

Paving the way for a synergetic implementation of EOSC

Public report from the EOSC Tripartite Event 2021

The Competitiveness Council of November 2021 placed the development of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) at the top of the ERA Policy Agenda for 2022-2024 to enable the open sharing and reuse of research outputs. To reach the targeted outcomes of this action requires a significant amount of work from all parties involved.

EOSC is being implemented through a European co-programmed partnership with joint investments exceeding one billion Euros along the priorities set in its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) to deploy and consolidate by 2030 an open, trusted virtual environment for researchers in Europe to store, share and reuse research digital objects including data, publications and software across borders and disciplines.

In this context, the European Commission, the Member States and Associated Countries representatives of the EOSC Steering Board, as well as the Board members of the EOSC Association gathered on 16 and 17 December 2021 for the very first event of the so-called 'EOSC Tripartite Governance'.

Over 70 invited participants contributed actively to the success of this meeting opened by Jean-Eric Paquet, the Director-General for the Research and Innovation Directorate-General of the European Commission, by Peter Volasko, Head of Science Division, Science Directorate at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and representing the Slovenian Presidency, and by Karel Luyben, President of the EOSC Association.

Broad consensus was achieved between the three partners on the need to accelerate the implementation of the EOSC priorities, notably:

1. The **deployment of a viable EOSC platform** (EOSC Core, EOSC Exchange and EOSC Data federation) for use by the research communities, and the collection and dissemination of 'EOSC-enabled' multidisciplinary use cases of added value to the researchers. The discussion highlighted the need for a wide data and service offering addressing the needs of all disciplines, including the 'long tail of science'.
2. The **deployment of a single joint capacity to monitor the uptake of Open Science and respective contributions to the EOSC**. The monitoring system should cover aspects relevant to the contributions by the three parties which correspond to the three levels of EOSC implementation (European, national, and institutional levels). It shall provide the baselines, trends and best practices to support the expansion of the EOSC ecosystem and reward the uptake of open science practices in Europe.
3. **Alignment of policies, investments, and practices** at European, national, federal, regional, and institutional levels to foster synergies and leverage effects of the conducted actions. Practices could be visualized in a *catalogue of best practices* together with communication material to be reused by stakeholders and policy makers. Specific attention shall be given to holding **national EOSC events** involving the three parties to intensify EOSC outreach and coordination of EOSC-relevant actions in each country. National EOSC events and national coordination nodes should help trigger engagement and reinforce dialogue between relevant Ministries, Research Performing Organisations, Research Funding Organisations and the wider research community.

During the first day of the event, the attendees reviewed the advances of the EOSC implementation, the implications on national policies, and the impact on the research and innovation ecosystem in Europe. Good examples of EOSC practice at European, national, and institutional levels were presented by Niklas Blomberg from ELIXIR, York Sure-Vetter from the German National Data Infrastructure (NFDI) and by Laura Perini from the Italian Computing and Data Infrastructure (ICDI).

On the second day, the participants discussed key concepts of the initiative with a view to advance a common glossary of EOSC terms for general use. Typical concepts included “EOSC Readiness”, “EOSC Ecosystem”, “EOSC Users”, “EOSC Interoperability” as well as “Incentives, rewards and recognition”. The participants also discussed the related challenges and ways to address them.

Overall, the event allowed to identify a series of top priorities and strategic orientations for the EOSC evolution in the coming years. The first EOSC Tripartite Event proved its value in increasing – on equal footing and in a less formal mode – the collective ambition to advance towards EOSC operation, advocacy, and added value to researchers. The next EOSC Tripartite Event will take place on 14 and 15 November 2022 in Prague in parallel with the next EOSC Symposium.