



Call for Expression of Interest to join the

EOSC Gravity Project Proposal

In response to: INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02

Supporting the EOSC Partnership in further consolidating the coordination and sustainability of the EOSC ecosystem

October 2023



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06 December 2023 – 12 March 2024

 **eosco** | **GRAVITY**



INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02 / CSA / 4 MEUR (06 December 2023 – 12 March 2024)

Supporting the EOSC Partnership in further consolidating the coordination and sustainability of the EOSC ecosystem

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following **expected outcomes**:

- EOSC increases the level of coordination of national and European initiatives, creating mechanisms of mutual learning, replication of best practices and joint activities. This expected outcome will be achieved mainly through financial support to third parties in the form of cascading grants;
- EOSC increases the level of coordination and directionality among EOSC-related initiatives and Horizon Europe funded actions, ensuring a more proactive and impactful approach towards attaining the SRIA objectives. This expected outcome will be achieved through targeted financial support to third parties in the form of cascading grants;
- Step forward towards a more sustainable EOSC that enables smooth transnational access to data and services, through the test and implementation of coherent business models;
- Facilitated access to information to and from all EOSC stakeholders across countries, institutions, networks and initiatives is increasingly enabled.

1) Call Text / INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02

INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02 / CSA / 4 MEUR (06 December 2023 – 12 March 2024)

Scope:

Support the further implementation of an effective pan-European cooperation framework and a thriving EOSC ecosystem in which stakeholders from all parts of the European Research Area pull together in a strategic and coordinated manner to ensure the achievement of the EOSC Partnership objectives. This support will take the form of a combination of lump sum funding and cascading grants.

The investments on EOSC federated resources, the support to enlarge the portfolio of generic services and to stimulate specific communities in populating EOSC with data and services, are non-exhaustive examples of national and institutional contributions that are planned and need effective coordination. Proposals should support the EOSC community at large by reinforcing the coordination mechanisms that link the EOSC partnership with:

- the Member States and their actions and programmes on supporting EOSC, Open Science and other digital related initiatives that could contribute to and enable the “Web of FAIR data” and to pull resources towards shared and heterogeneous digital infrastructures,
- and the network of providers and users’ representatives that commonly work on technical solutions, standards and support the change of culture towards Open Science.

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Scope continued

It is also important to actively support coordination mechanisms and enhance synergies between activities by the EOSC Association and its members, initiatives and EU-funded projects working under the EOSC umbrella to deliver on the priorities set forth in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the EOSC European partnership.

In the context of coordination and harmonisation of a pan-European federated infrastructure, the sustainability of EOSC requires further development and implementation, notably the identification and testing of cost models and business models are needed to support the federated access to institutional, national and European capacity.

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Proposals are expected to cover the **following activities**:

- Enhancing the EOSC coordination to targeted investments and contributions: this activity should aim at establishing a more dynamic and responsive interconnection of national nodes forming an effective EOSC coordination network. National nodes should act as EOSC national hubs to sensitise government and governmental agencies to enhance the connection of EOSC to digital infrastructures, beyond scientific infrastructures.

Several countries have already implemented a network or a consortium that represents all the national stakeholders, the proposals should promote and support the creation of such structures in countries where those are not yet implemented. National nodes will have to promote funding synergies and foster collaboration with public authorities and the private sector, encouraging private investments to further develop the EOSC ecosystem. National nodes should also strengthen the connection of the EOSC related national initiatives to the “Green and Digital transition”^[1]. The nodes should foster collaboration, mutual learning and joint activities and the network should proactively interact with the EOSC Association, sharing best practices and inform of investments that could be replicated or aggregated.

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Activities continued:

To address this activity, the proposals should enhance the existing coordination actions implemented by the EOSC Association with the Member States and with the international organisations (RPOs and providers) that are already members and that can catalyse investments in EOSC related initiatives. Additionally, about EUR 1 million should be foreseen to support third parties through cascading grants, with EUR 100 000 as maximum amount to be granted to each third party, to:

- Kick-start the coordination nodes in countries where similar structure that could act as nodes have not yet been established;
- Promote and/or coordinate joint actions and investments between countries or distributed infrastructures;
- Coordinate international initiatives that aim at further strengthen the EOSC ecosystem.

