

# Post Event Report: 2025 Croatia National Tripartite Event

*Country:* Croatia

*Place:* University of Zagreb, Ulica Radoslava Cimermana 88 (Aula room)

*Date:* 27 March 2025, 14:00-18:00

*Format:* Hybrid

*National Organiser:* SRCE

## Executive summary

Croatia held its third National Tripartite Event (NTE) on 27 March 2025, once again included in the programme of the “Days of e-Infrastructure” conference organised by national service provider SRCE, Mandated Organisation of the EOSC Association in the country.

The event provided an opportunity to see the progress of Open Science in Croatia from the perspective of the country’s national service provider SRCE and the Government (represented by the Ministry of Science, Education and Culture), as well as the development status of the EOSC Federation as seen by the EOSC Association and the European Commission. What transpires from both the national and the European levels is that Croatia and the European Union are living interesting times in which much has been done to implement Open Science, but much lies still ahead to ensure its success.

A concrete example of the current evolution of Croatian institutions was given by two representatives of the University of Zagreb, who presented how an Open Science policy was developed and implemented.

In the afternoon session, the event included presentations from different Open Science initiatives in Croatia.

## 1. Overview

Croatia’s National Tripartite Event 2025 revolved around the following topics:

- Overview of most important recent advances in the implementation of Open Science in Croatia, encompassing the plans candidacy to become an EOSC Node for future waves, and the expected approval of National Open Science Plan by the Government during spring 2025.
- The status of the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation and the involvement of the European Commission on the policy side.

The presentation by SRCE’s director **Ivan Marić** showed that the implementation of big ideas such as Open Science require taking many small (and some not so small) steps: since the last NTE in 2024, Croatia has moved forward with the addition of eduGAIN authentication to SRCE services and the alignment with OpenAIRE guidelines for publications and data stored in the national Open Access portal for publications (HRČAK) and data repository (DABAR). The connection to eduGAIN paves the way to access to digital resources through a future EOSC Node in the EOSC Federation.

**Hrvoje Meštrić** from the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, confirmed that Croatia wants to be part of the discussion about the organisation of EOSC after the end of the current Framework Programme in 2027. The country is strongly involved in EOSC-related activities via ESFRI RIs, e-infrastructures, and various EC-funded projects, which reflects a striving Open Science community, reinforced through several engagement activities organised by SRCE and individual institutions. A National Open Science Plan, expected to be approved by the national Government this spring will provide an umbrella for all similar policies in the country.



This will contribute to increase international cooperation and help with the implementation of policies for the digital and green transitions.

The key message from **Klaus Tochtermann**, member of the Board of Directors of the EOSC Association were the concrete ideas he presented about the future of the EOSC Federation. The proposals described show that the EOSC Association firmly believes it can have a leading role in the upcoming phase of the EOSC Federation. The Association also supports working towards an arrangement that includes all key stakeholders—the European Commission, the EU Member States and Associated Countries, as well as the scientific community—to guarantee the buy-in and increase the chances of success.

**Stefan Liebler** from the European Commission stressed EC's role in keeping the "policy momentum" to develop and implement Open Science: the new European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda for 2025-27 will be approved soon, and it will include concrete policies regarding research assessment, copyright law, and access to research infrastructures.

## 2. Main highlights

Most important advances in Croatia towards the implementation of Open Science:

- Addition of eduGAIN authentication to SRCE services.
- Alignment with OpenAIRE guidelines for publications and data stored in the national Open Access portal for publications (HRCAK) and data repository (DABAR).
- Successful application to OECD's Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP) as an important contribution to the establishment of Open Science.
- Development and adoption of Open Science policies by Croatian institutions (e.g. the University of Rijeka). **Nina Begičević Ređep** and **Miroslav Rajter** showed how this has been done at the University of Zagreb.
- The Ministry is negotiating with Universities the financial arrangements under which Open Science will be implemented in the coming years.

## 3. Tripartite collaboration

The EOSC Association and the European Commission are continuing in their role as main drivers of the EOSC Federation and more generally of the transition to Open Science as the "new normal". Both organisations have taken note of the recent reports by Enrico Letta and Mario Draghi that indicate the need for a strong orientation in Europe towards innovation, which could be boosted by the full adoption of Open Science.

