Netherlands Post-Event Report

Country: The Netherlands
Place: Moreelsepark 48, 3511 EP Utrecht
Date: 11/04/2023
Format: In person attendees (some introductions/presentations were virtual)
National Organisers: SURF (mandated organization of the EOSC-A for the Netherlands) and the ministries OCW (education, culture and science) and EZK (Economics and Climate)

Executive summary

Fifty stakeholders in the Open Science landscape attended the first Tripartite event in the Netherlands organized by mandated organization SURF on the 11th of April 2023. In the first part of the Tripartite event presenters showed what the EU prioritizes, what EOSC-A and de EOSC-SB stand for and how they see the future. The national level presented where the country stands on Open Science involving policy makers and long-term funding followed by a case study and lessons learned from the research community. Two panel discussions were held to discuss how the improve the current initiatives in the Netherlands and were the opportunities and challenges lie in EOSC.

1. Overview

SURF (the collaborative organization for IT in Dutch education and research/Mandated Organization of the EOSC-A) and the ministries OCW and EZK (EOSC Steering Board members) hosted the first national Tripartite event in the Netherlands on the 11th of April 2023. Approximately 50 different stakeholders were present including: researchers, representatives of the Open Science Communities, Open Science programs and Digital Competence Centers from Dutch research performing organizations, service providing and funding organizations and delegates from national administrations, the European Commission, EOSC-SB and EOSC-A. Different perspectives on EOSC and use cases in the Dutch research area were highlighted. A panel discussion followed regarding data competence centers in the Netherlands and how they see the future. Later on, another panel discussion addressed the opportunities and challenges of the EOSC in practice.

2. Main highlights

After a warm welcome of Jet de Ranitz (CEO and Chair board of directors, SURF), Oscar Delnooz, (Director Research & Science Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) and Anna Panagopoulou (Director of European Research Area & Innovation at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation, EC) the first session regarding the perspectives on EOSC commenced.

Javier Lopez Albacete, Policy Officer at the Open Science Unit of the European Commission, Karel Luyben, President of the EOSC A, and Volker Beckman, chair of the EOSC Steering board, highlighted different subjects such as: the complementarity and interoperability of EOSC with the other European Data Spaces that are being created, the cooperation between EOSC and the E-infrastructures and the importance of aligning good practices and examples between countries.

A beautiful example of Open Science in practice was presented during the keynote delivered by Chantal Kemner (Professor of Biological Developmental Psychology at Utrecht University), where her YOUth study, which follows children from the womb through the early life stages in

their behavioral development, required the use of FAIR data over the past decade and resulted in 3 important lessons learned:

- *FAIR requires teaming up of support and scientific staff.*
- *FAIR challenges the organizational governance.*
- *We should rethink the funding schemes to make FAIR data sustainable via software, infrastructure, and procedures.*

A first panel session followed, where the importance of institutional and disciplinary expertise was highlighted in relation to the Local and Thematic Digital Competence Centers (L-DCC and T-DCC) and the challenges they encounter in the Dutch Open Science landscape. To be able to realize the adequate expertise and sufficient capacity of the required professionals, it is crucial that all stakeholders work together in expanding adequate funding mechanisms and implementing (national) curricula and career paths for data professionals.

Just before lunch, Hans de Jonge, director of the newly founded 'Open Science NL', presented this new funding organization in the Netherlands. Over the next 10 years, 200 million euros will be made available to boost the transition of Open Science in the Netherlands and make Open Science the new normal.

After lunch, a last panel session discussed EOSC in practice, outlining the opportunities and possible challenges. One of the challenges discussed was how to collaborate with the private sector in the Open Science landscape while safeguarding autonomy, transparency, and accessibility.

In her closing remarks, Jet de Ranitz made clear that there isn't so much difference between the national and the European agenda and that more collaboration is necessary.

3. Tripartite collaboration

European commission (EC): Javier Lopez Albacete (Policy Officer at the Open Science Unit of the European Commission) presented his perspectives on EOSC in the first session. He was also present in the 2 panel discussions where he shared his vision and the vision of the European commission on the subjects at hand.

EOSC Association (EOSC-A): Karel Luyben focused on his perspectives on EOSC in the first session on the cooperation between EOSC and the E-infrastructures. He said that EOSC is being created to shape the European contribution to a 'Web of FAIR digital Objects' coming from and servicing research. Karel was also one of the panelists regarding the last session where the opportunities and possible challenges of the EOSC were addressed.