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Activities continued

- Strengthen collaboration and alignment within the portfolio of EU-funded projects, activities conducted by the EOSC Association and its members and other initiatives contributing to the objectives of the EOSC SRIA. Activities should maximise the added value of joint work and cross-project endeavours to accelerate EOSC deployment and evolution. This activity should allocate about EUR 1 million to support third parties through cascading grants, with EUR 50 000 as maximum amount to be granted to each third party, to promote actions related to, but not limited to:
 - Supporting additional collaborative activities amongst EU-funded projects and the EOSC Association contributing to the EOSC implementation (e.g. cross-project strategic analyses, syntheses and policy feedback, joint engagement strategies, common exploitation strategies to accelerate EOSC deployment) that would benefit from pooling expertise, and bring clear added value as compared to what individual projects or initiatives might accomplish;
 - Building strategic and operational synergies within and beyond the EOSC ecosystem, including with other European partnerships or projects from outside the INFRAEOSC destination, such as for example, international or national projects contributing to the twin green and digital transitions, as appropriate;

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- Implementation of clear financial models to support for long term financial sustainability of the main building blocks of EOSC as defined in the FAIR Lady report “Solutions for a Sustainable EOSC” to ensure federated access to existing capacity. This activity is key element to strengthen the governance framework of EOSC and it will simplify and amplify access to resources and avoid fragmentation. It is therefore important to:
 - Capitalise on the results of the topic HORIZON-INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-02 and on the work of the EOSC Task Force on sustainability, and coordinate the piloting of financial models for the EOSC-Core;
 - Evaluate and build upon existing financial models and the accounting mechanisms for data and IT services to ensure sustainability of the EOSC-Exchange and the federated cross-border and/or cross-disciplinary data and service provision; taking into account of the different types of organisations (public vs private) and resources (e.g. rivalrous vs non-rivalrous);
 - Consequently, adopt the most adequate solution to ensure smooth access to transnational resources in EOSC.

To implement the last point, the proposals should also capitalise on (1) the existing financial and accounting practices of the European Research Infrastructures and other initiatives that function in a distributed and transnational framework, and on (2) the virtual access mechanism based on the projects funded under the topic H2020-INFRAEOSC-07-03. Collaboration should be established with projects funded under the topic HORIZON-INFRA-2023-EOSC-01-01.

The selected project will be expected to align with the EOSC Partnership. Proposals should involve and be driven by one or more representatives of the relevant actors of the field, in particular those directly involved in the EOSC Partnership.

eosc 2) Considerations

INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02 / CSA / 4 MEUR (06 December 2023 – 12 March 2024)

Lead	EOSC Association AISBL
Beneficiaries	A small selected group of Members of the EOSC Association
Duration	31 Months (06/2025 – 12/2027)
Funding	4 MEUR / lumpsum approach



Pillar 1: EOSC Coordination Framework incl. Cost Modelling (EOSC-A)

Task 1.1
Governance

Task 1.2
Funding / Cost Model

Task 1.3 SRIA Action Areas

Pillar 6: TF Management

Task 6.1
Technical

Task 6.2
Domain-
specific

Pillar 5: Monitoring & Reporting

Task 5.1
Monitoring
& Impact

Task 5.2
Reporting

Pillar 2: Geo-Engagement (EOSC-A)

Task 2.3: Regional Hubs

Task 2.2 Geo-Grants Coordination

Task 2.1: Geo-Grants Cascade
Management

Pillar 3: Inter-Project Collaboration

Task 3.5 HE Impact

Task 3.4 HE Comms

Task 3.3 HE Technology

Task 3.2 Inter-Project Grants Coordination

Task 3.1 Inter-Project Grants
Cascade Management

Pillar 7: EOSC Gravity Project Coordination (EOSC-A)

Pillar 4: Communication, Dissemination, Outreach

Task 4.2
Events

Task 4.1
Communications



3) Draft Work Plan

#	Pillar	#	Tasks
1	EOSC Coordination Framework	1.1	Governance
		1.2	Funding & Cost Models
		1.3	SRIA Action Areas
2	Geo-Engagement	2.1	Geo-Cascade Management (process)
		2.2	Geo-Grants Coordination (content)
		2.3	Regional Hubs
3	Project Collaboration	3.1	Inter-Project Collaboration Cascade Management (process)
		3.2	Inter-Project Collaboration Grants Coordination (content)
		3.3	HE Technology Working Group
		3.4	HE Communications and Outreach Working Group
		3.5	HE Impact Working Group

eosc 3) Draft Work Plan

#	Pillar	#	Tasks
4	Communication, Dissemination, Outreach	4.1	Internal and External Communications
		4.2	Events
5	Monitoring & Reporting	5.1	Monitoring and Impact Assessment
		5.2	Reporting
6	Task Forces Management	6.1	Technical work
		6.2	Domain-specific work
7	Project Coordination	7	(EOSC-A)



eosc 4) Eligibility Criteria

- Team applications must represent one Member organisation
- Detailed Expression of Interest letter expressing the motivation and team's composition, approach, experience, and their links and relevance to the objectives of the INFRA-2024-EOSC-01-02 call.
- Short CVs are required for the Team Leader and all team members (each CV with max. three pages and tailored to the quest)
- Submission of commitment letters indicating the time dedication of each team member is mandatory. The letter should be approved by the authorities of the institution. A strong preference will be shown to teams wherein:
 - The Team Leader personally commits to become a Task Leader throughout the entire project
 - The Team Leader dedicates a minimum of 25% of their working time (25% FTE) exclusively to the project
 - There is at least one team member personally committed to working full-time (1 FTE) on the project
- EOSC Gravity's pillars will be composed of topics. **Applicants must specify maximum three topics of interest and rate them in order of preference**
- Teams must provide a description of prior engagement in the EOSC Association's and Open Science activities.
- List of all team members' on-going participation in Horizon Europe projects (if any) with explicit mention of the Grant agreement ID.
- A gender balance among team members is encouraged

