

2024 NTE Spain Post Event Report

Country: Spain

Place: Zoom

Date: 24 September 2024

Format: Virtual

National Organisers: CSIC, UPV

[Executive summary](#)

ONLINE – Spain held its third [National Tripartite Event](#) (NTE) on 24 September 2024, organised by the [Spanish National Research Council](#) (CSIC). The virtual event brought together 48 representatives from research performing and funding organisations, e-infrastructure providers, and policy makers to discuss the latest developments in the EOSC ecosystem.

Moderated by [Ignacio Blanquer](#), representing the EOSC Board of Directors, and Valencia Polytechnic University (UPV), the opening session served to welcome the entire community. The [programme](#) was organised into three blocks, covering the EOSC governance, new INFRAEOSC projects with Spanish partners, and updates on the EOSC Federation.

[EOSC governance](#)

[Karel Luyben](#), President of the EOSC Association (EOSC-A), explained how EOSC will serve as an extra support for researchers in Europe. The future [EOSC Federation](#) will consist of EOSC Nodes, which will be a part of the Web of FAIR data and services. The current [consultation on the EOSC Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA 2.0) and [Multi Annual Roadmap](#) (MAR) 2026-2027 involves 257 EOSC-A Members and Observers, including 29 Spanish institutions. Luyben also highlighted engagement activities of EOSC-A, which include the creation of dedicated Fora for e.g. Mandated Organisations, ESFRI research infrastructures, e-infrastructures, research funding organisations, and funders, as well as the establishment of four new Task Forces and six Opportunity Area Expert Groups.

Representing the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICIU) in the EOSC Steering Board (EOSC-SB), Inmaculada Figueroa remarked ongoing monitoring activities and informed the participants that the results of an annual survey on national contributions to EOSC will be available in the EOSC Observatory. She also noted other activities involving the [ESFRI-EOSC Task Force](#), which focus on future EOSC Nodes and the building of the EOSC Federation.

Javier López-Albacete from the European Commission (EC) emphasised the value proposition of the EOSC Federation in terms of economies of scale, interdisciplinary, research security, enabling AI, and policy implementation. He also addressed challenges for the EOSC Federation, such as defining a high-level architecture, ensuring effective expansion and scalability, demonstrating the Federation's added value, and increasing the productivity of high-quality FAIR data.

[New INFRAEOSC projects with Spanish participation](#)

The active engagement of Spanish institutions supporting EOSC was showcased through new INFRAEOSC projects. Of particular interest were trusted research environments for secure data sharing, which promote cross-disciplinary collaboration in EOSC science clusters.



Starting with the project [TITAN](#) (Trusted environments for confidenTiAl computiNg and secure data sharing), the University of Murcia, as the project coordinator, presented a software platform that will enrich the EOSC Interoperability Framework and enable access to sensitive data sets from public entities and government agencies. Similarly, [SIESTA](#) (Secure Interactive Environments for SensiTive data Analytics), a sister project coordinated by CSIC, also focuses on contributing to the EOSC sensitive data exchange through trusted cloud-based environments, notably in the public administration and healthcare sector.

Spanish institutions also actively participate in [EOSC Beyond](#) (CNB-CSIC, UPV, LifeWatch ERIC), [EVERSE](#) (Technical University of Madrid, Barcelona Supercomputing Center), and [OSCARS](#). EOSC Beyond will pilot regional and thematic nodes such as LifeWatch. The OSCARS project also has a pilot in the environmental EOSC science cluster ENVRI, where the European Virtual Institute for Research Software Excellence (EVERSE) framework will be integrated into the ENVRI-HUB Knowledge base and Virtual Research Environment. The ambition of EVERSE is to establish a thematic node in the EOSC Federation. Several Spanish representatives also presented their proposals submitted to OSCARS' 1st Open Call for Open Science Projects and Services.

