



OSCARS

Open Science Clusters' Action
for Research & Society

OSCARS: Engaging Communities, Sustaining FAIR Data

2026 coordination meeting of EOSC-related projects funded under Horizon Europe | Session 3: FAIR Data Ecosystems and Scientific Uptake | Brussels, 8/9 July 2026

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Funded by
the European Union

In response to the EU call on EOSC HORIZON-INFRA-2023-EOSC-01-01

- Building on the Science Cluster approach
- to ensure the **uptake of EOSC by research communities**

Partners

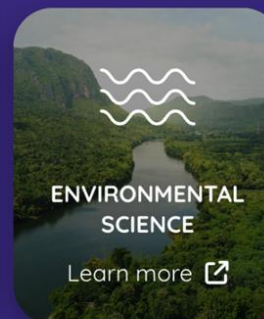
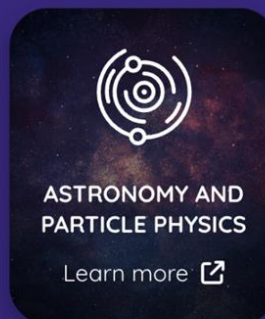
- Coordinator: **CNRS LAPP**
- **15** partners, **2-3** representing each Science Cluster community

Budget and timeline

- Starting date: **1 January 2024**
- Duration: **4 ½ years**
- EC funding: **25 Mio €**

Research Infrastructures and Communities

The science clusters have grown out of five collaborative projects funded by the European Union in 2019 to link ESFRI and other world-class Research Infrastructures (RIs) to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The services developed by the clusters and other outcomes of the projects are cornerstones of the emerging EOSC fabric and support both disciplinary communities and multidisciplinary initiatives with harmonised models for access to data, tools, workflows and training. Each cluster unites multiple RIs in their specific scientific domain.



<https://science-clusters.eu/>



SCIENCE-CLUSTERS.eu
Research Infrastructures for Open Science

Science Clusters fostering the uptake of Open Science in Europe

Fostering the uptake of Open Science in Europe



+1000

Applications received

3×

Growth OC1 → OC2

70

Funded projects

€16.5M

Total investment

Cascading Grants: The engagement vehicle

- Applications nearly **tripled** OC1→OC2: 264 → 746 submissions
- Grantees cite **streamlined admin + Science Cluster mentoring/Connection to wider ERA/EOSC landscape** as key differentiators
- Database of 135 evaluators from 5 scientific domains - a **reusable cross-domain asset**
- Model informed HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC-01 call - evidence of **scalability**

Community touchpoints beyond funding

- **OSCARS AGMs:** World cafés, speed dating@posters, collaborative roadmapping
- **Radical Collaboration:** White papers, a [community roadmap to strengthen FAIR and Open Science practices across Europe](#), and [Open Science articles](#) co-authored across clusters
- **Surveys: Slido + pre-AGM questionnaire:** Qualitative evidence of growing community confidence and engagement
- **Science Cluster EOSC Nodes/Hubs webinars** + composability workshops

Final results from the funded projects are due Summer 2026 - Spring 2028

Why apply for funding via OSCARS Open Calls?

We asked the PIs of our OSCARS funded projects

- 
- Efficient and simple application process.
 - Targeted funding with high impact.
 - Boosted visibility and integration with EU-wide RIs, networks and the EOSC.
 - Collaboration across Science Clusters.
 - Driving Open Science transformation.

***Fostering the uptake of
Open Science in Europe***



**Funded by
the European Union**

Why Apply to an OSCARS Open Call?*



A dedicated article summarises funded PIs' reasons for recommending the cascading grant model:

<https://oscars-project.eu/news/why-apply-funding-oscars-open-calls-insights-oscars-funded-projects>

* Respondents could indicate up to two reasons why to apply.

Training that was developed by any of the 5 Science Clusters, validated by their communities and now being rolled out across scientific disciplines in the frame of OSCARS.

OSCARS training activities

- Annual General Meetings (Science Clusters + 70 funded projects) - Community building, knowledge exchange and teamwork
- [Composability workshops](#) for/across all clusters
- Science Cluster EOSC Nodes/Hubs webinars
- From ESCAPE to Science Cluster-wide uptake
 - [S³ School](#) (in cooperation with EVERSE) - Sustainable Scientific Software School
 - [GRAY SCOTT Schools](#) (High Performance Computing)

Funded project training activities

- [mTeSS-X](#): training catalogues from different domains/communities (LS-RI, PaNOSC, EVERSE, DALIA)
- [OSPARK Bootcamps](#): 6-week online course + 2-day onsite workshop, Training for Open Science multipliers (all clusters)
- [Astro-CC Pilot](#): prepares and defines the scope of a CC to serve an extended range of astronomical communities (ESCAPE)

Coming next: Ambassador programme

Selected grantees will share first-hand experiences of implementing Open Science and EOSC practices, representing diverse disciplines and regions and receive communication and logistical support.

OSCARS pathways

Five Community-based Competence Centres (CCCs)

Community-embedded coordination hubs cooperating across the 5 clusters, linked with the EOSC Federation Nodes:

- [ENVRI](#): within ENVRI-Hub governance
- [ESCAPE](#): integrated in working groups
- [LS-RI](#): anchored in community paper endorsed by LS-RI Board
- [PaNOSC](#): directly linked to PaNOSC node
- [SSHOC](#): task force across CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH

Data Steward Registry

- Developed in collaboration with the Zenodo team at CERN
- Aims to discover, connect and recognise data stewards across Europe
- Enables discoverability of expertise and strengthen networking among data stewards
- Supports the uptake of FAIR data stewardship practices across the OSCARS and EOSC community

Funded projects pathways

Sustainability mechanisms

- Open-source code + maintenance commitments (GitHub)
- Deposition in long-term archives (Zenodo, CDS, SURF)
- Integration into existing, funded RI services, the EOSC Federation and the mesh of Nodes
- Formal adoption by RIs, ERICs and other science organisations
- Clear ownership to ensure maintenance and updates
- Community uptake

The majority of funded projects has set out a sustainability plan. BUT a recurring challenge across clusters is that post-project continuity depends on institutional commitment, not just EOSC onboarding.

