

Czech Republic EOSC National Tripartite Event

Post Event Report

Country: Czech Republic

Place: National Technical Library (NTK), Prague

Date: 1-2 June 2023

Format: Hybrid

National Organisers: EOSC-CZ Secretariat, CESNET, Masaryk University, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, National Library of Technology

Executive summary

With over 110 attendees from all corners of the scientific community, the Czech Republic gathered on 1 June 2023 at the central building of the National Technical Library (NTK) in the Dejvice Engineering and Technology campus in Prague for a successful first EOSC National Tripartite Event. The good attendance and interesting discussions show the good progress of Open Science (OS) in the country, and the commitment of stakeholders to establish it as the new normal in the practice of research activities.

The event included welcome words by Helena Langšádlová, Minister of Science, Research and Innovation of the Czech Republic, and the signature of three memoranda of understanding between NTK and ORCID and DataCite, and with the EOSC Association Mandated Organisation in Slovakia CVTI SR, and featured keynote presentations by representatives of all members of the EOSC Partnership Tripartite governance: Kostas Repanas from the Open Science Unit of the DG RTD of the European Commission, Karel Luyben from the EOSC Association, and Luděk Matyska from EOSC-A Mandated Organisation in the Czech Republic CESNET and member of the EOSC Steering Board. The presentations showed the current situation and vision for the future of OS in Europe: the EC provides dedicated funding and the policy framework to implement OS, the EOSC-A coordinates the implementation of EOSC in close cooperation with the EC and EU Member States, the latter channelled through the EOSC Steering Board. Through the agreements with the international organisations ORCID and DataCite, the Czech Republic will continue to advance research assessment and the implementation of a PID system. Collaboration with CVTI SR will foster the cooperation between the two neighbouring countries in OS matters, respectively.

Václav Velčovský from the Ministry of Science and NTK director Martin Svoboda described the support for OS and EOSC in the Czech Republic and the implementation of OS practices in the country. The combination of European funds with dedicated funding from the Government, under the leadership of the Ministries of Science and of Education, Youth and Sports, has put the Czech Republic at the forefront of OS adoption in Europe.

The panel discussions focussed on two topics: the creation of policies needed to steer the expansion of OS practices and the implementation of EOSC in the Czech Republic and Europe, which must be accompanied by support from national and European funders.

In the absence of a national OS strategy, the Czech Republic has advanced significantly since the “awakening” of the Czech community in 2021—using the words of Luděk Matyska—following a combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches, complemented with the recent creation of the Czech EOSC Secretariat. The various policies and tools in place show the backing from the Government and funding agencies to address main concerns on the implementation of OS from researchers, especially on Open Access, research assessment, and recognition of the use of OS practices.



The NTE was followed on Friday 2 June by the Czech Open Science Day where current OS-related activities were displayed.

1. Overview

The Czech Republic EOSC NTE aimed at providing up-to-date information on European and Czech OS policies, and on the status of EOSC-CZ implementation in the country to all OS and EOSC stakeholders. It expected to contribute to deepening the cooperation and coordination of stakeholders in research, development, and innovation toward the transition to OS.

The event was targeted at all interested in OS and EOSC working at research institutions, Governmental agencies, funders, and further stakeholders of the Czech Republic community.

The event had the following structure:

- Presentations on EOSC Tripartite Governance and the Czech strategy for EOSC, followed by Q&A sessions.
- Two panel discussions:
 - o Open Science and EOSC policy priorities
 - o Funder support for Open Science and EOSC

2. Main highlights

The recording of the NTE can be accessed [here](#).

- Signature of three memoranda of understanding between NTK and ORCID and DataCite, and with the EOSC Association Mandated Organisation in Slovakia CVTI SR.
- The European Commission is keeping the “policy momentum” and coordinating the development of measures at European level and within EU Member States to implement Open Science and EOSC.
- The EOSC Association is leading the implementation of EOSC in close cooperation with the EC and the EU Member States.
- The Czech Republic has invested significant resources, and has created the legal and operative framework, to successfully implement Open Science and EOSC in the country.
- It is necessary to create Open Science policies, accompanied by support from national and European funders, to steer the expansion of OS practices and the implementation of EOSC. This needs to be complemented by a reform of research assessment.

