

Croatia NTE - Post Event Report

Country: Croatia

Place: City Plaza Zagreb, Slavonska avenija 6, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia

Date: 30 March 2023

Format: Hybrid

National Organisers: University of Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE), <https://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/about-srce>

Executive summary

Croatia's National Tripartite Event was celebrated on 30 March, during the third day of the [DEI 2023 conference](#) organised by the University Computing Centre (SRCE) of the University of Zagreb, Croatia's Mandated Organisation, at the City Plaza Zagreb Centre next to SRCE's office. The highlight for the Croatian community attending the event (which included researchers, research performing organisations, infrastructures, policy makers, the Croatia Science Foundation as main research funder in the country, and SRCE as service provider) was the presentation in the afternoon by Zoran Bekić of the brand new National Plan for Open Science, still hot from the press. The plan has been in the making for over two years and starts now its path for approval and adoption by the Ministry of Science and Education and Croatian stakeholders.

Ivan Maric, SRCE's director, opened the event in the morning, followed by representatives from all three members of European Open Science Cloud's (EOSC) Tripartite Governance, who presented the plans and developments surrounding Open Science, and more specifically EOSC, at the European Commission (EC), the Member States (MS), and the wider community of the EOSC Association (EOSC-A). The perspectives, current practices, and challenges of Open Science (OS) in Croatia shaped the second session before lunch and were later discussed in the closing final panel.

1. Overview

Croatia National Tripartite Event event gathered representatives from the European Commission, the EOSC Association and the EOSC Steering Committee, the Ministry of Science and Education, and representatives from the HR-OOZ Council. The meeting aimed to discuss national priorities, specific needs, and concrete actions for the implementation of EOSC. The progress in the establishment of the Croatian Open Science Cloud (HR-OOZ) was also presented at the event.

The event was structured in three sessions and one panel discussion. In session 1, an overview of OS at EC was presented by Dejan Dvorsek (Dep. Head of DG RTD/A.4), followed by the description of EOSC as part of the EC OS strategy by Michel Schouppe (also DG RTD of the EC). The role of Member States through the EOSC Steering Board (EOSC SB) was the subject of the talk by EOSC SB member Giorgio Rossi. The tripartite collaboration of the current EOSC Partnership governance was described by Sarah Jones, together with the role and strategy of the EOSC-A works; finally, Ivan Maric from EOSC-A Mandated Organisation SRCE described Croatian Open Science Initiative HR-OOZ and its status of OS in the country.

Session 2 looked into specifics of Open Science. This included talks by Antica Čulina (Ruder Boskovic Institute, RBI) on the researchers' perspective on OS; Sanja Jurković, Lovorca Čaja on data stewardship at RBI; Marijana Glavica (CROSSDA) about CROSSDA's plans and challenges; Draženjo Celjak (SRCE) on the view from service provider; and Bojan Macan (RBI) about their role as OpenAIRE NOAD.



In the panel session, Antica Čulina, Lea Lazzarich, Dubravko Majetić and David Smith discussed about "What needs to happen next [about Open Science] in Croatia?". This part of the event took place in Croatian.

2. Main highlights

The event included the first public presentation of the Croatian National Plan for Open Science draft (available only in Croatian).

Ivan Marić (SRCE director (EOSC-A MO), president of Croatian Open Science Initiative HR-OOZ, and member of the EOSC Steering Board (SB)) described the structure of HR-OOZ and its main activities.

Presentations and the recording of the event are available on the web page of the conference, <https://dei.srce.hr/2023/prezentacije>

3. Tripartite collaboration

In Session 1, an overview of OS from the perspective of the EC was provided by Dejan Dvorsek (Dep. Head of DG RTD/A.4). Michel Schouppe described EOSC as part of the EC OS strategy, and the role of the MS through the EOSC SB was addressed in his talk by Giorgio Rossi. The role and activities of the EOSC-A was described in the talk by Sarah Jones.

Volker Beckmann from the EOSC Steering Board took part in the following session. *Main messages:* The implementation of Open Science national policies needs money and coordination. It is important to make people aware what MS are doing and to give proper account of how much is invested in EOSC and more generally in OS. This has already been tackled by the EOSC SB through a survey done with the EOSC Observatory that run in parallel to the Additional Activities Plan (AAP) survey done by EOSC-A. Also, sharing best practices can contribute to the overall progress. Monitoring of investment and policies, measuring their impact through appropriate KPIs, is also needed. Currently, work is being carried out to automate the collection of information in alignment with other monitoring tools/initiatives. A second survey will be used to expand the current catalogue of use cases. Further contribution by the EOSC SB includes a policy paper on Open Science.

4. Government level contributions

Director-general Hrvoje Meštrić from the Ministry of Science and Education.

5. Relevant quotes

Dejan Dvorsek (EC): ERA Action 3 ("Advance towards the reform of the Assessment System for research, researchers and institutions to improve their quality, performance and impact") has been signed by over 500 institutions. A high participation from Croatian institutions will be welcome. Now is the time to engage in OS to make it the norm in the future.

Michel Schouppe (EC): OS is a political priority of EU. We must seize the high political momentum on OS now and continue the progress achieved since 2016. OS is in the political agenda, but all actors need to be aware of the long way that exists from policy to impact.

Giorgio Rossi (EOSC SB): EOSC is "work in progress"; its success requires collaboration from all. NTEs are but one of the instruments to align.

Sarah Jones: Croatia's presence in the EOSC Association is growing. Aside from the mandated organisation SrceHr, the Ruder Boskovic Institute joined as a new member and several representatives are involved in the Steering Board & EOSC-A Task Forces.

