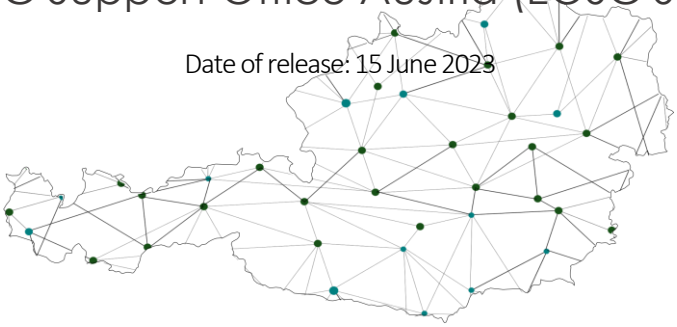
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2022/2023

Austrian Mandated Organisation
EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA)



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Introduction

The Austrian EOSC initiative certainly owes its rapid emergence to the fact that the EOSC was launched in Vienna in 2018. The need for a systemic and coordinated networking of the main players was soon recognised.

Thanks to the various impulses provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMBWF) and the active actions of the interested universities and institutions, the first important steps were taken as early as January 2021, when the ACONET Association (ACONET Verein) made its legal status available to the Austrian stakeholders. The BMBWF agreed to take over the financing of the Austrian Mandated Organisation and the TU Wien was already prepared to assume the financial liability for this process. Thus, the conditions were in place for representatives of the interested institutions to jointly and energetically provide personnel to bring the EOSC initiative to life. What happened next is a clear sign of the culture of cooperation that marked the successful and further development of the Austrian EOSC initiative in the years 2022-2023.

The BMBWF's willingness to provide special funding to cover part of the personnel costs of the EOSC Support Office Austria from autumn 2022 onwards should also be seen as a sign of its appreciation of the commitment of the members of the Austrian EOSC initiative. The sum made available does not correspond to the total expenditure for the personnel resources used, but is a valuable and relevant recognition of the joint efforts made and the stakeholders are grateful for this.

This Annual Report is intended as a "moment of truth" for the activities until June 2023.

It also impressively illustrates the multiple benefits for the Austrian partner institutions involved in the EOSC set-up process, namely:

- The Austrian EOSC initiative consolidates research data management (RDM) and enables machine-usable resources in Austria.
- The EOSC Support Office Austria (SOA) promotes cooperation and the implementation of overarching measures such as data stewardship and compliance with the FAIR principles in Austria
- The EOSC Support Office Austria/ Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation actively engages in the participatory process of shaping the EOSC instead of being presented with a finished product
- Austrian partners gain access to an extended competence network and are in regular contact with the partners of the Support Office Austria (SOA) to participate in project calls and to acquire third-party funding for their institution
- Through the efforts of the Austrian EOSC mandate organisation, the Austrian EOSC partners join forces in establishing and expanding research infrastructures and coordinate their strategies with each other
- All Austrian institutions receive first-hand up-to-date information on Open Science activities from the SOA as the central information hub in Austria

At this point acknowledgements should be made to all professionals and managers who have contributed their knowledge and commitment to the Austrian EOSC initiative, in all its facets.

All their names and functions are available on this page https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-austria/governing-bodies/

Vienna, 15th June 2023
Paolo Budroni
Chair of the GA of the Austrian EOSC initiative

Executive Summary

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) aims at providing European researchers, enterprises and citizens with a federated and open multidisciplinary environment in which data, tools and services for research, innovation and education purposes can be published, shared and re-used across borders and scientific disciplines. In 2018, the EOSC initiative was therefore officially launched at the University of Vienna. In 2020, the EOSC Association was established to govern the EOSC along with four partners – CESAER, CSIC, GARR and GÉANT. Since then, it has grown and currently includes over 200 members. The current phase of the EOSC's implementation started in 2021. It will last until 2030 and follows the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Against this background, the **Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation and the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA)** were both created to ensure that the Austrian perspective will be considered with respect to the strategic development of research infrastructures on the European level.

Main objectives:

- The Austrian initiative aims to make a coordinated, Austrian contribution to the implementation of EOSC
- Development of an EOSC Strategic Agenda Austria
- Establishment of Working Groups and ongoing monitoring activities of the Austrian research landscape and cultural heritage institutions with the purpose of enabling "EOSC Readiness in Austria" (among others, release of an "Austria Country Report" on a quarterly basis)
- Initiate the introduction of success indicators (Working Group KPIs)

The internal management structure of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation and the EOSC Support Office Austria consists of the following bodies:

- The General Assembly (GA) acts as the representative body and as the final body responsible for decision-making.
- The Management ensures the optimisation of processes and acts as an intermediary for the coordination between the partners of the initiative. It consists of the Management Board and the Secretariat.
- The Steering Committee provides the basic orientation of the initiative. It is composed of one representative of the partners and is convened by the GA.
- The Synergy Team coordinates the work of the Working Groups (WGs). The WGs develop the content of EOSC topics, domestic conditions are taken into account.
- The EOSC Café is an Open Forum providing external stimulus and serving as reflection group to enable processes such as "thinking out of the box".

Figure 1: What is EOSC?
From: Karel Luyben, presentation held at "EOSC national event Switzerland", Bern, 8 March 2023

Nota bene: The aim of this Activity Report is to provide a so-called "moment of truth" (state of the art June 2023). It will be submitted to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Ministry for Education Science and Research (BMBWF). It also serves as preparation for the reports to be presented at the General Assembly of the EOSC SOA/Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation to be held in October 2023.

This report refers exclusively to the activities that took place **directly in the EOSC Support Office Austria at national level, in the way they were recorded in the Memorandum of Understanding, as signed by the Partners.**

This report only partially covers those processes that are directly related to the international activities of the Austrian EOSC mandate organization, such as participation in task forces of the EOSC A, meetings/workshops at the international level (e.g. most recently in Bern, 8 March 2023), or meetings to get to know other Mandated Organisations such as their participation in the "Austrian EOSC Café" in 2022 (Sweden, Italy, Slovenia) or 2023 (France), with the aim of initiating valuable exchanges of experience. Furthermore, the following shall not be taken into account: participation in surveys of the EOSC A, consultations, panels in the framework of the General Assemblies of the EOSC A (e.g. the panel discussion on the future of the EOSC ("thinking beyond 2027") at the General Assembly in Brussels, May 2023), or meetings with members of the Board of Directors of the EOSC A, or meetings with members of the EOSC Steering Board, or with the European Commission. A large part of these activities is carried out either by the Chair of the General Assembly of Partners of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation, or by the Austrian EOSC partners within the framework of Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020 and therefore detailed reports are described in the project deliverables. However, it seems important to emphasis that the combination of these projects is very useful in building and pooling the overall EOSC skills and competencies.

This report also excludes those activities that are part of the network of the so-called *EOSC Reference Points*, which were established locally at the Austrian institutions and lead to know-how transfer in their respective institutions, e.g. by means of workshops or other marketing measures.

Nota bene: it should also be noted that a self-evaluation is currently underway which will be concluded in summer 2023 and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in October 2023. These findings will greatly enrich the present report.

Activities 2022 & 2023

Second General Assembly

On Monday, the 7th of November 2022, the Second General Assembly of the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA) took place at the Graz University of Technology[1].

The General Assembly was organized by the former Chair of the Management Board Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi, her RDM Team of TU Graz and the EOSC SOA Secretariat. It counted 92 participants, who were present in person or in the live stream of the event. The event was communicated via the live Twitter feed of EOSC-Association (@eoscassociation) and post-event articles about the General Assembly were published on the EOSC SOA website, the EOSC-Association website and the EOSC Forum page.

The General Assembly consisted of two parts, the morning and the afternoon. The morning focused on the role of EOSC Support Office Austria as Mandated Organisation in EOSC and its role as national initiative for achieving EOSC goals in terms of the dissemination of Open and FAIR science in the Austrian research communities. The event was opened by Katrin Vohland from the Vienna Natural History Museum (NHMW) and chair of the EOSC SOA Steering Committee, who gave an overview of what's in store for the EOSC SOA in the coming year.

Ute Gunsenheimer, EOSC Association Secretary General, gave a keynote on the European perspective in terms of the EOSC Partnership (European Commission, EOSC Association and the Member States), who described the achievements in 2022 by the Association towards the development of EOSC and the current progress of the EOSC Partnership contributing to the development of the wider community, and the advancement of Open Science across the EU.

Tommi Suominen of FAIRCORE4EOSC took us down from the EOSC Partnership and EOSC Association into the Horizon Europe Work Programme, the INFRAEOSC projects. He provided an overview of FAIRCORE4EOSC's key contributions to EOSC by developing EOSC-Core components. The nine components under development, to be tested in collaboration with five thematic case studies, will improve the discoverability and interoperability of research outputs within the EOSC-Core.

Birgit Wassermann of TU Graz took us to the influence of Open Science within the Austrian research community by giving a first-hand perspective from a researcher on how microbiome research benefits from Open Science practices: through three microbiome repositories worldwide available that contain interoperable data, researchers can compare their analysis with that from

Ute Gunsenheimer, EOSC A, praised Austria's strong representation in the Association and involvement in EOSC projects and initiatives in 2021-2022:

Austrian researchers are involved in 12 of the 13 EOSC Task Forces and are actively advising EOSC-A on important themes for the realisation of EOSC.

Austrian partners are involved in many EOSC related projects: EOSC Focus (TU Graz, TU Wien), Skills4EOSC (TU Wien, NHMW), EOSC Pillar (University of Vienna), EOSC Future (University of Vienna), E-IRG SP7 (TU Wien), EOSC-Life (TU Wien),

[1] A report of the 2nd GA is available at https://eosc-austria.at/wrap-up-2nd-general-assembly-of-eosc-support-office-austria/ – the protocol is available for members and associated partners at 20221129_Protocol_2nd_GA_EOSC_SOA.pdf - ONLYOFFICE (tuwien.ac.at) – NB.: BMBWF EOSC representatives have access to this protocol

others. This established practice has been accepted by as standard by journals in the field and contributes to the widespread sharing of research data.

Vice-Rector (and current TU Graz Rector) Horst Bischof closed the morning with TU Graz' strategy to Open Science in all five "fields of expertise" that combines bottom-up and top-down approaches for data in specific research fields. He reminded the audience that Open Science only works if researchers are actively involved in the process, which requires support and leadership by universities to enforce the right data privacy policies are in place.

The afternoon contained the official part of the event for EOSC SOA and served a double function: The General Assembly was used as the closing of the official voting and handover for the Chair position of the Management Board for the coming year, 2023. It also served as a moment to review the first year of existence for the EOSC Support Office Austria, including all its achievements.

Maria Seissl, Head of the University of Vienna Library 2nd Chair of the General Assembly of the Austrian EOSC Mandated/ EOSC SOA[2], opened the afternoon program by thanking all current members for the accomplishments of EOSC SOA and inviting new members to join this initiative for the good of Open Science in Austria. Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi, Chair of the Management Board in 2022 handed over the position of Chair to Heimo Rainer from Natural History Museum in Vienna. The new EOSC SOA Management Board for 2023 exists of Heimo Rainer (NHMW), acting as Chair of the Board, Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi (TU Graz), Matthias Schwarz (Climate Change Centre Austria) and Tereza Kalová (University of Vienna). Ms. Hasani-Mavriqi also presented the work carried out during the first year of EOSC SOA that shows the strong involvement of Austrian organisations in many key EOSC-related initiatives (a description of the accomplishments of the EOSC SOA Management Board & Secretariat, can be read in the Activity Report under the Chapter 'Management Board & Secretariat').

Juliana Giroletti from TU Wien and the EOSC SOA Secretariat, described the achievements of the Secretariat and presented the communication strategy to make the presence of EOSC SOA grow within the Austrian research landscape (a description of the accomplishments of the Communication Team and the communication strategy, can be read in the Activity Report under the Chapter 'Communication Activities'). The development of the content of EOSC SOA was presented by leaders of the EOSC SOA's working groups (Austria Country Profile/published quarterly,[3] Collections, Data stewardship, KPIs, Researcher and Stakeholder engagement, Technical infrastructure, and Training) presented their results from the past year and the plans for 2023 (a description of the accomplishments of the Working Groups can be read in the Activity Report under the Chapter 'Synergy Team: Working Groups').

The event was concluded by Stefan Hanslik and Petra Karlhuber. Stefan Hanslik from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education Science and Research (BMBWF) and Austrian delegate in the EOSC Steering Board, who praised the efforts of the Austrian Open Science community with regards to EOSC and encouraged members to pursue this endeavor further to fulfill Austria's commitment in Open Science. He also referred to the national ERA portal, that provides a good overview of how policies at EU level are translated into the national context. Petra Karlhuber from the umbrella organisation ACONET Verein/ACONET Association (which is the formal/legal entity of the Austrian

[2] The incumbent first chairman Paolo Budroni was unable to attend the first AGM for health reasons.

[3] Austria Country Profile, Q1/2023, March 2023, is available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7777732

EOSC Mandated Organisation) highlighted the importance of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation as its operational unit, the EOSC Support Office Austria.

General Assembly 2023

The EOSC Support Office Austria will be organising its third General Assembly on the morning of the 19th of October. As Chair of the Management Board in 2023, the Natural History Museum Vienna will host the General Assembly and formally pass over the Chairmanship for 2024. The General Assembly 2023 will follow its function as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The 2023 General Assembly will be organised on 19 October 2023 in cooperation with the "EOSC 5-Year Celebration", which will also take place in Vienna, at the University Library of the University of Vienna, at the same location where the EOSC was launched, in the afternoon of the same day, thus celebrating the symbolic start of the EOSC with the signing of the Vienna Declaration under the Austrian Presidency in 2018. The linking of the two events will not only illustrate the close connection between the pan-European EOSC building process and the Austrian EOSC initiatives, but also provide an opportunity to look back at past achievements at European and national level and to look forward to the future where challenges and achievements still await.

Figure 2: EOSC Support Office Austria: General Assembly 2021 and 2022

Management Board & Secretariat

For the management of the EOSC Support Office Austria, consisting of the Management Board (MB) and the Secretariat, the activities described in this report were shaped by initiating and setting up processes that ensure a smooth operation of the organisation and allow for partners to collaborate efficiently in the next periods to come[4].

The collaboration took shape by the implementation of regular meetings between the Management Board and the Secretariat. From the beginning, the board and management met once a month for internal meetings to discuss plans and results, input from the Synergy team and other points that need to be discussed, members of the Secretariat were invited to clarify developments if needed. In addition, there was a lively exchange with the elected chairs of the General Assembly, who represent the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation externally. This was also necessary because there were ongoing interactions with the supranational levels (EOSC Association and EOSC Steering Board), e.g. through participation of the Austrian Mandated Organisation in the webinars of the EOSC Association or in the consultations of the Mandated Organisations (e.g. in the redefinition of the Statutes or the redefinition of the membership fees, the redefinition of the Multi Annual Roadmap (MAR) or through participation in the GAs of the EOSC A). The Chair of the MB and the Chair of the GA of the partners of the Austrian EOSC initiative, also met regularly with the board of the ACONET Association to report on the ongoing activities.

The Secretariat met once every two weeks, followed by a meeting of the Communication team where the Secretariat is included if needed. Between these meetings members of the Secretariat actively work together via email and the wiki of the EOSC Support Office Austria (coLAB).

The inclusive activities addressing the EOSC Austrian community were important focal points for the EOSC SOA. To improve networking activities on a regular basis, quarterly meetings with the community were introduced. The quarterly meetings were accessible for the whole community and offered an attractive interactive program, offering the stage to guest speakers, community members and members of the working groups. One of the most important meeting was the General Assembly, where the new Chair of the Management Board was announced. A full report on the General Assembly can be found under the chapter General Assembly.

It should be noted here that the majority of all measures are based on in-kind contribution, not only in terms of personal resources, but also in terms of the provision of infrastructure and services.

The collaboration in and the implementation of EOSC SOA, resulted in seven main objectives that were accomplished during the report period:

1. *The definition of workflows for EOSC SOA*

Preliminary statement: the EOSC SOA is committed to support all members of the Austrian EOSC initiative, which means not only the members and observers of EOSC A, but also those Austrian institutions and initiatives that want to participate in the EOSC building process. As defined in the Austrian Memorandum of Understanding, the status of the partners in the EOSC Association in Brussels is leading for their voting weights in formal decisions in the SOA: '*All partners are entitled to vote. The voting weights are divided as follows: Members of the EOSC Association*

[4] An overview of the presentations (slide deck) is available at https://colab.tuwien.ac.at/plugins/servlet/onlyoffice/doceditor?attachmentId=136022118 - NB.: BMBWF EOSC representatives have access to this protocol

AISBL have 10 voting shares each, Observers of the EOSC Association AISBL 5 voting shares each, Extraordinary Partners 1 voting share each.'

Several workflows were defined, e.g. on how to proceed when a new potential partner wants to join the EOSC Support Office Austria, all workflows can be found in Annex I of this document. These workflows are part of the EOSC Support Office Austria wiki (coLAB) page.