eosc 5) Selection Criteria

- Percentage of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) commitment by the number of staff:
 - Teams with a Team leader and a single individual respectively committing 25% and 100% of their time will score higher than those with multiple individuals committing smaller fractions.
- Quality and clarity of the expression of interest and commitment letters.
- The relevance of the demonstrated expertise and experience in the chosen topics.
- The relevance of the previous engagement with the EOSC Association, such as participation in activities like Task Forces, EOSC-A Regional/National engagement, etc.
- Gender balance
- Geographic coverage
- Demonstrated ability
- Preference for teams with team members with a reasonable and suitable set of on-going Horizon Europe projects, ensuring enhanced focus, time commitment, and prioritization for the task at hand.

eosc 6) Selection Timeline

October 2023

9th: Stage 1 Launch

- Beginning of submission period for expressions of interest and documentation.

12th - 17th: Informational Webinars

- Two webinars to clarify the process and respond to any inquiries in the following dates.

Thursday, 12.10, from 11:00 – 12:00 CEST

Tuesday, 17.10, from 11:00 – 12:00 CEST

23rd: End of Stage 1

- Conclusion of the submission period for Stage 1.
- **Submission deadline:** 23 October 2023, 17:00 CEST

November 2023

3rd: Stage 2 Launch

- Shortlisted candidates receive interview invitations and details on further documentation requirements.

8th - 13th: Interview Period

- In-depth interviews with the shortlisted candidates to gauge their understanding, commitment, and proposed approach to the project.

22nd: Final Decision Announcement

- Completion of evaluations and notifications regarding the final decision sent out by the Board of Directors.

eosc 7) How to apply?

Register your interest by submitting your application at:

<https://eosc.eu/expression-of-interest-for-partnership-in-the-gravity-project-proposal>

Registration for the Webinars:

<https://eosc.eu/webinars-expression-of-interest-for-partnership-in-the-gravity-project-proposal>

Two options:

- Thursday, 12.10, from 11:00 – 12:00 CEST
- Tuesday, 17.10, from 11:00 – 12:00 CEST

8) Appendix

Guidelines for Expression of Interest Submission



eosc Guidelines for Expression of Interest Submission

Before starting your application, please ensure you have thoroughly read and understood the guidelines to ensure the accurate and complete submission of your proposal.

Organization Details:

- **Organization Name***: Your application should represent one Member organization. Please provide the complete and accurate name of your organization.
- **Status of the Organization in the EOSC-A AISBL***: Specify if your organization is a recognized Member or Mandated Organization within the EOSC-A AISBL.
- **Contact Person/Team Leader***: Mention the full name (both first and last name) of the primary contact or Team Leader for this application.
- **Gender**: Indicating the gender of the Team Leader is optional but encouraged. Use the options provided: M (Male), F (Female), X (Other/Prefer not to say).
- **Email Address***: Furnish a regularly-checked email address for all correspondences.
- **Phone Number***: Ensure the full number is provided, including the country code.

Expression of Interest*:

- A brief summary of your expression of interest should be written in the text area.
- Additionally, an elaborate Expression of Interest letter detailing motivation, team's composition, approach, and other relevant details should be uploaded.

Team Leader's and Team Members' CVs*:

- Your Team Leader's and every team member's CVs should be merged into only one document. Each CV should not exceed 3 pages and must be tailored to fit the quest's requirements.

Commitment Letters*:

- Upload commitment letters in only one document that clarify the time each member, especially the Team Leader, dedicates to the project. Highlight any full-time commitments and the Team Leader's role throughout the project. **The letter should be approved by the authorities of the institution.**

Tasks of Interest (EOSC Gravity's Pillars) *:

- You can select up to three tasks that align with your interests. Once selected, prioritize these tasks with '1' being the most preferred.

Description of Prior Engagement*:

- In the provided text area, summarize your past engagements with the EOSC Association and any Open Science activities.

Horizon Europe Projects Participation*:

- Detail any engagements with Horizon Europe projects, mentioning the Grant Agreement ID for each. If there's no such engagement, simply indicate with "N/A".

Gender Balance:

- While it's not mandatory, we encourage the representation of gender balance within your team. Please specify the gender distribution of the members in your team.

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory. Ensure all attachments are in supported formats (e.g., PDF, DOC). *Keep an eye on the size of the files for swift uploads.*

Good luck with your application! Should you have queries or face any challenges, get in touch with Edith Euan: edith.euan@eosc.eu.