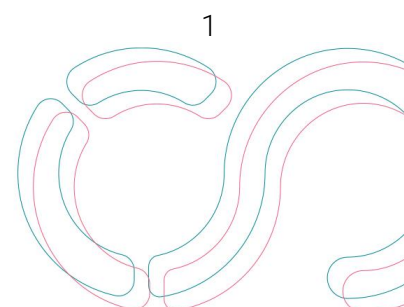


EOSC Association AISBL  
8th General Assembly Meeting  
Leuven, 27-28 May 2024  
Meeting minutes, released on 12 July 2024

<b>Date/Time:</b>	27 May 2024, 13:00 – 17:45 28 May 2024, 09:00 – 13:00
<b>Location:</b>	Irish College Leuven <i>Janseniusstraat 1, 3000 Leuven, Belgium</i>
<b>Chair:</b>	[KL] Karel Luyben (EOSC-A) <a href="mailto:Karel.Luyben@eosc.eu">Karel.Luyben@eosc.eu</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	[UG] Ute Gunsenheimer (EOSC-A) <a href="mailto:Ute.Gunsenheimer@eosc.eu">Ute.Gunsenheimer@eosc.eu</a>
<b>Voting Monitors:</b>	[SP] Sofie Peeters (EOSC-A) [MA] Margaret Armstrong (EOSC-A) [JPB] Julia Prieß-Buchheit (EOSC-A)
<b>Invited Guests:</b>	Representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the EOSC Steering Board (EOSC-SB).
<b>Delegates and Observer Representatives:</b>	The participants list is provided in Annex 1.
<b>Date of Production:</b>	12 July 2024

**EOSC Association AISBL**

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Monday, 27 May 2024

### Before the Meeting

12:00 Registration opens and all participants are requested to sign the registration list. All participants received a personalised welcome package, including the agenda, participants list, EURO 2024 match planner, and their name badge. Delegates are provided with voting slips; those holding proxies of other Member organisations are provided with additional voting slips. During the sandwich lunch participants make use of the first networking opportunity.

### Opening, 13:00 CEST

#### 13:00 **Item 01: Welcome and Opening of General Assembly Meeting #8**

*Karel Luyben, President, EOSC-A (Information / 10')*

The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EOSC Association AISBL (EOSC-A) commences with a welcome address by President Karel Luyben [KL], who extends gratitude to KU Leuven, the KU Leuven Libraries and LIBIS, and the Irish College Leuven for hosting the event and providing facilities. Despite some concerns about attendance due to a train incident, a quorum is confirmed. KL reviews the agenda items that will be voted upon and the respective majority applied. KL outlines the voting process: determining abstentions first, then objections, to calculate the majority for various decisions, and introduces the voting monitors as Sofie Peeters, Margaret Armstrong and Julia Priess-Buchheit.

#### 13:10 **Item 02: Adoption of draft agenda**

*Karel Luyben, President, EOSC-A (Decision / Open Voting / 5')*

The agenda is reviewed and unanimously adopted. KL then hands over to Ignacio Blanquer [IB], EOSC-A Director, for the next segment.

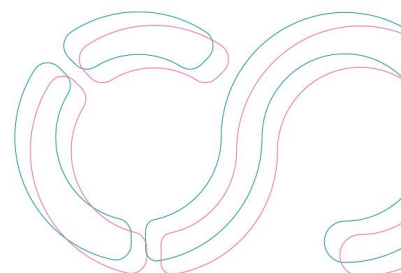
### Part I

#### 13:15 **Item 03: Admission of new Members and Observers of the Association, incl. short presentation of new organisations**

*Ignacio Blanquer, Director, EOSC-A, and representatives of the Provisional Members and Observers (Decision / Open Voting / 15')*

##### **Paper A: New Members and Observers**

IB updates on membership changes, noting resignations and new applications. Specific details are given about Members transitioning to Observers and vice-versa,



with explanations for these changes. The membership base is demonstrated to be stable, and detailed statistics are presented showing the number of Members and Observers. By the end of 2024, the total is projected to be 248 (not including possible new Members and Observers admitted during GA#9), with a current count of 257 due to the transition period. IB explains that this is due to the fact that resignation is only possible in the first semester of the year, and otherwise membership lasts through the next year.

Provisional Members each give a brief presentation:

- Aragonés Institute of Health Sciences (IACS), Spain
- Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium (DeiC), Denmark
- The Dutch Research Council, The Netherlands
- Stichting Health-RI (HRI), The Netherlands
- Jisc, United Kingdom

DeiC has applied to be a Member so as to be appointed as the Danish Mandated Organisation (MO), replacing the current MO, the Technical University of Denmark. Stichting Health-RI (HRI) has been merged with current Observer DTL and has now proposed to become a Member. Meaning that Health-RI will replace Observer DTL, but now as a Member.

Provisional Observers each give a brief presentation:

- European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN), France
- Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Belgium
- The Open University (OU), United Kingdom
- Université Clermont Auvergne (UCA), France
- University of Helsinki (UH), Finland

The provisional Members and Observers exit the auditorium and the vote is held. Before starting the voting process, KL asks if anyone objects to voting for the entire batch of new Members and Observers at once, and this proposal is unanimously agreed by the delegation. The vote is then held, and KL confirms that the new Members and Observers have been unanimously approved for admission to the EOSC Association. The new Members and Observers are invited to return to the meeting. They are greeted with a round of applause, formally welcoming the new Members and Observers to the Association.

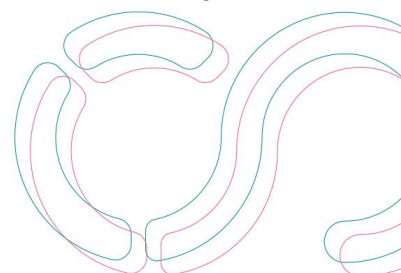
#### 13:30 **Item 04: Interim Report of the President and the Secretary General**

*Karel Luyben, President, EOSC-A*

*Ute Gunsenheimer, Secretary General, EOSC-A*

*(Information / 30')*

**Paper B: Interim Report**



EOSC-A Secretary-General Ute Gunsenheimer [UG] and KL provide an interim report covering activities since the last General Assembly, GA#7, 21 November 2023. The report is structured around three main lines: The Tripartite Collaboration and Horizon Europe EOSC Partnership, Working with the INFRAEOSC Projects, and Inside the EOSC Association.

### **The Tripartite Collaboration and Horizon Europe EOSC Partnership**

KL reviews the structure of the EOSC Partnership and its Tripartite Governance, and introduces the Tripartite Group, which includes representatives from the European Commission (EC), the EOSC-Steering Board (EOSC-SB) Sub-group Policy and the EOSC-A Board of Directors. On the recommendation of the Tripartite Group, the Tripartite Governance has re-scoped the “5 Tasks” to be taken on by the future governance of EOSC post-2027. KL introduces the 5 Tasks and indicates where each will be addressed in the agenda of the meeting.

KL highlights the recent National Tripartite Events (NTEs), which include participants from the EC, EOSC-A and the EOSC-SB, and were held in Brussels, Zagreb, and Utrecht.

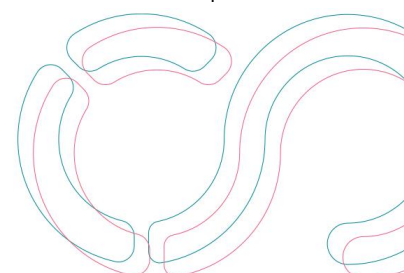
UG takes the floor to emphasise the importance of the Additional Activities Plan 2025 and Additional Activities Report 2023 surveys that are currently running, and the obligations of the EOSC-A Members relative to this reporting requirement stipulated by the Partnership’s MoU.

### **Working with the INFRAEOSC Projects**

UG emphasises the Association's role, facilitated by EOSC Focus, in supporting and facilitating collaboration among the EOSC-related Horizon Europe (HE) projects in spite of not having a mandate within the Partnership to do so. UG presents a striking visual demonstration of the impact of EOSC-A’s common branding initiative and identifies the seven new HE projects resulting from the 2023 INFRAEOSC call. Coordination and alignment initiatives including the Winter School 2024 and the EOSC Macro-Roadmap are highlighted.

UG demonstrates the reorganisation of the EOSC-A Task Forces undertaken in collaboration with the INFRAEOSC projects, and introduces the Opportunity Area Expert Groups, a collaboration initiative emerging from the Winter School.

The EOSC Focus project held its second GA in April 2024, and received a positive response on its first Periodic Review in January. UG introduces its proposed successor, “EOSC Gravity”, a 4.66 million euro, 31-month project proposal to support the transition of the EOSC Partnership into its new governance and funding framework post-2027. Also introduced is the proposed “EOSC United”, a 3 million euro CSA to establish a future engagement model for the EOSC Federation.



### Inside the EOSC Association

KL takes the floor and notifies the General Assembly that it will be voting on four new members of the Board of Directors in the second half of 2024 due to expired terms and the death of Sarah Jones. The General Assembly observes a moment of silence in her memory.

To ensure a smooth transition, the EOSC-A Board of Directors has appointed a three-person "Search Committee for Candidates for the Board of Directors", which is comprised of Ronan Byrne, former EOSC-A Director and CEO of HEAnet, Lidia Borrell-Damian, Secretary General of Science Europe, and Stefan Hanslik, current Austrian delegate to the EOSC-Steering Board as well as the governing board of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking. The committee will serve only in an advisory role to the EOSC-A General Assembly, and is tasked with providing feedback on potential candidates and to approach individuals in the EOSC community for the purpose of encouraging them to apply for a Board position. It is underscored that this does not alter the fact that any delegate may apply, and decision-making on EOSC-A Board positions rests exclusively with the EOSC-A Member delegates who vote in an election during the General Assembly.

UG reviews the communication and engagement activities of EOSC-A and highlights new and ongoing initiatives to engage discrete groups within the EOSC-A membership. One of these groups, the Funders Forum, is then introduced in detail by Sylvia Jeney (SNSF) and Aneta Pazik-Aybar (NCN).

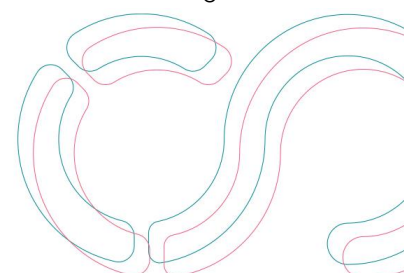
The GA takes note of the Interim Report of the President and Secretary General.

### Q&A on Interim Report

A concern is raised by Victoria Dominguez del Angel of the French MO, Inria, that France has not been included in the formation of the engagement groups or on the reorganisation of the Task Forces. KL replied that the engagement fora have been established exclusively for EOSC-A Members, and that all Members have been invited to join; and that Task Forces are open for all who wish to apply.

Roxanne Wyns of KU Leuven is surprised to hear about the Research-Performing Organisations (RPO) Forum for umbrella organisations, which she proposes introduces an unnecessary layer between EOSC-A and its individual Member organisations. KL clarifies that this is not the intention, and that the RPO Forum is just a starting point to increase engagement with the many RPOs in the EOSC-A member base and to get a feeling for the communalities of RPOs.

Mattias Björnmalm from CESAER says that CESAER's role in the RPO Forum is to explore and figure out complementarities, and that CESAER has no interest in becoming a layer between EOSC-A and its university Members.



A participant highlights the efforts of the EOSC-A Task Forces in aligning best practices for FAIR assessment, and that the Funders Forum should consider those results to avoid duplicating efforts.

14:10 **Item 05: Annual Accounts 2023 and Discharge of the Board of Directors**

*Klaus Tochtermann, Director and Treasurer, EOSC-A*

*Geert Keunen, VRC Auditors*

*(Decision / Open Voting / 15')*

**Paper C: Annual Accounts 2023 and Audit Report**

EOSC-A Director and Treasurer Klaus Tochtermann [KT] presents the details of EOSC-A's annual accounts for 2023 and the audit report, noting a positive result of 160 940 euros. The underspend is accounted for by the lack of Task Force travel costs being used and the lack of use of contingency funds. There was also a significant underspend in communications costs due to several tasks being brought in-house rather than outsourced to agencies.

EOSC-A operated with an income of almost 2.4 million euros accumulated from membership fees and the EOSC Focus project. EOSC-A carries forward a positive balance of 483,498 euros due to an accumulation from the previous years of 322,557 euros.

Geert Keunen, the auditor from VRC Auditors, summarises the audit report, confirming an unqualified opinion indicating no issues with the annual accounts.

The Board's responsibility in preparing accurate accounts is highlighted, and no compliance issues are noted.

KL invites questions from the floor and none are raised.