2. *The establishment of a web presence and a national wiki (coLAB)*

An important milestone for the management in 2022 was the establishment of a web presence for the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation/EOSC Support Office Austria. The website as the main channel to present externally the EOSC SOA/Austrian Mandated Organisation activities and to inform the Austrian community on European EOSC developments also plays a key role in increasing awareness for the Austrian EOSC initiative, which was another goal set out by the Management Board for 2022 and remains a crucial, ongoing activity. These efforts are closely connected to the aim of getting new partners on board, i.e. expanding partnerships with academic organisations across Austria. In addition, the Management Board identified key national and international stakeholders to engage with: On the domestic level, workshops on the topics of research data management or/and skills development (with UNIKO, the Austrian Rectors Conference, or with Open Science Austria /OSA), key performance indicators (with experts from various stakeholder groups) and infrastructure networks for Austrian researchers (with ACONET Association) were organised, which produced valuable outcomes.

Next to the website, also the EOSC Support Office Austria wiki (coLAB) was established with the assistance of the TU Wien Computer Centre (provided on an in-kind basis). This wiki is a shared space which encompasses all relevant information and documents on the operation of the EOSC SOA/Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation. The coLAB page serves as the main collaboration space for the management of the SOA and the Secretariat.[5]

3. *Awareness increases of Open Science and FAIR principles within the Austrian research landscape*

The organisation of and the participation in a number of national and international events on EOSC and Open Science were crucial activities for the members of the Management Board to engage with stakeholders at the national and international level (see section 5).

4. *The expansion of partners of the EOSC SOA*

In the first year of EOSC SOA, the EOSC SOA grew out to 6 Ordinary partners and 7 Extraordinary partners. Ordinary partners are: Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Member of EOSC A), Technische Universität Graz (Member of EOSC A), Technische Universität Wien (Member of EOSC A), Universität Wien (Member of EOSC A), Climate Change Centre Austria (Observer of EOSC A) and Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (Observer of EOSC A).

Extraordinary partners are: Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung (BMBWF), ACOnet (NREN), FAIR Office Austria, Open Knowledge Maps - Verein zur Förderung der Sichtbarkeit wissenschaftlichen Wissens, Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien, Forum Universitätsbibliotheken Österreichs (ubifo) and Akademie der Bildenden Künste Wien.

[5] Thanks to coLAB, the Austrian EOSC initiative is currently the only Mandated Organisation that manages its internal communication on a national level with a national intranet. This was also noted during the meetings with EOSC A and the other Mandated Organisations.

5. *The identification of relevant stakeholders and initiatives on transnational and domestic level*

On the transnational level, the Austrian Mandated Organisation was the first country to organize and host a National Tripartite Event (May 23rd, 2022), bringing together in the building of the BMBWF representatives of Austrian Mandated Organisation, the European Commission, the EOSC Association and the EOSC Steering Board with domestic stakeholders.

Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi as the first Chair of the Management Board in 2022 also participated in international events on EOSC policies, EOSC-related Horizon Europe projects and presented the EOSC Support Office Austria at an EOSC Future webinar on national infrastructures in EOSC. Noteworthy is the participation of two Austrian EOSC A Members (TU Graz/TU Wien) in the Horizon Europe EOSC Focus project [6](the support and coordination project of EOSC Co-Programmed Partnership). On the part of Graz University of Technology, for example, this made possible a direct link as Regional Hub Coordinator for the region Central Europe and linked tripartite events, the role as task lead on the engagement with Horizon Europe projects, the participation in the development of the monitoring framework and AAP (additional activities plan), the role of task lead on the technical development of EOSC and the development of the financial sustainability plan for EOSC, which resulted in a strongly aligned connection between (the developments of) EOSC and the EOSC SOA.

Furthermore, TU Vienna and TU Graz are directly involved in areas such as research engagement, further development of the EOSC Multiannual Roadmap (MAR), the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and the exploration of the Common European Data Spaces.

Another field of activity of the SOA results in the area of Skills Developments for EOSC. This is done through the Horizon Europe project Skills4EOSC [7] in which TU Vienna and NHM are involved. Curricula, materials and guidelines are being developed with the aim of establishing national competence centres together with 42 other European partners.

On the national level, new stakeholders and initiatives were identified through the addition of new partners to EOSC SOA, the organisation and participation of the Management Board and Secretariat in national EOSC and Open Science events and activities and through the response on the communication activities of EOSC SOA.

A series of events were crucial for fostering collaboration, raising awareness, and building a strong network of stakeholders to support the development and implementation of research data management initiatives, awareness on European Data spaces and Open Science training in Austria.

Selected events (the full list is available in annex II - Stakeholder engagement activities):

Workshop Research Data – Universities Austria (UNIKO)

Date: 22.4.2022
Place: University of Vienna
Focus: BMBWF Digitization Projects on Research Data Management (RDM)

The workshop held at the University of Vienna aimed to gather Digitalization and Research vice-rectors of all 22 Austrian universities. Research Data Management (RDM). The primary goal was

[6] https://eosc.eu/eosc-focus-project
[7] https://www.tuwien.at/en/library/all-news/news/skills4eosc-project-kickoff

to obtain a "big picture" of the RDM landscape. The participants focused on the BMBWF Digitization Projects on RDM, with a specific emphasis on the call for proposals for "Digital Research Infrastructures." The workshop aimed to develop a position paper on RDM that would highlight the importance of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in the context of the call for proposals.

Webinar: Infrastructure Networks for Austrian researchers – ACONET Association

Date: 10.5.2022

The webinar, organized by the ACONET Association, focused on infrastructure networks available for Austrian researchers. The event highlighted the ACONET Association and its role in providing networking and communication services for the research community in Austria. The webinar aimed to engage with national stakeholders and create awareness about the existing infrastructure networks that support research activities in the country.

Symposium Cluster Research Data - Future Research (Data) Management

Date: 23.5.2022
Place: TU Wien
Participants: Federal Ministries, universities, and funding agencies

The symposium, held at TU Vienna, brought together key stakeholders from Federal Ministries, universities, and funding agencies. The event aimed to provide insights into the work, content, and challenges faced by the three national projects of the Cluster Research Data. One of the highlights of the symposium was the presentation of a poster showcasing the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA) initiative and its collaboration with the Cluster Research Data. The symposium served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration between different stakeholders in the research data management domain.

Webinar: Common European Data Spaces. A moderated discussion about Common European Data Spaces.

Date: 30. Mai 2023
Organiser: EOSC SOA, HE Project EOSC Focus, with participation of TU Wien, BELNET and BMBWF
Participants: Stakeholder from EOSC Community
Aims: raise awareness about Data Spaces. The emerging Common European Data Spaces contribute to shape the Pan-European infrastructure Landscape. The Data Spaces are also re-modelling the view on how we can conceive the EOSC as a research and innovation Data Space.

Figure 3: Common European Data Spaces

Webinar: How can we embed skills for EOSC training in the Open Science activities in Austria? The Horizon Europe project Skills4EOSC

Date: 5.6.2023
Organiser: EOSC Support Office Austria /SOA, TU Wien, Open Science Austria/OSA

The webinar was aimed at Researchers and research support units of all stages, staff in research service institutions and libraries, and data stewards. In this event the main objective is to talk about Open Science and the EOSC Landscape, offering participants a conversation with an Austrian researcher about the practice of Open Science, followed by a presentation dedicated to the EOSC building process and the need for skilled resources and followed by a panel discussion.

6. *The engagement and participation with EOSC Task Forces (TFs), EOSC nodes and EOSC relevant calls*

Liaisons with the EOSC Association Task Forces and EOSC nodes have been established in the first year of EOSC SOA: Austrian partners and researchers participated in 12 (out of 13) EOSC Task Forces and were involved in 9 EOSC relevant projects. The participation in these Task Forces and projects will hopefully grow out further involvement in EOSC relevant calls and projects.

EOSC Task Force	Austrian Participant
FAIR metrics and Data Quality	Chris Schubert Co-Chair (TU Wien) Sarah Stryeck (TU Graz)
Semantic Interoperability	Fajar Ekaputra (TU Wien)
PID policy and implementation	Beate Guba (TU Wien)
Data stewardship, curricula and career paths	Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi Co-Chair (TU Graz) Tereza Kalová (Uni Wien)
Research careers, recognition and credit	Jakob Puttinger (Uni Wien)
Upskilling countries to engage in EOSC	Claudia Hackl (Uni Wien) Bernd Saurugger (TU Wien)
Researcher Engagement & Adoption	Susanne Blumesberger (Uni Wien) Katharina Flicker (TU Wien)
Infrastructures for Quality Research Software	Raman Ganguly (Uni Wien)
Technical Interoperability of Data and Services	Claire Jean-Quartier (TU Graz) Tomasz Miksa (TU Wien)
Long-Term Data Preservation	Florina Piroi (TU Wien) Mojib Wali (TU Graz)
Financial Sustainability	Lars Kaczmirek (Uni Wien) Miguel Rey Mazón (TU Graz)

7. *the reporting and dissemination of results and the publication of Working Group (WG) deliverables.*

These results can be read in the Chapter 'Synergy Team: Working Groups'.

The first year of EOSC SOA also taught us valuable lessons, these lessons will guide EOSC SOA in the years to come. To be successful in an endeavor as EOSC SOA, EOSC SOA/Austrian Mandated Organisation should be:

- a combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches.
- balanced between institutional and national priorities.
- a well-established intra- and inter- organisational network with continuous information exchange among its members.
- constructed out of highly motivated colleagues.
- be continued on a base of trust
- A continuous monitoring and mirroring at domestic level of the activities launched at the supranational level (mainly through the EOSC A, the EOSC SB, the EC, the funding programmes of the EC).

Communication Activities

A. Activities 2022

The Secretariat activities started following the First General Assembly (October 2021). At that time, the Secretariat consisted of three experts specialised in EOSC,[8] who were provided by TU Wien on an in-kind basis. The creation of the website was the first established milestone related to the communication activity, aligned with two main objectives: community and awareness building (national level) and mirroring the developments within EOSC.

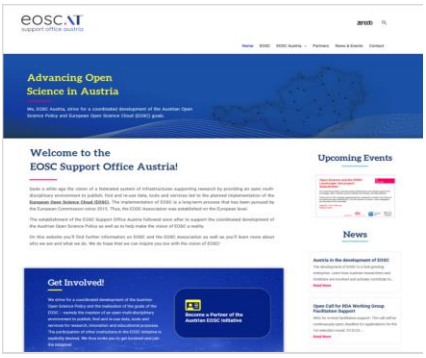


Figure 4: EOSC SOA Website

In May 2022, the website www.eosc-austria.at was launched. This activity was also carried out through voluntary contributions by the participating partners and the Infrastructure was provided by the computer centre of TU Wien.

During this same period, the Secretariat team was expanded[9] , thus allowing the establishment of a communications team within the Secretariat. Also at this time, the work was initially done on an in-kind basis, mainly through the contributions of TU Wien, TU Graz and University of Vienna. As a result, back-office activities were enhanced and communication activities were expanded, with the following structure and activities:

1. Strategic Communication Plan

A strategic communication plan was drafted with the aim of integrating the initial communication activities within a long-term implementation plan and exploration of future extensions to the initial activities. In parallel to the preparation of the Communication Strategy Plan, the Key Messages and Benefits of EOSC SOA Membership were defined, as well as the creation of a flowchart for

[8] They were all members of the EOSC supporting project H2020 EOSC Secretariat

[9] The Secretariat, Back Office, until May 2022 was comprised of Katharina Flicker (Coordination, Protocols, Texts, Workflows, spontaneous requests from MB and ACONET Verein), Bernd Saurugger (coLAB, Zenodo and protocols) and Juliana Giroletti (Website development). The Secretariat was extended with Franziska Krauss (May 2022), temporary member Julia Geistberger (May – November 2022) and later Marthe Bierens (November 2022). TU Wien provided a physical infrastructure for the Secretariat, which is based at Favoritenstraße 16/DG, 1040 Wien. This infrastructure (office) is available to all partners of the Austrian EOSC initiative and is an in-kind service.

new members (visualisation of application) regarding the onboarding process, aiming to attract new members to the initiative and facilitate engagement.

2. *Internal Communication (Wiki)*[10]

The internal coLAB/Wiki page and the mailing lists, an achievement of the Management Board and the Secretariat, are utilized by the Communication Team as channels for internal communication. The channels are used to enhance communication and interaction between the members of the EOSC Support Office Austria, as follows:

a. **coLAB/Wiki:** a collaborative work platform available to all members. coLAB/Wiki offers the community a unique working space, a virtual office, centralizing all essential/crucial information for the development and strengthening of the initiative.

b. **E-mails:** three e-mail accounts were created, focused on dissemination of content and engagement with the community for specific purposes, as follows:

eosc-soa-all@eosc-austria.at[11]: This mailing list contains all members. It acts as a kind of informal newsletter between EOSC SOA members, used to disseminate important news such as activities, surveys, project starts etc.

contact@eosc-austria.at: This mailing list provides the point of contact for SOA members. It functions as the internal point of communication regarding EOSC SOA affairs, addressing the SOA Management Board and Back Office.

info@eosc-austria.at: This mailing list acts as the internal point of communication between the initiative partners and the EOSC SOA communications team. It was created to receive news, information to be disseminated on the website and requests for website improvements.

3. *External Communication*

Interaction as a community and with key stakeholders is a crucial point for boosting and strengthening a community/initiative. The Support Office Austria has five channels that are being used for engagement, news dissemination and awareness raising, namely:

a. Website EOSC-Austria.at[12]: the main channel to present the SOA activities and to inform the Austrian community on EOSC developments. It plays a key role in increasing awareness for the Austrian initiative. In addition, it acts as the main public hub at the national level, presenting and disseminating relevant activities and results of EOSC ecosystems, EOSC-readiness, FAIR-readiness and Open Science.

b. Austria Country Report [13]: This document is the regular monitoring of EOSC building processes in Austria, i.e., open science and FAIR related policies, projects, activities as well as research data (management) infrastructures.

[10] https://colab.tuwien.ac.at/display/EOSCAT/EOSC+Support+Office+Austria+Wiki
[11] The moment an institution becomes a member of EOSC SOA, and signs the MoU, the institution and its representatives are registered on this mailing list.
[12] www.eosc-austria.at
[13] The Austria Country Report is one of the outputs of the EOSC SOA Austria Country WG
https://zenodo.org/record/7777732

c. **Zenodo:** As one of the first activities, a communication channel was established in Zenodo. The collection published in the EOSC SOA community on Zenodo[14] contains material (results and outputs) produced by the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation and the EOSC Support Office Austria partners in the context of the initiatives.

d. **EOSC SOA Newsletter:** The EOSC SOA newsletter is the newest communication channel, with its first edition in November 2022.[15] The EOSC SOA newsletter consists of articles, interviews and summaries dedicated to disseminating results and outputs of the EOSC SOA Initiative and its members. The newsletter is open to the public, one can subscribe to at the eosc-austria.at website.

e. **E-mail contact@eosc-austria.at:** This is the main contact[16] point of the EOSC SOA with the target audience and community and is promoted on the website.

On balance, the activities of the first year have been very positively received. This was emphasized by the promotion and support of activities during the Second General Assembly, the launch of the first Newsletter and the submission of the Communication Strategy Plan to the SOA Management Board, as presented in the timeline below:

Figure 5: EOSC SOA overview of the communication activities

[14] https://zenodo.org/communities/eosc-austria?page=1&size=20
[15] https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-support-office-austria-newsletter-1/
[16] https://eosc-austria.at/contact/

B. Activities 2023

The activities planned for the year 2023 have been elaborated based on the first milestone, the establishment of a web presence - the website is one of the channels, aligned with two main objectives: community building and awareness raising (at national level), and mirroring the developments in the EOSC.

1. Key objectives for the year 2023

The communication activities were grouped into five key objectives, as follows:

- **Communication Strategy Plan:** validation by the EOSC SOA MB and implementation of the plan, with the definition of priorities to ensure target and consistent communication.
- **Define brand/visual identity:** better positioning of the initiative within the EOSC environment and as a national initiative.
- **EOSC SOA Website:** maintenance and continuous improvement
- **Awareness raising activity:** news: monthly updates, between 2-3 news items, with a focus on the target audience.
- **Dissemination activity:**
    - **Events:** update 2x per month. Publish events related to Open Science, FAIR and EOSC and the activities developed by our partners with this focus.
    - **Newsletter:** 3 issues for this year (April, October, and December).

2. Up-to-date report

- **Communication Strategy Plan:** the document was presented to the Management Board in January this year. The Secretariat is currently awaiting validation of the document. The purpose of validating this document is to prioritise and work on the key messages for more consistent communication. Nevertheless, the content published on the website, in the news and events section, and the newsletter seek to cover all the stakeholders listed in the document.

- **Define brand/visual identity:** Two proposals for a new logo (see annex III) were developed during January and February. In March the EOSC SOA community was invited to select the new logo for the initiative. The process for voting proceeded as follows: two 15-minute sessions were held on March 10 to present the two proposals to all members. All EOSC SOA members were invited to vote, even those members who did not attend the presentation of the two logos. On the voting form, a concise explanation was offered, containing some background information on the how the two proposals were developed and the aspects that were taken into consideration in the creation process. Out of 55 members subscribed to the EOSC Support Office mailing-list, 32 members participated in the choice process, a representation of 58.2% (see annex IV).

