Post Event Report: Hungary National Tripartite Event

Country: Hungary
Place: National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO), 1077 Bp., Kéthly Anna tér 1., 2nd floor, room 261, Budapest
Date: Thursday 7 November 2024, 14:00-18:00
Format: Hybrid
National Organiser: Governmental Information Technology Development Agency (KIFÜ)

Executive summary

Hungary's second EOSC National Tripartite Event (NTE) took place on Thursday 7 November at the premises of the National Research and Development and Innovation Office (NRDIO) in Budapest, with some attendees joining online. The event was organised next to EOSC Tripartite meeting during Hungary's presidency of the EU Council to bring together the Hungarian research community and the EOSC Tripartite Governance (i.e. the EOSC Association, the European Commission (EC), and the EOSC Steering Board) to exchange positions on Open Science and EOSC, and find out about the developments taking place in Hungary.

NRDIO's representative and host Bórbala Schenk opened the event with a general view of the role of funding agencies and governments in leading the transition to Open Science. This was followed by talks by the three EOSC Partnership Tripartite Governance, who presented their respective roles and perspectives in the upcoming phase of roll out of the EOSC Federation.

The two panels gave the Hungarian community the opportunity to show how the country is taking the necessary steps at different levels to ensure scientists are aware of the benefits of Open Science to make their research have bigger impact—and become more visible, both for other researchers and society at large.

1. Overview

The EOSC Federation is breaking new ground, with the EOSC EU Node up and running, and a first group of EOSC Nodes to start preparing the build-up of the Federation in 2025. Things are progressing, but the priorities and contributions of the three members of the EOSC Partnership Tripartite governance are very much the same as until now. Now that the Federation is becoming a reality, a new balance between the three has to be found that allows to steer it into the desired course.

In the event, the Tripartite governance presented the current progress of the EOSC Federation, including the contributions and priorities until the end of Horizon Europe and a vision for the future. This was complemented by the view from the Hungarian perspective: how are Open Science and EOSC faring in the country? What is the perceived added value of EOSC that should be transmitted to Hungarian stakeholders? What are the main challenges and opportunities in the new state of things? How does Hungary plan to continue advancing?

2. Main highlights

Hungary's NTE comes at an interesting time for EOSC, with the recent launch of the EOSC EU Node in October 2024, but the roles of the three members of the EOSC Partnership Tripartite Governance continue to be essentially the same. In particular, EC's DG RTD will keep supporting the start-up phase of the EOSC Federation by "keeping the policy momentum" (especially in the wake of the recent reports that call on Europe to introduce changes in its research and innovation system to boost the economy). EU Member States and Associated Countries (40 states in total) demand a bigger responsibility that reflects their fundamental

role as main funders of research, and advocate for a different financial model for (Open) science to make the EOSC Federation sustainable.

The two panels with Hungarian representatives (plus EOSC EU Node's technical leader Peter Szegédi, who coincidentally is also from Hungary) show that the cultural shift required to install Open Science as "the new normal" has very much started, but that the country is still far from a complete transition, and has a long road ahead. All panellists agree that it will take time to get there—and it will require to continue training scientific staff in data-related skills, and putting the right amount of funding in the right places.

The first panel was asked to comment on the added value perceived of the EOSC Federation, on the Hungarian proposal to become an EOSC Node, and to give their view of where EOSC and Open Science will be in the next 5 years.

The second panel focussed more on the view from Hungary and the current state of play:

- The required cultural change among researchers is still needed; the mentality has not evolved as much as desired. In general data are only shared at the end of projects or after requests from e.g. funders.
- Training is important to achieve this: The University of Debrecen is the leading institution in the country, but more data professionals including data stewards needed. In any case progress has been made and a "network of data stewards" is becoming a reality.
- Instead of redoing material, it is a good idea to reuse what's out there already, even if some tailoring is needed to meet the specific needs of an institution.
- Hungarian is known to be a difficult language, but the barrier can be overcome by adopting English as the de facto standard and translating some materials where needed. Skills4EOSC can help with customisation.