3. Tripartite collaboration

- **Kostas Repanas** (Policy Officer, Open Science Unit of the DG RTD of the European Commission): the EC provides dedicated funding and the policy framework to implement OS. The recent EU Research Data Landscape shows that although awareness on OS may be on the rise, there is still much work to do—both by the EC itself as well as MS—to seize the moment and install the necessary national policies and mechanisms that enable OS to be implemented. A key issue pointed by Mr Repanas that appeared in other talks and discussions throughout the NTE was the need to change how research is assessed: OS offers a way to do things differently (and better), but this requires the buy-in from funders, publishers, as well as researchers themselves, which in turn requires to put in place the necessary incentives.
- **Karel Luyben** (President of the EOSC Association): Science is currently in a transition period towards becoming “open” as the new normal. Quoting EC’s president Ursula von der Leyen’s words, EOSC should become “a web of scientific insight” by federating relevant existing and future data sources, as set out in the basic document of the EOSC Partnership, the Strategic

Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and its practical realisation plan included in the Multi-Annual Roadmap (MAR). The EOSC-A coordinates the implementation of EOSC in close cooperation with the EC and EU Member States.

- **Luděk Matyska** (CESNET, EOSC-A Mandated Organisation in the Czech Republic and member of the EOSC Steering Board): Czechia suffers from a fragmented research data landscape—similar to most EU countries—but the EOSC-CZ initiative is working towards providing the physical infrastructure and technical tools to create a national instantiation of EOSC that realises the plans in the Czech National Data Infrastructures initiative. These include a metadata directory, a repository platform and thematic repositories, and education and training. EOSC-CZ has created four core working groups on metadata, architecture, core services, and education and training, plus eight further to bring all relevant actors to the discussion. Additionally, the EOSC Coordination Board under the auspices of the MEYS serves as advisory board and provides the necessary governance to steer EOSC implementation and foster country-wide collaboration rather than competition.

4. Government level contributions

- **Václav Velčovský**, Ministry of Science: The adoption of OS and the implementation of EOSC are “first priorities” in the science strategy of the Czech Republic, and both count with the full support of the national Government. The country has made the best of EU Structural Funds, using them as a driver of change to support all kinds of measures to advance the state of OS, from grants to infrastructures to policy development. The Programme Johannes Amos Comenius provides further support to researchers and institutions to adopt OS practices. The start of the EOSC CZ Secretariat within the EOSC-CZ initiative is the last step towards coordinating the implementation of EOSC in the country.
- **Martin Svoboda**, Director of the National Technical Library (NTK): The combination of European funds with dedicated funding from the Government, under the leadership of the Ministries of Science and of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS), has put the Czech Republic at the forefront of OS adoption in Europe. He described two main initiatives to advance OS in the Czech Republic: the CzechElib system to manage and centrally procure electronic information sources (EIR) by subscription to progress Open Access, supported by NTK and MEYS, and the new platform, discovery engine, a basic metadata model, and a national PID centre hosted by NTK included in the Czech Academic and Research Discovery Services (CARDS) project. Together, they will enable findability, accessibility and interoperability of all kinds of digital research resources (first and foremost, research data), thus addressing most of the FAIR principles. Despite all these advances, Czechia would benefit from a national OS strategy that complements the bottom-up approach.
- **Luděk Matyska**—see above.

5. Relevant quotes

Karel Luyben (President of the EOSC Association): “EU MS should be encouraged to cooperate with OS initiatives through agreements like those signed at this NTE.”

Anna Waleka (National Science Centre and Gdansk University of Technology, Poland): “Without EU policy, Poland would not have created an Open Science strategy. EU leadership has opened the path for MS to act on national level.”

Pavel Doleček (Czech Rectors Conference): “Countries need to find the way to explain researchers what Open Science entails so they can get on board.”

Jiří Homola (Czech Academy of Science): “Bottom-up & top-down approaches, both necessary to complement each other for the successful implementation of Open Science. For the Czech

Republic it would be good if both could meet somewhere “in the middle” to motivate the creation of national strategy for Open Science.”

Petr Baldrian (President of Czech Science Foundation): data need to be open in response to the trust given by funders to fund research—opening data and allowing others to use it is the best way to “give back” value to society.

Matús Sucha (Technology Agency of the Czech Republic): “Funders have the responsibility to allocate the available funds wisely to enable Open Science”. “Close links to industry in some research areas requires to consider issues related to Intellectual Property.”

Kostas Repanas (European Commission): “The reform of research assessment is hard to do, but it is long due. If we ask researchers to adopt Open Science, then the appropriate rewards should follow. Cooperation with CoARA, with the EC in an observer role and funder of some activities, can help here.”

Martin Loebel (Vice-president of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic): “We are at a critical time, and the future of Open Science depends on the “logistics” of the implementation of EOSC and related initiatives, the on-boarding of scientific communities, and the backing of funders.”

Tomás Polívka (RDI Council, EUA Expert Group on OS): “If research assessment is to be changed, the accompanying peer-review should change as well and be appropriately rewarded, otherwise it will be hard it is adopted by many.”