  Upon the choice of the new logo, other activities were initiated (see annex V), such as: official communication of the logo; adoption of the new logo (e.g., website, e-mail); creation of templates (PowerPoint, Word document, meeting minutes, report, etc.). The visual identity of the initiative is currently under development. Guidelines on how to apply and use the brand are still to be developed.

- **EOSC SOA Website:** maintenance and continuous improvement. Activities are being carried out, with the focus on disseminating content and progress of EOSC and Austrian initiatives, projects and institutions and harmonising the branding of website due to the adoption of the new logo.

- **Awareness raising activity:** The news section is updated monthly, with 2-3 news items per month. The aim is to disseminate news with focus on any initiative that contributes to EOSC-readiness FAIR-readiness and OS. Therefore, the news needs to be interesting for the Austrian community. The target groups according to the 3 missions of universities are[17]**:** Partners, Research Performing Organisations, Policy Makers, Research Funding Bodies and Interested Public.

- **Dissemination activity:**

  - **Events:** At least twice a month, new events related to Open Science, FAIR and EOSC are published, as well as activities developed by our partners with the same focus.

  - **Newsletter:** As previously mentioned, 3 issues of the newsletter are planned for this year. The first edition in 2023[18] was launched in April, containing new areas such as, for example, more information on the results achieved by the EOSC SOA Working Groups (e.g.: Austria Country Report and the Austrian Research Engagement) and information on the open calls.

    The number of subscribers still needs to be increased, today we have 134 subscribers and of these 41% have clicked on the newsletter. Note that those who read the newsletter directly through outlook without clicking are not counted.

    The newsletter's objectives are better defined, they are: inform EOSC SOA Partners and other stakeholders on the development of EOSC and help to coordinate the discussion in Austria; translate the European developments to help structure the infrastructure within Austria; promote monitoring activities of EOSC SOA and WGs outcomes; reach out to relevant stakeholders and help grow the EOSC SOA member base in order to increase community representation and impact; any initiative that contributes to EOSC-readiness FAIR-readiness and OS; etc.

Figure 6: EOSC SOA Newsletter #2

  - **Webinar:** a series of webinars are being developed as a complementary community building activity. The first webinar was held within the TU Wien, 28th April 2023, dedicated to university staff, and served as a pilot. The idea is to offer a similar webinar to all EOSC SOA members

[17] Education, Research, how the *Research Performing Organizations* imbedded in his own territory: cultural heritage.

[18] https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-support-office-austria-newsletter-2/

to disseminate the initiative within the institutions of the respective members and the whole EOSC SOA community.

A list of further webinars is listed in Annex II - Stakeholder engagement activities.

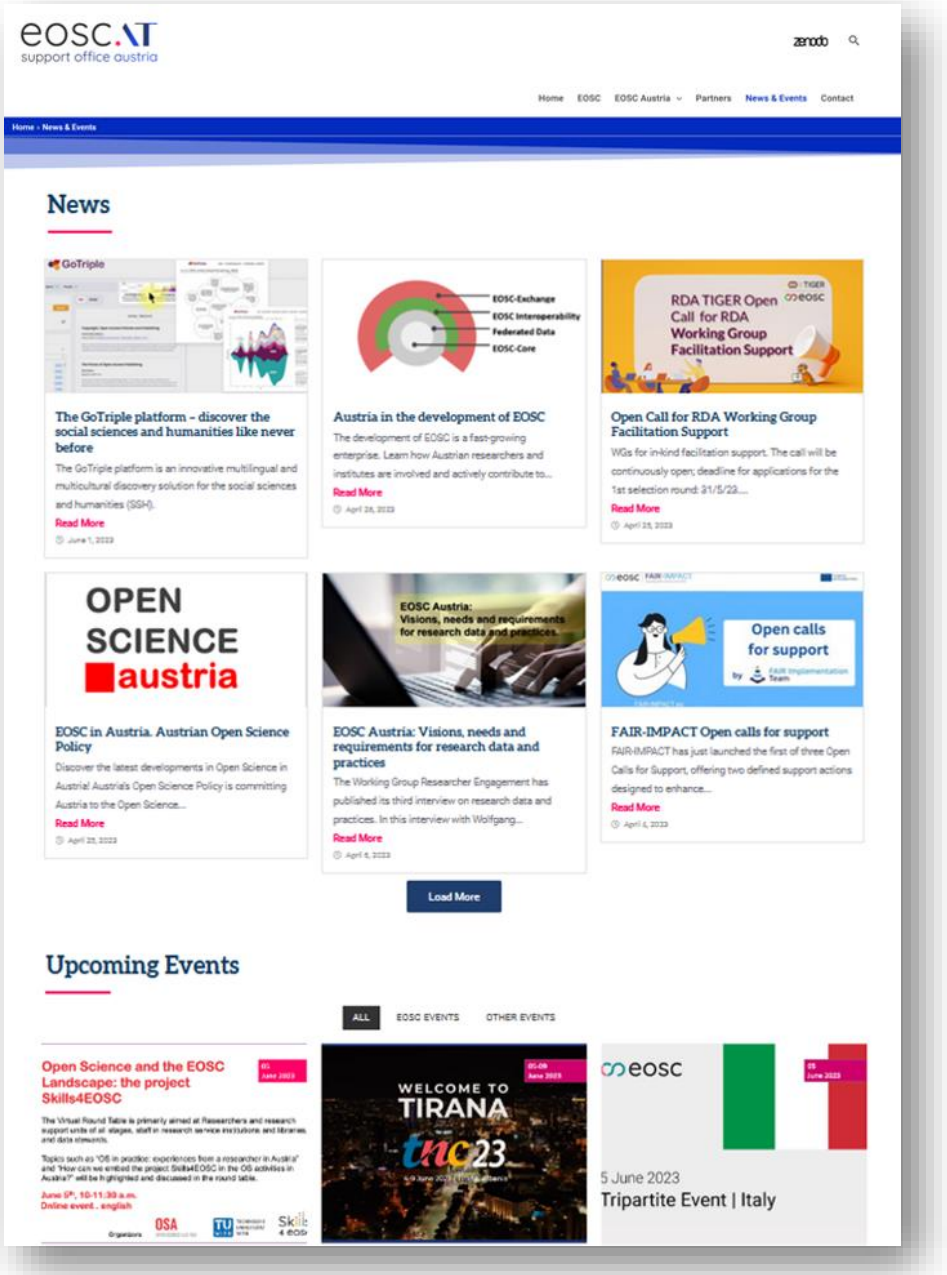


Figure 7: EOSC SOA News and Events

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee[19] is composed by representatives of the member institutions NHMW, TU Graz, University of Vienna, TU Wien, Climate Change Centre Austria (CCCA) and Johannes Kepler Universität Linz (JKU Linz), co-chaired in the period 2022/2023 by NHMW and TU Graz.

Key task is to supervise and support the EOSC SOA activities and align them with institutional efforts.

At its inaugural meeting in 2021 it was agreed to meet two times /year and to evaluate the output and structure of EOSC SOA in spring 2023. At the GA in Graz on November 7th 2023 the strategy to organise financial resources was presented; while key activities still rely on in-kind-contributions, strategic projects funded by the European Commission could be used to develop the EOSC in Austria. Joint efforts to jointly obtain projects are part of this strategy.

The BMBWF's willingness to provide special funding to cover part of the personnel costs of the EOSC SOA from autumn 2022 onwards should also be seen as a sign of its appreciation of the commitment of the members of the Austrian EOSC initiative. The sum made available does not correspond to the total expenditure for the personnel resources used, but is a valuable and relevant recognition of the joint efforts made and the stakeholders are grateful for this.

A preparing meeting in March 2023 concluded as key topics for the evaluation meeting to assess the structure and communication pathways of EOSC SOA to focus the resources on key products and the support of an Open Science culture in Austria. The Synergy Team was mandated to organize the self-evaluation of the working group as a preparation of a meeting planned for July 2023.

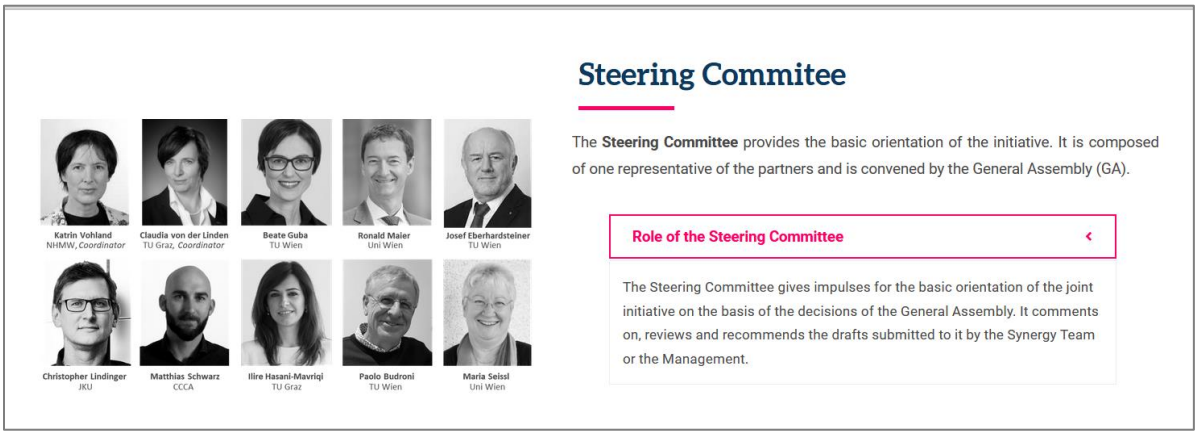


Figure 8: EOSC SOA Steering Committee

[19] The list of the members of the Steering Committee is visualized at the page: https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-austria/governing-bodies

Synergy Team: Working Groups[20]

The aim of the Working Groups (WGs) is to advance EOSC-relevant topics. To this end, they may organise events and workshops, launch surveys or write recommendations on specific topics. They report to the Management Board and the General Assembly and publish the results according to the criteria of good scientific practice in the EOSC Austria Zenodo Community[21]. WGs are convened and confirmed by the General Assembly. Proposals for the creation of new WGs can come from the entire community. WGs are limited in time and work on specific topics, and can be dissolved again after the goals have been achieved. Accordingly, they can be composed very differently. If necessary, external experts can be called in. A synergy team has also been set up for efficient implementation and to improve cooperation.

Currently, the SOA comprises eight Working Groups:

1. Austria Country Report, coordinated by Barbara Sánchez Solís (TU Wien)
2. Collections, coordinated by Heimo Rainer (NHMW)
3. Data Stewardship, coordinated by Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi (TU Graz)
4. Key Performance Indicators, coordinated by Katrin Vohland (NHMW), Beate Guba (TU Wien)
5. Researcher Engagement in Austria, coordinated by Katharina Flicker (TU Wien)
6. Stakeholder Engagement, coordinated by Raman Ganguly (University of Vienna
7. Technical Infrastructure, coordinated by Claire Jean-Quartier (TU Graz)
8. Training, coordinated by Susanne Blumesberger (University of Vienna)

Plans Synergy Team 2023

The Synergy Team presented its plans on the first EOSC Support Office Austria Quarterly Meeting of 2023 on the 10th of May:

1. Recommendation of content-related strategy considering EOSC-relevant topics in agreement/consultation with the management board suggesting additional meetings between those two bodies
2. Simplifying and strengthening communication with the Management Board
3. Disseminating working group content: public presentations by one representative ensuring homogeneity at general assemblies

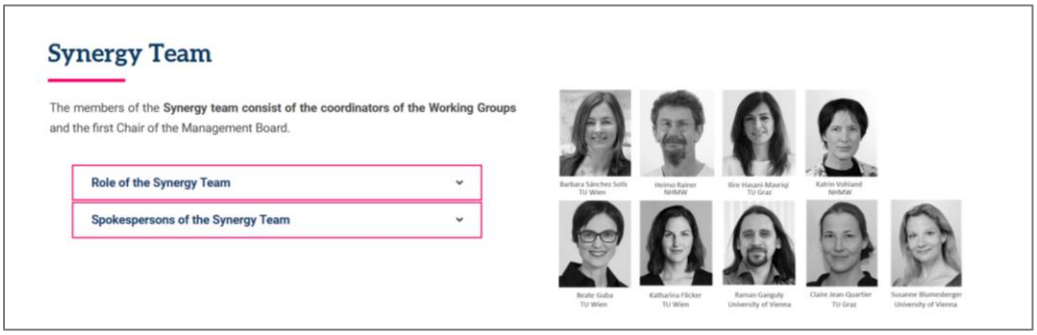


Figure 9: EOSC SOA Synergy Team

[20] https://colab.tuwien.ac.at/download/attachments/76514701/EOSC-synergyteam-eval2023.pptx?api=v2
[21] https://zenodo.org/record/7777732

Austria Country Profile

The WG Austrian Country Profile is actively monitoring the development of open science and FAIR policies, projects, and activities, as well as RDM infrastructures in Austria. Their regular monitoring helps to ensure that EOSC building processes are aligned with the country's goals and policies. The WG's efforts to update their reports quarterly and share findings with decision-makers at the national level contribute to the development of a coordinated and effective EOSC across Europe.

The WG Austrian Country Profile has published in December 2022 a report[22] that assesses the current state of open and FAIR science policies in Austria, as well as the potential for existing e-infrastructure to be federated and accessible to the EOSC. The report includes detailed analysis of current policies and references to EOSC in those policies, while also identifying potential opportunities for further alignment and collaboration. The report also includes annexes with information on data repositories and publication/document servers.

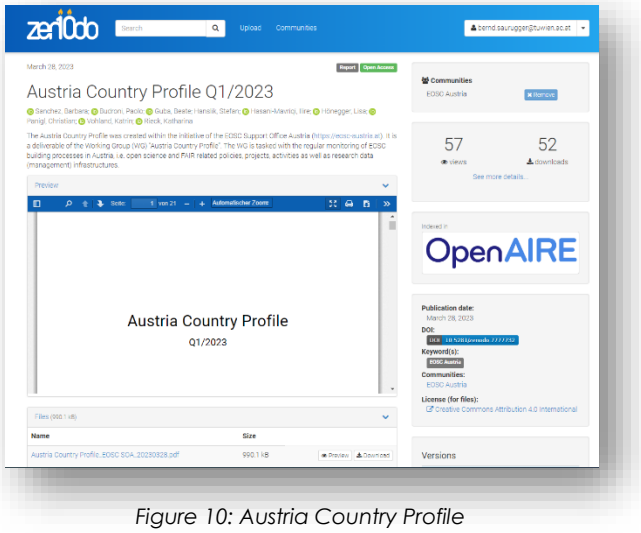


Figure 10: Austria Country Profile

As part of their ongoing efforts to monitor EOSC building processes in Austria, the WG Austrian Country Profile has also identified areas for improvement in open science and FAIR policies, projects, and activities. These include the need for clearer policy guidelines on research evaluation, open learning, and funding for EOSC-related initiatives. The WG's work in this area helps to promote transparency and collaboration in the development of the EOSC, while also ensuring that the needs and priorities of Austria are fully represented.

The WG Austrian Country Profile is playing a crucial role in monitoring the development of open science and FAIR policies, projects, and activities in Austria. Their regular monitoring and reporting activities help to ensure that EOSC building processes are aligned with national priorities, while also promoting transparency and collaboration across Europe. The WG's recent report on the state of open and FAIR science policies in Austria provides valuable insights into the current state of EOSC development in the country, and helps identifying areas for improvement in the years ahead.

[22] Austria Country Profile Q4/2022: https://zenodo.org/record/7472910#.ZDm_JXZBxPY and Austria Country Profile Q1/2023: https://zenodo.org/record/7777732

Collections

The WG Collections is an important integration of the EOSC ecosystem, focusing specifically on scientific collections and their role in open science. The WG recognizes that scientific collections represent an invaluable source of information for researchers across a wide range of disciplines. However, in order to ensure that this information can be used effectively and efficiently, it is important to ensure that the data, repositories, and software produced by collection holders are FAIR and trustworthy.

To achieve this goal, the WG has established a group on Open Scientific Collections in Austria, which brings together stakeholders from across the scientific community to discuss best practices and share knowledge. The WG has also set up a knowledge space, which serves as a central hub for information on scientific collections in Austria.

The expected results of the WG's efforts include the development of policies for decision makers that promote the FAIRification and trustification of scientific collections, as well as the development of RDM skill sets and guidance elements to support researchers and collection holders in their efforts to make their data more accessible and usable. By working towards these goals, the WG Collections is helping to ensure that scientific collections can be fully integrated into the EOSC ecosystem, providing researchers with access to a wealth of valuable information and helping to drive scientific progress forward.

