

# EOSC National Tripartite Event

Slovenia

11 October 2022

## Event Report

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### Introduction

This report describes the first EOSC National Tripartite Event organised in Slovenia. The Tripartite Event was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 in the Four Points by Sheraton in Ljubljana as part of the 2022 Open Science Day. The event lasted throughout the day with presentations of keynote speakers and a panel discussion in the morning and workshops and the official launch of the Slovenian Open Science Community in the afternoon. This report focuses on the first half of the Tripartite event, the keynotes and the panel discussion.

National Tripartite Events are essential to understand the current status and development of Open Science in EU member states and to identify problems in its implementation. Slovenia's EOSC Tripartite Event was organized by the Slovenian Open Science Community (SSOZ)<sup>1</sup> and the Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES)<sup>2</sup>, which are the country's national structure and EOSC Mandated Organization, respectively. The event brought together representatives from funders, policy makers and research institutions, as well as other Slovenian stakeholders and the three organisations responsible for the governance of the EOSC Partnership: European Commission, EOSC Association, and Steering Board (representing the EU Member States).

This report provides an overview of the event, a summary of presentations and discussions, key recommendations, and suggestions for next steps.

### Event overview

The event was organised in two parts: The first part was held in English and focussed on the sharing of the current stage of Open Science in Slovenia, and the opportunities EOSC and Open Science brings to the research field. The keynotes included presentations of the State secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, ARNES, the European Commission, the EOSC Association, the University of Ljubljana, the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the EOSC Steering Board. The panel discussion started after a brief coffee break. The discussion was moderated by Iryna Kuchma from the Electronic Information for Libraries, with Karel Luyben, Giorgio Rossi, Ilias Papastamatiou from NI4OS-Europe, Dean Korošak from the University of Maribor, and Tea Romih from Central Technical Library at the University of Ljubljana in the panel, and included topics like the approaches to data literacy for Open Science in the European landscape, or the needed for cultural changes within the research communities and following recommendations.

After lunch several workshops for the national community were held. The day was closed with the official launch of the Slovenian Open Science Community.

### Presentations<sup>3</sup>

#### Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Matjaz Kranjc, state secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, highlighted in his introductory talk the importance of aligning Slovenia with the ongoing developments on Open Science at European level.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://odprtaznanost.si/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.arnes.si>

<sup>3</sup> A presentation by Anna Panagopoulou, head of DG RTD's Directorate A, ERA & Innovation of the European Commission was planned but did not take place due to connectivity issues.

#### ARNES (Mandated organization EOSC)

Marko Bonač, director of ARNES, described ARNES' role as enabler of (open) science by providing high speed connectivity and cloud services for the research community. This provides access to research and storage for the research community. ARNES' efforts are to be complemented by building two repositories to help with storage of FAIR data.

#### European Commission

The situation of Open Science and the role of EOSC in the European Research Area (ERA) was analysed in the first session by Michel Schouppe, member of the European Commission. Mr Schouppe indicated that while the overall goals of Open Science (to improve innovation and enable inter- and multidisciplinary science) are shared by the majority of players, its adoption is far from generalised, with several barriers (financial, legal, or related to the lack of recognition for early adopters) preventing a more widespread success. A first step to overcome this situation has been taken with the signature by 24 member states of ERA Action 1 to enable Open Science in the Union and develop EOSC. The establishment of the EOSC Partnership between the European Commission, EU Member States and EOSC Association is the other important measure that, crucially, includes the wider community through the Association.

#### EOSC Association

Ute Gunsenheimer, secretary General of the EOSC-A, introduced the key role of the EOSC Association in delivering EOSC, by coordinating the funding committed by the EC (500 million Euros until 2030) to establish of a viable EOSC platform and a monitoring tool, and to align policies and investments through the "EOSC tripartite catalogue". EU Member States will provide support through in-kind activities to match EC funding, which will be complemented by putting in place the means and measures on Open Science detailed in the ERA.

#### EOSC Association – User Case of Open Science in the Netherlands

Karel Luyben, president of EOSC-A, presented the case of Open Science in the Netherlands and how Open Science helped shape Dutch research communities and institutes through a national web of FAIR Data. In the Dutch example, he highlighted that Open Science does not cost more money than science done in the traditional way, but requires a different division of the available resources. Crucial developments and investments lie in the machine data interoperability (for both data and metadata) and the data stewardship capacity.

#### University of Ljubljana

Gregor Majdič, rector of the University of Ljubljana, provided an overview of the benefits of Open Science, open publications and the principles and advantages of FAIR and open data for research assessment. He mentioned in his presentation not only the importance of positive (or successful) data, but also at the necessity providing access to negative data as well (i.e. those that have led to unsuccessful or undesired results) as an important component of Open Science that is rarely granted.