EOSC Nodes and the EOSC Federation

Peter Szegedi from the European Commission updated the audience on the status of the EOSC EU Node. A new concept of three contributor tiers was presented: Tier 1) native services procured for the EOSC EU Node, Tier 2) onboarded services planned to be open in November 2024, and Tier 3) discoverable virtual credits in the Resource Hub. Upcoming milestones were highlighted with the [EOSC EU Node technical launch event](#) in October 2024, followed by production testing, and opening to the research community at the EOSC Symposium 2024 in Berlin.

[Bob Jones](#), representing the EOSC Board of Directors and CERN, further informed about the development of the EOSC Federation Handbook by the Tripartite Group and the consultation to be launched in October 2024. He also presented results of the [questionnaire](#) for parties interested in contributing to the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation. A lower number of Spanish institutions expressed interest when compared to other countries.

In her concluding remarks, Isabel Diaz of CSIC, expressed their continuous ambition, as the EOSC-A Mandated Organisation for Spain, to participate in and coordinate current and future INFRAEOSC projects. Inmaculada Figueroa followed by emphasising the need to clarify the federation approach in the following meetings with Spanish organisations involved in EOSC-A, so they can explore together how to implement a solid national strategy.

1. Overview

The future [EOSC Federation](#) will consist of EOSC Nodes, which will be a part of the Web of FAIR data and services. The current [consultation on the EOSC Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA 2.0) and [Multi Annual Roadmap](#) (MAR) 2026-2027 involves 257 EOSC-A Members and Observers, including 29 Spanish institutions.

The EOSC Tripartite Group established in April 2024 aims to develop commonly agreed positions through requirements for EOSC Nodes, the [EOSC Federation Handbook](#), and the initial selection of candidate Nodes. Results of the [questionnaire](#) were presented for parties interested in contributing to the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation. Two Spanish EOSC-A Members who expressed interest briefly presented their ideas of being an EOSC Node, namely [ALBA](#) as a thematic node for the Photon and Neutron European Science community and [CSUC](#) as a regional node for the Catalan research infrastructure.

The active engagement of Spanish institutions supporting EOSC was showcased through new INFRAEOSC projects. Of particular interest were trusted research environments for secure data sharing, which promote cross-disciplinary collaboration in EOSC science clusters. Several Spanish representatives also presented their proposals submitted to OSCARS' 1st Open Call for Open Science Projects and Services.

2. Main highlights

To explore community expectations of the future EOSC Nodes, the third session focused on an open discussion moderated by Ignacio Blanquer. The participants acknowledged the potential advantages of becoming an EOSC Node, including increased visibility and co-creation opportunities. However, overall responses indicated that more time and consideration would be needed to prepare for the next call for candidate nodes. Some participants also highlighted potential coordination challenges between institutions, funders and Ministries during the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation.

3. Tripartite collaboration

In April 2024 the EOSC Tripartite Governance Group was formed by the EOSC-SB Policy Subgroup, EOSC-A Board of Directors, and EC representatives, with the aim of developing commonly agreed positions and providing strategic steering for what concerns the establishment, operation, and future development of the EOSC Federation.

Recent tripartite collaborations include:

- Document on "[Building the EOSC Federation: requirement for EOSC nodes](#)" (24 May 2024)
 - Set requirements on legal status, quality service provision, capacity to onboard third-party services and to contribute to EOSC core capabilities, compliance with EOSC Federation rules and standards, monitoring, community engagement and sustainability
- [EOSC Federation Handbook](#) (in progress)
 - Consultation led by EOSC-A being prepared for launch in October 2024 and being written collaboratively with open consultations, meetings, events and sprints
 - Addressing the purpose, structure, governance, architecture and operations of the EOSC Federation
- EOSC-A [questionnaire](#) for parties interested in joining the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation (closed in August)

- 121 submissions are being analysed for the selection of potential candidate nodes.

4. Government level contributions

Representing the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICIU) in the EOSC-SB, Inmaculada Figueroa remarked on ongoing monitoring activities and informed the participants that the results of an annual survey on national contributions to EOSC will be available in the [EOSC Observatory Portal](#).