The General Assembly unanimously approves:

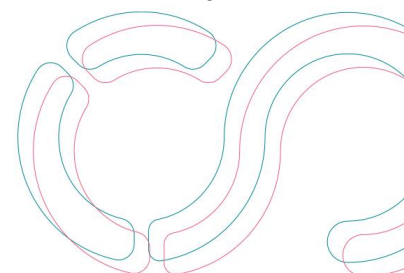
- the Annual Accounts 2023;
- to discharge the Board of Directors for the financial year 2023; and
- to discharge the Auditor, Geert Keunen, for the financial year 2023.

14:25 **Item 06: Re-Appointment of Auditor "VRC BEDRIJFSREVISOREN SC"**

*Klaus Tochtermann, Director and Treasurer, EOSC-A (Decision / Open Voting / 15')*

**Paper D: Re-Appointment of Auditor**

In line with Art. 7.4, KT invites the General Assembly to reappoint the current auditor, VRC BEDRIJFSREVISOREN BV's designated auditor Geert Keunen, as the statutory auditor of the EOSC Association AISBL for another three years. The proposal is approved unanimously by the General Assembly, highlighting the positive working





relationship and the moderate costs of the audit services. KL thanks KT for his work as Treasurer and the diligent efforts of the VRC office.

#### 14:40 **Q&A regarding Part I**

The floor is opened for any final questions, but no further questions are received. The assembly is guided towards the next steps, and plans for a group photo and a coffee break are announced, indicating a brief pause in the session.

15:00 *Coffee break*

### **Part II**

#### 15:30 **Item 07: SRIA 2.0**

*Karel Luyben, President, EOSC-A (Information / 15')*

##### **Paper E: SRIA 2.0 Approach**

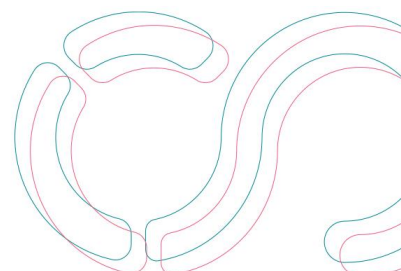
The meeting is reconvened by KL, who presents the current status of the significant update of the EOSC Partnership's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, SRIA 2.0. The update aims to be comprehensive and forward-looking, considering future developments up to the end of the Horizon Europe framework programme. KL reviews the drafting and consultation process to date and notes that the original plan to start drafting SRIA 2.0 in June is postponed to the fall due to concurrent obligations, including drafting the EOSC United proposal and working on the EOSC Federation Handbook. The delay is not seen as critical since the timing of the SRIA 2.0 release is flexible. Additionally, the final content is pending decisions on EOSC's future governance model, which needs to be included in SRIA 2.0.

KL presents the statistical outcomes of the community-wide consultation conducted from 02 April - 05 May 2024, and notes a good distribution across Europe, but disappointing participation from EOSC-A Mandated Organisations. KL then reviews the specific feedback on the seven proposed chapters of SRIA 2.0.

KL notes that the ultimate goal of SRIA 2.0 is to create a document that supports EOSC's strategic vision while addressing practical implementation challenges. The next steps are outlined, including finding consensus between EOSC-A and the EC; targeted consultations on draft texts with relevant stakeholder groups; approval from the Partnership Board; and a mature draft delivered by the end of 2024.

KL opens the floor to questions on SRIA 2.0. Jan Meijer from SIKT in Norway thanks the Board for the transparent process towards developing the SRIA and raises a question about whether the Board is intending to seek the explicit endorsement from the EOSC-A membership before finalising the document. KL responds that adopting this document would be a strategic decision for EOSC-A, and therefore will be voted

7



on by the GA prior to being presented to the Partnership Board for adoption, as the SRIA is co-owned by both parties to the Partnership.

15:45 **Item 08: The EOSC Brain Pool – Task Forces and Opportunity Area Expert Groups**

*Ignacio Blanquer, Director, EOSC-A (Information / 20')*

**Paper F: Process and result of re-scoping the EOSC-A Task Forces**

IB acknowledges and thanks the nearly 400 volunteer experts constituting the original 13 EOSC-A Task Forces (2021-2023) for their work and 27 published deliverables. IB then reviews the process of reconfiguring the Task Forces (TFs), which was laid out at GA#7 in November 2023, and will conclude with the TFs commencing their work in June 2024. The four new TFs are: Technical and semantic interoperability, FAIR metrics and digital objects, Health data, and Long-term data retention. IB also introduces the new initiative that has resulted in six new Opportunity Area Expert Groups, and which aims to enhance INFRAEOSC project implementation through direct collaboration between TFs and the projects. The differences between TFs and Opportunity Area Expert Groups are detailed.

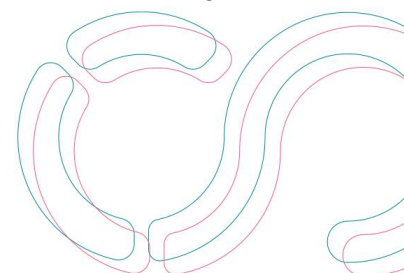
IB then reviews the results of the open call for TF members, which ran in March and April 2024. IB emphasises the large number of applications received (206). The approval rate was high across a diverse range of applications, though a few applicants were deemed ineligible due to organisational overlaps. IB stresses the importance of achieving a gender-balanced participation, acknowledging the current male predominance and the need for strategies to enhance female involvement in future TFs., where work plans will also be agreed.

16:05 **Q&A regarding Part II**

Roxanne Wyns of KU Leuven inquires whether it is still possible to join a TF. IB responds that additional TF members may be selected at the discretion of each TF following the election of its co-chairs at the June 2024 kick-off meetings.

A participant asks about the support that will be available to the TFs. The subsequent discussion covers the administrative and technical support provided to TFs, including technical resources like the EOSC Forum, a shared space on Google Drive, and joint mailing lists, as well as human resources in the form of EOSC-A Task Force Support Officers.

A further question is asked about the decision to end the software TF and designate it as covered by the EVERSE project. It is explained that this decision was the result of extensive discussions and numerous meetings aimed at understanding the situation thoroughly. This extensive deliberation ultimately led to the decision to end the software task force. Jonathan Tedds from ELIXIR addresses the GA to note that





those who wish to contribute to EVERSE in this respect should contact a representative of Work Package 1.

### Part III

#### 16:15 **Item 09: Status: EOSC Federation & EOSC Nodes / Briefing for Day 2**

*Bob Jones, Director, EOSC-A (Information / 15')*

##### **Paper G: The EOSC Federation and the role of Nodes**

EOSC-A Director Bob Jones [BJ] presents an update on the evolution of the EOSC Federation and the EOSC Nodes concept in order to prepare the participants for the interactive sessions on these topics planned for Day 2 of the meeting. BJ notes that the EOSC Nodes concept was introduced by the EC, but taken up by EOSC-A in order to understand and communicate this concept to its membership. He then reviews the full evolution of the concept over the last 12 months and notes that the Tripartite Governance has acknowledged the progress that EOSC-A has made by adopting several of EOSC-A's proposals and by giving EOSC-A the mandate to lead on the development of the EOSC Federation Handbook. BJ details ongoing activities that serve to define the EOSC Federation, which will be determined via the development of the Handbook, meetings of the Tripartite Group, and decisions taken by the Tripartite Governance. BJ then outlines the planned meetings and events through November 2024, including the plan to identify potential candidate EOSC Nodes.

BJ then describes the plan for the Day 2 breakout sessions on the EOSC Federation and EOSC Nodes.

#### **Q&A regarding Part III**

A participant from the Swedish Research Council asks how SRIA 2.0 and the Federation Handbook will interact. BJ responds that the Handbook will go into far more detail than the SRIA on the topic of the EOSC Federation.

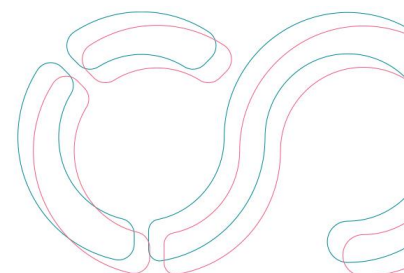
Cathrin Stöver from GÉANT asks how EOSC-A will use the input gathered in the breakout sessions on the following day. BJ responds that, by using Paper G as a starting point, the Handbook will synthesise various sources, including TF outputs and project results, to create a comprehensive guide. Feedback from the next day's sessions would initially influence the minimum requirements document and subsequently be incorporated into the Handbook following approval from the Tripartite Governance.

Marek Cebecauer of CAS questions the stability of the Federation's guidelines given disagreements in the Tripartite and the ongoing adjustments and feedback. BJ notes that the three parties are converging and that EOSC-A is now working with the Tripartite's mandate. He also acknowledges the dynamic nature of the guidelines,

9

#### **EOSC Association AISBL**

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emphasising that the EOSC Federation's definition and requirements would evolve over time as more precise language and structures are established.

Jessica Klemeier of EMBL asks about the process of selecting candidate nodes for the Federation. BJ responds that EOSC-A has a proposal for this, but that there is currently no agreed procedure.

Victoria Dominguez del Angel of Inria asks whether candidate nodes have already been selected. BJ responds that they have not, and that the aim is to ensure broad coverage, including national, thematic, e-Infrastructure, nodes, etc., so that there are no major gaps when the Federation is deployed.

Questions about the EOSC Beyond project's pilot nodes and their integration with EOSC EU Nodes are addressed, with BJ and Mark Dietrich of EGI clarifying EOSC Beyond's pilot project will focus on technical interoperability and not governance.

16:30 **Item 10: EOSC post-2027 – Considerations for an Institutionalised Partnership based on Art. 185 TFEU**

*Karel Luyben, President, EOSC-A*

*Octavi Quintana Trias, Director of PRIMA Partnership Secretariat  
(Information / 75')*

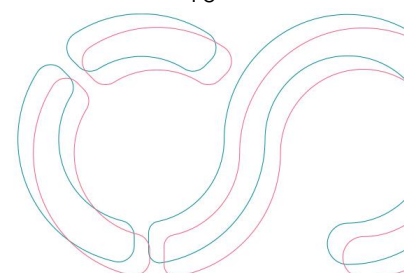
**Paper H: EOSC post-2027 – Status and Way Forward**

KL reviews the developments on EOSC governance post-2027 between November 2023 and May 2024, including the re-scoping the 5 Tasks that must be covered by any governance solution. KL notes that a significant discussion in February 2024 led to a decision by EOSC-A to further explore the governance frameworks under Articles 185 TFEU and 187 TFEU, aiming for a comprehensive system that would engage all of the 5 Tasks and ensure the sustainability of EOSC.

KL then invites Octavi Quintana Trias [OQT], the Director of the Secretariat for the PRIMA Partnership (an Article 185 public-public partnership) to start his presentation.

OQT details the structure and function of the Article 185 framework under which PRIMA operates. He explains that the EC is generally cautious about adopting the 185 framework due to the fact that in an Article 185 partnership the Commission acts as an observer and does not have the decision-making authority that it holds in Article 187 partnerships. Article 185 has strict requirements and a high degree of complexity but offers a robust model for integrating financial, scientific, and material resources across member states.

The presentation then delves into how the operational nuances and governance dynamics differ between Article 185 and Article 187 partnerships. OQT emphasises



that Article 185 allows more balanced power dynamics between countries and the EC, whereas Article 187 – the Joint Undertaking – gives decision-making authority to the Commission. Noting that PRIMA was initiated by the Member States as a political response to the 2015 migration crisis in Europe, OQT underscored that an Art. 185 must have unequivocal support at the national level including the “big countries”, in addition to the required 40% participation of EU Member States. He also notes that Article 185 excludes private sector involvement, focusing solely on public entities.

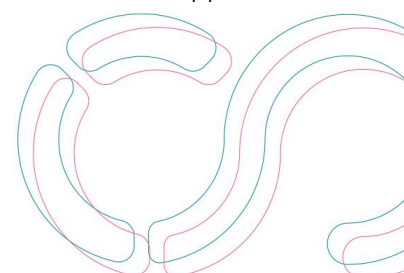
OQT explains the delegated implementation structure of PRIMA, as an Entity entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks, funded by the Commission but subject to strict scrutiny. This structure ensures dedicated funding for administrative tasks but imposes stringent oversight on operational activities, illustrating the trade-offs of Commission-funded programs. He shares his personal experiences in the early days of PRIMA, underscoring the practical challenges of starting a major international initiative mid-Framework Programme. The detailed explanation of these structures provides valuable insights into the considerations necessary for EOSC's future governance and operational framework, highlighting the need for careful planning and strong political support to navigate the complexities of European and international research collaborations.

### Q&A regarding Part III

In response to pre-arranged questions from EOSC-A, OQT continued by highlighting the key differences between Art. 187 and 185 partnerships. In this discussion he noted that an Art. 185 is funded 50% by the EC and 50% by the member states, but in the case of the latter also includes in-kind contributions, which he characterised as “very convenient funding”.