#### European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

The role of research and e-infrastructures for national sovereignty of (FAIR) research data was the topic of the second session. Jana Kolar, chair of the European Strategic Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), spoke about the role of ESFRI in the implementation and coordination of research infrastructure policies across the EU and in the EOSC co-creation process, and about the need of ESFRI to become more involved with EOSC at operational level. Research infrastructures built in and for specific scientific communities are key providers of thematic quality data and services; by using EOSC horizontal data and services, research infrastructures are also essential for the uptake of EOSC uptake

and its long-term sustainability: the more thematic infrastructures are federated in EOSC, and the more horizontal services they uptake, the better chances EOSC has to succeed. The new challenges for data-driven science in the current energy crisis caused by the growth of data demand new solutions like e.g. moving old data to tapes.

### EOSC Steering Board

Giorgio Rossi, Italian representative of the EOSC Steering Board, presented how EOSC can contribute to data sovereignty and ensure that all interested parties benefit from the implementation of the FAIR principles. His hope and urgency for EOSC is to address complex issues like climate change, energy and other high complexity issues that require the sharing of skill, knowledge and high quality data.

### GÉANT

Sarah Jones from GÉANT<sup>4</sup>, described the importance of EOSC in the efforts of GÉANT being a membership organization for all the National Research and Education Networks (NREN). She described how the EOSC Interoperability Framework takes care of the key feature of interoperability by planning the adoption of common standards and interfaces to facilitate data exchange. The new project FAIRCORE4EOSC<sup>5</sup> will be crucial in building a FAIR EOSC.

### EGI

To close the session, Tiziana Ferrari from EGI<sup>6</sup> talked about how Open Science can be enabled in Europe (and further) with data and software by using examples out of the EGI community. She showed that not only Open Science involves good practices, but can also have a vital role in times of crisis, as was experienced during the pandemic, and is now happening with researchers from Ukraine. The network of EGI presented connected researchers of Ukraine with a possibility to have access to data storage even while their home universities are unable to provide these services because of the war with Russia.

### Summary

The keynote speakers provided an overview and insights in the importance of Open Science and the FAIR principles for Slovenia and Europe. A solid collaboration between EOSC and the Slovenia leads the way to Open Science becoming the new normal and being a valuable core practice in research. This goal was being supported by the examples of ESFRI, the Steering Board, GÉANT and EGI which all from their own angle emphasize the importance of Open Science and FAIR principles in research.

### Panel discussions

The panel discussion was moderated by Iryna Kuchma from the Electronic Information for Libraries. Panel members were Karel Luyben of the EOSC-A, Giorgio Rossi of the EOSC Steering Board, Ilias Papastamatiou of NI4OS-Europe, Dean Korošak of the University of Maribor and Tea Romih of the Central Technical Library at the University of Ljubljana.

Following the opening presentations, the panel started the discussion describing the different approaches to data literacy for Open Science in the European landscape. In general, it is perceived that the existing variety works well at EU and national level, but there exists a gap between what happens at EU level and the institutions doing the groundwork. A cultural change among researchers is needed: they must be made aware of what FAIR is, and the institutions must help them in the “FAIRification” of the data they produce. Training the researchers on FAIR data is therefore an important step in data literacy in Open Science. Mr Papastamatiou highlighted the role of regional approaches in the up-

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<sup>4</sup> <https://geant.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://faircore4eosc.eu/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.egi.eu/>

skilling of literacy through national Open Science initiatives. These initiatives can enforce clear national commitments on training and skill-building. Institutions are essential to build capacity and skills, but for the necessary awareness-raising, planning and implementation a strong cooperation with EU is needed. It is key to reform the research assessment so that adoption of FAIR principles is adequately recognized and rewarded. Furthermore, EOSC will be far more likely to succeed if it can integrate existing ecosystems currently used by researchers.

The panel recommended regional approaches as that enables the exchange of similar experiences to help with implementation of Open Science. National Structures, who usually have the closest connections to relevant stakeholders in a country, are instrumental to complement the work of EOSC mandated organization. All countries would benefit from making students aware of FAIR data practices as a first step towards implementing Open Science in practice. For researchers, data literacy should be a basic requirement, but this needs to be enforced at national level, by engaging researchers in the development of policies and highlighting the benefits of “going FAIR” so that it is perceived as a contribution instead of an obligation imposed from above. The establishment of data stewardship as an alternative career path for PhD or other early career researchers, with equivalent status to research, would contribute to develop the field further.

### Recommendations

The keynote presentation and panel discussion resulted in recommendations for different players and stakeholders on Open Science and FAIR principles. This paragraph revisits these recommendations.

#### For national Stakeholders

- National Structures have close connections to the relevant local stakeholders in a country. A well connected National Structure is therefore highly necessary for the implementation of Open Science and the FAIR principles among Slovenian stakeholders.
- Policies designed to implement the FAIR principles should be accompanied by incentives to stimulate the uptake by the research community. The policies should not just focus on spreading knowledge about the FAIR principles, but also on identifying and rewarding the efforts of researchers in a proper way.