The Spanish Steering Board is delegated by Inmaculada Figueroa (MICIU) and Pilar Rico (FECYT) with two subgroups on monitoring (by FECYT) and policies (by UGR, RedIris, and UMP), respectively.

1. EOSC Monitoring:
 - Survey on National Contributions to EOSC and Open Science 2023 was completed.
 - Information available in the EOSC Observatory upon validation
 - First draft of the EOSC Survey Report 2023 for discussion in September-October 2024
 - Preparation of next survey potentially new indicators with the need to revise the procedure at the national level to facilitate acquiring updated information
 - [“Brochure of Use Cases on EOSC and Open Science”](#) was published in Zenodo, extracted from the former EOSC Catalogue.
 - Another questionnaire from UNESCO is in progress.
2. ESFRI - EOSC Task Force: monthly meetings since June 2023
 - The current main topic is RIs in the EOSC Federation concerning the EOSC Node concept and the selection process
 - The Task Force mandate ends in December 2024 and continues with the new election of EOSC-SB members.

5. Relevant quotes

“EOSC is the extra support we can offer for research in Europe based on a federated structure (EOSC Federation) of contributions (EOSC Nodes) that are part of the Web of FAIR Data and Services.”, Karel Luyben, EOSC Association President

Much More Than A Market (Enrico Letta)

“A central pillar of this strategy is the creation of a European Knowledge Commons – a centralised, digital platform providing access to publicly funded research, data sets, and educational resources.” Javier López-Albacete, EC Policy Officer

The Future of European Competitiveness (EC)

“An important factor that would enhance R&I capacity is the availability of world-leading research and technological infrastructure, capable of serving the whole European ecosystem.” Javier López-Albacete, EC Policy Officer

6. Future plans and actions

Inmaculada Figueroa (EOSC-SB, MICIU), Bon Jones (EOSC-A BoD), and Javier López-Albacete (EC) noted key actions to be performed by the EOSC Federation Tripartite Group:

- EOSC EU Node Launch Event on 10 October
- EOSC Symposium 21-23 October
 - Socialise analysis of questionnaire with a wider audience
 - Share (first) chapters of EOSC Federation Handbook
 - Presentation of the EOSC EU Node to the wider community
- EOSC-SB European Tripartite Event, Budapest, 6-7 November
 - Review and approval of the first version of Handbook
 - Approval of 10-15 Potential Candidate Nodes
- ESFRI-EOSC Task Force workshop, 18-19 November
 - Reflection on the Federation and on the Node enrolment process
 - Discussion on readiness and bottlenecks as perceived by RIs
 - Questions about sustainability
- Build-up phase review and further planning during January-March 2025
 - Aim to achieve a first realisation of an operational EOSC Federation towards the end of 2025, with several nodes including the EOSC EU Node interconnected and enabling the sharing of resources (i.e. data and services), and the demonstration of EOSC added value in practice
 - Successive waves of enrolment on nodes and onboarding of services (timing and frequency TBD)
 - Continuous engagement of all interested organisations on relevant developments and decisions
- EOSC-SB European Tripartite Event in Poland, 24-25 March 2025

7. Use cases or practices

The EVERSE project submitted a formal Expression of Interest in establishing a Thematic Node under the EOSC Federation. In alignment with OSCARS' 1st Open Call for Open Science Projects and Services, several Spanish representatives presented their accepted proposals to integrate with EOSC science clusters, such as:

- Environmental Sciences: Integration of Science Cluster ENVRI through ENVRI-HUB
 - Life Sciences: Integration of Science Cluster EOSC-Life through ELIXIR
 - Astronomy and particle physics: Integration of Science Cluster ESCAPE through the Dark Matter Test Science Project
1. GOYAS for the ENVRI cluster

Fernando Aguilar Gómez (IFCA-CSIC) presented Geospatial Open-science Yielding ApplicationS (GOYAS): innovative and FAIR remote-sensing data. The overall objectives are to set up a FAIR-enabling system for sharing remote-sensing data, facilitate the sharing of experimental or spatial limited products, and automate FAIR (meta)data ingestion.