3. Tripartite collaboration

Stefan Liebler (EC, DG RTD, Open Science and Research Infrastructures Unit): The EC will keep the "policy momentum", and pay attention to the increasing calls expressed in recent reports that demand a change in the European research and innovation system if the continent wants to keep up pace with global competitors. In the eyes of the EC, the EOSC Federation has a definite value proposition (economies of scale, interdisciplinarity, research security by ensuring data sovereignty, enabling [FAIR] AI, and as EC's tool to implement EU research policy) that should be more clearly communicated to all stakeholders and moreover to society at large. The EC will continue funding EOSC-related projects, as well as the procured services of the EOSC EU Node. The roll out of the EOSC Federation is an exciting time.

Volker Beckmann (EOSC Steering Board): European countries may have a secondary role in the EOSC Partnership, but they are aware of their principal role as main funders of research and innovation, and demand more responsibility in the future as part of the solution to tackle the known problems. The EOSC SB therefore points at the need to phase out project funding to achieve sustainability, and indicate the need for the EOSC Federation to become a truly platform for the exchange of services, beyond the mere catalogue like the former EOSC Marketplace. This will help EOSC demonstrate its value for money and have real impact.

Karel Luyben (EOSC Association): The activity of the Association is as intense as ever, with a new edition of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) in the works and new Task Forces to keep the community engaged. Besides and no less important is the leadership in the writing of the EOSC Federation Handbook and the recent consultation on the Multi-Annual Roadmap 2026-27 that sets the priorities of Horizon Europe's Work Programme in

EOSC-related topics; last but not least, EOSC-related projects will gather for a new Winter School in January 2025 to continue and expand the collaboration between them.

[The presentations have been shared by email, no link so far. If needed I can put them on T2.2's Gdrive folder]

4. Government level contributions

The Hungarian Government was represented by Bórbala Schenk from NRDIO. In her presentation she highlighted the following topics:

- Funding agencies in Hungary and the EU do much more than "just" funding, with an important contribution to shaping research practices by e.g. setting requirements for researchers and research performing organisations to receive funding. For this to make sense, governments must set their priorities regarding research and (open) science; Hungary did this exercise in 2023, which included measures to ensure that research achieve real impact in society. Data are key to achieve this in fundamental research as well as in industry.

- Hungary's NRDIO is reshaping its calls from 2024 on to bring them closer to Horizon Europe, harmonising requirements, and including considerations on the societal impact. The message to grantees is that they need to take this into account, which also requires funders to help them in the implementation of the necessary measures.

- NRDIO sees EOSC and the EOSC Federation as an important pillar of the ERA Policy Agenda, which it is helping implement in Hungary. Moreover, NRDIO remains committed to EOSC's values and expects to remain so when the new policy agenda is launched in 2025.

- Hungary's presidency of the EU Council is continuing the research priorities of the Union and in particular those linked to data and Open Science (especially priority 4: boosting innovation, bridging gaps, and the "quadruple helix" of innovation). Open Science and Open Data can bring stakeholders closer to each other, thus helping to make EU more competitive by a responsible use of data.

- NRDIO is now rethinking its "excellence fund" structure to make sure that results are visible and bring value to society, and that they remain accessible for all. An important change has been the introduction of Data Management Plans as a requirement for funding; this is expected to help researchers think how to make their data FAIR. NRDIO is also aware the needs of Hungarian research ecosystem must be better understood to find the way to address them.

5. Relevant quotes

Borbála Schenk (NRDIO): "It is very important that projects and research in general have REAL impact in society: science must bring benefits, and they have to be visible to the public".

Karel Luyben (EOSC-A): "FAIR is now internationally accepted as THE way in which research is to be conducted. Research results might still not be published FAIR, but this is the way things are trending, and cannot be reversed. In the future, it will be necessary to involve all of society, from citizens to industry, to have a say in deciding how science is done and what is researched."