#### For Institutions

- Open Science as a normal practice starts by providing students with the appropriate skills early on in the education process. Making high-school students familiar with FAIR data practices should be a first step towards implementing Open Science that is bound to allow it to become the new normal later on in their careers.
- For researchers, data literacy should be a basic requirement. This should be supported by policies developed in cooperation with researchers so that it is perceived as an enrichment to their profiles, instead of an obligation imposed from above. A bottom-up approach involving the researchers will increase the chances of a successful implementation of Open Science and the FAIR principles.
- Data stewards play a vital role in the spreading of the FAIR principles and Open Science. The establishment of data stewardship as an alternative career path for PhD or other early career researchers, with an status equivalent to that of researchers, will contribute to their expansion in research institutions.

#### For EOSC and mandated organisation summary

- Since EOSC Mandated Organisations and the EOSC Association must rely on the contacts in the local communities held by local partners, good relationship with the Open Science

National Structure, and other research institutions or consortia are therefore instrumental for the work of EOSC and the EOSC Mandated Organisation. Successful collaboration with these organisations will function as a connection point towards the different research communities.

- EOSC and the EOSC Mandated Organisation should enable the transition to services and systems that support the FAIR principles and Open Science practices by making sure that the services they provide are easily integrated into existing ecosystems. This will lower the barriers and help in the adaptation process.
- EOSC needs also to disseminate good practices by “frontrunners” throughout Europe, promoting these examples in countries where the implementation of Open Science is less advanced, and facilitating the adoption of good practices in their own context.

#### Other Issues | Overarching issues

- Up-skilling of researchers and scientific support staff in Open Science remains a challenge and requires all stakeholders to play their part. Research institutions must lead the way by engaging with their communities on Open Science topics, while national or international organisations should contribute by providing training materials and access to resources.
- An important part of making the implementation of Open Science and the FAIR principles a success is to strengthen the system-wide recognition and reward of Open Science practices. This implies implementing supporting policies, recognition on local, national and international level, and the right reward system that recognizes Open Science practices.
- Finally, we should be careful of not stepping in to the trap of only talking about Open Science. ‘Talk less and do more!’ is the closing recommendation of the Tripartite Event. A hands-on approach that focusses on action will help make Open Science practices more tangible and push their implementation into daily life.

#### Next steps

To be written with the input of our Slovenian colleagues

#### Acknowledgements

The first EOSC National Tripartite Event Slovenia was co-organized by ARNES, the mandated organisation for EOSC and EOSC-Association. We would like to thank the speakers and panelists for their contributions to the event.

#### Event Programme

Time	Title	Speakers/Panellists
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	Introduction	Matjaz Kranjc - State secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Sport Marko Bonač - Director ARNES
9:20 AM - 10:20 AM	Open Science in ERA and EOSC	Michel Schouppe - European Commission Ute Gunsenheimer - Secretary General EOSC-A Karel Luyben - President EOSC-A

		Gregor Majdič - Rector University of Ljubljana
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM	Break	
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM	E-infrastructures and research infrastructures for sovereignty of FAIR research data	Jana Kolar - Chair European Strategic Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Giorgio Rossi - Italian representative EOSC Steering Board Sarah Jones - GÉANT Tiziana Ferrari - EGI
12:00 PM - 12:20 PM	Break	
12:20 PM - 1:20 PM	Panel: Data literacy for open science	<b>Moderator:</b> Iryna Kuchma - Electronic Information for Libraries.  <b>Panel members:</b> Karel Luyben - EOSC-A Giorgio Rossi - EOSC Steering Board Ilias Papastamatiou - NI4OS-Europe Dean Korošak - University of Maribor Tea Romih - Central Technical Library, University of Ljubljana
12:20 PM - 1:20 PM	Lunch	
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	Slovenian Open Science Community - part 1	
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Slovenian Open Science Community - part 2	
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Declaration of the founding of the Slovenian Open Science Community	
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Light dinner and chatting time	

## Event Presenters and Panellists

### Presenters:

Matjaz Kranjc - State secretary Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Marko Bonač - Director ARNES

Michel Schouppe - European Commission

Ute Gunsenheimer - Secretary General EOSC-A

Karel Luyben - President EOSC-A

Gregor Majdič - Rector University of Ljubljana

Jana Kolar - Chair European Strategic Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)

Giorgio Rossi - Italian representative EOSC Steering Board

Sarah Jones - GÉANT

Tiziana Ferrari - EGI

Panel

**Moderator:**

Iryna Kuchma - Electronic Information for Libraries.

**Panel members:**

Karel Luyben - EOSC-A

Giorgio Rossi - EOSC Steering Board

Ilias Papastamatiou - NI4OS-Europe

Dean Korošak - University of Maribor

Tea Romih - Central Technical Library, University of Ljubljana