Lukás Levák (Department for Research and Development at MEYS): “The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports fully supports Open Science and the implementation of EOSC in the Czech Republic by facilitating the engagement of all relevant stakeholders.” “The incentives put in place by the Government, like e.g. the Johannes Amos Comenius programme, are expected lead to a successful completion of the projects that have been granted.”

6. Future plans and actions

- Two open calls of the Johannes Amos Comenius programme will provide further support to researchers and institutions to adopt OS practices:
 - National Repository Platform, the consortium will be led by CESNET (under preparation);
 - Thematic & other repositories (expected for 2024).
- Future plan: Full development and implementation a new national data infrastructure: a central search engine, a national metadata directory; and a national PID centre hosted by NTK through the Czech Academic and Research Discovery Services (CARDS) initiative.
- Recommendations to funders: To create the right incentive system for universities and institutions:
 - To provide funds for data stewards (with possible co-finance) for 5 years -- institutions would have to take over after that period.
 - To provide funds for thematic competence centres (for example life science, engineering and social sciences) which would spread the relevant competences.
- Suggestions for EOSC development: To focus on the bigger picture. EOSC and OS activities must be implemented with public interest in mind in an accountable and transparent manner. EOSC and Open Science should be communicated just as components within the broader concepts about doing research properly.

7. Use cases or practices

- **The Data Stewardship Wizard (DSW)** is an international project to help senior researchers and data stewards to build smart Data Management Plans. The project is co-developed by specialists from the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. The project has helped the researchers to make the “FAIRest” choices using FAIR metrics. Using DSW to plan data management, researchers can include relevant international, national, and institutional services and standards in their field, and they can discover practices that will save time and budget and deliver high quality and more reusable data.
- **LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ** is a digital research infrastructure for language technologies, arts and humanities. It enables archiving, processing, management and accessibility of data in accordance with the FAIR principles, resources and tools from the fields of arts, humanities and social sciences.
- **The CzechELib** National Centre ensures the purchase of key electronic resources for the entire research and education community in the Czech Republic, takes care of their management, including usage statistics, and supports open-access publishing, including data accompanying research publications. It is part of NTK, and its establishment was supported by the European Operational Programme Research, Development, Education.
- **e-INFRA CZ** is a unique research e-infrastructure managed by a consortium formed by CESNET, CERIT-SC, and IT4I. It offers the following tools (are already up and running):
 - **SmartSMEAR**, a data visualization and download tool for continuous measurements of meteorology, air quality, land-atmosphere fluxes, soil, tree physiology and water quality.
 - **MetaCentrum Cloud** provides an infrastructure as a-service for scientific users.
 - **LS AAI** – an AAI solution for the EOSC community developed in the EOSC-Life project.
- **University courses** to increase awareness on the FAIR principles:
 - **Data stewardship course:** Intensive one semester long certified course for future data stewards in humanities and social sciences, which blends self-study materials with interactive face-to-face lessons and internship.
 - **DocEnhance:** Course tailored to the needs of PhD candidates, combines practical exercises with theoretical content that will walk you through all the steps of research data management, from finding relevant data to publishing your dataset.
 - **Secure Management of Research Data:** Course presenting both general principles and specific examples, as well as data management tools or legal and cybersecurity aspects associated with secure management of research data.

8. Main indicators

8.1 Indicators organisation event

Official name of the event: National EOSC Tripartite Event and Czech Open Science Day

Start/End Date: 1 June 2023

Thematic profile: In addition to the presentation of the Tripartite collaboration in the framework of the EOSC Partnership, the event included the description and discussion of policies, initiatives, incentives for researchers, and support measures from national and European funders for the adoption and implementation of Open Science and EOSC in the Czech Republic.

Target audience: Researchers, policy makers, funders, other members of the scientific community of the Czech Republic, and all other OS/EOSC stakeholders.

8.2 Profile of participants

In-person: 126

Virtual (online): Around 400 participants

Gender (%): Male: 55 % Female: 45 %

8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: 42 (number of participants)

Research Funding Organisations: 8

Service providing Organisations: 22

Libraries: 21

Public administration: 6

Others: 27

8.5 EU Horizon Europe INFRAEOSC funded projects, dataspace or other partnerships participation.

CRAFT-OA, EOSC Future

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

Program: <https://www.eosc.cz/informace-a-udalosti/kalendar-akci/national-eosc-tripartite-event-and-czech-open-science-day-in-english>

