

# Template for Post Event Report<sup>1</sup>

Country: Belgium

Place: Academy Palace Brussels

Date: 16/04/2023

Format:

In-person

Hybrid

Virtual

National Organisers: BELSPO (Belgian Science Policy Office), EWI (Department Economy, Science and Innovation in Flanders), FWB (The Wallonia Brussels Federation – Scientific Research)

## Executive summary

(Please provide a summary of your report that can be published as a standalone document.)

## 1. Overview<sup>2</sup>

Describe here the main objectives and topics of the event, target audience, organisers headlines of the program and the structure of the report

On the 16th of April Belgium's first tripartite event in the Academy Palace in Brussels was organised by BELSPO in close collaboration with EWI and FWB. Following the European tripartite event on the same location, the Belgian tripartite event commenced with a poster session. No less than 41 posters decorated the walls and informed the attendees of different projects, initiatives and organisations, currently active in the Belgian Open Science landscape. When the European tripartite event finished, the poster session with accompanied networking lunch provided the perfect setting for acquainting all European and national stakeholders of the Open Science landscape. In the plenary session representatives of the tripartite explained the importance of those national tripartite events and the trends and action points that will arise in the (near) future. Stakeholders of Open Science, including researchers, RPO's, RFO's and public national and regional administrations in the audience, debated in two panel sessions held in the afternoon..

(max. 1500 characters)

## 2. Main highlights<sup>3</sup>

Provide a summary about the scope and key messages of the presentations.

The main highlight and difference with other NTE events in the WEST-hub (Netherlands/France/Luxemburg/Ireland/Belgium/UK) was the introduction of the poster session, open for all relevant thematics, projects, use cases and organisations linked to the Belgian Open Science landscape. Because of the poster session, this particular NTE-event had a larger outreach to the individual researcher in comparison to the NTE-events in other countries.

<sup>1</sup> This form is a template but national tripartite event organisers can prepare their report according to these guidelines on their own letterhead.

<sup>2</sup> See examples of similar reports on the EOSC-A website

<sup>3</sup> Include the link to the website where presentations are available



Next to the poster session and the more informative tripartite collaboration session described in point 3 below, there were 3 other main highlights followed by a Q&A:

1. The keynote session of Sabina Leonelli on human-centric Open Science was an eye-opening session on where open science needs to improve, in order to become more transparent and more qualitative. Inclusion and equity, both ensuring reliability and researchers support were highlighted as crucial factors. Prof. Leonelli notably emphasised that the standard approach to open science is focused on sharing data and materials and that such object-sharing approach has become, to some extent, an obstacle to promoting equitable open science. She therefore suggests an alternative, process-oriented view of open science that rather seeks to establish “judicious connections among systems of practice.”
  
2. The first panel session, moderated by Sven Rogge, focused on Open Access in Belgium. The advantages as well as the problems encountered and the possible solutions were at the core of this discussion. Christophe Dony (Liaison and research librarian, ULiège) mentioned the fact that a lot of new and existing articles were made open access recently, but unfortunately at a huge cost to the scientific community. Joke Meeus (Coordinator Open Science, FWO) focussed on the role of the data stewards and how they should help unburden researchers. Jean-Claude Burgelman (Em. Professor and Academic Coordinator Open Science, VUB) warned the community about the risks of AI. Isabelle Gérard (Head of service Publications Division, Africa Museum) explained the role of a free of charge and exemplary diamond open access journal published by the Africa Museum and Yves Deville (Full Professor and Rectoral Adviser for the Digital University and Open Science, UCLouvain) agreed with the importance of diamond open access publications to reduce APCs.
  
3. The second panel session, moderated by Inge Van Nieuwerburgh, looked more profoundly into the open science landscape in Belgium. It was a fruitful discussion to say the least. EOSC needs to have an infrastructure where services can interact, and researchers meet. Sally Chambers (Digital librarian, KBR-British Library) brought to our attention that we focus a lot on research infrastructures in Belgium and Europe, but we cannot lose sight of other ecosystems and research communities. There is a missing link in connecting those dots. Maybe EOSC has a role to play in this regard. Johan Philips (Coordinator Research Data Management Competence Centre, KULeuven) accentuated the awareness (or lack of it) inside the different scientific communities. Maybe some sort of umbrella support should be provided to facilitate and aid researchers and research engineers to spread scale across different domains and reach the EOSC goals. Patricia Mergen (Liaison officer, Africa Museum and Meise Botanic Garden) mentioned the key role of the data stewards regarding the legal constraints of open science and diffusion of information in the institutions. Isabelle Gribomont (Digital humanities researcher, UCLouvain) talked about the role of open science and the potential it holds for a cultural change that would contribute to more interdisciplinary work. Karel Luyben (President of EOSC-Association) accentuated the importance of countering misconceptions. It is crucial to say what EOSC is: a federation that doesn't want to replace existing systems, but wants to federate them, connect them and bring them together. The EOSC can help make society better by aiding researchers in accessing data and in communicating across different domains.