2. RSotC for the ENVRI cluster

Daniel San Martín (Predictia) presented the RSotC (Regional State of the Climate) in collaboration with the IFCA, CSIC. The objectives are to implement a FAIR-by-design web-based dashboard to provide climate data over European political regions (i.e. NUTS-2-3) as

well as provide ready-to-use climate data API, web interfaces and scripts without the complexity of climate data formats and platforms.

3. SQANTI3 for the Life Science RI cluster

Ana Conesa (Institute for Integrative Systems Biology, CSIC) presented their proposal, FAIRification of IsoSeq Evidence-driven annotation of biodiversity. Their approach is to apply the SQANTI3 for genome annotation that enables the curation of long-read transcriptomes for accurate identification of known and novel isoforms, to be integrated with the European Reference Genome Atlas (ERGA).

4. CodeMetaSoft for the ESCAPE cluster

Daniel Garikoj (UPM) presented their proposal CodeMetaSoft. Their main aims are to ease the adoption of CodeMeta as a research software metadata interchange format, ensure metadata record consistency and propagation (by linking to existing EOSC infras and identifiers (e.g. OpenAIRE, ORCID), and automate RS metadata suggestions by integrating through GitHub actions. The results will be integrated in the ESCAPE Open-source Software and Service Repository (OSSR).

8. Main indicators

8.1 Indicators organisation event

Official name of the event: EOSC National Tripartite Event in Spain

Starting Date: 24 September 2024

Ending Date: 24 September 2024

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

Target audience: researchers, e-infrastructure providers, research infrastructures and policy stakeholders

8.2 Profile of participants

Total number of participants: 48

In-person: N/A

Virtual (online): 48

Gender: Male: 69% Female: 31%

8.3 Type of participants affiliation

Research Performing Organisations: 65%

Research Funding Organisations: 2%

Service providing Organisations: 19%

Public administration: 4%

Others: 10%

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

[Programme - NTE Spain](#)

<p>09:30-10:30</p>	<p>EOSC governance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome (Ignacio Blanquer - EOSC-A) - Report from the EOSC-A. (Karel Luyben - EOSC-A) - Report from the EOSC-Steering Board. (Inmaculada Figueroa - EOSC-SB - MICIU-ES) - Report from the EC. (Javier López Albacete - EC Policy Officer Open Science and Research Infrastructures) - Q&A
<p>10:30-11:20</p>	<p>New projects with Spanish participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EOSC TITAN (Antonio Skarmeta - UM) - EOSC Beyond (Diego Scardacci - EGI) - EOSC SIESTA (Álvaro López - CSIC) - EOSC EVERSE (Daniel Garijo- UPM / Salvador Capella - BSC) - Spanish Open Call proposal on EOSC OSCARS (Several speakers)
<p>11:20-11:35</p>	<p>Break</p>
<p>11:35-13:15</p>	<p>EOSC Nodes and EOSC Federation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EOSC EU Node. (Peter Szegedi - EC Policy Officer) - EOSC Federation Handbook and Nodes. (Bob Jones EOSC-A) - Open Discussion on the EOSC Nodes: Views, advantages, challenges.
<p>13:15-13:30</p>	<p>Conclusion</p>

ALBA Synchrotron
 Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
 CIEMAT-PIC
 CREAM
 CSIC
 CSIC-CCHS
 CSIC-CNB
 CSIC-IAA
 CSIC-ICP
 CSIC-IFISC
 CSIC-IFCA
 CSIC-INIA

CSIC-Instruct
CSUC
EGI
EOSC-A
European Commission
FECYT
Fundacion Dialnet
GBIF.ES
I2SysBio
IdISBa
Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud
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