EOSC Steering Board (EOSC-SB): Volcker Beckman accentuated the importance of aligning good practices and examples between countries in his perspectives on EOSC in the first session. 'EOSC is a return on investments and there to stay, there is no way back!'. In the first panel discussion regarding the support and Data competence centers and the challenges they encounter, Volker was one of the panelists.

4. Government level contributions

Oscar Delnooz, Director of Research and Science at the Ministry, fully supported that the government is behind the push for Open Science. Institutional and national activities need to align to create success.

A first big step was achieved in March 2023 where representatives of fifteen knowledge institutions (NWO, UNL, NFU, VH, SURF, KNAW, NWO-I, ZonMw, UKB, KB, DANS, Netherlands eScience Center, 4TUResearchData, Health-RI and SHB) and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science have signed the covenant for Open Science NL. Hans de Jonge, speaker on the tripartite event, was appointed as director. Open Science NL is a new funding organisation in the Netherlands. Over the next 10 years, 200 million euros (20 million euros per year) will be made available to boost the transition of Open Science in the Netherlands and make Open Science the new normal. This organisation needs to provide long term support through funding and additional coordinating activities to a subject, field or discipline related to Open Science.

(max. 2000 characters)

5. Relevant quotes

Jet De Ranitz: "There is not much difference between national and European agendas when it comes to Open Science, we need to be able to connect the dots between what happens at the different levels."

Karel Luyben:

"The EOSC ecosystem can be seen as the combination of data and e-infrastructures."

"We should learn from the practices that are there, we should think together what we need to fund and why."

"In the short term, EOSC focuses on FAIR data, while in the long term, it aims at being responsible for all of Open Science in Europe."

Javier Lopez Albacete: "EOSC is a public good and serves society at large. It also important to consider the involvement of private companies. They can contribute to the economic exploitation of what we are creating, but we need to ensure transparency and openness."

Celia Van Gelder: "We need to train researchers, data stewards and support staff, but we also need top-down guidance to the institutions as well, in order to make FAIR data and Open Science successful".

Volker Beckman: "Member states have a vital interest in EOSC because it brings return on investment. It is there to stay, there is no turning back!"

Oscar Delnooz: "The government is behind the push for Open Science, institutional and national activities should align to successfully achieve our goals."

6. Future plans and actions

In his presentation Javier Lopez Albacete accentuates that Open Science is a political priority of the EU and the EC. There are objectives put forward on where the European Commission sees EOSC by 2027:

1. *Open Science is increasingly becoming the norm at European, national and institutional levels*
2. *EOSC enables a 'Web of Fair data and services for science'*
3. *Deployment and operation of a secured cloud-based EOSC EU infrastructure node including core services to enable the EOSC federation (EOSC Core) and a service marketplace (EOSC Exchange)*

Karel Luyben mentions in his presentation that it is essential that we get a Minimal Viable EOSC operational as soon as possible and accentuates the necessity to be as good as possibly

aligned with work done by all the relevant communities at the European, national and institutional level.

On the national level, and as mentioned under point 4, Open Science NL will contribute with additional coordination and funding of 200 million euros over the next 10 years to support and boost the transition to Open Science in the Netherlands. A second plan on the national level is more related to the already existing 22 Local Digital Competence Centers (L-DCC) that offer support to all researchers of the research performing organizations (RPO). Celia Van Gelder mentioned in one of the panel sessions the importance of the development of Thematic Digital Competence Centers (T-DCC) which have a focus on domain specific expertise. Collaboration between L-DCC and T-DCC will provide researchers with generic and domain specific support. Sustainable funding is needed to continue this qualitive growth of the L-DCC and T-DCC, but again this can be addressed by the new funding opportunities foreseen by Open Science NL.

In the second panel discussion the topic on how to collaborate with the private sector in the Open Science landscape while safeguarding autonomy, transparency, and accessibility was addressed. Most parties agreed that it should be possible if those private organizations accept the terms of the research communities.

