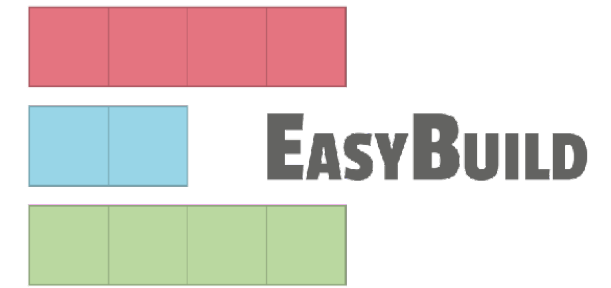
<https://easybuild.io/eum26>

Early outlook to EasyBuild 6.0



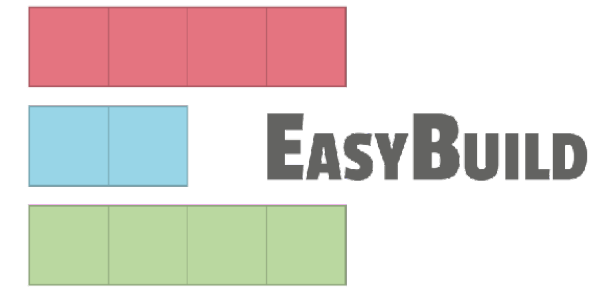
- **ETA: spring 2027** (~2 years after last major EasyBuild release, 5.0 in March'25)
- Plans:
 - **Drop support for Python < 3.9** + deprecate support for Python < 3.12
 - **Consistent naming scheme** for easyconfig parameters, configuration options, ...
 - **Modern eb command line interface** based on Click or Typer
 - + Various other more minor enhancements, changes, fixes, ...
 - **What else? Your input is welcome!**
- We'll probably set up a working group to organize some focused effort towards EasyBuild 6.0
- We should learn from the mistakes we've made in the past...

Development towards EasyBuild 6.0 (coming year)



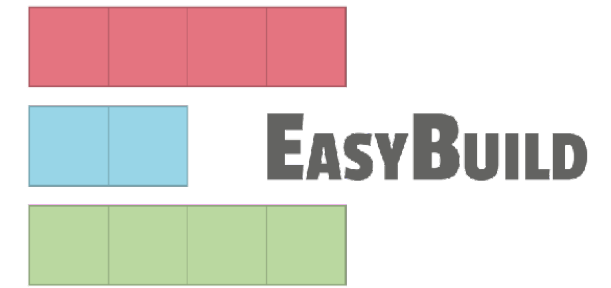
- We will try to not make the same mistakes as we did when working on EasyBuild 5.0...
- No early forking of `6.0.x` branch from `develop` branch
- Implement features and changes planned for EasyBuild 6.0 in `develop` branch
- Include everything in upcoming EasyBuild 5.x releases, behind configuration options
- Just “flip the switch” when releasing EasyBuild 6.0 in spring 2027 (change defaults)
- This is probably a bit too optimistic, creating a `6.0.x` branch some time early 2027 may be a necessary evil...

Python version required to run EasyBuild 6.0+



- **Drop support for Python < 3.9** (incl. Python 3.6)
- Deprecate support for Python < 3.12
 - Just produce a runtime warning, but keep running CI with Python 3.9+
 - In practice, EasyBuild will probably be get less testing with Python < 3.12
 - But we will fix bugs related to Python 3.9 compatibility when we become aware of them
- Adopt features supported in Python 3.9+, like type hints
- Interesting features coming in latest Python versions
 - Support for `lazy import` in Python 3.15 (ETA Oct'26)

Consistent naming scheme for “stuff” in EasyBuild 6.0+



- `configopts` easyconfig parameter → `configure_opts`
- New names for easyconfig parameters can already be used since EasyBuild 5.0:

```
$ eb -a | grep configopts
```

```
configopts
```

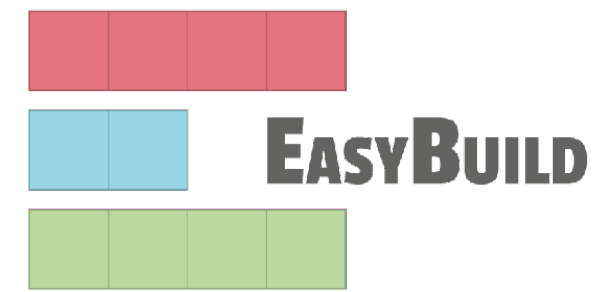
```
Extra options passed to configure (default already has  
--prefix) [default: ""] {alternative: configure_opts}
```

```
preconfigopts
```

```
Extra options pre-passed to configure. [default: ""]  
{alternative: pre_configure_opts}
```

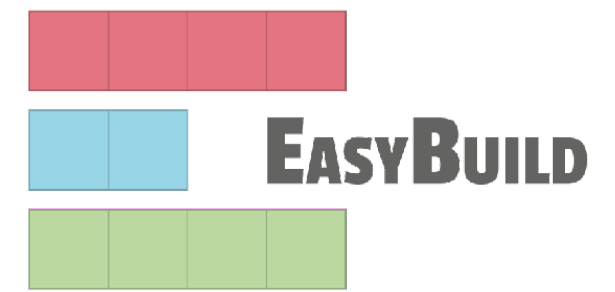
- TODO: toolchain options, templates, constants, configuration options, ...
- See also <https://github.com/easybuilders/easybuild-framework/issues/4464>