(max. 1500 characters per presentation)

### 3. Tripartite collaboration

*Provide a summary of the tripartite representatives' presentations and contributions*

Michael Arentoft (EU commission), Karel Luyben (EOSC-A) and Volcker Beckman (co-chair of the EOSC steering board) introduced the European tripartite and what it entails to the Belgian stakeholders.

- Michael Arentoft mentioned the shift for EOSC to the operational phase in regard to the EU-node, with a gradual enrolment of national, regional and thematic nodes.
- Karel Luyben focussed on the importance of the federation: 'what is offered to one community, should be offered to all communities'. In order to make this happen, communication between nodes will be a crucial factor.
- Volker Beckman prioritised the existing policies and action plans in the member states, the importance of the e-infrastructures that now sometimes are domain specific, open to all research domains in order to use the investments in the most efficient way.

(max. 2000 characters)

### 4. Government level contributions

*Provide a summary of governmental or public authorities' (e.g., funders) key messages related to EOSC or Open Science national policies*

The main contribution of the regional (FWB and EWI) and federal (BELSPO) governmental organisations focussed mainly on the organisation and moderation of the event. The master of ceremony, Gaétan du Roy (FWB), announced the official kick-off of the tripartite event at 13h30 and set the stage for Marc Vanholsbeeck, 'head of federal, interfederal and international coordination'. Mr. Vanholsbeeck complimented the success of the poster session at lunch with its very diverse scala of thematics. He gave an overview of several notable regional and national organisations in regard to EOSC and the open science landscape with special attention to the successful rollout of the Flemish Open Science Board (FOSB) and the recently initiated FedOSC-project.

The secretary general of EWI said in his opening speech during the EU Tripartite session in the morning that during the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union much attention is paid to open science policy, by recognizing its important role in enhancing knowledge valorisation, one of the three priorities of the Belgian presidency. The commitment to open science is reflected in 'the Council Conclusions on strengthening knowledge valorisation' and in 'the Council Conclusions on the ex-post evaluation of H2020 and future outlook' by endorsing the importance of open science and progress made on open access and the creation of the European Open Science Cloud. A clear framework is needed at both European and national levels to facilitate the research community to adopt open science and open innovation practices to promote knowledge circulation and valorisation. Open science also cannot be ignored in the context of the two other priorities of the Belgian presidency: namely open strategic autonomy for Europe, and reinforcing R&I in European society, with R&I acting as a catalyst for a stronger and more resilient Europe, especially in a number of crucial areas such as food security or the twin transition and health. Finally, regarding the

third priority strengthening the role of R&I in society, it is important to engage citizens, policy and industry in science in meaningful ways.

(max. 2000 characters)

## 5. Relevant quotes

*Include some relevant quotes to highlight the different perspectives, including from the tripartite representatives, national representatives and the community (Tip: the tweets of the event will help identify important remarks)*

Karel Luyben:

“It is crucial to say what EOSC is: a federation that doesn’t want to replace existing systems, but wants to federate them, connect them and bring them together”

‘What is offered to one community, should be offered to all communities’

Volker Beckman:

“Investments in e-infrastructures that now sometimes are domain specific, should be open to all research domains in order to use the investments in the most efficient way”

Sally Chambers:

“We focus on research infrastructures in Belgium and Europe, but we cannot lose sight of other ecosystems and research communities.”

## 6. Future plans and actions<sup>4</sup>

*Identify key information about future plans and actions, and based on the presentations and discussions, elaborate a summary of the main recommendations or suggestions presented for Open Science and EOSC development.*

On the national level a 2-year project named FedOSC (federal Open Science Cloud) will start in 2024 with a primary focus on the needs of the Federal Scientific Institutions (FSI). The activities of FedOSC will centre around best practices in Research Data Management (RDM) with the FAIR+2 and CARE3 principles at their core. In particular, the FedOSC team will not only ensure the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability of Belgian research data, but also pay careful attention to its long-term storage and preservation as well as the related ethical and legal considerations. The FedOSC project will be implemented in 3 phases:

1. Inventory of Datasets and Needs Analysis: in this phase, an inventory of data sources (e.g. data repositories) and datasets managed by the FSIs with potential for onboarding to EOSC will be created.
2. FedOSC Implementation: in the second phase, the requested services and infrastructure will be developed by Belnet in close cooperation with the FSIs. This will include some common services as well as the domain-specific services

---

<sup>4</sup> If you have access to that information, indicate short term objectives (two years’ time) for EOSC development in the **country** and dissemination strategy related to the tripartite event.