7. Use cases or practices

Two important use cases were addressed:
1. *The existing 22 L-DCC in the Netherlands at the RPO's. They offer a central 'hub' to expertise on Research Data Management (RDM), Research Software Engineering (RSE) and research it services.*
   Most L-DCC's are small teams or networks of experts and consultants. L-DCC staff is positioned close to researchers to collaborate and use their networks in their own RPO, as well as across the organizational boundaries, to collaborate with other experts and service providers. Notwithstanding the success of these L-DCCs, the RPO's see some ways of improving the quality:
   - *Create T-DCC to address domain specific issues*
   - *Staff: recruit, train and keep valuable people*
   - *Funding: secure structural funding*
2. *Chantal Kemner presented a second more institutional use case regarding sharing longitudinal cohort study data over de past 10 years in her YOUth study. In this study they had the ambition to use data in a FAIR, safe and open way. The scientists learned 3 important insights that can be used to further improve Open Science in the future:*
   - *FAIR requires teaming up support & scientific staff in the institutions*
   - *FAIR challenges organizational governance in the institutions*
   - *Funding schemes should be rethought.*

8. Main indicators

8.1 Indicators organisation event
Official name of the event: National Tripartite Event Netherlands

Starting Date: 11/04/2023 at 9:00h
Ending Date: 11/04/2023 at 13:00h

Thematic profile (was there a specific theme to the event apart from the Tripartite collaboration?): No

Target audience: Researchers, representatives of the Open Science Communities, Open Science programs and Digital Competence Centers from Dutch research performing organizations, service providing and funding organizations and delegates from national administrations, the European Commission, EOSC-SB and EOSC-A

8.2 Profile of participants
Total number of participants: 50
In-person:48
Virtual (online): 2

Gender (%): Male: 42_____ Female: 48_____ Other: _____

8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: 7 (number of participants)
Research Funding Organisations: 5
Service providing Organisations; 20
Libraries: 5
Public administration: 5
Others: 8

8.4 Sectors
(Optional)
- Social Science and Humanities
- Life Sciences and Health
- Natural & Engineering Sciences

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

EC
EOSC-SB
EOSC-A
minOCW
minEZK
ZonMw
NPOS
Open Science NL
NWO
UNL
NFU
Amsterdam University
Utrecht University
TU Delft

Leiden University
SURF
eScience Center
CLARIN
DANS
Health RI
EGI
GEANT
GO FAIR
National Library
Erasmus University
Data Sharing Coalition
TNO
PNN
Avans
UKB

National Tripartite Event

Netherlands

Location: SURF, Address: Moreelsepark 48, 3511 EP Utrecht

Date/time: 11th April 2023 9:00-13:00

Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker/panellist
08:45 - 09:00	Walk-in	
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome and introduction	Oscar Delnooz (Director Research & Science Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) Anna Panagopoulou (Director of European Research Area & Innovation at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation, EC) Jet de Ranitz (CEO and Chair board of directors, SURF)
09:15 - 10:00	Perspectives on EOSC EC position on EOSC The EOSC Association EOSC-Steering Board	Moderation: Laurents Sesink (Strategic Relation Manager, SURF) Javier Lopez Albacete (Policy Officer at Open Science Unit. Directorate General for Research and Innovation, EC) Karel luyben (President, EOSC-A) Volker Beckmann (co-chair, EOSC-SB)
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote: Sharing longitudinal cohort study data. An institutional use case	Chantal Kemner (professor of Biological Developmental Psychology, Utrecht University)
10:30 - 11:10	Panel: Institutional & disciplinary expertise and support. Local and Thematic Data Competence Centres. Opening statements of the panellists Discussion	Moderation: Ron Augustus (CIO and member board of directors, SURF) Panellists: Celia van Gelder (Training Programme Manager DTL/Network Manager TDCC Life Sciences & Health) Jeroen Rombouts (Coordinator Research Data Management EUR/chair IN-DCC) Volker Beckman (co-chair, EOSC-SB) Javier Lopez Albacete (Policy Officer at Open Science Unit. Directorate General for Research and Innovation, EC) Loek Brinkman (Projectmanager DANS, Open Science Communities)
11:10 - 11:30	National funding to boost the transition of Open Science in the Netherlands.	Hans de Jonge (Director, Open Science NL)
11:30 - 12:00	(Lunch)break	
12:00 - 12:50	Panel: EOSC in practice. Opportunities & challenges. Opening statements of the panellists Discussion	Moderation: Sarah Jones (EOSC engagement manager GEANT, Director EOSC-A board) Panellists: Jet de Ranitz (CEO and Chair board of directors, SURF) Dale Robertson (Senior Strategy and Innovation Officer & EOSC Liaison Manager, EGI) Joris van Eijnatten (General director, eScienceCenter) Javier Lopez Albacete (Policy Officer at Open Science Unit. Directorate General for Research and Innovation, EC) Karel Luyben (President, EOSC-A) Machteld Haaksman (Manager Social Impact & Open Science, Min OCW)
12:50 - 13:00	Closing remarks	Jet de Ranitz (CEO and Chair board of directors, SURF)