Ivan Maric (SRCE, EOSC-A Mandated Organisation): It is important that EOSC reflects the particularities of all corners of the EU. At the same time, Croatia needs to raise its profile. The Croatian MO must adapt to the situation in the country.

Antica Čulina (RBI): Researchers need to understand why OS is important but also support and recognition for adopting OS practices. Change incentives for researchers to make software understandable by others, otherwise no chance of success. Nearly 50% research results remain unpublished—estimation is that 80% of all research is “wasted”. Incentives are wrong and doesn't promote good research.

Bojan Macan (RBI): There are no incentives for researchers to adopt OS in Croatia.

6. Future plans and actions

Regarding the Croatian National Plan for Open Science: As of the time of the event, the Plan was about to be sent to the Ministry for Science and Education (MSE) for approval. Prior to that, the Plan was to be published (in Croatian) to receive suggestions and comments. A public consultation will be carried out together with the MSE before its final.

The Croatian Open Science Initiative (HR-00Z) plans to get input to define its structure and principles from Croatian stakeholders through national ERIC events or mailing lists, OpenAIRE NOAD, RDA, SRCE PZZ and possibly others. This will be complemented by informal gatherings (e.g. “café” or similar) on a regular basis.

The mandated organization is planning another event in Autumn 2023 during which we will further discuss the national plan with the community. The results of that discussion will be incorporated into the action plan for open science, that will be devised together with the MSE and other stakeholders.

7. Use cases or practices

Antica Čulina (RBI) reported two use cases:

- One about the interface between OS and ecology, where it has been found that a significant proportion of the data cannot be currently shared. Using a multidisciplinary approach, OD in ecological data analysis will be analysed, and an aggregator for EcoEvo Catalogue¹ will be created. There are many aggregators, but datasets are not accessible/findable in all of them. In order to organise a discovery system that works for scientists, it is necessary to create better infrastructures, including suitable UI, and enable interoperable and interconnected discovery services with enough precision. The usability of data will also be explored. The fear is that many will not be usable because of its low quality; also, many scientists are not keen on sharing.
- The other case study concerns meta-genome data. Although there is enough data available, the complementary metadata are not; this shows that it is easier to open data than to make them FAIR. In order to solve this, a project she led created workflows (pipelines) to FAIRify data and include them in databases with metadata for others to use.

Sanja Jurković and Lovorca Čaja reported on data stewardship at the Ruder Boskovic Institute. Currently, data stewards provide training and support, but their activities can be described to be

¹ See <http://146.48.123.85/> for more information.

as a sort of “guerrilla support for data management”. Support for data management started with the data repository Mojblak, from which BoxIRB was split in 2021 to provide cloud service for data storage and sharing during projects. This has been accompanied by continuous development of infrastructure since 2014, culminating with the obligation to write data management plans (DMP) for new project applications that has increased the demand for data stewardship services. Current plans include translation of Argos as DMP tool.

8. Main indicators

8.1 Indicators organisation event

Official name of the event: Croatia’s National Tripartite Event

Starting/End Date: 30th March 2023

Thematic profile: The event featured the presentation of the Croatian National Plan for Open Science. It was part of the DEI 2023 conference².

Target audience: researchers, policy-makers

8.2 Profile of participants

Total number of participants: In-person: 69; Virtual (online): 28

For in-person attendees: Gender: Male: 29; Female: 40

8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: 26 (number of participants)

Research Funding Organisations: 3

Service providing Organisations: 21

Libraries: 6

Public administration: 3

Others: 10

8.4 Sectors

Most participants were from research institutes and universities, followed by libraries (national and institutional)

8.5 EU HE INFRAEOSC funded projects, dataspace or other partnerships participation

Unfortunately, this information was not requested in the registration form, so it was not recorded.

9. Programme and List of organisations that participated in the National Tripartite Event

EOSC NATIONAL TRIPARTITE EVENT CROATIA

30 MARCH 2023

HoB Conference Centre, Slavonka avenija 6, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

9:00 –
9:15

- Welcome and Introduction - Ivan Marić, EOSC SB

² DEI stands for DANI e-Infrastructure, <https://dei.srce.hr/>.

9:15 – 10:00	Keynote speech - Giorgio Rossi, EOSC-SB
10:00 – 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC position on open science and EOSC • EOSC Steering Board: on EOSC strategic agenda (SRIA) and objectives of EOSC - (EOSC-SB - Giorgio Rossi) • EOSC Association: on state of EOSC, tripartite collaboration and national contributions - (EOSC-A – Sarah Jones, TBC) • The role of mandated organizations within EOSC Association (TBD) • Q&A
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher’s perspective on Open Science - (Antica Čulina, IRB) • OpenAIRE National Open Access Desk - view on open science in Croatia – (Bojan Macan) • Data stewardship at Ruđer Bošković Institute – (RBI representative, TBD) • CROSSDA – current plans and challenges – (Marijana Glavica) • Data and open science from the perspective of service provider – (Draženjo Celjak) • Discussion & Q&A
13:30 – 14:45	Lunch
14:45 - 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatia in EOSC Observatory – (Volker Beckmann - TBC) • MSE Position on open science in Croatia – (Ministry of Science and Education representative – TBD) • CSF position on open science and open science elements in CSF's programmes and calls – (Croatian Science Foundation representative) • HR-OOZ - Croatian national plan on open Science – (Zoran Bekić) • Panel discussion: EOSC - opportunities and obstacles for open science practices³ – (EC representative, Sarah Jones, Giorgio Rossi, HR-OOZ representative, CSF representative, MSE representative; moderator - EOSC)
16:15 - 16:30	Summary and closing (SRCE)

³ The panel discussion was finally about “What needs to happen next in Croatia?” as described above.