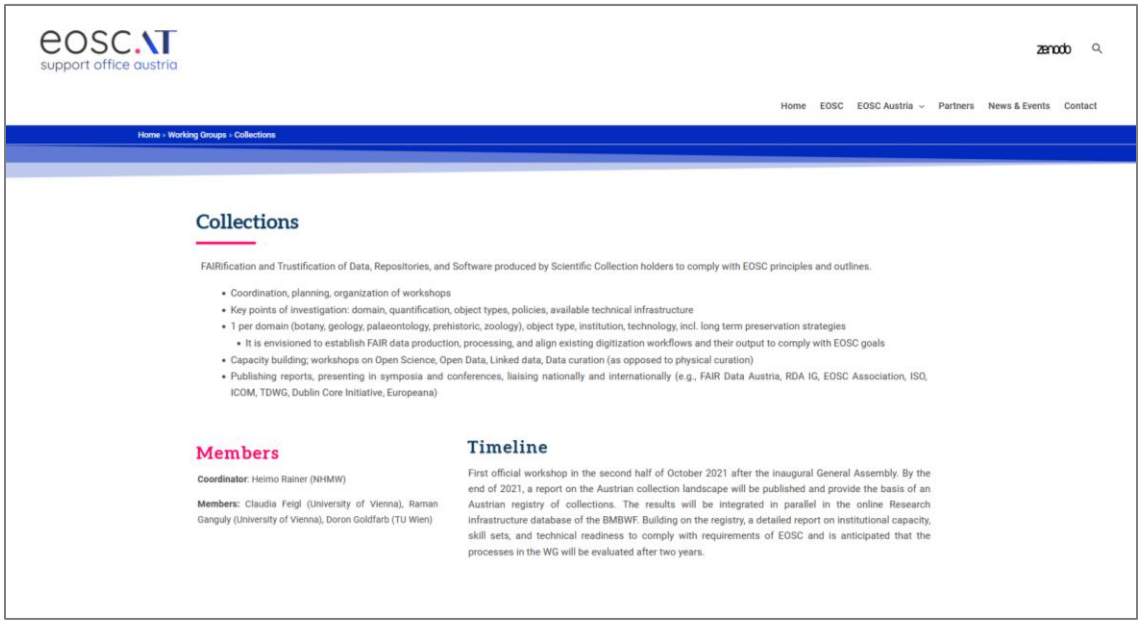


Figure 11: EOSC SOA Collections WG

Data Stewardship

The WG Data Stewardship is focused on promoting data stewardship programs and aligning efforts and activities at the national and international levels. To achieve this, the group has finalized the concept on models, roles, tasks, competences and training offers for data stewards, which will help in the development of guidelines for the implementation of data stewardship programs and potential career paths at Austrian institutions. The WG is also investigating the differences and similarities of data stewardship in industry, museums and academia.

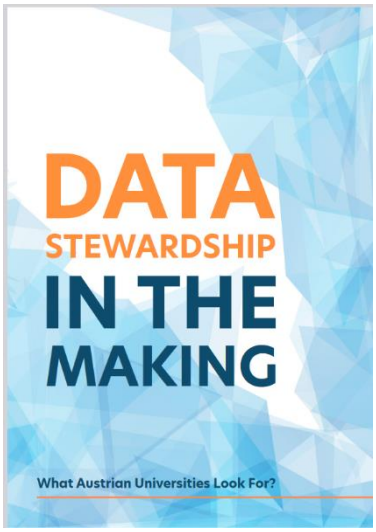


Figure 12: EOSC SOA Data Stewardship Report

Their first report,[23] titled "Data Stewardship in the making: what Austrian Universities look for?" addresses the challenges faced by universities in managing research data and meeting the requirements of data-driven science. The report presents different data steward models with the required competences and training, providing universities with a toolbox to choose the appropriate implementation strategy based on their unique characteristics and needs. The report aims to support universities in developing effective data stewardship programs that can help them make the most of their research data and meet the demands of data-driven science.

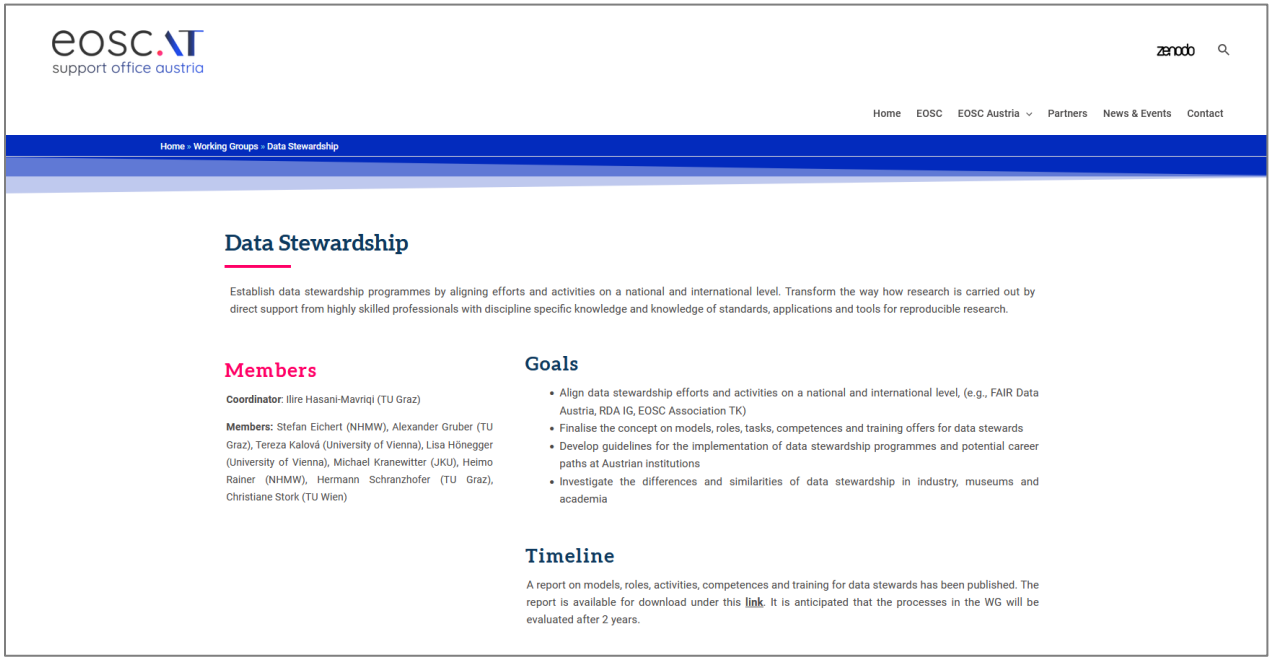


Figure 13: EOSC SOA Data Stewardship WG

[23] https://www.tugraz.at/fileadmin/user_upload/tugrazExternal/0c4b9c02-50a6-4a31-b5fd-24a0f93b69c5/Data_Stewards_Austrian_Initiative.pdf or doi/10.3217/p9fvw-rke48

Key Performance Indicators[24]

The WG Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) is a cornerstone of the EOSC ecosystem in Austria. Its primary objective is to develop and define measurable indicators to assess the success of EOSC at the national and international level. The group has identified specific overarching goals for Austria and is working to develop indicators that will help to assess the readiness of Austria in achieving these goals.

The KPIs are designed to serve as a steering instrument for targeted, impact-oriented further development and implementation of the EOSC. During the conceptualization phase two workshops were organized:

The first workshop for internal stakeholders in October 2021 aimed to clarify the expectations of the Austrian EOSC activities at different levels – the personal level of the participants, the institutional one and the societal one. In addition, the two keynote speeches linked the perspectives to the broader national and international context. Thomas Koenig, Head of Strategy and Scientific Services, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), held the keynote 'If Open Science is the answer – what is the problem?'. Gareth O'Neill, a Principal Consultant on Open Science, Technopolis Group, gave in his keynote' Monitoring activities in the EOSC ecosystem' insights into the milestones of EOSC Future. The workshop resulted in a common understanding of the challenges related to monitoring and impact measurement of the EOSC.

The second workshop[25] in May 2022 brought together national stakeholders from Austrian ministries, re-search performing and research evaluating organizations, funding agencies, infrastructure providers, and networks to align efforts on the development of KPIs and work out common national interests. Thirty-five experts from the different stakeholder groups discussed national policies and strategies, identifying challenges or existing gaps and figuring out relevant monitoring and evaluation aspects. The importance of Open Scientific Collections Austria (OSCA), FAIR vocabularies[26] and data stewardship were highlighted. The KPI model[27] developed by the WG KPIs was introduced at this workshop.

The KPI model characterizes the indicators, methods, and responsibilities. These indicators will help to monitor progress, identify gaps and challenges, and provide a framework for decision-making.

First, the PEST schema, traditionally used to analyze political, economic, social, and technological factors influencing the performance of an organization, was transformed into our context. Therefore, the impact of the EOSC was divided into political, socio-economic, scientific, and technological scopes. Since the effects on society and economics go hand in hand and can hardly be separated, we merged these two factors into one and introduced the term socio-economic instead. Second, the indicators were assigned to three different levels – the level of the EOSC SOA, the national level, and the international level.[28]

The objectives and indicators at the EOSC SOA level were determined as shown in figures 4 to 12. The corresponding status for the period up to December 2022 was provided partly by Ilire Hasani-

[24] This report was directed by Beate Guba, the main author of the KPI model. Graphic design: Juliana Giroletti.

[25] https://eosc-austria.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/WS_KPI-Programm_2022-04-12-29.pdf

[26] https://zenodo.org/record/6772183#.ZCxASPbP1PY

[27] https://zenodo.org/record/6627786#.ZGYwqaXP1Pa

[28] Guba, Beate. (2022). The EOSC initiative and its key performance indicators. Workshop presentation. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6627786.

Mavriqi as Chair of the Management Board 2022, partly by Juliana Giroletti as member of the Secretariat, and partly by Beate Guba as co-chair of the WG KPIs. At this level the socio-economic impact prevails, as the priority was to build an efficient, and sustainable organization that can grow over the following years effectively. The technological impact is considered to be monitored at the national level to get a better overall picture of the uptake of EOSC-driven technological developments in Austria, the Austrian contributions to the EOSC ecosystem and the implementation of the Open Science Policy Austria[29].

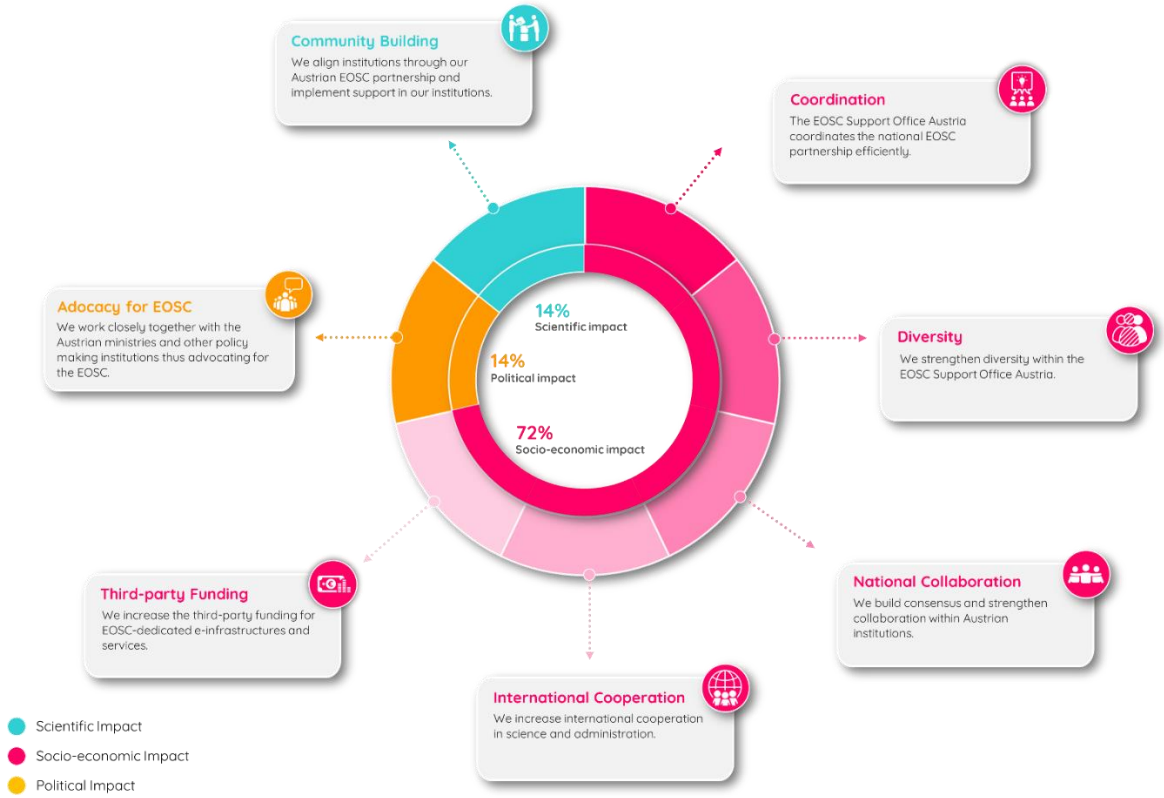
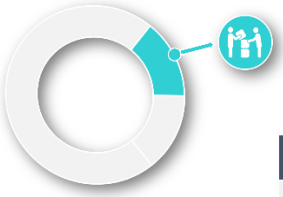


Figure 14: EOSC-KPIs: Objectives at the SOA-level

[29] https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/Themen/HS-Uni/Hochschulgovernance/Leitthemen/Digitalisierung/Open-Science/Open-Science-Policy-Austria.html

Scientific Impact



Community Building

We align institutions through our Austrian EOSC partnership and implement support in our institutions.

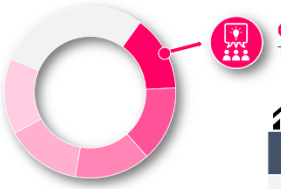
2022
Starting point of monitoring, evaluation, assessment

Indicators	Methods	Types of institutions	Data collection frequency
• Partners of EOSC SOA • reference points in institutions of EOSC SOA • research support activities	• number of signatories of the MoU • number of reference points (headcounts) • number of workshops, webinars, engagement activities	all types	1 x per year

Source of data	Dissemination channels		Status 12/22
	Internal	External	
Management Board *(Chairperson)*	• coLAB	• website • newsletter • Austria Country Profile	• 6 ordinary partners • 7 extraordinary partners • 12 EOSC reference points in these institutions • 8 webinars, workshops, engagement activities

Figure 15: EOSC-KPIs: Scientific impact – Community Building

Socio-economic Impact



Coordination

The EOSC Support Office Austria coordinates the national EOSC partnership efficiently.

Oct 2021
Starting point of monitoring, evaluation, assessment

Indicators	Methods	Types of institutions	Data collection frequency
• standardised processes • transparent voting processes • regular meetings • back-office staff	• review of processes and structures • frequency of internal meetings • number of back office staff in FTEs	all types	Evaluation period April 2023

Source of data	Dissemination channels		Status 12/22
	Internal	External	
Management Board *(Chairperson)*	• coLAB	• Austria Country Profile	• 5 standardised processes • 1 transparent voting process • 44 regular meetings (in total) • 1,5 FTEs back office staff funded by the BMBWF for 3 years (01.07.2022-30.06.2025)

Figure 16: EOSC-KPIs: Socio-economic impact – Coordination

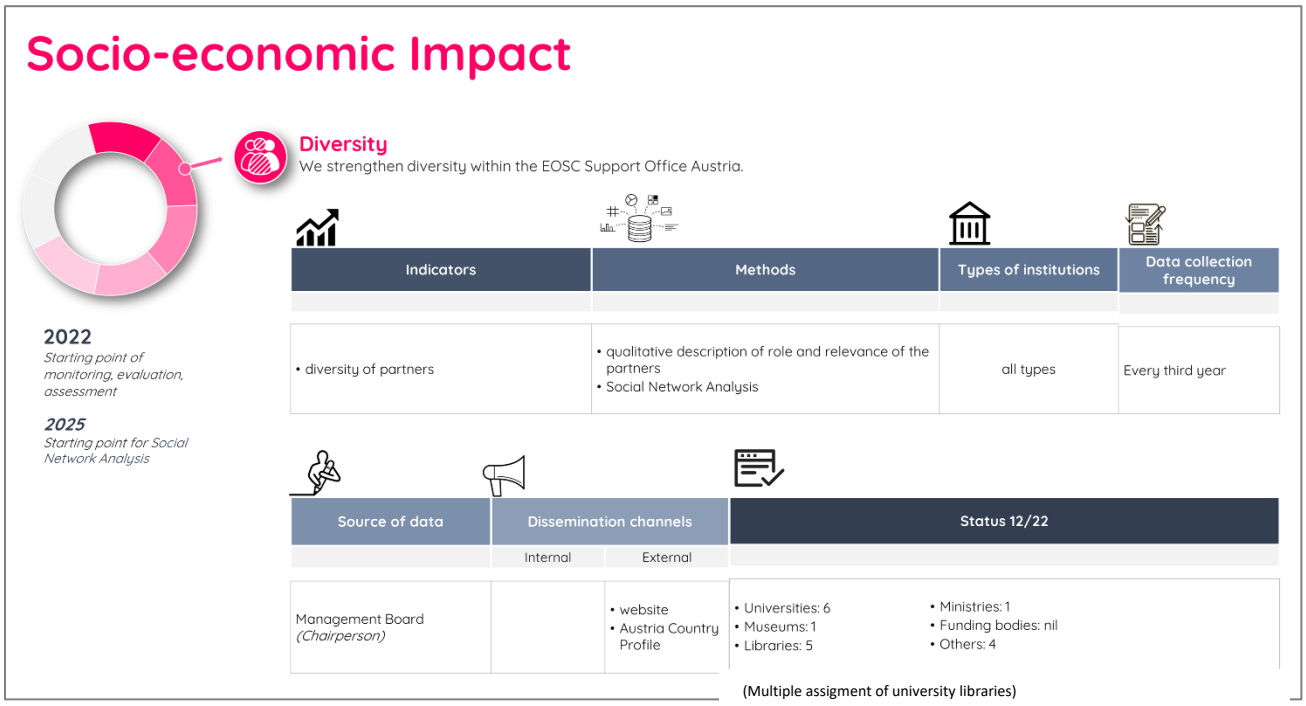


Figure 17: EOSC-KPIs: Socio-economic impact – Diversity

Gender balance in the EOSC Support Office Austria.