Having detailed the operational challenges of monitoring funded projects under Article 185, emphasising the complexity and time-consuming nature of the monitoring tools required for both sections of funding, OQT responded to a query about handling numerous stakeholders within EOSC, repeating that Article 185 necessitates strong Member State participation, and stressing the necessity of Member State leadership in proposing and supporting initiatives under Article 185.

A further question about navigating the political landscape for initiating an Article 185 leads to a discussion on the need for substantial political support. OQT advises that successful advocacy for an Article 185 requires convincing EU Member States and the Commission of the initiative's unique value, which must be complemented by strong political backing. Discussing strategies for engaging with the European Commission, he also highlights the importance of aligning with political supporters and constructing a compelling argument for the initiative's necessity. He underscored that without significant political support, particularly from influential Member States, it would be challenging to advance an Article 185 initiative.



One participant raised the question of how to have a constructive discussion with the EC on Art. 185, to which OQT responded that EOSC must have political supporters who can discuss the matter directly at the DG/senior officer level, presenting a clear impact assessment for why EOSC's function is not covered by anyone else and its absence is likely to harm EU competitiveness or the EU scientific community in an international context.

## 17:45 **End of Meeting Day 1**

The session concludes with thanks to the participants and announcements of the evening's social events, including a reception, a guided tour and a dinner, providing an informal setting for further discussion and networking among the attendees.

## Tuesday, 28 May 2024

### Start of Day 2, 9:30 CEST

KL opens the meeting with introductory remarks and addresses a topic from the previous day about the Search Committee for Candidates for the Board of Directors, clarifying its role in encouraging the best applications for Board positions without having decision-making power. KL emphasises that only the General Assembly can vote to decide the new directors.

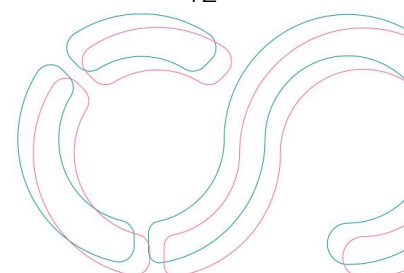
## Part IV

### 9:30 **Item 11: The EOSC EU Node**

*Spiros Athanasiou, Lot 1 Account Executive, Athena Research Center  
(Information / 20')*

Spiros Athanasiou [SA] of the Athena Research Center provides an in-depth overview of the ongoing deployment of the EOSC EU Node, which is planned to enter production in late September 2024. SA notes that the EU Node will be the first EOSC node, provisioned by the EC, with DG CNECT as "business owner", and will serve as a "blueprint" for the other nodes in the Federation. SA highlights its function as an EC-provided service designed to support researchers with integrated compute and storage services, and will serve to lower the entry barrier and costs for EOSC Nodes to follow.

SA details the EU Node's services, including metadata management, software as a service, and support for data transfer and computing needs, mentioning EOSC nodes can potentially become discoverable or offer their services through the EOSC EU Node. He notes the EU Node has already established a web presence.



SA emphasises the governance model, operational policies, and the collaborative efforts between the EC and third-party contractors to maintain and improve the node. In terms of operational policies, the node must adhere to quality, security, and confidentiality standards. The EC oversees the implementation and reporting process, consulting third parties on the Node's operations. SA concludes by discussing the Node's integration and testing stages, the timeline for further development, indicating that most testing and servicing environments are in place, and the focus is on ensuring the quality of integration and adherence to service requirements.

## 9:50 Q&A regarding Part IV

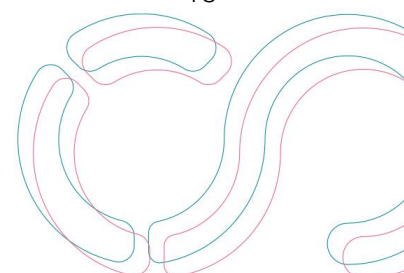
### Clarifications on the EU Node

Jan Meijer of SIKT asks if the EU Node end users will be researchers, and if it caters to the "long tail of science". SA responds that the EU Node aims to support both researchers and users who lack access to complete network of services, thereby addressing the long tail of science. SA notes that the primary targets are the EOSC Nodes and Research Infrastructures (RIs).

A university representative raises concerns regarding the governance of the EU Node, especially relative to the EC's role once the Node is fully operational. KL intervenes to clarify that the EU Node is owned by the EC, which has contracted entities like Athena Research Centre to build and operate it, while the Federation is governed by the Tripartite, and ultimately by whatever form of governance succeeds it, allowing each node autonomy while adhering to the Federation's overarching rules. KL states that a service provider who wants to join the Federation can onboard to an existing EOSC Node or, if large enough, can enrol as an EOSC Node.

BJ asks how the services provided by the EU Node will be made available to other nodes. SA responds that this will be enabled by the EU Node's federating capabilities and software-as-a-service offerings.

There are a handful of questions regarding the specific needs of researchers in terms of data management, storage capacity, number of users and cost of use. SA explains that the EU Node is not a commercial service and is provisioned as-is for a three-year scope only, but within that scope there is room for users to request more resources from the EU.



## Part V

### 10:00 **Item 12: The EOSC Federation / EOSC Nodes / Introduction of Breakouts**

Andy Götz [AG], former head of Software Group at ESRF, now supporting EOSC-A in the role of seconded Senior Scientific Officer, runs through the logistics of the two sequential parallel sessions on the EOSC Federation and the EOSC Nodes that will occupy the remainder of the meeting.

The General Assembly is instructed to break out into three smaller groups based on the first letter of their last name for moderated interactive discussions on the two topics. The explicit purpose of these discussions is to gather input on the Association's positions, as a member of the Tripartite Governance, on both of these developing concepts and the related actions planned in 2024. Both topics are identical in each of the three rooms. Each room has facilitators and rapporteurs to guide and document the discussions, which are enabled by the Slido online interactive tool. To maximise engagement between the participants, each is asked to dynamically add questions via Slido and to vote on the questions in order to prioritise discussion topics within the respective session. The questions are provided in Annex 4. A Slido poll on potential EOSC Nodes participation by the EOSC-A membership is included in Annex 2, and a Slido analytics report from the sessions is included as Annex 3.

### 10:00 **Breakout Session 1: EOSC Nodes**

The drivers of the EOSC Nodes discussions included:

- the anticipated future call for organisations to serve as potential nodes within the EOSC Federation; and
- the ongoing drafting process of the EOSC Nodes “minimum requirements”, which will be refined in dialogue with potential candidate nodes, and ultimately finalised by the Tripartite Governance.

### 11:00 *Coffee break*

### 11:30 **Breakout Session 2: EOSC Federation**

Driving the EOSC Federation discussions are:

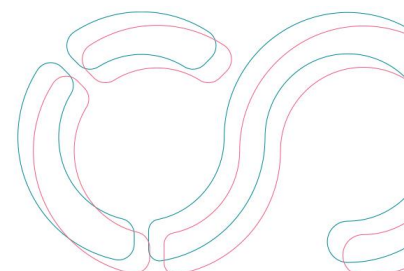
- the community effort to draft the EOSC Federation Handbook, which is being led by EOSC-A on a mandate from the Tripartite Governance; and
- the EOSC-A proposal for the process of selecting potential nodes.

### 12:30 **Reporting**

*Wrap-up / Session for Open Discussion / Closing*

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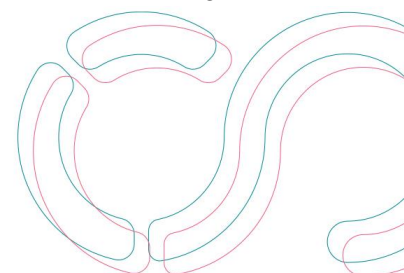
The breakout session rapporteurs provide summaries of the key points documented in each breakout room. Rapporteurs were EOSC-A Director Sara Garavelli [SG]; Mark Dietrich [MD] of EGI Foundation, and Miguel Rey Mazon [MRM] of TU Graz.

SG is the first to summarise the respective breakout discussion:

- Discussed were the advantages to service providers of being an EOSC Node, which include reaching a wider user base; a Quality certification; and improvement in discoverability of services.
- A remark was made that there is too much emphasis on the Nodes prior to defining the Federation and the rules of participation; and a concern is raised about how to ensure the user communities have a voice in the Federation, which now is seen as being driven top-down.
- A discussion was held on the “minimum requirements” of a Node, and whether the issues related to qualified personnel, user support and training are adequately considered.
- A discussion is held on how EOSC Nodes might be enrolled. It is emphasised that the potential Nodes should not receive funding in order to ensure that the organisations proposing to help building future Nodes are not only in it for the funding; it is established that there is not currently any list of potential Nodes; and it is suggested that the build-up action should not only test enrolment of Nodes, but also the onboarding of service providers.
- A discussion is held concerning the development of the EOSC Federation Handbook. The decision-making process is clarified as beginning with the Tripartite Group, moving through targeted consultations, and ending with the Tripartite Governance. Direct input to the drafting of the EOSC Federation Handbook included the need to clarify how the EOSC Federation would interact with services outside the EU; and that the Handbook's introduction should, to clarify impact, not only include the goals of EOSC but also the concrete problems EOSC aims to solve. For example, (1) accessing data between two different Research Infrastructures; (2) allowing a service provider from one country to provide a service to another country; (3) improving machine readability; etc.

MD adds to the summary discussion:

- The discussion highlights the importance of a carefully considered decision to become an EOSC Node, balancing the desire for visibility with potential drawbacks.
- The economic aspect of service provision is discussed, including the possibility of differentiated pricing for services offered to external communities. It is agreed that skills and capacity building are crucial and must be integrated into the planning for EOSC Nodes.
- A significant point raised is whether EOSC Nodes must accept services from other EOSC Nodes, with the general inclination being yes, but recognising the



need for further discussion. This is a new insight that requires careful consideration in the ongoing development of the EOSC Federation's rules.

- A point was raised in the breakout sessions concerning the importance of considering how EOSC will interact other existing and future Data Spaces.

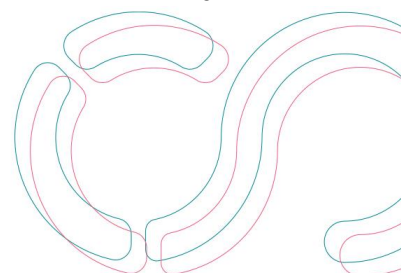
MRM notes that the discussion in the third breakout room also touched on:

- Whether data and services require different architectures, emphasising the importance of clearly defining these requirements.
- The role of the EOSC Federation in ensuring the usefulness and proper integration of services via skills and capacity building is once again highlighted.

KL clarifies that becoming a potential node is not a pre-selection process but rather must ensure that candidates meet the minimum requirements and rules of participation. This ongoing process involves discussions and learning during this initial phase to refine the approach. KL notes that the timeline for the EOSC Federation is not driven by EOSC-A, and reiterates Bob Jones's earlier comments on the timeline, predicting that 2024 will be a year of discussions and drafting, with physical connections likely starting in 2025. The selection process for potential EOSC Nodes will occur this year, but most practical implementations will follow thereafter.

KL concludes the session and the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with expressions of gratitude to all participants for their contributions and active involvement. Special thanks are extended to the EOSC Secretariat staff for organising the meeting, and KU Leuven, LIBIS, and the Irish College Leuven, for their support and hospitality. KL acknowledges the successful format of the meeting, with a first day dedicated to voting items and informational sessions and a second day dedicated to interactive sessions. KL concludes the meeting with wishes for a safe trip home for all attendees.