6. Future plans and actions

Ákos Lencsés (KIFÜ) said that although Hungary has now an Open Science policy in place, going forward it is necessary to be sure it stays understandable for all relevant stakeholders, because it is a complex thing. No specific plans for this were mentioned at the event though.

Zsuzsa Sidó (Eötvös Loránd Research Network) foresees continuing training people in the foreseeable future.

Dominique Green (Data Curation Centre (UK) and Skills4EOSC): Hungarian institutions, especially the University of Debrecen who leads training on Open Science and research data management in the country, need to develop a very clear picture of what Data Stewards do that can be transmitted to others.

Ádám Száldobágyi (University of Debrecen): There are no specific plans for this, but it would be good if Research Data Management practices would be included in the research evaluation system. Hungary could follow CoARA Action Planning and Timeframe ideas to develop this.

7. Use cases or practices

This NTE did not include many use cases or practices in Hungary. The most important current initiatives mentioned was the training for data professionals at the University of Debrecen. Information about their courses can be found here.

8. Main indicators

8.1 Indicators organisation event

Official name of the event:

Date: Thursday 7 November 14:00-18:00

Thematic profile (was there a specific theme to the event apart from the Tripartite collaboration?):

Target audience:

8.2 Profile of participants

Total number of participants: 41

In-person: 30

Online): 21 (of which 3 were organisers)

Gender (%): Male: 24 *Female:* 27 *Other: N/A*

8.3 Type of participants affiliation
Research Performing Organisations: 24
Research Funding Organisations: 1
Service providing Organisations: 7
Libraries: 5
Public administration: N/A
Others: 1

8.4 Sectors
Not included in registration form

8.5 EU HE INFRAEOSC projects, dataspaces or other partnerships participation
Not included in registration form

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

13:00-14:00	Networking reception together with international participants
14:00	Start of Hungarian National Tripartite Event
14:00-14:15	Welcome: Perspectives from Hungary Science policy and funding Dr. Borbála Schenk, Head of Department, International Affairs, NRDIO
14:15-14:35	Welcome: Current achievements presented by the European Commission Stefan Liebler, EC DG Research & Innovation
14:35-14:50	The member states current perspective on EOSC and decisions taken during the European Tripartite Event (Prof. Dr. Volker Beckmann, EOSC-SB)
14:50-15:05	EOSC Association current priorities: Karel Luyben, President and Ute Gunsenheimer, Secretary General, EOSC Association
15:05-15:15	Q&A on the tripartite collaboration
15:15-16:00	1st panel discussion: EOSC Research Infrastructures in supporting OS
	Moderator: Bob Jones, Director, EOSC Association
	Panellists: Péter Szegedi – European Commission (DG CNECT) and EOSC EU Node István Szabó – HUN-REN Headquarters László Kovács – HUN-REN SZTAKI Judit Gárdos HUN-REN TK, Institute for Sociology
	Topics: • Common understanding on the purpose and the future evolution of the EOSC nodes • How different types of nodes may contribute to the optimal functioning of EOSC (thematic, national etc.) • What are the specific benefits of these nodes for the user communities • Hungarian initiatives on research data • Case studies mentioned: ARP results, DH-LAB (Hungarian language model challenges)
16.00-16:10	Summary of the 1st panel discussion Moderator Panel 1
16:10-16:40	Coffee break
16:40-17:30	2nd panel discussion: Open Science education and training
	Moderator: János Mohácsi, KIFÜ Panellists: Zsuzsa Sidó -ELTE Ádám Száldobágyi – University of Debrecen Ildikó Kádárné Kelemen - KIFÜ Ákos Lencsés - KIFÜ Anna Horváth HUN-REN Data Steward trainings

eOSC | Focus

	Topics: • Hungarian FAIR Data Management • ELTE Data Stewardship course • HUN-REN Data Stewardship training initiative • Skills4EOSC trainings - target audiences and training methods • Role of networks in OS education and training
17:30-17:40	**Summary of the 2nd panel discussion** Moderator Panel 2
17:40-18:00	Closing