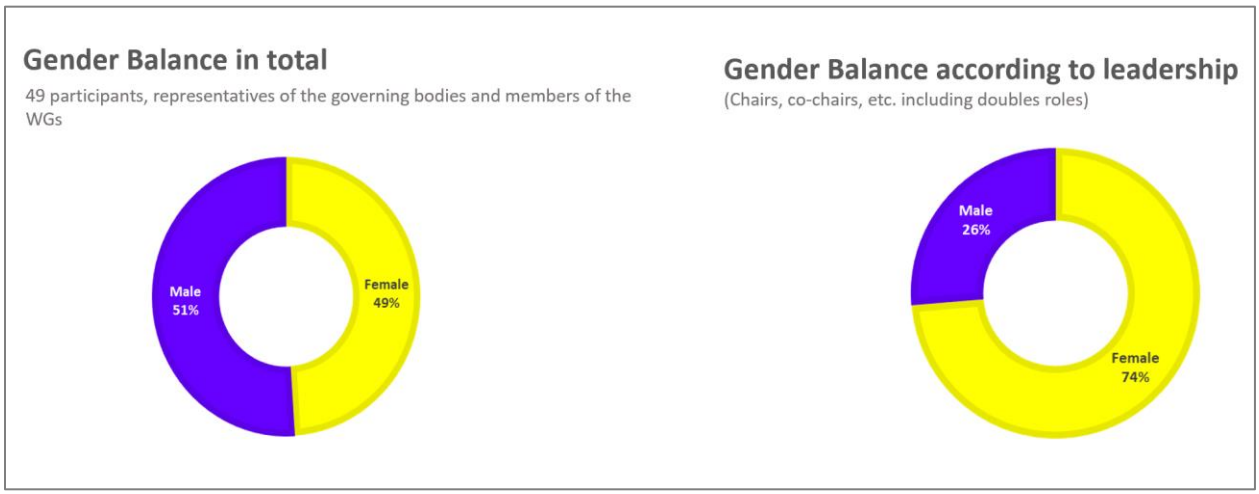
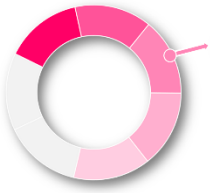


Figure 18: EOSC Support Office Austria – Gender Balance

Socio-economic Impact



National Collaboration

We build consensus and strengthen collaboration within Austrian institutions.

2022
Starting point of monitoring, evaluation, assessment

Indicators	Methods	Types of institutions	Data collection frequency
• active working groups EOSC SOA • working group members EOSC SOA	• number of groups • number of persons (headcounts)	all types	1 x per year

Source of data	Dissemination channels		Status 12/22
	Internal	External	
Secretariat	• coLAB	• website • newsletter • Austria Country Report	• 8 working groups • 40 working group members (in total)

Figure 19: EOSC-KPIs: Socio-economic impact – National Collaboration

Socio-economic Impact

International Cooperation

We increase international cooperation in science and administration.

2022
Starting point of monitoring, evaluation, assessment

Indicators	Methods	Types of institutions	Data collection frequency
• staff participating in or chairing EOSC Association Task Forces • joint projects with EOSC Association members	• number of participants and chairs (headcounts) • number of projects	all types	1 x per year

Source of data	Dissemination channels		Status 12/22
	Internal	External	
EOSC Reference Points		• EOSC-A Reports and Monitoring Framework • Austria Country Profile	• 12 participants in 12 from 13 EOSC-A Task Forces, 2 of them Task Force chairs (in total 7 organisations) • 2 joint projects of EOSC SOA partners with EOSC Association members (Skills4EOSC, EOSC Focus)

Figure 20: EOSC-KPIs: Socio-economic impact – International Collaboration

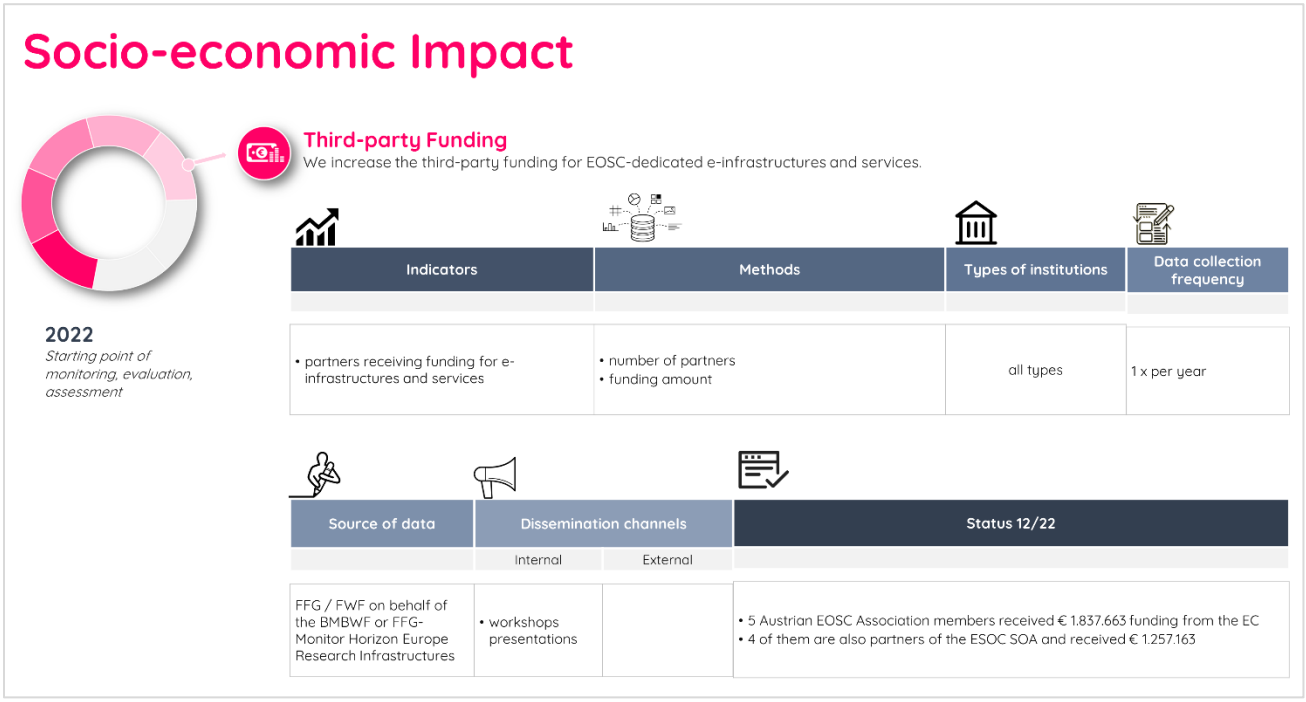


Figure 21: EOSC-KPIs: Socio-economic impact – Thirdy-party Funding

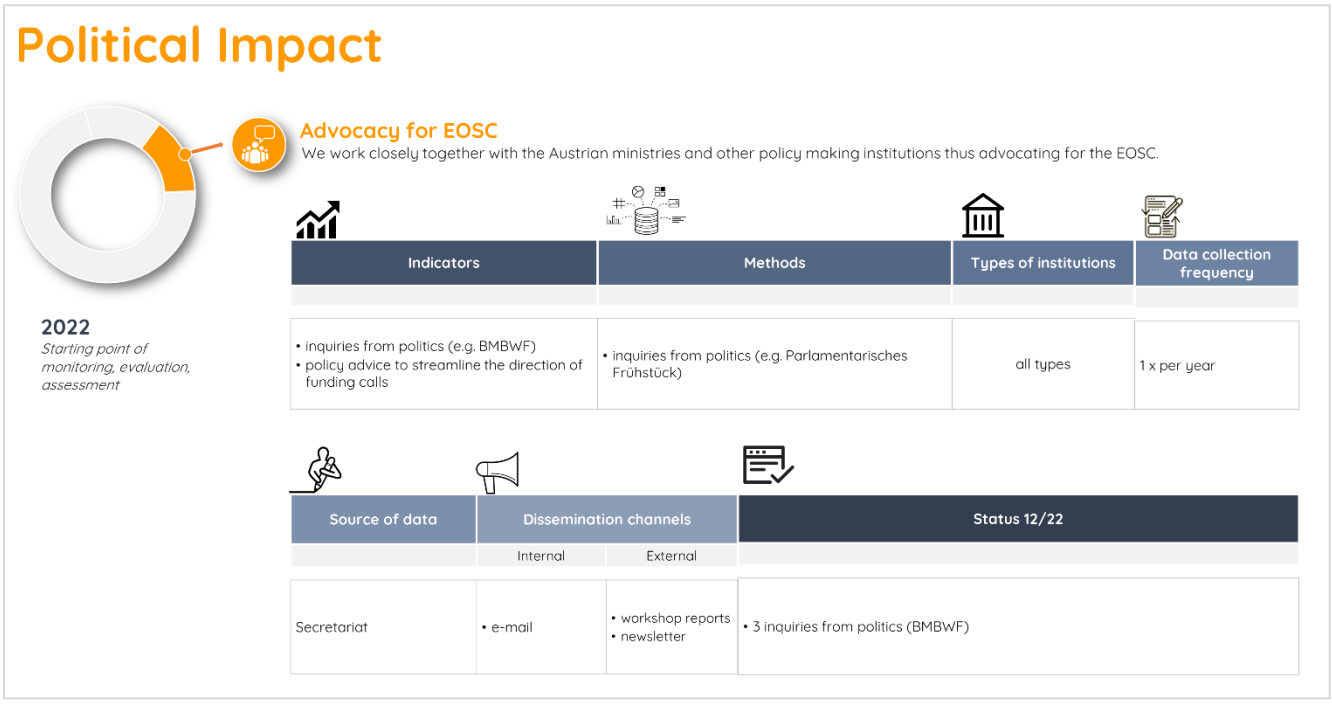


Figure 22: EOSC-KPIs: Political impact – Advocacy for EOSC

The indicators identified for the national level cover more broadly the scientific and technological impact scopes. Collecting and aggregating data at the national level is impossible for the EOSC SOA due to lacking ownership of these data. Therefore, the next step is to elaborate ways of

integrating EOSC-KPIs for Austrian stakeholders into already existing national research monitoring tools.

Due to the high dependency on projects such as EOSC Future and EOSC Focus, the WG KPIs will not pursue work on EOSC-related indicators at the international level to avoid duplicate work. However, the close cooperation within the working group contributed significantly to a harmonized reporting to the EOSC Association concerning the annual Additional Activities Plan. Through the participation of working group members in the EOSC Focus project, an early alignment to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the EOSC Association is guaranteed.

The WG KPIs is committed to refining its KPI model, ensuring that the indicators are aligned with the goals of the EOSC, and providing meaningful insights into the impact of EOSC in Austria.

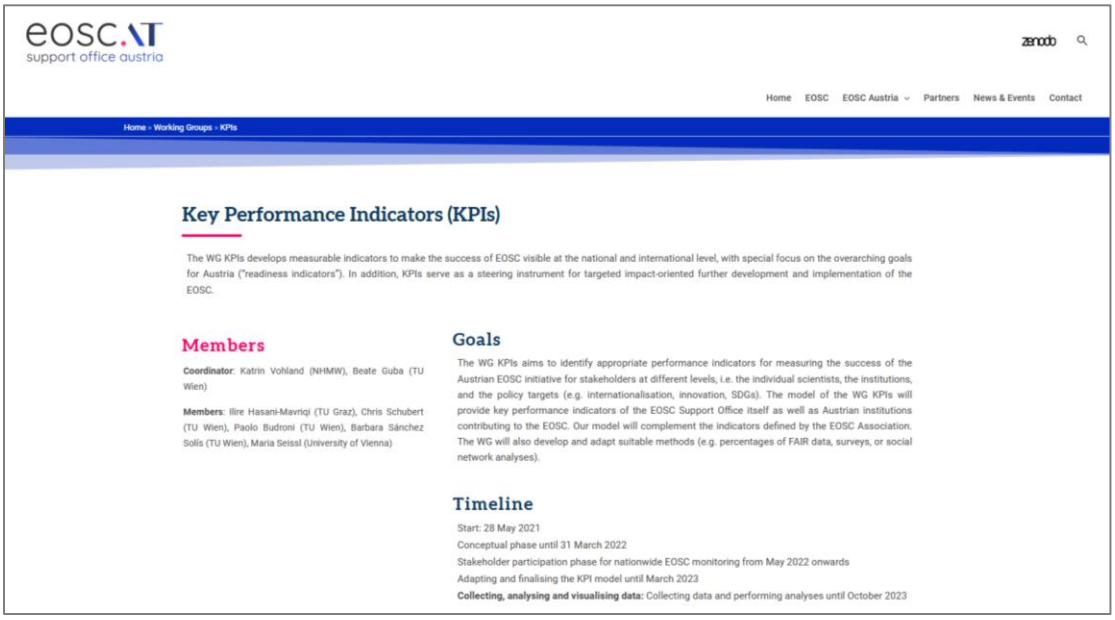


Figure 23: EOSC SOA KPIs WG

Researcher Engagement

The WG Researcher Engagement in Austria contributes to the identification of the research communities' needs to ensure that EOSC services will be of actual use, all while facilitating (gender-) balanced participation from disciplines and institutions as well as across career stages. To begin with, this WG decided to target researchers from public universities in Austria. In terms of content, the focus was put on requirements for the sharing and re-using of data. Topics to be touched in this context also included (i) (discipline-specific) data practices[30] to understand the exact context of data sharing and re-using and (ii) trust in data quality. These requirements were to be collected with the help of qualitative interviews and workshops.

As seven out of nine *Bundesländer/Federal States* in Austria have public universities, the original idea was to organise workshops with up to 30 participants in the provinces of Styria and Vienna[31] as early as 2022 and to cover Carinthia, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg and Tyrol with interviews. Due to a lack of financial resources, however, both workshops were cancelled. The *Bundesländer* of Styria and Vienna are now covered via interviews in 2023.

In 2022, members of the WG conducted six interviews: one in Carinthia, one in Lower Austria, one in Upper Austria, one in Salzburg and two in Tyrol. Universities covered include the University of Klagenfurt, the University for Continuing Education Krems, the Johannes Kepler University Linz, the Paris Lodron University Salzburg, the University of Innsbruck and the Medical University of Innsbruck. Four interviews have been published already[32], follow-up activities such as transcribing, editing and publishing the interviews will be taken care of in 2023. Expected results for 2023 include the publication of further interviews, a report summarizing all results, a summary of key results and messages as well as contributions to the EOSC Support Office's newsletters.

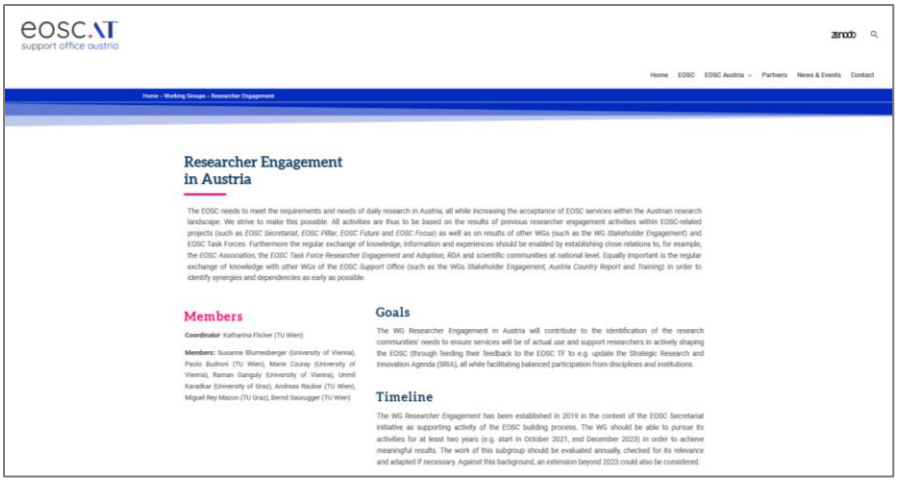


Figure 24: EOSC SOA Researcher Engagement in Austria WG

[30] *Data Practices* refers to e.g. ways of defining, collecting, preprocessing, analyzing, interpreting and storing data as well as tools and services that are being used in this context.