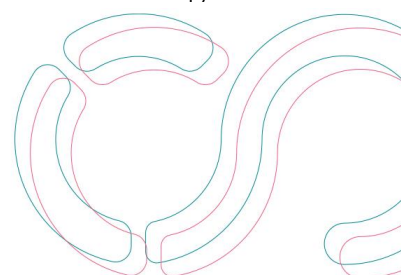
13:00    **Lunch / End of GA #8**



## ANNEX 1: Participants list

### **EOSC Association AISBL**

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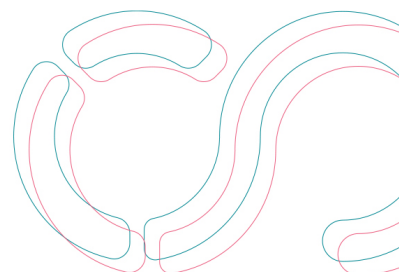


## EOSC Association General Assembly #8

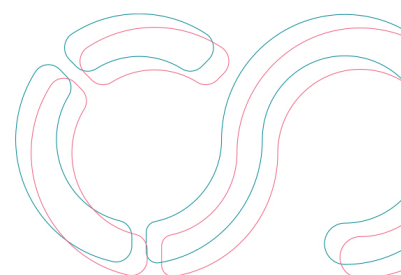
### List of Participants

Status of 11/06/2024

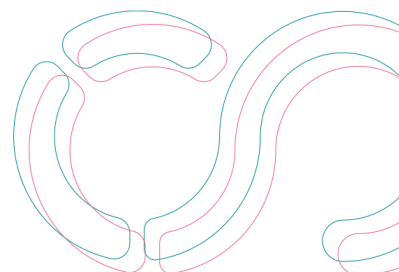
Last name	First name	Organisation
Agasøster	Bodil	ESS ERIC - European Social Survey European Research Infrastructure Consortium
Altobelli	Chiara	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale
Amez	Lucy	Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad
Anderberg	Sabina	Stockholm University
Antosz	Patrycja	NORCE Norwegian Research Centre AS
Ardagna	Danilo	Politecnico di Milano
Armstrong	Margaret	EOSC-A Secretariat
Audergon	Pauline	Instruct Integrated Structural Biology Infrastructure in Europe
Auge	Etienne	Universite Paris-Saclay
Augustus	Ron	Coöperatie SURF u.a.
Bakkali	Ines	EOSC-A Secretariat
Barbu	Dragoș-Cătălin	Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare in Informatica - ICI Bucuresti
Beckmann	Volker	EOSC Steering Board
Björnmalm	Mattias	CESAER
Blanquer	Ignacio	EOSC-A Board
Boehme	Olivier	Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen (Research Foundation Flanders)
Bogaerts	Serge	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe
Bohuslavová	Olga	Masaryk University
Bosnjak	Ales	Institute of Information science - IZUM
Bozzi	Concezio	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)
Cabrerizo Padilla	Patricia	EOSC-A Secretariat
Cacciaguerra	Stefano	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV)
Caetano	Isabel	EOSC-A Secretariat
Campanella	Mauro	Consortium GARR
Cappelluti	Federica	Politecnico di Torino
Castelli	Donatella	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Cebecauer	Marek	J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences



Last name	First name	Organisation
Chambers	Sally	Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-EU)
Chicot	Julien	The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities
Clare	Helen	Jisc LBG
Contrino	Sergio	European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network
Cucu	Mihaela	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea - Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)
Dagslott	Nenitha	The Research Council of Norway
Damiano	Rossana	Università degli studi di Torino
David	Romain	European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents AISBL (ERINHA)
De Bal	Ils	euroCRIS
De Loof	Chris	Belnet
Decroix	Gaelle	Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (CEA)
Delipalta	Alex	Research Data Alliance Association AISBL
Demey	Jan	European Space Agency (ESA)
Deriemaecker	Niels	Belnet
Di Nunzio	Giorgio Maria	Università Degli Studi di Padova
Dietrich	Mark	EGI Foundation
Dominguez Del Angel	Victoria	Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique
Eeckhout	Jerome	Conseil des recteurs
El Khouri	Laurence	National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)
Fernandez Sanchez	Carlos	Fundacion Publica Gallega Centro Tecnológico de Supercomputación de Galicia
Ferrari	Tiziana	EGI Foundation
Fink	Anne Sofie	Danish e-Infrastructure Cooperation (DeiC) at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
Fischer	Lars	NORDUnet A/S
Fišer	Darja	CLARIN ERIC
Forni	Monica	Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Fournier	Johannes	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation)
Friedrich	Tanja	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)
Fritzinger	Anne-Catherine	Sorbonne Université
Fuhrmann	Patrick	Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY

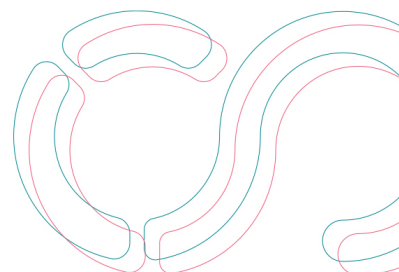


Last name	First name	Organisation
Gaillard	Vinciane	European University Association
Garavelli	Sara	EOSC-A Board
Garijo	Daniel	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Giglia	Elena	Open scholarly communication in the European Research Area for the Social Sciences and Humanities (OPERAS)
Girone	Maria	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
Glauner	Annika	ETH Zürich
Gómez-Arrue Azpiazu	Javier	Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud (IACS)
González García	Juan	Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud (IACS)
Götz	Andy	EOSC-A Secretariat
Greve	Gottfried	University of Bergen (UiB)
Grevins	Janis	Augstākās izglītības un zinātnes informācijas tehnoloģijas koplietošanas pakalpojumu centrs (VPC)
Guba	Beate	Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien)
Gunsenheimer	Ute	EOSC-A Secretariat
Hnatkova	Eva	National Library of Technology
Ivanoaica	Teodor	EOSC-A Secretariat
Jakobsson	Ulf	University of Gothenburg / host university for the Swedish National Data Service (SND)
Jeney	Sylvia	Swiss National Science Foundation
Jones	Bob	EOSC-A Board
Jouneau	Thomas	Université de Lorraine
Kádárné Kelemen	Ildikó	Governmental Agency for IT Development (Kormányzati Informatikai Fejlesztési Ügynökség)
Karlsson	Hans	Uppsala University
Klemeier	Jessica	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Komljenovic	Vanja	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives - CESSDA
Kraft	Sophie	Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI) e.V.
Krivjanska	Anna	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
Kudsk	Gitte Julin	Danish e-Infrastructure Cooperation (DeiC) at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
Lavitrano	Marialuisa	EOSC-A Board
Le Franc	Yann	EUDAT
Leliaert	Frederik	Agentschap Meise Botanic Garden
Leporati	Alberto	Università degli studi di Milano-Bicocca
Libaers	Yann	EOSC-A Secretariat

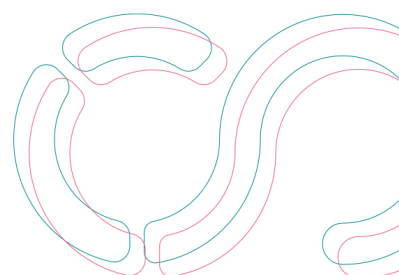




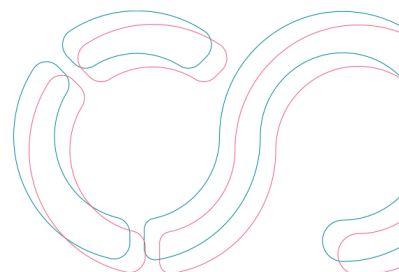
Last name	First name	Organisation
Lindell	Kristoffer	Umeå University
Lück	Rupert	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Luyben	Karel	EOSC-A Board
Maes	Elisa	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Magnusson	Patrik	Karolinska Institutet
Maier	Tanja	GÉANT Association
Mallmann	Daniel	Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH
Maric	Ivan	University of Zagreb University Computing Centre
Mathur	Aastha	Euro-Biolmaging ERIC
Matyska	Ludek	CESNET
Meijer	Jan	Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research
Mendes Moreira	João	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
Mishev	Anastas	University Ss Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FCSE-UKIM)
Mistry	Andrew Kishor	GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH
Mohacsi	Janos	Governmental Agency for IT Development (Kormányzati Informatikai Fejlesztési Ügynökség)
Nardello	Ilaria	EOSC-A Secretariat
Niemi-Grundström	Minna	University of Helsinki
Noro	Jorge	University of Coimbra
Oort	Frans	Universiteit van Amsterdam
Ounsy	Majid	Synchrotron SOLEIL
Pansanel	Jérôme	University of Strasbourg
Papadopoulou	Elli	Athena - Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies
Paulsen	Steinar	The University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
Pavlic-Zupanc	Jana	BBMRI-ERIC
Pazik-Aybar	Aneta	National Science Centre
Peeters	Sofie	EOSC-A Secretariat
Pericàs Pulido	Pau	Illes Balears Health Research Institute Foundation (IdISBa)
Perrin	Jean-François	European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)
Poelmans	Hanne	Hasselt University
Possenti	Andrea	Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - National Institute for Astrophysics
Poveda	Lucy	Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB)



Last name	First name	Organisation
Presser	Karl	Premotec GmbH
Priess-Buchheit	Julia	Miller International Knowledge (MIK)
Prnjat	Ognjen	National Infrastructures for Research and Technology - GRNET S.A.
Pronk	Martine	Stichting LIBER
Proykova	Ana	Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Quareni	Francesca	Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV)
Quesneville	Hadi	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE)
Quintana Trias	Octavi	PRIMA Foundation
Reichmann	Stefan	ACONET Verein
Rey Mazón	Miguel	Graz University of Technology
Robertson	Dale	EGI Foundation
Rod	Thomas Holm	European Spallation Source (ESS)
Røysland	Hilde	Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
Ruda	Miroslav	Masaryk University
Rydving	Karin	University of Bergen (UiB)
Sabatino	Roberto	HEAnet CLG
Sanchez	Juan	EBRAINS AISBL
Sarramia	David	Université Clermont Auvergne
Schmidt	Birgit	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts
Serjeant	Stephen	The Open University OU
Sesink	Laurents	Coöperatie SURF u.a.
Shi	Zhengdong	Universite Paris-Saclay
Sigloch	Sebastian	SWITCH
Slaninova	Katerina	VSB – Technical University of Ostrava
Soler	Nicolas	Consorcio para la Construcción, Equipamiento y Explotación del Laboratorio de Luz de Sincrotrón
Spooren	Pieter	Universiteit Antwerpen
Stocker	Markus	TIB Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology
Stöver	Cathrin	GÉANT Association
Streit	Achim	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Szprot	Jakub	University of Warsaw
Szuflita-Żurawska	Magdalena	Gdańsk University of Technology
Tamagno	Donatella	Scuola Normale Superiore
Tedds	Jonathan	Elixir Europe



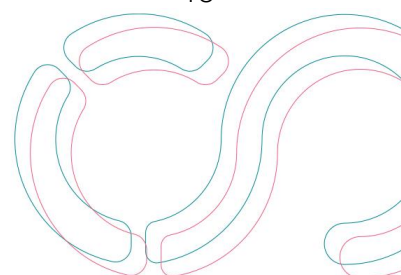
Last name	First name	Organisation
Teperek	Marta	The Dutch Research Council (Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek) NWO
Tierney	James	EOSC-A Secretariat
Tochtermann	Klaus	EOSC-A Board
Tonello	Nadia	Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
Tyberghein	Lennert	Flanders Marine Institute VLIZ
Tziveloglou	Pantelis	European Commission
Ulfsparre	Sanna Isabel	Vetenskapsrådet: the Swedish Research Council
Ulinici	Doinita	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)
Unge	Lenka	EOSC-A Secretariat
Utka	Andrius	Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)
van Gelder	Celia	Health-RI
Van Nieuwerburgh	Inge	Ghent University
Van Renterghem	Tia	EOSC-A Secretariat
Velupillai	Sumithra	Vetenskapsrådet: the Swedish Research Council
Volinia	Stefano	Università degli Studi di Ferrara
Weeks	Allen	The Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC
Widmark	Wilhelm	EOSC-A Board
Wilk	Roksana	Cyfronet
Winkler	Kathrin	European Commission
Wolff-Boenisch	Bonnie	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives - CESSDA
Wyns	Roxanne	KU Leuven
Xemantilotou	Eirini	Instruct Integrated Structural Biology Infrastructure in Europe
Xhelaj	Arjan	Rrjeti Akademik Shqiptar
Yeomans	Joanne	Technische Universiteit Delft (TU Delft)
Zachar	Ondrej	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information



## ANNEX 2: Breakout session Slido poll results

### **EOSC Association AISBL**

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# Breakout Session - EOSC Nodes and Federation