The Association hopes to be given the responsibility of managing the Federation. The Commission is consistently keeping the "policy momentum" and supporting the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation, as demonstrated by the negotiation and upcoming approval of the new ERA policy agenda for 2025-27, and the continuing support via INFRAEOSC calls in Horizon Europe.

## 4. Government level contributions

The Croatian Government, represented by the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, is committed to approving the National OS Plan by the Government in spring 2025. Croatia wants to be part of the discussion about the organisation of EOSC after the end of the current Framework Programme in 2027. The Government was happy to announce the successful application of Croatia to OECD's Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP) as an important contribution to the establishment of Open Science in the country

## 5. Relevant quotes

N/A

## 6. Future plans and actions

The Government is negotiating with Universities the financial arrangements under which Open Science will be implemented in the coming years. The imminent approval of the National Plan for Open Science should provide a strong push to all parties involved to solve this question soon.

Croatia expresses its wish to present its candidacy for the next wave of nodes. Concrete plans will be developed once further details about the second wave are known.

## 7. Use cases or practices

The development and adoption of an Open Science Policy at the University of Zagreb was presented as example of the progress of Open Science in Croatia. **Nina Begičević Ređep** and **Miroslav Rajter** explained how the process has been steered: what documents have been used as background, how the different interests and needs of the community have been taken into account, how the aims and expected results were discussed and transposed into the policy. The University of Zagreb bases its support for Open Science on the benefits it believes it can bring for academic freedom. For them, it is negatively surprising that only six universities have showed any intention or commitment to develop similar policies. That may have to do with the absence so far of dedicated funding from the Government. This situation may change soon when the concrete financial arrangement of the Government with the universities is agreed.

## 8. Main indicators

### 8.1 Indicators organisation event

*Official name of the event:* Croatia National Tripartite Event 2025

*Date:* Thursday 27 March 2025 14:00-18:00

*Thematic profile:* State of play of Open Science in Croatia – Towards the EOSC Federation

*Target audience:*

### 8.2 Profile of participants

*Total number of participants:* 72

*In-person:* 70

*Online:* 2

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

### 8.3 Type of participants affiliation

*Research Performing Organisations:* ?

*Research Funding Organisations:* ?

*Service providing Organisations:* ?

*Libraries:* ?

*Public administration:* ?

*Others:* ?

#### 8.4 Sectors

Not included in registration form

#### 8.5 EU HE INFRAEOSC projects, dataspace or other partnerships participation

Not included in registration form

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

Time	Speaker	Title
11:30 - 11:45	Ivan Marić, University of Zagreb University Computing Centre	Introduction & Welcome, State of Play in Croatia
11:45 - 12:00	Hrvoje Meštrić, Ministry of Science, Education and Youth	State of Play in Croatia - news from the Ministry
12:00 - 12:15	Nina Begičević Redep, University of Zagreb Faculty of Organization and Informatics, and Miroslav Rajter, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law	Open Science Policy at the University of Zagreb
12:15 - 12:30	Stefan Liebler, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, Unit A4 Open Science & Research Infrastructures	The digitalisation of European research: Building the EOSC Federation
12:30 - 12:45	Klaus Tochtermann, EOSC Association, Board of Director	Towards the EOSC Federation - Current Status and next Steps (online)
12:45 - 13:00	Q&A	
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 - 14:50	News from the Croatian Open Science Cloud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Iva Melinščak Zlodi, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</li> <li>Zvezdan Penezić, University of Zadar</li> </ul>	
14:50 - 15:05	Una Pale Simon, Udruga Penkala, University of Zurich, University hospital of Zurich	Perceptions and practices of open science in Croatia
15:05 - 15:20	Iva Melinščak Zlodi, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	Copyright issues in open science policies of Croatian scientific institutions
15:20 - 15:35	Anita Tarandek, Ruđer Bošković Institute	Practices for increasing the efficiency and usability of scientific research
15:35 - 15:50	Ana Inkret, Slovenian Social Science Data Archive, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana	Regional collaboration with(in) the Research Data Alliance
15:50 - 16:00	Q&A and Closing	