[31] The organisation of workshops in Styria and Vienna was considered for pragmatic reasons: all members of the WG are located at universities in these two *Bundesländer*. Hosting the workshops at their "home universities" would have facilitated a resource-saving working mode.

[32] See the interview with Thomas Lampoltshammer (https://zenodo.org/record/7319375#.Y9zB63bMKUk); the interview with Maria Schreiber (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7758011); the interview with Wolfgang Kraus (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7804887); and, the interview with Thomas Hofer (https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7855137)

Stakeholder Engagement

The Stakeholder Engagement WG is in the planning phase and is gearing up to take action in the near future. The group is dedicated to identifying and engaging with key stakeholders from academia, the public sector, and industry, with the goal of broadening support for the EOSC initiative in Austria. To achieve this, the WG will begin by mapping out relevant stakeholders and their interests. The next step will be to create tailored information materials about the EOSC for each stakeholder group, as well as organizing community events to promote discussion and collaboration. The WG recognizes the importance of open communication and encourages meaningful engagement with stakeholders to build a strong and supportive community for the EOSC in Austria.

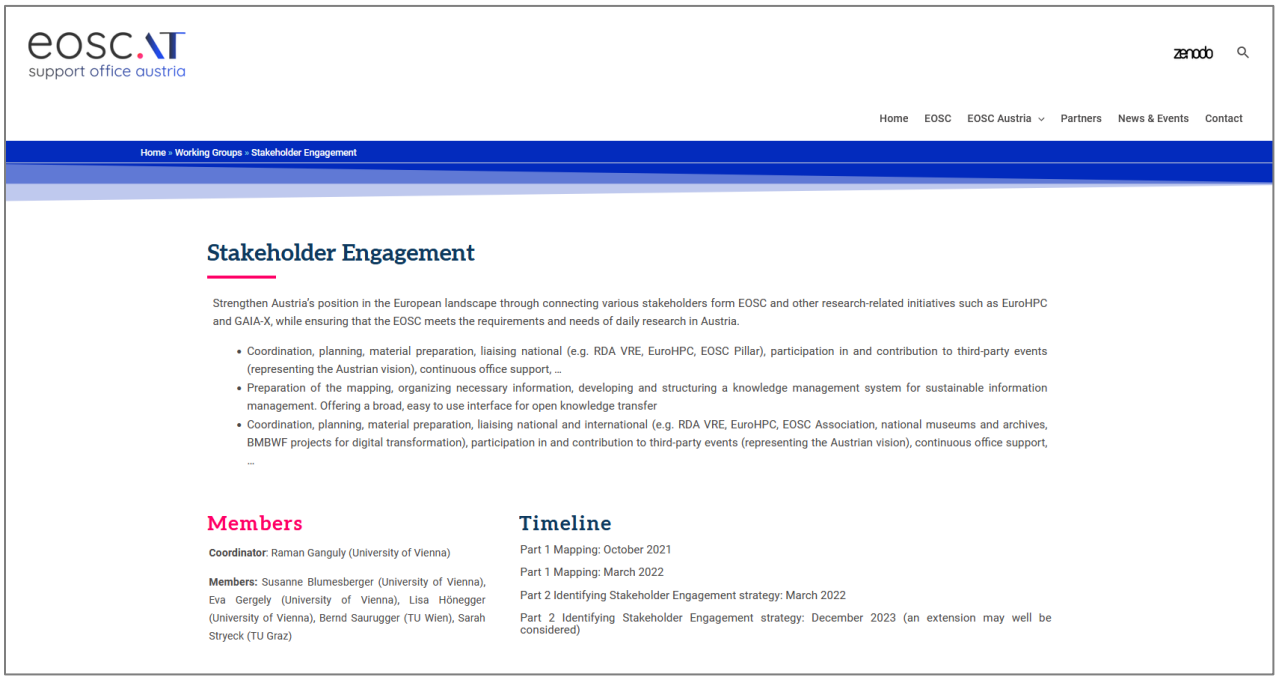


Figure 25: EOSC SOA Stakeholder Engagement WG

Technical Infrastructure

The WG Technical Infrastructure is focused on technical aspects and developments related to EOSC in consideration of national services, facilitating the implementation of the framework for the EOSC strategic research and innovation agenda on a national level.

The group collects potential gaps related to e-infrastructures, data, applications, and services, and assesses requirements for new users and providers. They use this information to prioritize their efforts, all while basing their activities on synergies resulting from ongoing projects and developments in e-infrastructure or software solutions.

The members of this WG play an active role in the EOSC Association and contribute to various Task Forces (TFs) that are crucial for the development and implementation of EOSC. Their participation in these TFs highlights their dedication to advancing scientific collaboration and discovery through the establishment of a robust technical infrastructure.

One of the key TF that the WG members engage in is the Technical Interoperability of Data and Services Task Force[33]. It focuses on promoting seamless integration and interoperability among different data and service providers within the EOSC. By working towards technical standards and protocols, the WG members contribute to enabling researchers and scientists to easily access and utilize diverse datasets and services across different disciplines.

The Long-Term Data Preservation Task Force[34] is another important area of involvement for the WG members. This task force is dedicated to developing strategies and best practices for the long-term preservation and archiving of scientific data within the EOSC. By contributing to this TF, the WG members help ensure the sustainability and accessibility of research data, facilitating future scientific discoveries and analysis.

Moreover, the FAIR Metrics and Data Quality Task Force[35] is yet another area where the WG members actively participate. This TF focuses on defining and implementing FAIR metrics to assess the quality and usability of data within the EOSC. The WG members contribute to this TF by providing their expertise in developing metrics and guidelines that promote data quality, making data more discoverable and reusable for the scientific community.

Lastly, the WG members also engage in the Task Force on Semantic Interoperability,[36] which aims to address the challenges related to semantic interoperability within the EOSC. By collaborating with experts in the field, the WG members work on developing common vocabularies, ontologies, and semantic frameworks that facilitate the integration and understanding of heterogeneous scientific data and resources.

Through their active involvement in these TFs, the WG Technical Infrastructure supports the integration of national services into the EOSC. Their work ensures that national services align with the technical requirements and interoperability standards set by the EOSC, enabling seamless collaboration and discovery for researchers across Europe. By bridging the gap between national services and the EOSC, the WG members contribute to the overall success and effectiveness of the European Open Science Cloud.

[33] https://www.eosc.eu/advisory-groups/technical-interoperability-data-and-services
[34] https://www.eosc.eu/advisory-groups/long-term-data-preservation
[35] https://www.eosc.eu/advisory-groups/fair-metrics-and-data-quality
[36] https://www.eosc.eu/advisory-groups/semantic-interoperability

Training

The WG Training is dedicated to improving the accessibility and visibility of training materials as Open Educational Resources (OERs), while also developing new training where necessary and addressing gaps in the current range of courses offered. One of the core principles guiding this work is the FAIR principles, which emphasize making data and resources Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable.

To achieve these goals, the WG Training organized a workshop[37] on May 10th, 2022, in which experts in licensing and metadata fields came together to discuss and review existing training materials. Test-training materials were uploaded and linked to existing materials in other repositories, in order to make the resources more discoverable and accessible to learners.

Moving forward, the WG Training plans to publish a report about the workshop, highlighting the key insights and recommendations from the participants. They will also continue to explore other possibilities for uploading and disseminating training materials as OERs, and to identify gaps in the existing training materials that need to be addressed. Additionally, the WG Training will ensure that the materials offered are accessible to all learners, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities.

Overall, the WG Training is committed to making high-quality training materials available to as many people as possible, in order to help them develop the skills and knowledge needed for personal and professional growth. By leveraging the power of OERs and the FAIR principles, the WG Training aims to create a more equitable and inclusive learning ecosystem that benefits everyone.

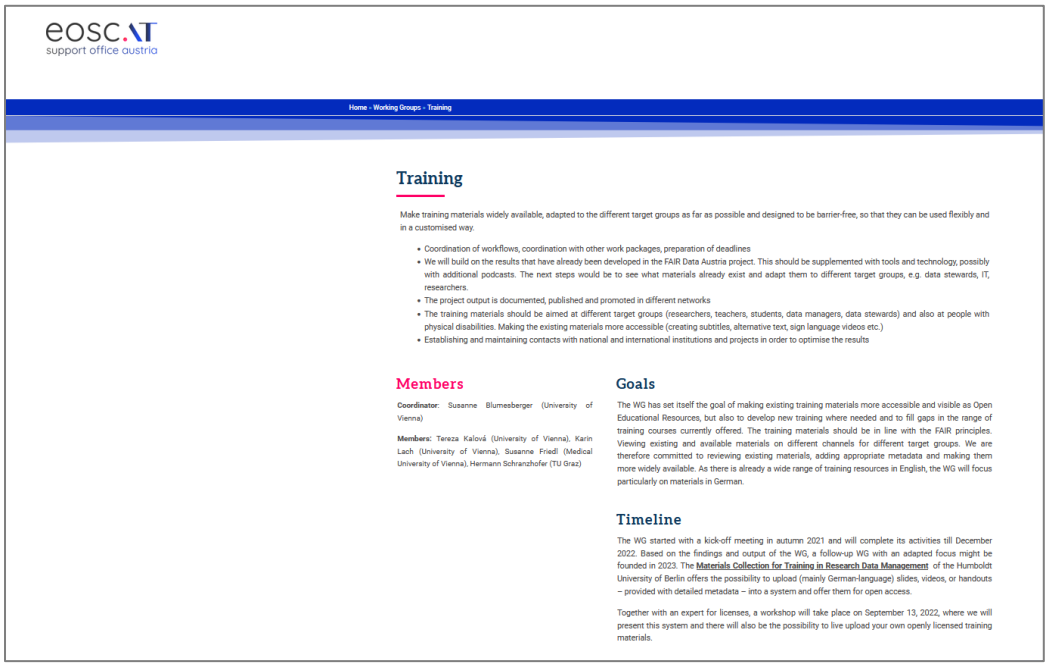


Figure 26: EOSC SOA Training WG

[37] See https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6627786

EOSC Café

The EOSC Café in Austria is a vibrant community of experts from different fields of science and research, research policy, society, and the economy. The community is an essential part of the EOSC initiative, and its contributions are crucial to the success of the initiative.

The community on a regular basis discusses topics related to the EOSC initiative with the aim to provide feedback and insights from the Austrian perspective. The EOSC Café in Austria ensures that the needs and concerns of Austrian researchers and other stakeholders are taken into account in the development and implementation of the EOSC. The community is open to all interested parties who wants to contribute to the EOSC initiative and share their expertise and knowledge. In 2022 the EOSC Café meetings took place on the 18th January 2022 and 23rd May 2022. They were designed to be interactive, and provide an opportunity for experts to exchange ideas, share best practices, and identify potential collaborations. The latest EOSC Cafe meeting took place on 22nd February 2023. Discussions there have been on the Austrian point of view on the path to sustainable financing models for the EOSC post-2027, as well as the organization of a "Five Year EOSC Celebration" event which will take place 19th October 2023.

The topics discussed in the EOSC Café in Austria are diverse and cover a wide range of issues related to the EOSC initiative. These include topics such as data management, data sharing, access to research infrastructures, research policy and sustainable development of the EOSC. The EOSC Café in Austria is an excellent opportunity for researchers and other stakeholders to engage with the EOSC initiative and to contribute to its development. It provides a platform for dialogue and collaboration and ensures that the needs and concerns of Austrian researchers and other stakeholders are heard and addressed.

Figure 27: EOSC Café

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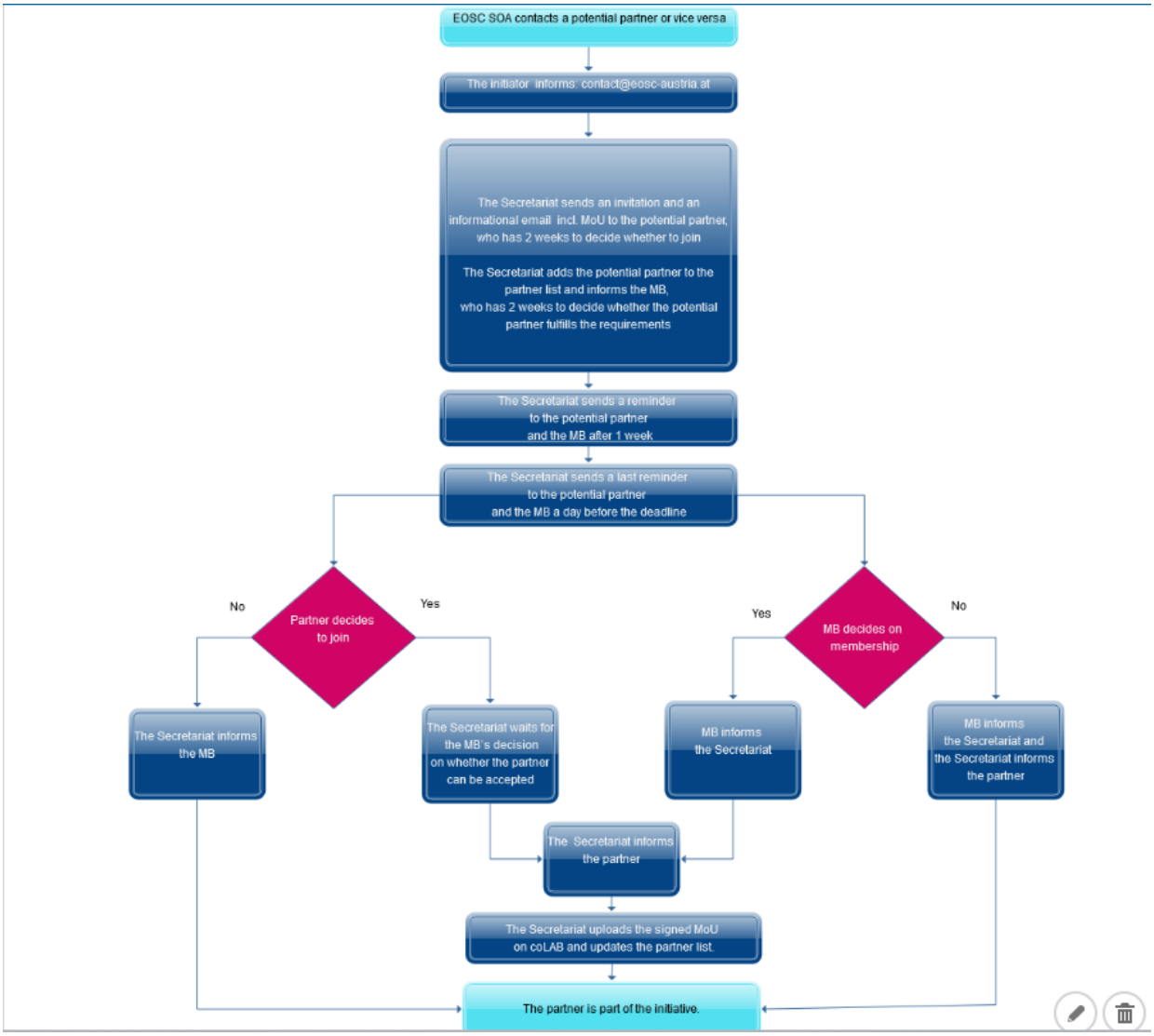
Annexes

Annex I - Workflows

1. New Partner Application

- **EOSC SOA contacts a potential partner or vice versa:** Anyone within the EOSC SOA is encouraged to "targeted recruitment" of new potential partners (e.g. using networks, contacts). In addition, potential partners may learn more about the EOSC SOA through e.g. the website and may contact us directly
- **The initiator informs contact@eosc-austria.at:** Either way, members of the MB and the Secretariat need to be informed. A potential partner who has learned about how to become a member will be pointed to that email address. In case individuals from the EOSC SOA have been recruiting potential partners, they need to be encouraged to also inform the MB and Secretariat by making use of that email address. Currently, Chair of the Management Board and Katharina Flicker or replacement need to be informed.
- **The Secretariat sends an invitation and an informational email incl. MoU to the potential partner, who has 2 weeks to decide whether to join. The Secretariat adds the potential partner to the "partner list" and informs the MB, who has 2 weeks to decide whether the potential partner fulfills the requirements**: Within the Secretariat, Katharina Flicker or replacement is responsible for sending out this email. The email will be standardized an uploaded in coLAB. It needs to include information on the application process as well as deadlines and possible outcomes. The potential partner is asked to make the decision at the same time as the MB is making the decision on whether the partner can join.
- **The Secretariat sends 2 reminders to the potential partner and the MB**
- **Partner decides to join: Yes**
- **The Secretariat waits for the MBs decision on whether the partner is allowed to join:** In case the new potential partner makes a decision before the MB does AND the reply is a positive one, the Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement) sends a "thank you, email received, will inform the MB and get back to XY ASAP"-answer to the new potential partner and informs the MB but has to wait with a reply until the MB has made a decision.
- **MB decides on membership: Yes**
- **MB informs the Secretariat:** The MB informs the Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement) as soon as the decision has been made.
- **The Secretariat informs the partner:** As soon as the MB has made a decision, the Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement) informs the partner by sending through a standardized email including the following information: Welcome, next steps (coLAB, mailing lists) and who to contact in case support is needed (Bernd Saurugger or replacement), information on WGs and the request to send through the signed MoU within 1 week.
- **The partner is part of the initiative:** The application process ends as soon as the MoU has been signed and sent through to the Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement). The Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement) uploads the signed MoU on coLAB and updates the partner list. The onboarding workflow starts.
- **Partner decides to join: No**
- **The Secretariat informs the MB:** The Secretariat (Katharina Flicker or replacement) informs the MB and documents the outcome on coLAB - updates the partner list.
- **MB decides on membership: No**