27 - 28 May 2024

Poll results

## Table of contents

### Auditorium

- Are you planning to become part of an EOSC Node



**Auditorium**

## Are you planning to become part of an EOSC Node

062

Definitely



31 %

Maybe



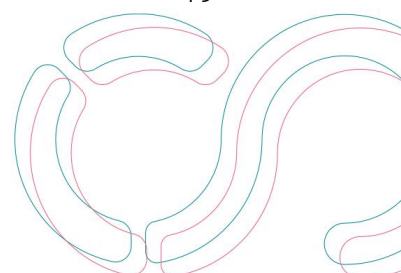
53 %

Not yet



16 %

## ANNEX 3: Slido analytics report for breakout session questions



Event summary report  
 Breakout Session - EOSC Nodes and Federation

Active users

159

Engagement score

1136

Engagement per user

7.1

Questions

176

Likes / dislikes

898 / 0

Anonymous rate

64%

Poll votes

62

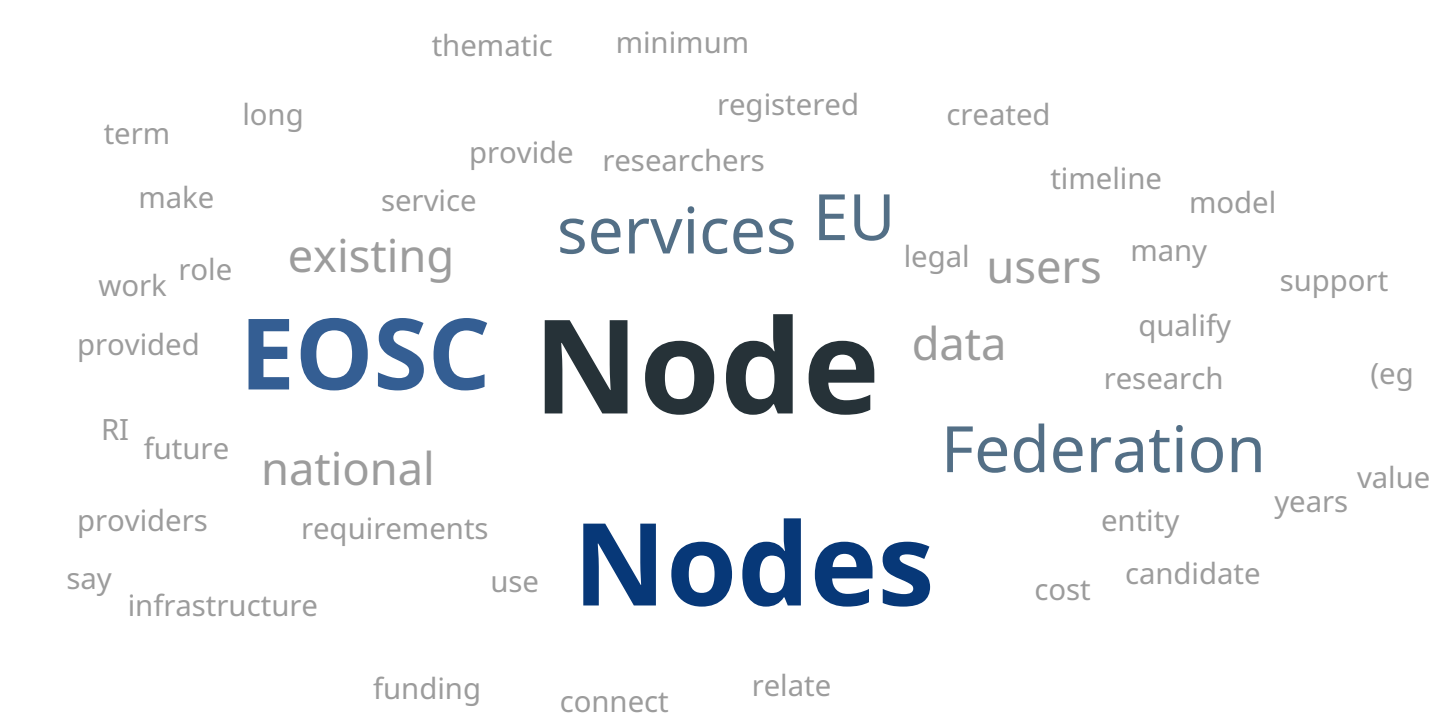
Polls created

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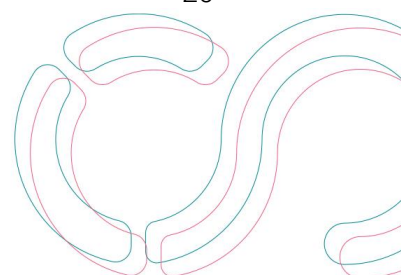
Votes per poll

62

Popular questions			
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A  25 May, 6:59am </div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>32</div> <div></div> </div>	<div> What does a Node have to provide as service to qualify as a Node? </div>	
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A  25 May, 6:58am </div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>24</div> <div></div> </div>	<div> Does an existing organisation like an RI, ERIC, e-infrastructure qualify automatically to be a Node? </div>	
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A  25 May, 6:59am </div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>24</div> <div></div> </div>	<div> What is the difference between a Node and a Data Space? </div>	
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A  25 May, 7:28am </div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>24</div> <div></div> </div>	<div> What are the advantages of being a Node? </div>	
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A  25 May, 7:33am </div> </div>	<div> <div>0</div> <div></div> <div>23</div> <div></div> </div>	<div> What does a Node have to provide as service to qualify as a Node? </div>	

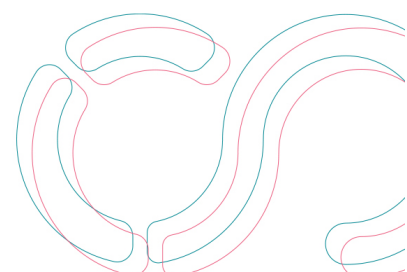
Topics

Influential users
<div> <div>E</div> <div> EOSC-A </div> <div> <div>42</div> <div>455</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div>J</div> <div> Jan Meijer </div> <div> <div>11</div> <div>24</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div>M</div> <div> Marek Cebecauer </div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>8</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div>I</div> <div> Ignacio Blanquer </div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>7</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div>L</div> <div> Ludek Matyska </div> <div> <div>3</div> <div>5</div> </div> </div>

## ANNEX 4: EOSC Federation and Nodes Slido questions from GA#8



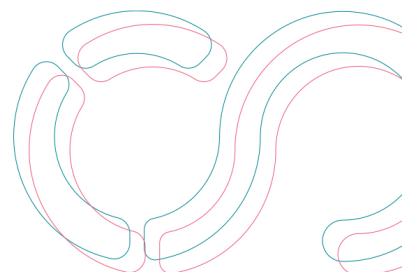
The questions presented in this Annex were posed by participants of the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting of the EOSC Association during interactive breakout sessions held on 28 May 2024. The answers were prepared by EOSC-A.

Question	Answer
GA8-Q001: What does a Node have to provide as service to qualify as a Node?	The Node should provide resources which are useful for doing research. A typical example is a scientific data repository. But IT services for dealing with scientific data are also common (computing, storage, scientific software) as well as support services and training. Future discussions should also consider user services for accessing scientific instruments.
GA8-Q002: Does an existing organisation like an RI, ERIC, e-infrastructure qualify automatically to be a Node?	Not automatically. They could apply to become a Node and would need to comply with the Federation rules and be accepted by the Federation governance body.
GA8-Q003: What is the difference between a Node and a Data Space?	According to the Commission Staff Working Document on Common European Data Spaces, "a common European data space brings together relevant data infrastructures and governance frameworks in order to facilitate data pooling and sharing." EOSC is listed as the Data Space for research and innovation data. How these Common European data spaces will be connected still needs to be understood. A Node in the EOSC Federation is a component of the EOSC Data Space.
GA8-Q004: What are the advantages of being a Node?	Node offer increased visibility for data and services. Many high-quality datasets and services would benefit the scientific community if they were accessible to the wider research community. Sharing solutions and training material improves the quality of a node's services and data by learning from others and contribute to increased cross-domain research. Higher adoption of OS practices in each community because they will be inspired and learn from other communities and realise they are part of a large community. Sharing of solutions for legal requirements and cybersecurity. Adopting common solutions through the EU Node or other services

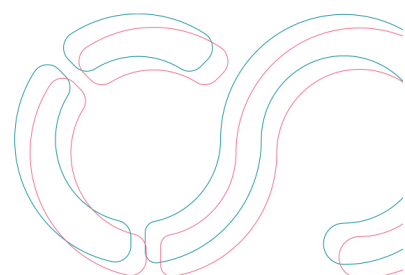




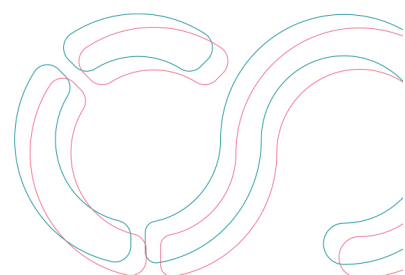
Question	Answer
	standardised by the Federation. Sharing of resources will lead to economies of scale.
GA8-Q006: Will Nodes be co-financed by EOSC in the future?	EOSC i.e. the European Commission, does not provide permanent financing. There will be EOSC funded projects in FP10 like in Horizon Europe but these are for a limited period of time and for specific actions.
GA8-Q007: How much does it cost to be a Node?	The cost to operate the Node depends on each Node. The cost for a Node to join the Federation is not discussed yet but should be free for joining the Federation during the period 2025 to 2027. After that it will depend on the organisation managing the Federation, one could imagine a fee being asked to join the Federation after 2027 to cover administration costs at least.
GA8-Q008: Will Nodes be co-financed by EOSC in the future?	See GA8-Q006
GA8-Q009: Will researchers/citizen scientists be able to register as individuals to become users or will they have to access EOSC services via a registered institution?	Individuals with a user account part of the eduGAIN federation (and authorised by their organisation) or individuals with an EU Login account will be able to register as users of the EOSC Federation. The exact procedure and what resources they will have access to still needs to be determined.
GA8-Q011: What are the minimum requirements to meet to qualify as a Node?	Main requirements are (1) legal entity (2) operational for minimum of further 2 years, ideally 5 years (3) high Technical Readiness Level of services offered, and (4) findable and accessible to EOSC users (cf. <a href="#">Minimum requirements</a> ).
GA8-Q012: Do Nodes have to connect with the EU Node and if so how?	Connecting to the EU Node is not a requirement.
GA8-Q013: Will candidate nodes be removed if they don't meet the requirements of the EOSC nodes after the initial phase?	Yes. EOSC nodes need to maintain compliance with the node requirements over time. A monitoring system will be set up and will be able to identify non-compliant nodes in order to take actions.



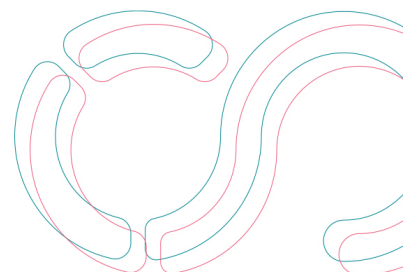
Question	Answer
GA8-Q014: What about essential "soft" services as training, networking, peer-support - how do they fit within the current vision for the technical nodes?	Soft services like training are considered part of the services a Node can offer.
GA8-Q015: Who decides, which proposed EOSC node actually becomes a EOSC node?	The EOSC Tripartite Governance which includes the EC, the Member States & Associated Countries and the EOSC Association
GA8-Q016: Why is there so much focus on the minimum requirements on the nodes, and not on their interoperability?	Both the minimum requirements for nodes and the Interoperability between nodes are important. We have to start creating nodes, so that we can work on the interoperability between them.
GA8-Q017: How do we ensure that User Community/-ies obtain more influence in deciding on EOSC services evolution, rather than maintaining the top-down approach.	The strategic instruments to influence the future of EOSC are the SRIA and the MAR. To ensure that community input are taken into account, communities need to be active in participating to the related consultations. In addition to that, communities can influence the EOSC service offering by participating to the EOSC Federation with their resources.
GA8-Q018: What is the definition of a "legal entity" to become a Node?	One which can sign a contract to join the EOSC Federation.
GA8-Q019: Will the Nodes compete with, or even replace, the national HPC central?	No. A connection is foreseen between EuroHPC and the EOSC EU Node
GA8-Q020: What is an EOSC Node?	See GA8-Q069
GA8-Q021: Will Nodes be co-financed by EOSC in the future?	See GA8-Q006
GA8-Q022: How many Nodes will be created in the beginning?	The <a href="#">questionnaire</a> , created by the Tripartite Group, will give more insight in the possible offering of EOSC Nodes and resources through EOSC Nodes. This insight will help in determining what could be the iteration of the EOSC Federation.



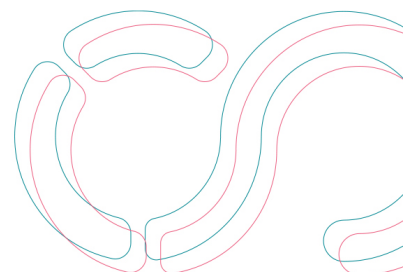
Question	Answer
GA8-Q023: Does every node need to provide services to the whole EOSC ecosystem or can this be restricted (at least in the beginning) ?	The node should provide resources (data, services) that can be used (accessed, used) by all EOSC registered users, although restrictions (e.g. for sensitive data, or services with limited capacity) must be transparently disclosed. At a minimum the resources need to be available for a larger community base than if they were not part of a node otherwise it doesn't make much sense to become a node.
GA8-Q023: The benefits for nodes seem to be quite low, how will we make it more attractive to become a node?	The more resources will be shared in the EOSC Federation the larger the benefits for everybody will be. If we all wait for 'the others' to start, nothing will happen and there will be no benefits.
GA8-Q024: What is the timeline for creating the EOSC Federation and Nodes?	The first wave of Nodes is foreseen to access the Federation in 2025 for a minimum of two years.
GA8-Q025: If a Node is an infrastructure, can it provide services through EOSC and still provide other services to other communities?	See GA8-Q069
GA8-Q026: What is the EOSC Federation?	The EOSC Federation is the collection of EOSC Nodes which follow a common set of requirements and regulations. The first draft of the rules and regulations are being defined in the Federation Handbook (currently being drafted with a first version foreseen by the end of 2024)
GA8-Q027: Can we discuss a case for a service joining as a Node on its own or via an existing EOSC node. What are the differences?	Joining as its own Node (called 'enrolling' in the Federation) means complying with the regulations of the Federation, signing a contract and being in direct contact with the Federation as the representative for all the members of the Node. Joining an existing Node (called 'onboarding onto an EOSC Node') means complying with the regulations of the Node. Onboarding may be a lighter process than forming a new Node.