Programme Thursday 1 June

09:00 - 10:30	Registration of Workshop participants	
10:30 - 12:00	Pre-conference Workshop: Persistent Identifiers in the context of Open Science	Helena Cousijn (DataCite) Paloma Marín-Arraiza (ORCID)
12:00 - 13:00	Registration of Conference participants	
13:00 - 13:30	Welcome and Opening <i>Moderator: Ute Gunsenheimer (EOSC Association, Secretary General)</i>	
	Welcome from the host	Martin Svoboda (Director of National Library of Technology)
	Open Remarks	Helena Langšádlová (Minister of Science, Research and Innovation of the Czech Republic)
	NTK & CVTI SR Memorandum of Cooperation signing	Martin Svoboda (Director of NTK) Ján Kyselovič (Director of CVTI SR)
	ORCID & DataCite Consortium agreement signing	Martin Svoboda (Director of NTK) Helena Cousijn (Director of Community Engagement at DataCite) Paloma Marín-Arraiza (Engagement Manager at ORCID)

13:30 - 15:00 EOSC Tripartite Governance & Czech Strategy for EOSC
Moderator: Allen Weeks (ELI ERIC, Director General)

The EU's Open Science strategy	Kostas Repanas (Open Science and Research Infrastructures, European Commission) 10'
EOSC Association: Implementing EOSC to Advance OS in Europe	Karel Luyben (President of the EOSC Association) 10'
National support for Open Science/EOSC in Czechia	Václav Velčovský (Director General for EU Operational Programmes section at MEYS) 15'
Open Science implementation in Czechia	Martin Svoboda (Director of National Library of Technology) 15'
EOSC and FAIR Data Implementation in Czechia	Luděk Matyska (CESNET - Mandated organization) 25'
Q&A Session	10'

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break
Panel Discussions: Czech Contributions to Open Science
15:30 - 16:30 Open Science and EOSC policy priorities
*Moderator: Jan Hrušák
(Special envoy for research infrastructures, MEYS)*

Karel Luyben (EOSC Association)
Tomáš Polívka (RDI Council)
Jiří Homola (Czech Academy of Science)
Anna Wałek (National Science Centre, Poland)
Pavel Doleček (Czech Rectors Conference)

16:30 - 17:30 Funder support for Open Science and EOSC
Moderator: Luděk Matyska (CESNET)

Petr Baldrian (Czech Science Foundation)
Matúš Šucha (Technology Agency of the Czech Republic)
Kostas Repanas (Open Science and Research Infrastructures, European Commission)
Martin Loebli (Learned Society of the Czech Republic)
Lukáš Levák (Department for Research and Development at MEYS)

17:30 - 17:40 Leading AI Analytics: NVIDIA DGX H100 Empowers EOSC-CZ

Petr Plodík (M Computers, Nvidia Elite Partner)

17:45 - 20:00 Conference Reception
Side events Thursday 1 June (9:00 - 12:00)

EOSC WG's leaders meeting

Open Science Working Group AK VŠ

Valentýna Drtinová (Charles university)

Programme Friday 2 June

8:30 - 9:00	Registration	
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and Opening	Martin Svoboda (Director of NTK)
9:15 - 10:45	Open Science in Czechia	
	Czech National OS Strategy and National OS platform?	Eva Hnátková (Open Science Coordinator at NTK) 15'
	Research Assessment in the Open Science context	Tomáš Polívka (RDI Council) 15'
	Open Access - Transformative Agreements	Jiří Jirát (CzechElib National Centre) 15'
	FAIR Data and EOSC in Open Science	Jiří Marek (e-INFRA CZ) 15'
	Czech National PID Centre (ORCID and DataCite Consortium)	Hana Heringová (National Centre for PIDs at NTK) Petra Černošlávková (Centre for Repositories and Metadata at NTK) 15'
	Q&A session	15'
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 - 12:45	Good Open Science practices in Czechia	
	Institutional Open Science Strategy - examples	Naděžda Fasurová (Mendel University) Milan Janíček (Charles University) 15'
	Diamond Open Access	Alena Mizerová (Masaryk University) 15'
	Data Stewardship Wizard - online tool for DMP	Robert Pergl (DSW/Czech Technical University) 15'
	Data Stewardship course for doctoral candidates	Martin Schätz (University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague) 15'
	Community Building and Course for Data Stewards	Matyáš Hříman (Charles University) 15'
	Q&A Session, Discussion	15'
12:45 - 13:00	Closing Remarks	

Programme Committee

- Luděk Matyska (e-INFRA CZ) - chair
- Martin Svoboda (NTK)
- Matěj Antol (MUNI, e-INFRA CZ)
- Eva Hnátková (NTK)
- Eva Dibuszová (NTK)
- Petra Nichtburgerová (MEYS)
- Jakub Papírník (CESNET, e-INFRA CZ)
- Vít Vondrák (VŠB-TUO, e-INFRA CZ)
- Allen Weeks (ELI ERIC)
- Jan Hrušák (J. Heyrovsky Institute)

NTK

50°6'14.083"N, 14°23'26.365"E
Národní technická knihovna
National Library of Technology



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND SPORTS



European
Commission