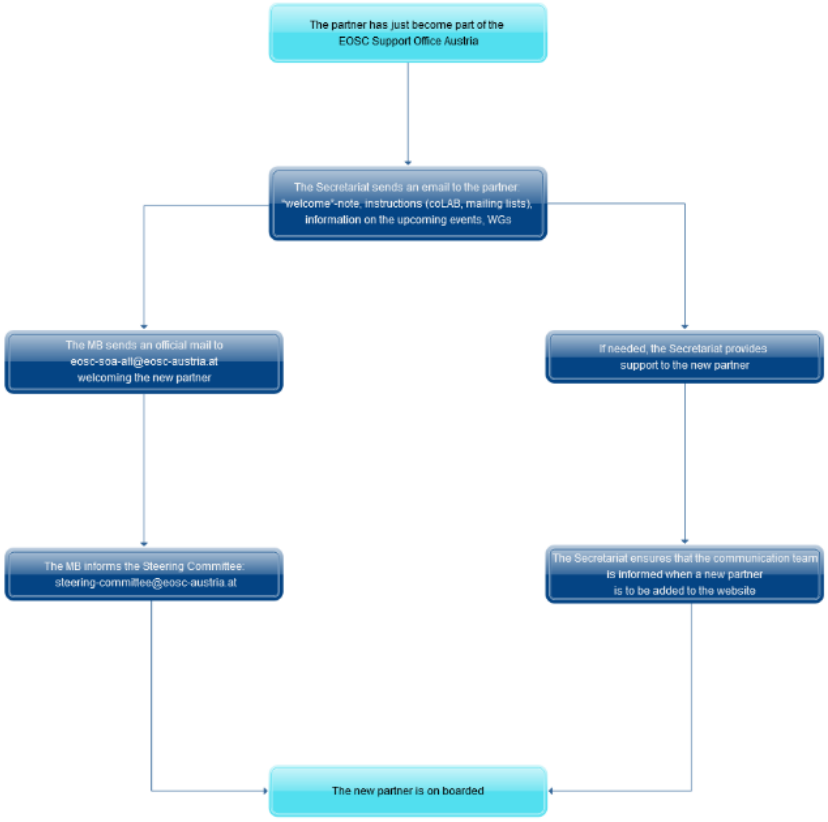
- **MB informs the Secretariat and the Secretariat informs the partner:** The MB needs to explicitly give reasons of why the potential partner is not allowed to join, so that the Secretariat can add that information to the standardized mail (regrets). The Secretariat updates the partner list accordingly.



2. Onboarding New Partners

- **The partner has just become part of the EOSC Support Office Austria:** This workflow follows the workflow "New Partner Application".
- **The Secretariat sends an email to the partner:** The E-mail includes a brief "Welcome on board"-note, instructions on how to be enabled to use coLAB, information on mailing lists (including an invitation to inform the Secretariat on which mailing lists they should be added to), information on the WGs (where to find information and whom to contact) and information on upcoming EOSC Support Office Austria"-events (such as public Management Board meetings and the General Assembly). Katharina Flicker (or replacement) is sending out this email.

- **The MB sends an official E-mail to** eosc-soa-all@eosc-austria.at: This email serves the purpose of officially announcing and welcoming a new partner within the EOSC Office Austria. The first Chair of the MB sends out this email.
- **The MB informs the Steering Committee using** steering-committee@eosc-austria.at**:** Vice-rectors are not on the eosc-soa-all mailing list and have thus to be informed separately. The first Chair of the MB is sending out this email.
- **If needed, the Secretariat provides support to the new partner:** Information on the next steps have already been sent through. However, if partners contacts the Secretariat since they are in need of support, support will be provided. Bernd Saurugger (or replacement) is responsible for supporting all partners in connection with coLAB and mailinglists (in terms of administrative and organizational support, but not content-wise).
- **The Secretariat ensures that the communication team is informed when a new partner is to be added to the website.** Members of the Secretariat are also part of the communication team. The flow of information should thus be facilitated. However, Katharina Flicker (or replacement) will send through an extra note to Juliana Giroletti (or replacement) who is responsible for the website.

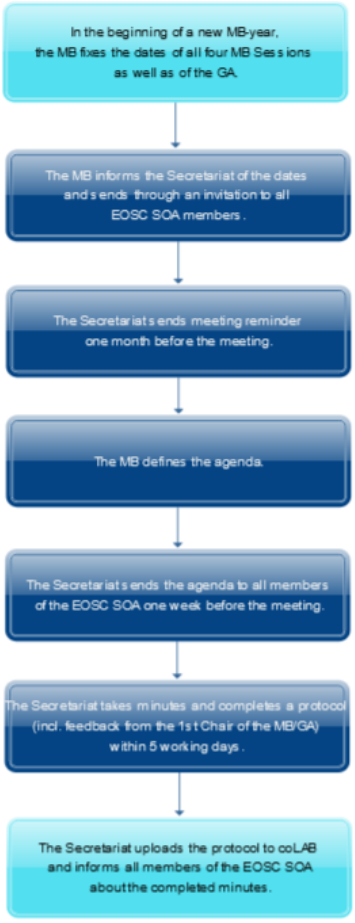


3. Invitation to (Public) Meetings

- **In the beginning of a new MB year, the MB fixes the dates of all four MB Sessions as well as of the GA:** It is crucial to define the days upfront so that **(a)** all members of the EOSC

Support Office can plan ahead and get a chance to participate, **(b)** the Secretariat can plan ahead and is enabled to have at least on team member present to take minutes, **(c)** the communications team knows upfront when they will be able to publish news articles on public meetings.

- **The MB informs the Secretariat of the dates and sends through an invitation to all EOSC SOA members:** At least one member of the Secretariat needs to participate in each of MB Session and the GA in order to write a protocol. The e-mail address to be used is eosc-soa-all@eosc-austria.at
- The Secretariat sends a meeting reminder one month before the meeting using this e-mail address: eosc-soa-all@eosc-austria.at
- **The MB defines the agenda** in terms of content and is responsible for inviting potential (guest) speakers.
- **The Secretariat sends the agenda to all members of the EOSC SOA one week before the meeting.** A meeting link should also be included. That mail also serves as a reminder.
- **The Secretariat takes minutes, completes a protocol within 5 working days and informs all members about the protocol's completion:** A template may be used to write the minutes/protocol. The 1st Chair of the MB gets to check the protocol before it is uploaded and distributed ("4-Augen-Prinzip"). In case any reader has objections that is documented as well.



Adding Partners to coLAB

The New Partner needs to check whether the institution they are representing is one of the following institutions:

- Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien
- Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung
- Donau-Universität Krems
- FH Burgenland
- FH CAMPUS 02
- FH Campus Wien
- FH Joanneum
- FH Technikum Wien
- FH Vorarlberg
- Fachhochschule Kufstein
- Fachhochschule Kärnten
- Fachhochschule Oberösterreich
- Fachhochschule Salzburg
- Fachhochschule St. Pölten
- IST Austria
- Johannes Kepler Universität Linz
- Karl Landsteiner Privatuniversität
- Medizinische Universität Graz
- Medizinische Universität Innsbruck
- Medizinische Universität Wien
- Montanuniversität Leoben
- Naturhistorische Museum Wien
- Technische Universität Graz
- Universität Graz
- Universität Innsbruck
- Universität Klagenfurt
- Universität Mozarteum Salzburg
- Universität Salzburg
- Universität Wien
- Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
- Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Graz
- Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien
- Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
- Universität für künstlerische und industrielle Gestaltung Linz
- Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien
- Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien
- Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften

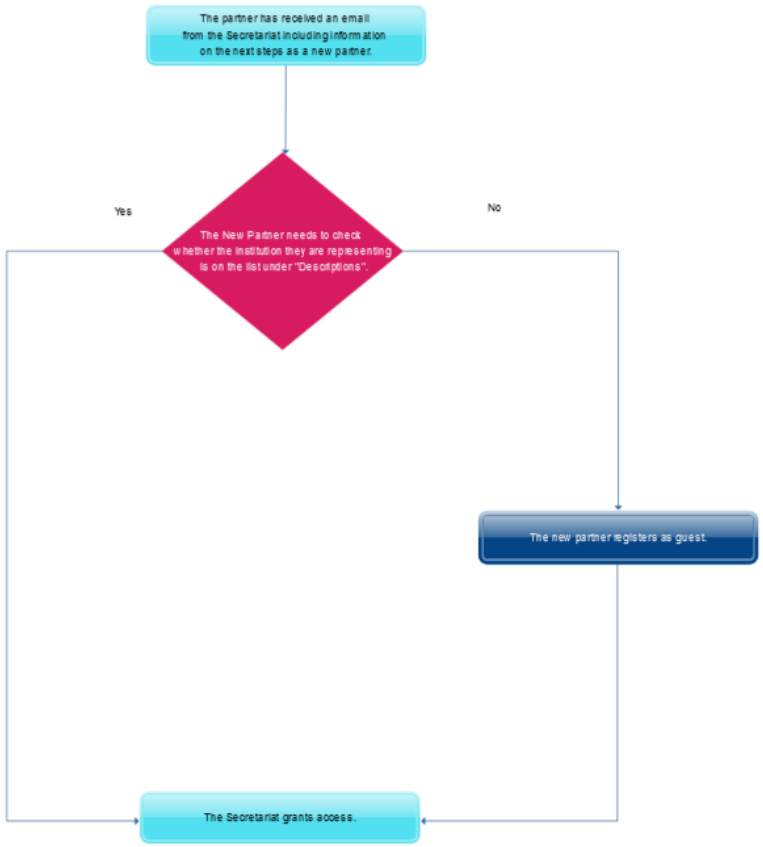
If no:

- **The new partner registers as guest** via visiting this website: https://colab.tuwien.ac.at/ and follows the instructions listed below:
- Select *Log In* at the top right.
- Select *coLAB* Guests from the list at the bottom.

- A registration window will open. Click *Register* and fill out the form.
- The new partner receives a verification mail and needs to verify the registration by clicking on a link and thereby logging in to TU coLAB.
- The new partner informs the Secretariat via mail and asks for access to the colab (contact@eosc-austria.at)
- The partner includes his/her account email address in that mail
- The administrators/the Secretariat grant access (how to: see section under "The administrators/the Secretariat grant/s access").

If yes:

- The new partner asks the Secretariat via mail for access to the colab (contact@eosc-austria.at)
  The partner includes his/her email address in that mail
- The administrators/the Secretariat grant access (how to: see section under "The administrators/the Secretariat grant/s access").
- **The administrators/the Secretariat grant/s access:**
- The Secretariat visits https://colab.tuwien.ac.at/spaces/spacepermissions.action?key=EOSCAT
- The Secretariat/ the eoscat-editor clicks on *Mitglieder hinzufügen/entfernen.*
- The Secretariat/ the eoscat-editor clicks on *Namen eingeben* and *hinzufügen.*



Annex II – Stakeholder engagement activities

Workshop Research Data – Universities Austria (UNIKO)

Engaging with national stakeholders

uniko ÖSTERREICHISCHE UNIVERSITÄTENKONFERENZ

Workshop Research Data – Universities Austria (UNIKO)

- Date: 22.4.2022
- Place: University of Vienna
- Focus: BMBWF Digitization Projects on Research Data Management (RDM)
- Goals
  - obtain a "big picture" on the topic of RDM
  - position paper on RDM with regard to the call for proposals "Digital Research Infrastructures"

→EOSC as one of the priorities - position paper

Webinar: Infrastructure Networks for Austrian researchers – ACONET Association

Engaging with national stakeholders

aconet verein

Webinar: Infrastructure Networks for Austrian researchers – ACONET Association

- Date: 10.5.2022

Agenda:

13:00h	Welcome, **ACOnet**: Austrian Data Network	Bernd Logar / ACONET Christoph Wild / ACONET
13:10h	**EOSC**: Virtual Environments for Decentral Data Services	Paolo Budroni / TU Wien Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi/TU Graz
13:50h	**PRACE**: Research Infrastructure for HPC environments	Christoph Dellago / Universität Wien
14:30h	**EGI**: e-Infrstructure of Cloud Providers and Data Centres for Researchers and Multinational Projects	Matthias Schramm / TU Wien
14:50h	Q/A, open discussion	

Symposium Cluster Research Data - Future Research (Data) Management

Engaging with national stakeholders

CLUSTER FORSCHUNGSDATEN

Symposium Cluster Research Data - Future Research (Data) Management

- Date: 23.5.2022
- Place: TU Vienna
- Participants: Federal Ministries, universities and funding agencies
- Insight into the work, content and challenges of the three national projects of the Cluster Research Data

→ Poster EOSC SOA & Cluster Research Data

https://forschungsdaten.at/symposium-cluster-forschungsdaten-zukunft-forschungsdatenmanagement/

37

EOSC National Tripartite Event

Engaging with national and international stakeholders

eosc

EOSC National Tripartite Event

- Date: 23.5.2022
- Place: BMBWF & Online
- Organised by EOSC-Café
- The hybrid event featured an exchange of presentations from the three parties – European Commission, EOSC Association and EOSC Steering Board

https://eosc.eu/news/first-eosc-national-tripartite-event

The Austrian Counterpart focused on these relevant questions: How can relevant Austrian communities engage with the EOSC? How can Austrian EOSC Stakeholders contribute to the structuring of these co-creation processes? How can the addressed communities help to prepare the transition to a new "Stakeholder-based governance" at domestic level?

EOSC Future Policy Workshop

Engaging with international stakeholders

EOSC Policy Workshop

- Date: 03.05.2022
- Place: Strasbourg
- Organised by:
  - European Commission (DG CNECT, DG RTD)
  - EOSC Steering Board
  - EOSC Association
  - EOSC Future H2020 project
  - University of Strasbourg

Panel: Implementing FAIR Data policies: Success stories, challenges and current barriers

EOSC Future Webinar - National Infrastructures in EOSC

Engaging with international stakeholders

Webinar: National Infrastructures in EOSC

- Date: 11.-12.10.2022
- Organised by: EOSC Future

EC Coordination meeting for EOSC-related Horizon Europe projects

Engaging with international stakeholders

Coordination meeting for EOSC-related Horizon Europe projects

- Date: 30.9.2022
- Place: Brussels
- Organised by: European Commission DG RTD

Representatives from 12 EOSC-related Horizon Europe (HE) projects, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research & Innovation (DG RTD), and the Commission's European Research Executive Agency (REA), as well as the EOSC Association, all met for a lively and interactive discussion on how to efficiently and effectively organise this broad cooperation to the best advantage of the EOSC Partnership's objectives

https://eosc.eu/news/coordination-meeting-eosc-related-horizon-europe-projects

Let's talk about Data Spaces. A moderated discussion with two international experts. 30th May 2023

Let's talk about Data Spaces

A moderated discussion with two international experts

Main topics	The emerging Common European Data Spaces contribute to shape the Pan-European infrastru landscape. The Data Spaces are also re-modelling the view on how we can conceive the EOSC.
Organisers	**EOSC Support Office Austria, HE-Project EOSC Focus** (TU Wien, Belnet)
Participants	**Belnet, BMBWF and EOSC Support Office Austria /EOSC Austrian Mandated Organisation**
Target Group	Research support units of all stages, staff in research service institutions and libraries, and dat stewards
Aim	Raise awareness about Data Spaces
Language	English
Site	Online – Zoom meeting: https://tuwien.zoom.us/j/61319237322
Date	30th May 2023
Time	from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (CET)

Agenda

Welcome Address

Paolo Budroni, Representative of Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation

Chris de Loof, Belnet, EOSC Focus project

Stefan Hanslik, BMBWF, Austrian representative in the EOSC SB

Short presentation

Speaker: Chris de Loof

Discussion with Chris de Loof and Stefan Hanslik

Interaction with audience

Final Wrap up

eosc.at
support office austria

Open Science Austria – OSA. Open Science and the EOSC Landscape: the project SKILLS4EOSC - 5th June 2023

Open Science and the EOSC Landscape: the project Skills4EOSC

Main topics	OS in practice: experiences from a researcher in Austria How can we embed the project Skills4EOSC in the OS activities in Austria?
Organisers	**Open Science Austria (OSA) and TU Wien**
Target Group	Researchers and research support units of all stages, staff in research service institutions and libraries, and data stewards
Aim	Raise awareness of OS and EOSC activities in Austria
Language	English
Site	Online – Zoom meeting: https://tuwien.zoom.us/j/65361413770?pwd=RHg4VldJbFBEUkZsSTBLQUU0Yjg1QT09
Date	5th June 2023
Time	from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Agenda

10:00-10:10	**Welcome and Opening Session** • *Welcome words, Vice Rector Johannes Fröhlich, TU Wien, member of the OSA Steering Board* • *Presentation of OSA-Open Science Austria, Lola Karner, OSA-Policy Advisor* *Moderator: Paolo Budroni, Representative of Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation*
10:10-10:40	**Keynote**: **Microbiome research and the meaning of Open Science** *Speaker: Birgit Wassermann, TU Graz*
10:40-11:10	**The EOSC building process and the need for skilled resources** *Speaker: Barbara Sánchez, Coordinator of SOA WG Austrian Country Profile* *Speaker: Emma Lazzeri, Coordinator of Skills4EOSC project* *Speaker: Alicia Fátima Gómez, member of WP4 Curricula and learning paths for OS ready institutions, Skills4EOSC project*
11:10-11:25	**Discussion with participants and Questions & Answers**
11:25-11:30	**Final Wrap up**

Annex III - Selection of new logo for the EOSC Austrian initiative

Google form

Dear Members of the EOSC Support Office Austria,

The development of the **EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA)** started in 2020 and was officially launched in 2021 with the 1st General Assembly.