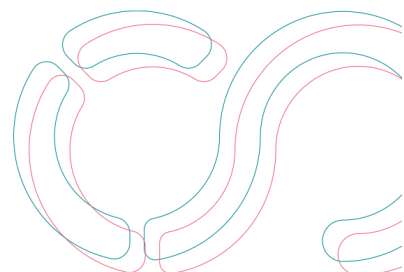
Question	Answer
GA8-Q028: What will be the business model for operation of Nodes/EU Node - user payment?	Each node must set its own business model, which may include revenues from funding sources, as well as other revenues, such as pay per use, or pooling resources amongst Node members.
GA8-Q029: What is the benefit in becoming an EOSC Node?	See GA8-Q004
GA8-Q030: Skills4eosc competence centers... what happens to them in relation to the nodes?	The competence centers need to be integrated into Nodes either via a thematic competence center or as a Node. These should be sustained by the Nodes or other funding. If not sustainable their results should be accessible so other Nodes or projects can use them.
GA8-Q031: SIMPL and to a certain extend data spaces are a (expensive) fashion. Do we really need to take them into account?	Where SIMPL and the work on data spaces can help the EOSC Federation become more interoperable (including usability by private sector and government), these developments should be considered in EOSC's interoperability framework.
GA8-Q032: Who decides on node enrolment in the federation - what happens if more than 10 nodes would like to enrol early on?	The Tripartite Governance will decide on the enrolment in the EOSC Federation helped by the information obtained through the <a href="#">questionnaire</a> . Please also refer to GA8-Q022.
GA8-Q033: All I hear is services and data, but what about the important aspect of training and capacity building?	Training and capacity building are essential parts too. These resources can be offered through nodes as well.
GA8-Q034: Is there a sustainable business model for the Nodes? If yes, how does it look like?	The business model will be different for different nodes. The EOSC Federation will not finance nodes but will help the users of resources by sharing resources. Please refer to GA8-Q028
GA8-Q035: How exactly will you avoid the federation becoming a "mixed bag of stuff" as the marketplace was?	Each Node should curate its own resources appropriately for its community. When these resources are "federated" across all of EOSC, care must be taken to present these resources in a coherent way that takes advantage of similarities, while allowing for broader visibility. It is also expected that appropriate quality standards established by the different Nodes will be reflected



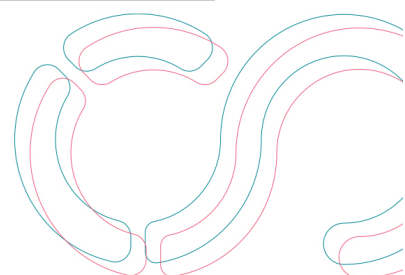
Question	Answer
	and respected when users look at resources across the full Federation.
GA8-Q036: What will be the role of a national node? How does this relate to the international thematic infrastructures that are also formed of national nodes?	In the <a href="#">questionnaire</a> words like 'national EOSC Node' are not used because these are not defined (yet). Entities that would like to share their resources through nodes have two options: find an EOSC Node that is able and willing to onboard these resources, or create an EOSC Node themselves.
GA8-Q037: What will be the costs for end users to use the EOSC federation? Will there be participation fees, and if so, will they depend on the Nodes?	See GA8-Q006
GA8-Q038: Will there be any interaction between COARA (especially WG on Open Infrastructure for Responsible Research Assessments) and EOSC Nodes?	It will depend on the Nodes to establish the contact. General purpose infrastructures like OpenAire could provide help in establishing the contact.
GA8-Q039: An interested party, like an RPO, can apply to be a Node or should participate in one that may rise at a National Level (e.g. from mandated organizations?)	It will depend on the approach adopted at the national level, and the RPO's own objectives.
GA8-Q040: Trust is an issue - minimum requirements and low barriers should include certification (such as CoreTrustSeal for repositories) so that users deposit data	Could be envisaged. Some countries like France already have CoreTrustSeal as a requirement for data repositories
GA8-Q041: Why would a researcher go to EOSC EU Node if comparable generic services are already available locally? (What is the added value of it?)	There is no reason for a researcher to go to the EOSC EU Node if they are satisfied with the local service. The EU Node is for users who need more than they can get locally or do not have an equivalent service locally.



Question	Answer
GA8-Q042: Who will pay for the maintenance and update of the node?	The members of the Node.
GA8-Q043: Are the requirements concerning 'legal entity' "smaller" or "lower" in the minimum case compared to the real/full case?	There is no lower / smaller or real/full case. Being a legal entity is part of the minimum requirements to join the EOSC Federation as a node.
GA8-Q044: How the Nodes will be different to Marketplace regarding sustainability?	Not very different because the Nodes still have to ensure their own sustainability. Hopefully the Federation will provide the Nodes with additional users who could help with the sustainability.
GA8-Q045: There is a distance between the EOSC and researchers. How do you ensure that researchers' needs are reflected in the services offered by EOSC EU Node?	The EOSC-A members and science clusters need to get involved and organised as Nodes with a clear offer which is attractive for scientists. The Federation is not going to dictate the scientific services to be offered. Further details of the EOSC EU Node are expected when it is launched in the 2nd half of 2024.
GA8-Q046: What role does funders have in the EOSC Federation; part of a node?	Funding nodes and the resources they host
GA8-Q047: How does EOSC Federation and EOSC Association relate to each other in the future, say 5 years from now?	The EOSC Association future after 2027 is not defined. This is under discussion with the EC and depends on the EOSC-A members too. The organisation who will operate the Federation post-2027 is not decided yet.
GA8-Q048: Who will finally take the decisions on accepting a candidate as a node? Is it a Tripartite decision?	Yes, the Tripartite Governance decides.
GA8-Q049: Is there an obligation for a node to make compute and storage available to users outside the node's domain (e.g. national, institutional) and if yes, why?	Nodes are not obliged to offer compute and storage. If they do they can define the terms under which such services are made available. EOSC encourages re-use and widen uptake of research outputs which suggests that making such services more widely available will increase their impact.

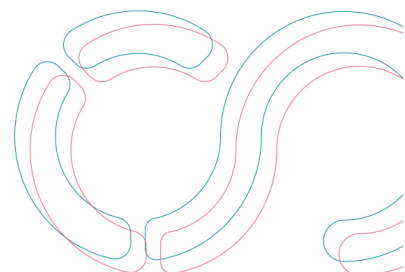


Question	Answer
GA8-Q050: Will it be checked if there are double structures being built within the federation regarding services?	No
GA8-Q051: Will there be financial support for the candidate nodes to get ready and connect to the EOSC EU Node and serve as an onboarding Nodes for others?	No
GA8-Q052: Do users become "registered EOSC users" at a particular node, and is that node then legally responsible (and liable) for those users?	Nodes are not responsible for their users. Users must agree to EOSC and EOSC Node Acceptable Use Policy, which provides for recourse to the user and the user's home institution if the policy is violated.
GA8-Q053: Some EU Node services are already provided by infrastructure. Should the existing services disappear, should they be in competition?	Some services -- in the EU Node and in future EOSC Nodes -- will need to interoperate to support the operation of the EOSC Federation. Similar services provided by different software systems might interoperate by agreeing to share relevant data in common formats (e.g. exchanging information about resources to allow federated catalogues to work). Some Nodes may want to take advantage of services (software as a service) provided by the EU Node or other Nodes. Some Nodes may wish to use the same or similar software in their own Nodes, to save development and maintenance effort, and to ensure interoperability.
GA8-Q054: What will be the added value of EOSC for researchers over existing Research Infrastructures?	RIs represent only part of the scientific landscape albeit a very important part. There are many other actors producing scientific output (data, publications etc.). EOSC will help all researchers, especially from smaller communities, by being part of a much larger community. Large communities bringing added value in terms of scale, quality, knowledge sharing, data sharing etc. (see also GA8-Q004).
GA8-Q055: How does EOSC Federation and EOSC Association relate to each other in the future, say 5 years from now?	See GA8-Q047



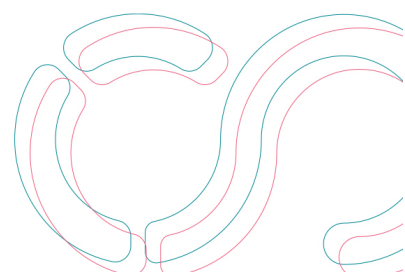


Question	Answer
GA8-Q056: Do Nodes have to onboard services of 3rd parties? Or can it be limited to services from their own legal entity?	No, Nodes are not obliged to onboard third-party services.
GA8-Q057: What will the Federation Handbook be about?	The how-to guide on becoming a Node and joining the Federation.
GA8-Q058: EC projects and national initiatives are running and decide earlier than later which services to use. When will a detailed description of the EU Node be available?	The EOSC EU Node will be presented at the EOSC Symposium (21 October 2024). In the meantime some services are visible through the <a href="#">EU Node website</a> .
GA8-Q059: How does EOSC align with current political realities and global competitiveness between Europe, North America, China, Russia etc.	The G7 nations reiterated their support for OS in 2023 ( <a href="#">see declaration</a> ). USA will require adoption of OS practices for all public research from 2025, many actions are ongoing e.g. <a href="#">open.science.gov</a> . Japan and China are going a similar direction. Africa and Middle East countries have OS programmes. All of these have to take political realities and science security into account (see ' <a href="#">Keeping Science Open?</a> ')
GA8-Q060: What is the main goal of the "sovereignty" requirement in service provisioning? Sovereignty has multiple dimensions with potentially different cost levels.	Open Science requires sharing results with the world in general. Open Access publications for example do not restrict who can read them. The same will be for Open Data i.e. copies can be made by anyone who has access to the original or the copy. Sovereignty means ensuring that the origin is clearly identified and gets credit for reuse. Sovereignty also means adopting rules and practices which are in line with EU values. Sovereignty also means maintaining the leadership role EOSC has in the world. See also ' <a href="#">Opinion paper on FAIR data sovereignty in EOSC</a> '.
GA8-Q061: How can you become an EOSC registered user?	Individuals with a user account part of the eduGAIN federation (and authorised by their organisation) or individuals with an EU Login account will be able to register as users of the EOSC Federation. The exact procedure and what resources they will have access to still needs to be determined.

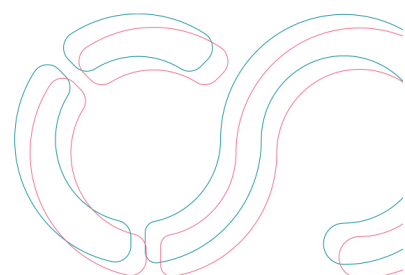




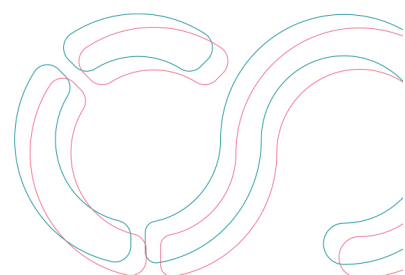
Question	Answer
GA8-Q062: Does the node need to own its own compute/storage resources, or could it procure/federate resources from other providers, e.g. AWS, google, MS?	Nodes are not obliged to own or provide compute or storage resources. Services offered through the Node can be based on infrastructure owned by one or more of the participants in the Node, or on infrastructure from commercial providers or even resources provided by other node.
GA8-Q063: Does an institution have to be a member (or an observer) of EOSC, to use the datasets and services provided by a EOSC node?	Being a member/observer of the EOSC Association is not a requirement to become a registered user of EOSC.
GA8-Q064: Assume that a security problem, or an illegal use of the services is made by some user. Who deals with the legal litigation, and the costs associated with it?	The User must agree to EOSC's Acceptable Use Policy, and in addition there may be specific AUPs for specific services. The AUP identifies the user and its home institution (if there is one) as responsible and accountable for the user's actions, including any violation of data access policies, and/or abuse/misuse of services. The parties responsible for the data or services whose use policies were violated are responsible for detecting such abuses and seeking recourse from the user and any identified home institution. In any case, the nodes should demonstrate that reasonable measures have been applied to protect the data and that due diligence in the management of incidences is applied.
GA8-Q065: How the EOSC-A will relate with Nodes and other Data Spaces?	The EOSC Association is neither a 'node' nor a 'data space'. The EOSC Association aims to contribute (within the Tripartite) to the creation of the EOSC Federation. The EOSC Federation will be consisting of Nodes and will be one of the Common European Data Spaces.
GA8-Q066: Is any practical progress being made for cost recovery mechanisms for services provided outside of a Node's own community?	Financial models are part of the governance discussion being held by the Tripartite Group and Governance
GA8-Q067: Federated services, require a huge effort in terms of support, how will the support	It is true that federating services is a lot of work. The current approach for the EOSC Federation is to define a very light process with the more complex support