A modern CLI for EasyBuild 6.0



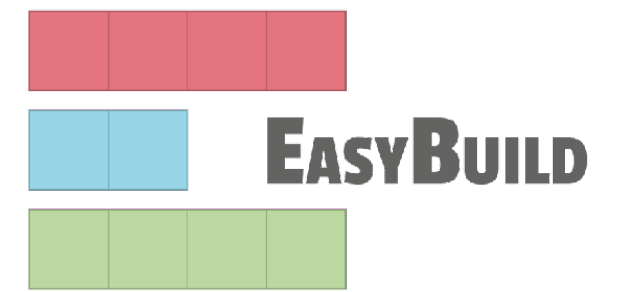
- Current CLI uses custom EasyBuildOptions class on top of custom GeneralOption class
 - Based on `optparse` + `configparser`, originally part of `vsc-base`, which was implemented in Python 2.4 era (which is EOL since Dec 2008)...
- See CLI based on Click <https://github.com/easybuilders/easybuild-framework/pull/4961>
 - To be included in EasyBuild 5.x soon: not enabled by default, opt-in via `$EB_CLI_CLICK` set to 1
- For EasyBuild 6.0
 - Based on Click or Typer (required 3rd party dependency? vendoring? :-/)
 - Subcommands (`eb [install] example.eb`, `eb info`, `eb github` or `eb gh`, ...)
 - May be the only CLI for EasyBuild eventually...
(deprecate current CLI in EasyBuild 6.0, removed in EasyBuild 7.0 (ETA spring 2029))

Working groups & community updates



- EasyBuild 6.0 working group (mostly maintainers?)
 - Probably subgroups for specific efforts, like consistent naming, modern CLI, ...
 - Monthly initially, probably more frequent after summer 2026, towards weekly in 2027?
- LLM working group
 - Explore ways that LLM can help EasyBuild users, contributors, maintainers
 - While taking [EasyBuild AI Policy](#) into account !
 - See also new #11ms channel in EasyBuild Slack
- Status update towards bi-weekly EasyBuild conf calls
- **Keep easyconfig merge sprints going** (every other month, even months on 3rd Monday)

End of EUM'26

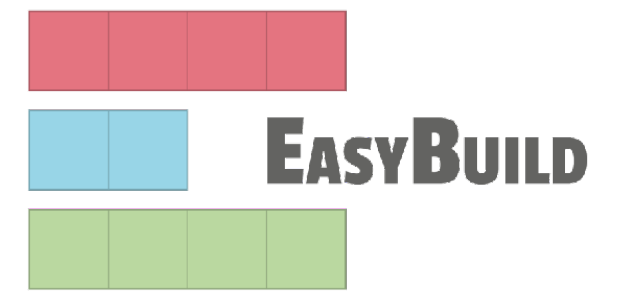


- Thanks again to all sponsors!



- Thank you for participating, presenting, networking, trying to walk through a window for some reason (both of you), ...
- **Evaluation survey coming soon - please fill it out!**
- What about EUM'27?

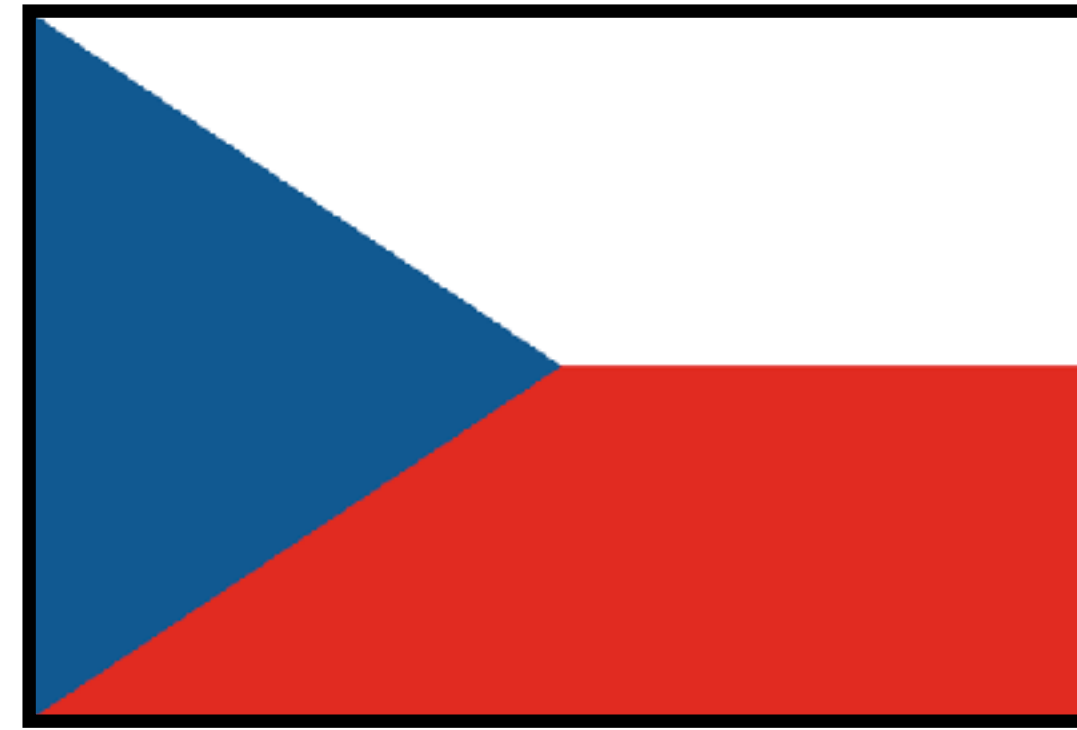
EUM'27 - spring 2027



- TODO: decide on location, decision expected in Fall 2026...



Canada (Montreal)



Czech Republic



Netherlands (Groningen)



Belgium (Brussels)



Norway (Bergen)