The **EOSC SOA** is, as you know, the operational body of the **Mandated Organisation** and it is continuously working on growing our community and expanding our presence. To provide a universal and attractive look, Juliana Giroletti member of EOSC Support Office Austria/TU Wien, was invited to design a set of new logo's that represent the **EOSC Austrian Initiative.**

As our valued member-base, we would like to invite you to choose and vote for the new logo for the EOSC Austrian Initiative. Please note, everyone who is involved in the EOSC Austrian Initiative has the right to vote. This document is structured in four parts, as follow:

A. EOSC SOA Members Identification
B. Context and creation of the new logo - EOSC Austrian Initiative
C. Presentation of the proposals
D. Selection of the new logo

We would need your vote until Thursday, 16th March 2023 until 6 p.m. CET, please. Thank you very much for your participation!

Best regards,
EOSC Support Office Austria team

A. EOSC SOA MEMBERS IDENTIFICATION

1. Select your organization*: there is a list of the names of the members and extraordinary partners.

B. CONTEXT AND CREATION OF THE NEW LOGO - EOSC Austrian Initiative

1. Visual identity: the current visual identity of the **EOSC Austrian Initiative** is represented by these two graphics below

1.

2.

2. Challenges for designing the new logo

- Simplify the name and strength the EOSC Austria Initiative
- Propose a shorter name
- Create an attractive logo
- Establish a link with the EOSC Association (EOSC-A) logo
- Easily adaptable and adjustable in relation to the site: layout and color pattern.
- The context of proposing a new logo: EOSC-A has not granted permission for the adoption of the logo below.

3. Elements to be considered to design the new logo

- **Name of the initiative:** EOSC Austria
- **Slogan:** Support Office Austria
- **Website address:** www.eosc-austria.at
- **Country acronym:** AT

C. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS

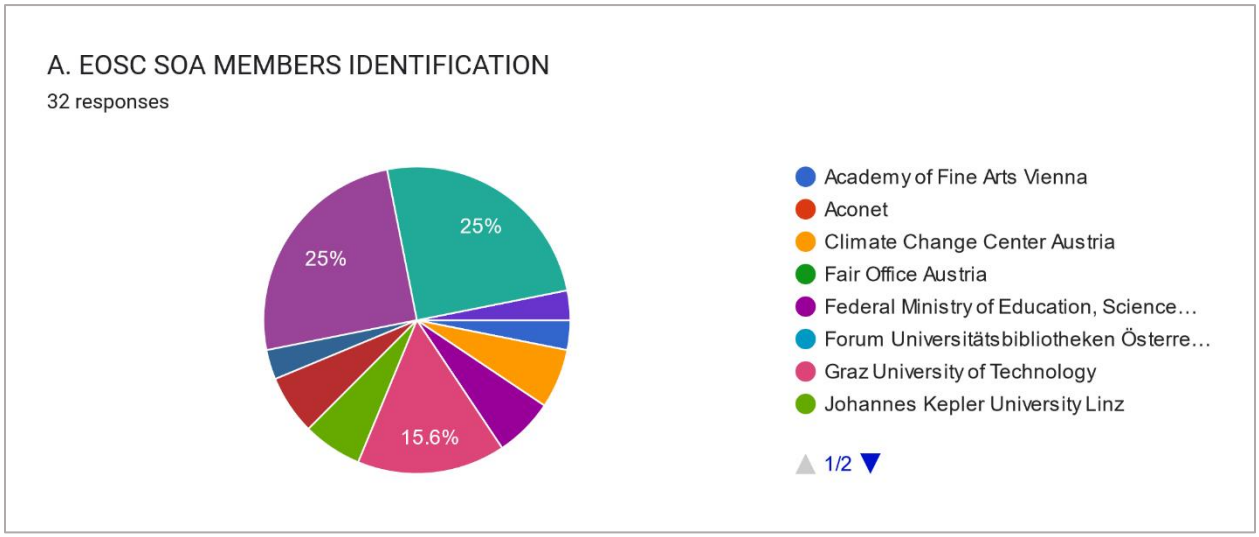
D. SELECTION OF THE NEW LOGO

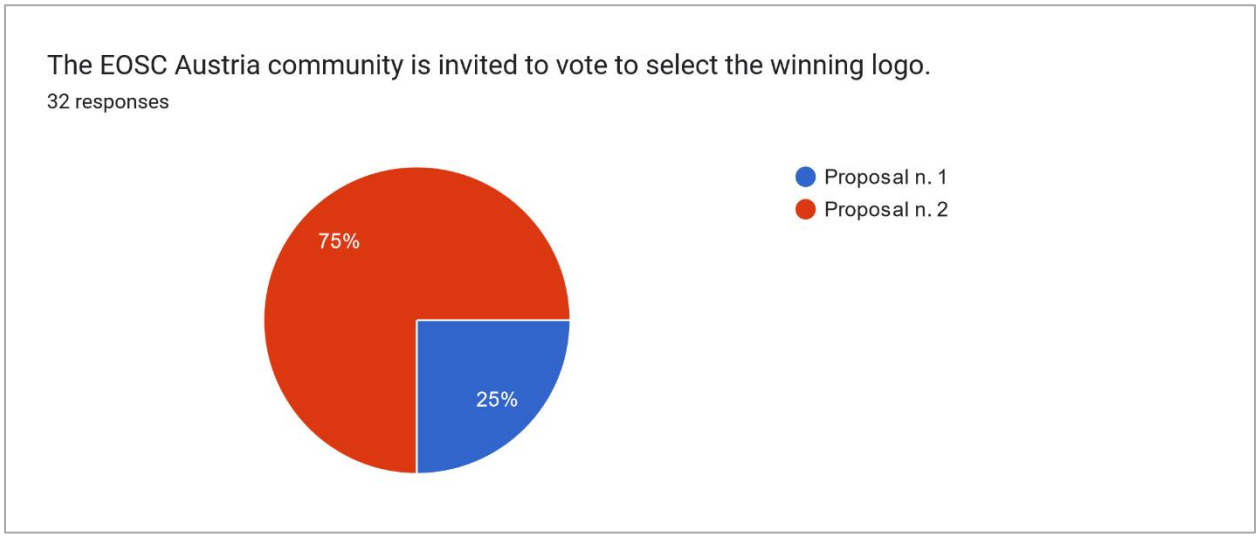
The EOSC Austria community is invited to vote to select the winning logo. Please, choose one of the two options presented below.

Proposal #1

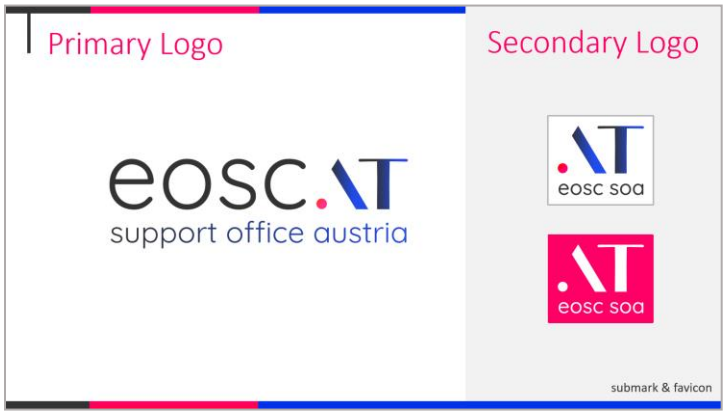
Proposal #2

Annex IV - Result: selection of the new logo





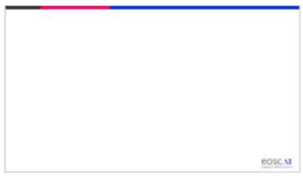
The EOSC SOA winning logo



Annex V – EOSC Support Office Austria - Templates

A. PowerPoint

1


2

3

4

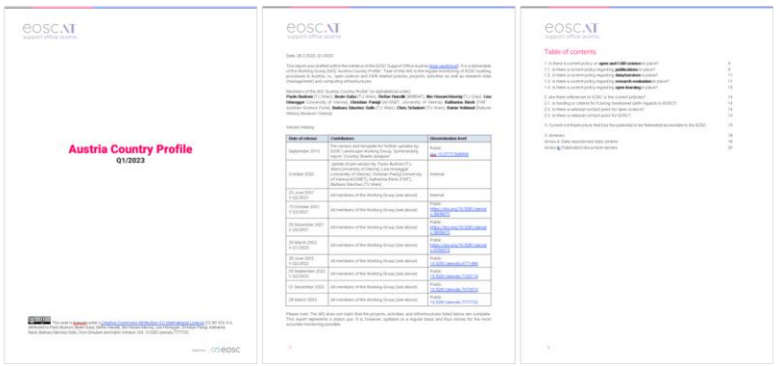
5

6

7

8

B. EOSC SOA WG Country Report



C. EOSC SOA WG Research Engagement

D. EOSC SOA – Protocol template

Protocol - *Title*

Context information on the protocol: Who produced the document under which circumstances? Where and how will it be stored? Will it be distributed?

Protocol Structure: Brief summary on what is to be read in the document such as Key Data, Meeting Agenda etc.

Key Data on Title

Meeting Location:	
Date:	
Starting and closing time (planned):	
Starting and closing time (actual):	
Moderator:	
Minute-Taker:	
Participants:	
Date (protocol creation):	
Distributor of protocol:	

Agenda

xxx

Results

xxx

E. EOSC SOA Activity Report

REPORT 2022/2023

Austrian Mandated Organisation

EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA)

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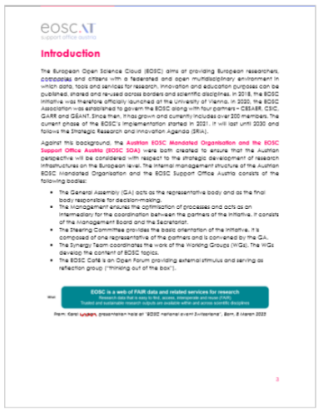

Introduction

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) aims at providing European researchers, [consortia], and citizens with a federated and open multidisciplinary environment in which data, tools and services for research, innovation and education purposes can be published, shared and reused across borders and scientific disciplines. In 2018, the EOSC initiative was therefore officially launched at the University of Vienna. In 2020, the EOSC Association was established to govern the EOSC along with four partners – CESSAR, CSIC, GARR and GÉANT. Since then, it has grown and currently includes over 200 members. The current phase of the EOSC's implementation started in 2021. It will last until 2030 and follows the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Against this background, the **Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation and the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA)** were both created to ensure that the Austrian perspective will be considered with respect to the strategic development of research infrastructures on the European level. The internal management structure of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation and the EOSC Support Office Austria consists of the following bodies:

- The General Assembly (GA) acts as the representative body and as the final body responsible for decision-making.
- The management ensures the optimisation of processes and acts as an intermediary for the coordination between the partners of the initiative. It consists of the Management Board and the Secretariat.
- The Steering Committee provides the basic orientation of the initiative. It is composed of one representative of the partners and is convened by the GA.
- The Synergy Team coordinates the work of the Working Groups (WGs). The WGs develop the content of EOSC topics.
- The EOSC Café is an Open Forum providing external stimulus and serving as reflection group ("thinking out of the box").

From: Karel [redacted], presentation held at 'EOSC national event Switzerland', Bern, 8 March 2022

Note bene: The aim of this Interim Activity Report is to provide a so-called "moment of truth" (state of the art March 2023) and serves as preparation for the Annual Activity Report of the EOSC SOA/Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation to be presented in June 2023.

This report refers exclusively to the activities that took place **directly in the EOSC Support Office Austria at national level, in the way they were recorded in the Memorandum of Understanding, as signed by the Partners.**

This report does not include those processes that are directly related to the international activities of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation, such as participation in task forces of the EOSC A, meetings/workshops at the international level (e.g. most recently in Bern, 8 March 2023, or meetings to get to know other Mandated Organisations), participation in surveys, consultations, panels in the framework of the General Assemblies of the EOSC A, or meetings with members of the Board of Directors of the EOSC A, or meetings with members of the EOSC Steering Board, or with the European Commission.

This report also excludes those activities that are part of the network of the so-called **EOSC Reference Points**, which were established locally at the Austrian institutions and lead to knowhow- transfer in their respective institutions, [e.g. by] means of workshops or other marketing measures.

As mentioned further in the report, a self-evaluation is currently underway which will lead to an annual report to be completed in June 2023.

Annex VI - Description of partners

The Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation. The Austrian EOSC Mandated organization is Partner of the EOSC Association. the ACONET Association (ACONET Verein) made thankfully its legal status available to the Austrian stakeholders. The BMBWF agreed to take over the financing of the Austrian Mandated Organisation and the TU Wien was already prepared to assume the financial liability for this process.

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna: Austria's most traditional art university has been an important institution for artists and scholars for over 325 years; furthermore, the Academy´s Paintings Gallery and Graphic Collection rank among Austria´s most significant art collections; fields of special expertise: arts and cultural heritage, heritage science.

ACOnet: Austrian NREN, connecting more than 200 research and educational institutions with GÉANT and the Internet, and operating the R&E identity federation eduID.at, which is part of eduGAIN.org; fields of special expertise: high-performance networking, AAI.

CCCA: Multi-institutional network for Austrian climate research, the consequences of climate change for society, the economy and the environment, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies; fields of special expertise: FAIR and open climate data and information.

FAIR Office Austria: One of the official national GO FAIR Offices; fields of special expertise: FAIR data management.

Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF): Representing the interests of Austria as a location for science, research and business on the international stage; fields of special expertise: knowledge transfer, research structures at national and international level.

JKU Linz: University with strong regional roots and an international orientation in the fields of Social and Economic Sciences, Law, Science and Technology and Medicine; fields of special expertise: open access, data stewardship, the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA).

NHM Vienna: With a collection of more than 30 million objects, the Natural History Museum Vienna is one of the world's leading natural history museums and one of the largest non-university research centres in Austria; field of special expertise: biodiversity, scientific collections, citizen science.

Open Knowledge Maps: Non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the visibility and discoverability of scientific knowledge for science and society; fields of special expertise: findability, data visualisation, machine learning.

TU Graz is a prestigious institution with five internationally recognized Fields of Expertise. The university maintains a balanced approach between knowledge-oriented and application-driven basic research, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of various subjects. It offers a diverse range of engineering, scientific, and design degree programs, with a focus on research-led master's and PhD programs conducted primarily in English. The university is committed to embracing digital transformation across all aspects of its operations; fields of special expertise: shared RDM services and infrastructures, virtual research environments, federated data storage and analytics,electronic lab notebooks, data stewardship.

TU Wien: Austria's largest research and educational institution in the field of technology and natural sciences. TU Wien covers a wide spectrum – from abstract pure research and the fundamental principles of science, to applied technological research and partnership with industry. Theory and

application are not opposites for TU Wien – linking both areas add value to both research and teaching. TU Wien has five research focal areas: (1) Computational Science and Engineering, (2) Quantum Physics and Quantum Technologies, (3) Materials and Matter, (4) Information and Communication Technology, and (5) Energy + Environment. Open Science and Open Research Data is a key value to TU Wien. As a first among all Austrian Universities, TU Wien is further an Institutional Member of RDA Austria, the national node acting as a contact point to the Research Data Alliance. The EOSC Secretariat Project, Austrian branch, was also based at TU Wien. TU Wien was the first Austrian research institution to establish a specially created EOSC and International Liaison Office by Senate resolution.

TU Wien hosts and operates the Vienna Scientific Cluster (VSC), which is a collaboration of several Austrian universities that provides supercomputer resources and corresponding services to their users.

Ubifo: Network of Austrian university library managers; fields of special expertise: open access, repositories, digital preservation

University of Vienna: One of the oldest and largest universities in Europe; with 184 regular degree programmes, it has the most diverse range of courses in Austria; fields of special expertise: data science, data stewardship, Phaidra (a large digital infrastructure), the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA)

Vetmeduni Vienna: Third-oldest institution of its kind worldwide; committed to a multidisciplinary approach in the area of "One Health", the university has a strong interest in appropriate infrastructures for Big Data beyond the national alliances in corresponding international initiatives; fields of special expertise: sustainability in teaching, research and campus management