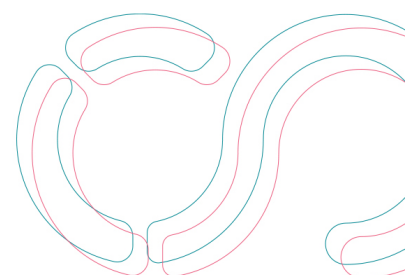
Question	Answer
services be structured to support users? Who will coordinate that effort?	tasks delegated to the Nodes. Time will tell if this approach is good enough. Without extra financing to operate the Federation there are not many other options.
GA8-Q068: How will the "sufficient capacity and expertise" required of a Node be measured and assessed?	The Tripartite Governance will establish the mechanisms to assess the capacity and expertise of the EOSC Nodes. In particular, EOSC Nodes should be dimensioned to serve several thousands of users, or at least to cover the demand of the community they target to avoid bottlenecks in the delivery of services.
GA8-Q069: Is there not an overlap between national, regional and thematic nodes? How do providers choose which one to join?	In a dynamic way, the EOSC Federation allows different types of nodes: national, regional and thematic. Necessarily, overlaps between these characteristics and nodes are to be expected. While thematic nodes tend to be disciplinary or subject oriented, regional and national nodes can be both at the same time, e.g. ERICs are defined regionally and thematically. The main question for EOSC is not how the node is defined, organised or dubbed in its regional, national or thematic structure but rather what are services and data offered by this node and under which conditions. See also GA8-Q036.
GA8-Q070: What role will node categories such as national, disciplinary etc. play	The main categories are national, thematic, scientific discipline, institutional, regional, European, international. Each of them plays a role and serves community. EOSC will enable them to reach new communities and users and vice versa. See also GA8-Q036.
GA8-Q071: Who is going to maintain the EOSC EU Node after its delivery?	This is a question for DG-CNECT. the EC has financed the EU Node for an initial period of 3 years.
GA8-Q072: when will the business model linked to the governance be addressed in the timeline	A description of the governance model will be included in the Handbook. It will then go through multiple iterations. See also answer to GA8-Q034
GA8-Q073: What use cases do you foresee for national nodes?	For example, national publication and data repositories. Generic compute services like Jupyter Notebooks.



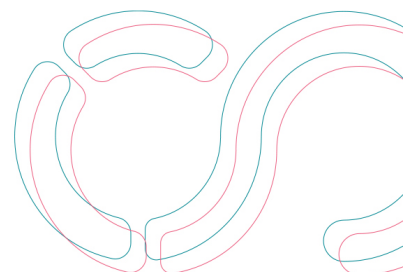
Question	Answer
GA8-Q074: Can a national data center, or EuroHPC center, become a node?	Yes
GA8-Q075: Why is there such a focus on sustainability when we haven't even started yet?	The intention is to create the EOSC Federation for the long run, thus from the beginning sustainability needs to be taken into account.
GA8-Q076: What are the expected types of nodes? What are the expected requirements (services, capabilities) for each? Shall we design an ordered enrolment per node type?	This is what we surveying with the <a href="#">questionnaire</a> . The results of this will offer more insight in how the community looks at different types of nodes and their possible resources.
GA8-Q077: Is there a cost recovery mechanism foreseen for services offered to other communities outside of a Node's 'local' community?	See GA8-Q066
GA8-Q078: What if there is little interest from the providers to become a node?	Enthusiasm has been expressed by many actors in the community. If there is no interest to create the EOSC Federation then there will be no EOSC Federation.
GA8-Q079: How we want to re-use the existing experience of research infrastructures and similar collaboration when dealing with Nodes, users, services?	Research Infrastructures and other relevant collaborations have been invited to contribute to the Handbook. The Handbook seeks to build on existing experience and the writing group welcomes suggestions.
GA8-Q080: How leverage the existing structures instead of replacing them? Service and data providers are part of e.g. ESFRIs and may not want to change affiliation/brand.	This is the plan. The EOSC Federation will not create Nodes but only leverage existing services as Nodes. The ESFRIs and others do not have to give up their own branding, they can have a dual branding.
GA8-Q081: What role do EU regulations play in the requirements for Nodes?	The rules of the EOSC Federation will guarantee compliance with relevant EU regulations and preservation of European values and rights



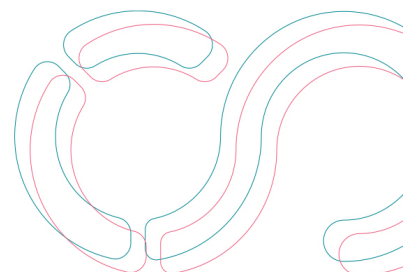
Question	Answer
GA8-Q082: Will the EOSC-A in a node federation model ask the MS/AP for a membership fee to be part of the federation? If so, would that compete with that of ERICs?	The financing and governance model of the EOSC Federation is not decided yet.
GA8-Q083: Will "legal entity as a service" be provided by the EOSC EU node?	This is not likely to happen according to current plans, but the EOSC EU Node might provide onboarding services and advice to organisations seeking support to establish a legal entity to become an EOSC Node.
GA8-Q084: Using public funding for buying Node compute/storage services - do we need to procure these services (to get the lowest cost)?	EOSC Nodes will be expected to provide their compute/storage services, but this will depend on the type of node and on the specific capabilities of the organisations that form it. Procurement can be mutualised (i.e. a Central Purchasing Body or the like could be established) to get lower prices, but it is foreseen that the services will be procured by the EOSC Nodes and not by the EOSC Federation (i.e. the "federating entity").
GA8-Q085: How do RPOs with heterogeneous outputs and user needs fit into the federation?	RPOs are part of the fabric. Many of them are working to implement OS and could profit from the EOSC Federation by sharing their research outputs. They could also profit from the services available through the EOSC Federation. They could become service providers by onboarding their services as part of larger nodes.
GA8-Q086: What is the process to become a candidate node?	As of now, organisations interested in becoming an EOSC Node are requested to fill the <a href="#">questionnaire</a> available on the EOSC Association website. Further requirements will be shared once they have been agreed by the EOSC Partnership Tripartite Governance.
GA8-Q087: What kind of services can a funding agency provide that would be relevant for the Node?	Apart from helping organisations with funding (their obvious role), the funding organisations could help in defining / sorting out the landscape of nodes in the domain they are responsible for.
GA8-Q088: If RPOs don't join as nodes, will they lose their say in	The governance model of the EOSC Federation is not decided yet. The EOSC Tripartite Governance agrees



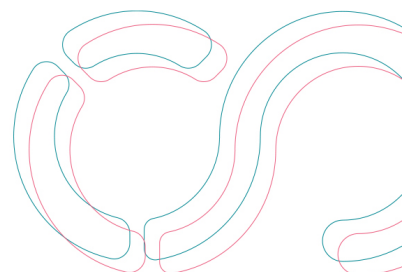
Question	Answer
governance? Is it a risk to be considered?	that the future governance model has to be inclusive and representative of all the different stakeholders. Being a node cannot be the only way to have a say in the governance.
GA8-Q089: What's the plan of increasing the visibility of EOSC Nodes and of the EOSC Federation among researchers, since EOSC is not so popular yet?	The more of the existing resources that are used by researchers will become part of the EOSC Federation, the more researchers will use the EOSC Federation. The use maybe 'unnoticed' by the researchers, like the use of Eduroam now often goes unnoticed.
GA8-Q090: Will all core components of the federation (EOSC EU Node, SIMPL) be available open source?	The SIMPL protocol will be Open Source. This should be the case for the EU Node.
GA8-Q091: What will the Federation Handbook be about?	How to join the Federation and what the requirements are. It will define the rules and regulations of the Federation. It will define the technical operation of the Federation and what Nodes need to implement.
GA8-Q092: What's the value proposition for a node?	See answer to GA8-Q004.
GA8-Q093: What does 'capacity to contribute to specified EOSC core capabilities such as AAI, accounting ...' mean? Development work?	Yes. there will be some work involved for each Node (both in terms of development and operation). It should be kept to a minimum, but the amount is not determined yet.
GA8-Q094: An Infrastructures RI, could be a node? And if the country support, as well the same service will be support twice?	The same service could be made visible / accessible through multiple Nodes.
GA8-Q095: Will the EU node have an elevated position, e.g. gatekeeping or making decisions that affect other nodes	No
GA8-Q096: How can sufficient capacity and sufficient resources	See GA8-Q068



Question	Answer
be estimated? especially for the EU node	
GA8-Q097: As a RPO that also offers services to researchers in a particular field and a particular territory, would it make sense to establish a node?	If this RPO would like to offer these resources to a larger community it has two options to join the EOSC Federation: find an EOSC Node that is able and willing to onboard these resources, or create an EOSC Node themselves.
GA8-Q098: Are the requirements for EOSC Nodes and minimal requirements for candidates EOSC Nodes based on the work of the Task Forces RoP etc?	Indirectly yes - the Federation Handbook builds on the outputs of the TFs
GA8-Q099: Who shall use the EU node? EU project as it happened with ORE?	The EOSC EU Node serves the research community in Europe. Further details about who exactly can use their services will be known once it becomes operational in the autumn of 2024. DG-CNECT as manager of the EOSC EU Node has not determined how long it will be operated in the future.
GA8-Q100: What is expected of candidate nodes in what timeline?	See the following document on <a href="#">requirements</a> .
GA8-Q101: How will the already developed work be kept, from EOSC to EOSC Nodes?	It is envisioned that the EOSC Nodes will provide services that have been developed in previous initiatives, either those funded by the EC via projects, as well as others led by EU MS/AC or others. The EOSC Federation foresees that the Handbook currently under development will provide guidelines about how this can be achieved by organisations wishing to become an EOSC Node.
GA8-Q102: When will e-infras (egi, eudat, etc.) integrate the federation?	Some of these organisations have already expressed their interest to become an EOSC Node in first group, which is planned to take place in 2025. Which ones make it in the end, and under what structure (e.g. whether as standalone nodes, or integrated in another one), will be decided by the Tripartite Governance.
GA8-Q103: Why is there the requirement for effective monitoring and is the monitoring	The requirement is there to measure the usefulness of the services and Nodes. The exact form has not been decided yet but it could be quite light to start

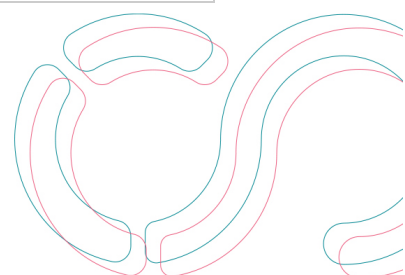


Question	Answer
and accounting data foreseen to be used for (and by whom)?	with e.g. number of users, sessions, downloads, services used.
GA8-Q104: Do the initial nodes need to have 'ready-to-go' infrastructure in place?	Yes
GA8-Q105: The EU Node focuses on services. Should the candidate nodes then focus on bringing in the data to the EOSC Federation?	Yes, for sure but other services can be offered too e.g. Virtual Research Environments (VREs), Competence Centers, Training, Scientific Expertise ...
GA8-Q106: What do you consider a high TRL? above TRL 7?	The <a href="#">Technology Readiness Level</a> (TRL) of a service or resources must be TRL8 (system complete and qualified) to be offered by an EOSC Node. TRL 7 - (system prototype demonstration in operational environment) is generally too low for building up the EOSC Federation. At a later stage 'research and innovation type' of offerings with somewhat lower TRL levels might be considered.
GA8-Q107: What facilities are provided for implementing OS practices, e.g. "collaboration", "as early as possible sharing", "transparency", "reproducibility"?	This is a good idea and implies the EOSC Federation could become a kind of social hub for OS. This needs resources to animate and keep alive. So far the Federation does not have extra financing to start such an activity on their own. It would be up to one or more of the nodes to offer this and then the Federation to promote it e.g. Zenodo could be a social hub in addition to being a data hub.
GA8-Q108: Many organisations want to be a node. Requirements to become a node should be very low and the landscape will regulate which nodes survive, merge or dies.	In order to be part of the EOSC Federation it is not needed to form an EOSC Node. Joining an EOSC Node by onboarding your resources is a much easier way to join. The EOSC Federation need certain minimum requirements in order to be viable and become sustainable (see <a href="#">requirements document</a> )
GA8-Q109: Will the nodes be required to connect all their services and data to the EOSC AA infrastructure so removing need for re-registration?	Yes, for all the resources they offer, although other compatible (and federated) AAI services may be exposed in the nodes.
GA8-Q110: How will researchers be guided to EOSC Nodes rather	Researchers should be able to decide the best point of entry to the services offered by the EOSC Nodes.