Integration into RI / EOSC Nodes 16

Outputs transferred directly to EOSC nodes or existing RI services.

[mTeSS-X](#): “sustainably transferred to the first EOSC nodes”

[ETAP](#): “integration with ESCAPE-VRE is fundamental to the long-term support model”

Open-source & Community Maintenance 11

Code published under open licences; community-driven upkeep on GitHub.

[COPLI](#): “open source, so our astronomy community can contribute”

[FAIRMD](#): “Databank core functionalities are kept on GitHub”

Trusted Repository Deposit 18

Datasets archived in Zenodo, institutional repositories, or national platforms with persistent DOIs.

[EVA-FAIR](#): outputs published in Zenodo + National Biodiversity Repository

[FAIR-EO](#): CC BY 4.0, hosted on stable long-term repositories

Institutional / Host Funding 10

Ongoing support secured through home institution staff or infrastructure budgets.

[EHRI-KG](#): “sustainability ensured as part of the EHRI-ERIC ongoing technical maintenance”

[LabID-PROV](#): platform supported by dedicated staff scientists at host institution

Standards & Interoperability 9

Sustainability via community schema adoption, not platform dependency.

[NAPMIX](#): “schema versioning, stable property identifiers, alignment with established standards”

[MultiCellML-TDR](#): seeking CoreTrustSeal certification

Follow-up Funding / Commercialisation 4

New grants, fee-based models, or company spin-offs to ensure continuity.

[MatScatNet](#): “we have founded a company to run the service”



OSCARS

Thank you

Additional material

- **Quotes from our PIs**
- **Examples from our funded projects across the 5 Science Clusters**

Simple & efficient process

"The process to apply is very streamlined, concrete and concise. I wished all EU project grants followed OSCARS approach."

Light application, significant support

"Light application for a very significant support. Straightforward application that allows you to make a significant impact in the open science environment."

Turning concepts into services

"Cascading grants give small, targeted injections of financial resources and expert support, so you can prototype, test, and iterate on ideas - turning a good concept into a tangible, community-ready service within a short period."

Enabling early-stage work

"They offer a flexible environment to test experimental ideas and develop early-stage proof-of-concept work that could evolve into more ambitious projects."

Collaboration & community

"The nature of OSCARS cascading grants allows for collaborations that are hard to achieve otherwise - there are almost no geographical or thematic restrictions."

Visibility and EU integration

"It enhances visibility and credibility by linking the project with established European networks and partners, opening doors to future collaboration."

Join European Open Science mission

"To be part of the movement of Open Science in Europe. To benefit from the OSCARS community where different fields are facing similar challenges for FAIRisation."

Focused on community needs

"OSCARS funded projects enable focused efforts to address specific community needs in taking advantage of EOSC services by improving their quality, coverage, or by extending their landscape."

mTeSS-X (TeSSHUB)

- Federates training catalogues across clusters
- Integral to EOSC Node Training & Competencies working group
- Sustained via integration into ELIXIR TeSS (Life Science Connect EOSC node) and PaN-Training platform (PaNOSC EOSC node)
- Monthly community meetings + developer focus groups

Fragalysis Cloud (ended)

- Enhanced XChem facility at Diamond Light Source
- Processed 9 viral protein targets for ASAP consortium
- Now feeding AI co-folding models for drug discovery
- Published: Nature Communications, 2025

PaN-Finder

- AI-powered search on PaNOSC Data Portal (ESS, PaNOSC)
- Tested: user found own dataset by natural-language question
- Sustained through existing PaNOSC infrastructure
- Roadmap aligned with PaNOSC EOSC node

HEFTIE (ended)

- Digital textbook (200+ views) + open benchmarking reports
- Code contributions upstreamed into zarr-python & WebKnossos
- Results persist via community software — no dedicated hosting needed
- Materials: DOI 10.5281/zenodo.18417416

What funded projects said

“Ensuring the sustainability of the project's outputs remains an active and ongoing challenge. No additional public funding is secured, which places part of the platform's long-term maintenance at risk.” - ioChem-BD

“We need more structural funding to keep the service up and running. We want to involve more institutions to obtain funding.” - GOYAS

“The project outcomes were directly integrated into services that have been in place for years and, in the context of EOSC, were sustainably transferred to the first EOSC nodes.” - mTeSS-X

“We have founded a company to run the service.” - MatScatNet

“Integration and cross-coordination with the ESCAPE-VRE is fundamental to the long-term support model.” - ETAP

What the community is asking

“How can Open Science infrastructures ensure long-term sustainability beyond project-based funding while remaining open and community-driven?” - ioChem-BD

“How do we improve sustainability of projects that are successful? How do we define a project as successful?” - PaN-Finder

“How can EOSC and ESFRI hubs contribute to the sustainability of services?” - GOYAS

“How can we ensure long-term sustainability and interoperability of open science tools and FAIR workflows across different research infrastructures?” - FAME

“Is there any funding or plan to ensure project sustainability?” - CODEMETASOFT

→ A recurring question across clusters: post-project continuity depends on institutional commitment, not just EOSC onboarding.