3. Sustaining Federal Open Science and Open Data activities: this phase focus on the development of a long-term strategy to sustain Open Science and Open Data activities.

(max. 5000 characters)

## 7. Use cases or practices

Indicate the cases or practices that you identify as particularly successful and illustrative of EOOSC development in the country or at institutional level

All 41 posters of the poster sessions (link will be provided by BELSPO or will be added on the EOOSC website => feedback via Isabel and Yann). Three winning posters of the poster sessions via public voting are added to this report as an attachment.

(max. 3000 characters)

## 8. Main indicators

Provide the main indicators related to the audience

### 8.1 Indicators organisation event

Official name of the event: [Tripartite event: Belgium](#)

Starting Date: [16/04/2024](#)

Ending Date: [16/04/2024](#)

Thematic profile (was there a specific theme to the event apart from the Tripartite collaboration?): [The Open Science Landscape in Belgium: state of play, challenges and future.](#)

Target audience: [Open Science community in Belgium](#)

### 8.2 Profile of participants

Total number of participants: [205?](#)

In-person: [150?](#)

Virtual (online): [0](#)

Gender (%): Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: \_\_\_\_\_ (number of participants)

Research Funding Organisations: \_\_\_\_\_

Service providing Organisations: \_\_\_\_\_

Libraries: \_\_\_\_\_

Public administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Others:

#### 8.4 Sectors

(Optional)

Identify from the participants registration form and the attendance list, which sectors were present in your event (e.g. Health, Education, ...)

#### 8.5 EU HE InfraEOSC funded projects, dataspace or other partnerships participation

Please indicate name of projects and partners from EU funded projects that participated in your event (this question should in the registration form)

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

Provide the agenda or program posted by the organisers for the NTE and the list of organisations according to participants affiliation

- 11:30-13:30: Networking lunch and poster session (Atrium)  
41 posters showing the diversity of Belgian Open Science initiatives and projects, from Open Access book publishing to university institutional strategies, through EOSC integration and OS platforms development.
- 13:30: Start of Belgian National Tripartite Event (Auditorium Albert II)
  - Master of ceremonies: Gaétan du Roy (MFWB)
- 13:30-13:40: Welcome by Arnaud Vajda (Chairman of the Board of Directors, Belspo, Belgian Science Policy Office) (Auditorium Albert II)
- 13:40-14:00: Intervention of European tripartite (Auditorium Albert II)
  - Michael Arenthoft (Commission)
  - Karel Luyben (EOSC-A)
  - Volker Beckmann (co-chair EOSC Steering Board)
- 14:00-15:00: Keynote Sabina Leonelli (philosopher of science, University of Exeter, UK) on "Human-Centric Open Science" (Auditorium Albert II)
  - Moderator: Marc Vanholsbeeck (Belspo)
- 15:00-15:30: coffee break (Marble Room)
- 15:30-16:20: Panel on Open Science in Belgium (Auditorium Albert II)
  - Moderator: Sven Rogge (Jonge Academie)
  - Panelists:
    - ✓ Christophe Dony (Liaison and research librarian, ULiège)
    - ✓ Joke Meeus (Coordinator Open Science, FWO)
    - ✓ Isabelle Gérard (Head of service Publications Division, Africa Museum)
    - ✓ Jean-Claude Burgelman (Em. Professor and Academic Coordinator Open Science, VUB)

- ✓ Yves Deville (Full Professor and Rectoral Adviser for the Digital University and Open Science, UCLouvain)

Topics for discussion will include: the current development of Open Science in Belgium, notably regarding Open Science infrastructures; benefits and advantages of Open Research Data; ethical considerations linked to the sharing and opening of sensitive data; profiles and responsibilities of data stewards; remaining barriers.

- 16:20-16:35: coffee break (Marble Room)
- 16:35-17:25: Panel on EOSC in Belgium (Auditorium Albert II)
  - Moderator: Inge Van Nieuwerburgh (OpenAIRE)
  - Panelists:

- ✓ Sally Chambers (Digital librarian, KBR-British Library)
- ✓ Johan Philips (Coordinator Research Data Management Competence Centre, KULeuven)
- ✓ Patricia Mergen (Liaison officer, Africa Museum and Meise Botanic Garden)
- ✓ Isabelle Gribomont (Digital humanities researcher, UCLouvain)
- ✓ Karel Luyben (President of EOSC-Association)

Topics for discussion will include: reconciling the perceptions and realities of EOSC; opportunities and challenges for Belgian research communities; resources needed in terms of infrastructure upgrades; training and upskilling of (new) professional profiles; further integration into EOSC of research data from all disciplines and backgrounds; EOSC and Open Science as a standard/framework in Belgium research.

- 17:25-17:30: Announcement of public choice poster session
- 17:30-19:30: Reception with continued poster session (Atrium)