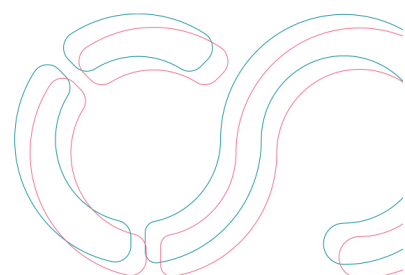




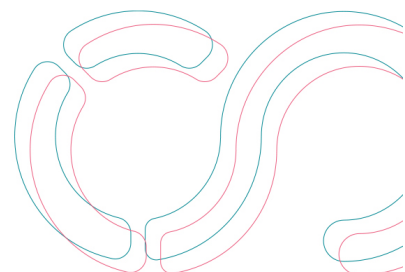
Question	Answer
than going directly to existing services?	Depending on the case, this may be easier or more convenient to do directly through the provider.
GA8-Q111: Can we get from the EU Node "builders" the initial technical specification, so that future nodes-to-be could perform gap analysis?	DG-CNECT has shared limited information about the technical specification of the EOSC EU Node, but this is expected to improve in the future as the team that leads its construction and DG-CNECT themselves learn more about its setup, which depends on many practical details of its implementation. Once the EOSC EU Node starts operation, candidates for EOSC Nodes will, most likely, be able to perform a gap analysis that will help them design the structure and content of the nodes.
GA8-Q112: What should be the business model for the initial nodes?	See answer to GA8-Q034
GA8-Q113: Will there be services provided by EOSC outside the Nodes?	'EOSC' is what we (in Europe) can offer to our researchers as extra on the 'Web of FAIR Data', and the 'EOSC Federation' is the most important part (infrastructure) for that, but 'EOSC' is not limited to that infrastructure. Think about training and policies and other things. Whether you would like to call these other offerings 'services' is debatable. Thus, while other possibilities are thinkable in the general context of EOSC, the EOSC Federation foresees that all services are offered by the EOSC Nodes that form the Federation.
GA8-Q114: Do we need an EU EOSC Node?	Yes - it is the first node ('a seed in the ground') and can provide a useful test case and common services e.g. AAI. However, technically an EU Node is not essential.
GA8-Q115: What are expected/visionary KPI of the EOSC program after 5/10 years. How does these benchmarks compare to what EU has now?	To get an impression of the KPI's for the EOSC Program see the ' <a href="#">The EOSC Partnership Monitoring Framework</a> '. This framework contains much outdated terminology and will be updated in 2025.
GA8-Q116: What role does EOSC Beyond and the pilot nodes play in the discussion?	EOSC Beyond is exploring the creation of a federated network of pilot Nodes operating at various levels (national, regional, international, and thematic) to cater to specific scientific missions (see



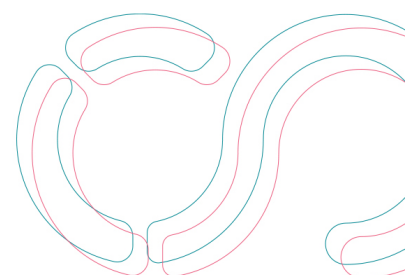
Question	Answer
	<a href="https://www.eosc-beyond.eu/about">https://www.eosc-beyond.eu/about</a> for more details). As part of their activities, they are also actively contributing to write the EOSC Federation Handbook based on their experience and expertise.
GA8-Q117: Only EOSC-A affiliates can apply on a consortium to become a Node or any interested party can apply later on (outside from EOSC community)?	Applying to become an EOSC Node is open to everyone and not restricted to EOSC-A members.
GA8-Q118: What services will in your opinion national nodes provide? Will they recon characteristics of smaller countries?	The national nodes can play an important role in the national strategies for OS e.g. <a href="http://www.ouvirlascience.fr">www.ouvirlascience.fr</a> . They can help in providing solutions for Open Access, infrastructure, data repositories, long term archiving, training, legal support and scientific outcomes from national facilities.
GA8-Q119: In IT, there are Open Source communities without legal entity, without qualified services, without registered users etc. Could that be a template for EOSC?	Open Source communities are a good example of organising communities without large budgets and EOSC can learn from them. The most successful ones often have a legal structure and need a minimum of financing e.g. Apache.
GA8-Q120: How will EOSC Federation contribute to European research Sovereignty?	See answer to GA8-Q060
GA8-Q122: Is it best to build a node around a type of services? or a theme? or a geographic coverage (country)?	All three options are possible, it will depend a lot on who will manage the Node and for which user community.
GA8-Q122: What is the process to remove a EOSC node (e.g. if it does not perform) and who is responsible for this process?	Not defined yet.
GA8-Q123: Why building EOSC EU Node from scratch instead of building upon EUDAT?	The decision to create the EOSC EU Node was taken by the EC and more specifically by DG-CNECT. All questions about the rationale and purposes of the EOSC EU Node should be addressed to them.



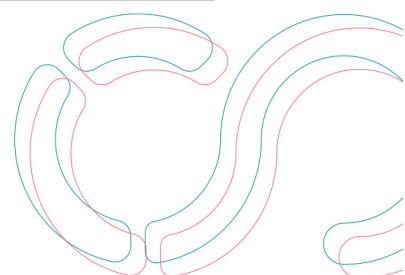
Question	Answer
GA8-Q124: How does the federation of nodes relate to the catalogue of services? What happens to resources on the catalogue that don't make it into nodes?	The degree of integration of services foreseen in the EOSC Federation is higher than their inclusion in a common catalogue; the details of this integration will be determined in the requirements to offer services in the EOSC Federation via the EOSC Nodes. Currently it is not foreseen that the EOSC Federation will offer any service that is not onboarded in an EOSC Node.
GA8-Q125: Could a university serve as an EOSC EU node?	The <a href="#">EOSC EU Node</a> is the first EOSC Node financed by the EC. A university can propose to become part of the EOSC Federation by creating an EOSC Node by answering the questionnaire.
GA8-Q126: Where can I find documentation about all this?	On the EOSC Association website, under 'EOSC' and then ' <a href="#">Building the EOSC Federation</a> '.
GA8-Q127: Will nodes be connected to each other? Or do researchers need to choose a node in which to work/search/whatever?	Nodes should be able to discover data and services from other relevant nodes. Researchers may enter through their community or regional nodes and finally use resources and data from different nodes in the federation. However, this does not mean that all nodes are connected to all nodes.
GA8-Q128: Very different types of datasets and standards in different fields. Wouldn't it be more sensible to have thematic division right from the Start- DH, physics...?	The standards for data and metadata are known to be community- or discipline-dependent. The EOSC Federation expects to define a minimum set of standards compatible with the largest possible number of communities, but the decision on which ones to use within a community will be left to its users and governing or organising bodies (where they exist).
GA8-Q129: If nodes don't need to onboard other providers, why won't every organisation become a node?	Organisations will be free to choose whether to become an independent EOSC Node, join an existing one, or join others to form a new one. This will depend among other things on the legal, organisational and technical requirements for the nodes, which not every institution will be able to comply with. In some cases, like e.g. thematic communities, it is more attractive to create only one EOSC Node to serve (primarily) their respective community.



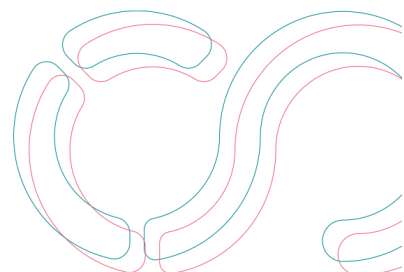
Question	Answer
GA8-Q130: How does the federation accommodate the existing funding competition between institutions and researchers?	They should be complementary.
GA8-Q131: How do we make sure the federation (technical AND political) is built to truly and systemically prioritize research and researchers?	EOSC is about and for research. The EOSC Federation is to serve researchers. The only way to ensure this is to involve the scientific communities e.g. clusters, national nodes, science driven projects etc. Involving scientists through open calls is another way e.g. OSCARS open calls for scientific projects will offer examples of what researchers need from the Federation.
GA8-Q132: Can a single EOSC member become a Node?	Yes
GA8-Q133: Will there be a mechanism to ensure a Kind of Balance between various Kinds of nodes, e.g. thematic, national, infrastructural?	The nodes in the EOSC Federation should reflect the needs for and offer of resources in the EOSC community (community interested to contribute to and use the EOSC Federation).
GA8-Q134: What about the services that research institutes made available through the former EOSC portal? Were they imported into the EOSC EU node?	This is for the owner of the <a href="#">EOSC EU Node</a> to decide.
GA8-Q135: What will be the timeline (more less) concerning the setting up the implementation the "Node ecosystem"? The real "start of operation"?	The EOSC EU Node expects to be operational by the end of 2024 (see the following <a href="#">news item</a> ). Therefore, we expect the initial iteration of the EOSC Federation to become operational in 2025.
GA8-Q136: Will EOSC users will be happy with data with no assurance about their quality? Compliance with consolidated QC protocols should be a minimum requirement.	Quality is an important factor. The responsibility for the QC stays with the resource provider. The EOSC Federation could require for example data repositories to be certified and compliant with certain standards but this does not guarantee the quality of the scientific data. This can only be done by the provider.



Question	Answer
GA8-Q137: How will the node support the complete research process and not only research output?	This depends on what will be offered as resources through the nodes. Any support for the research cycle that can be offered through the internet, can in principle be offered through the nodes in the EOSC Federation.
GA8-Q138: When will the EU Node connect with e-infras (egi, eudata, etc.)?	The <a href="#">EOSC EU Node</a> includes some e-infrastructures (EGI, GÉANT, GRNET) in the consortia of the three lots of the procurement.
GA8-Q139: Will the five scientific EOSC clusters be encouraged to become Nodes?	The science clusters have been encouraged to consider becoming EOSC Nodes, but it is up to them to do so. Most of them are contributing to the writing of the EOSC Federation Handbook, so it is expected that they will know the requirements for the nodes and will therefore be able to make an informed decision.
GA8-Q140: Who will and how/what parameters of the services provided by EOSC nodes be monitored?	The Handbook will define the initial parameters to monitor.
GA8-Q141: How do you envision the task of a national node?	National EOSC Nodes will be expected to provide services such as repositories for data and publications and compute services for researchers in their national constituencies, but the offer will vary between countries, depending on the available expertise, demand, and funding.
GA8-Q142: Has there been discussion in policy circles of using the EOSC Federation to get a good EU collection of collaboration services? (video conf, Google doc replace)	Not that the EOSC Association is aware of.
GA8-Q143: What's the best granularity for a node? We think about single inst <sup>o</sup> /infras to propose themselves as a node. What happened to the thematic/national node?	There is no general rule for the best granularity. It depends on the capacity, expertise, sustainability, financial security and several other factors like the amount of resources, whether an organisation should consider forming their own EOSC Node and enrolling in the EOSC Federation or whether it is better to offer their resources through a future EOSC Node.



Question	Answer
GA8-Q144: Can end users become registered EOSC users by their own decision, or would their institution need to become (legally) part of the EOSC federation first?	Individuals with a user account part of the eduGAIN federation (and authorised by their organisation) or individuals with an EU Login account will be able to register as users of the EOSC Federation. For users affiliated with an institution, the institution should authorise the user but this does not mean that the institution itself will become legally part of the EOSC Federation.
GA8-Q145: How will quality assurance and control work in the federation on the level of nodes?	Quality is an important factor. The responsibility for the QC stays with the resource provider. The EOSC Federation could require for example data repositories to be certified and compliant with certain standards but this does not guarantee the quality of the scientific data. This can only be done by the provider.
GA8-Q146: Will work be undertaken to look into how to allow institutions to use services from nodes without going through a public procurement?	Only if this has already been done e.g. in OCRE, or if it is included in an running or future EOSC project e.g. EOSC Beyond
GA8-Q147: Practical: Do institutions need to become part of the EOSC federation (through a node) before their users can become registered EOSC users? Legal liability.	See GA8-146. (Users do not need to come from a node).
GA8-Q148: Are the Nodes for active data or long-time archiving, or both?	Nodes can offer both. Nodes are there to share resources. Thus, a node can offer to share active data and/or a node can offer archive data.
GA8-Q149: Who exactly are the members of the Tripartite Group?	Representatives of the European Commission (DG RTD, DG CNECT), of the EOSC Steering Board policy sub-group and of the EOSC Association Board. Selected experts can be invited ad hoc by the EC, EOSC SB and EOSC-A Board
GA8-Q150: I have a node for last 20 years. Is EOSC EU node willing to enrol to my node?	This implies a hierarchy of Nodes which has not been discussed yet.



Question	Answer
GA8-Q151: Will EU funding for research projects (e.g. Horizon Europe) come, where relevant, with extra quota for services?	This not expected for Horizon Europe. However, as projects proposals in Horizon Europe can ask for compute resources (eligibility depends on the specific call), it might be that in future programmes one could as for certain resources from the EOSC Federation.

