

EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call

Guidelines for Applicants

Call id: EOSC Gravity Preparatory Grant Open Call

Call opening: 3rd November 2025

Call deadline: 18th February 2026, 17:00 CET

Call budget: 800 000€

Funding body: ESF

Expected duration of projects: 6 months

Maximum amount of funding per project: 50 000€

Weblink for further information: <https://eosc.eu/eosc-about/calls-grants/>

Contact: EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org

Open Call platform: for a first connection:

https://esf.smartsimple.ie/s_signup.jsp?token=XVtQC1oGYV5ZSxtZXxJXR1JWYUI1H3Rt

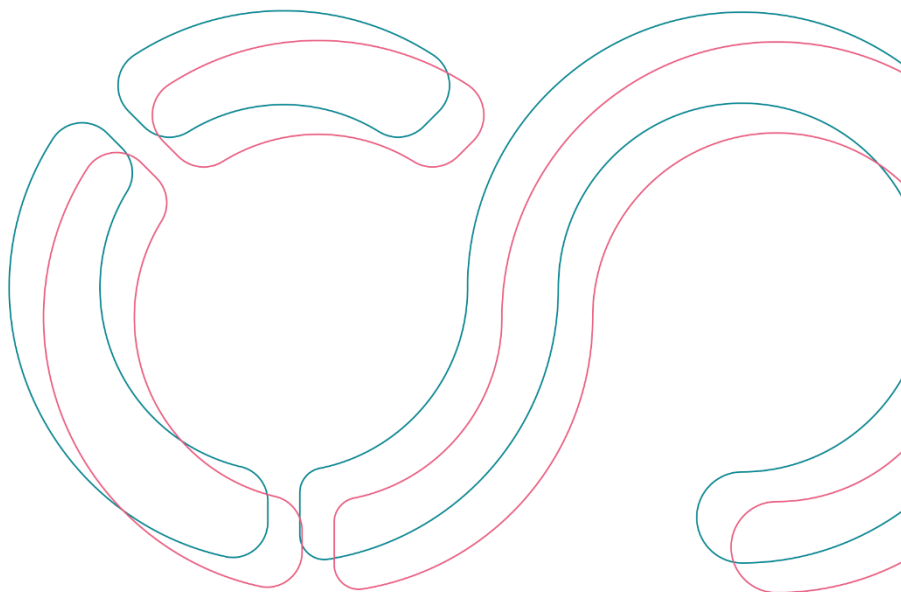
for subsequent connections: <https://esf.smartsimple.ie>

All the Open Call documents and templates available for download at: <https://eosc.eu/eosc-about/calls-grants/>



Funded by
the European Union

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1 Call Introduction

The purpose of those guidelines is to provide instructions to applicants submitting proposals for the **EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD (EOSC) Gravity Preparatory Grants Call** organised by the EOSC GRAVITY project.

These guidelines contain information about the timeline, the eligibility criteria, the evaluation procedure, and the submission requirements of this specific call.

It is important to note that the information presented in this document may not apply to subsequent or parallel calls launched by EOSC.

These guidelines are provided for information purposes only and are not intended to replace the **consultation of the Sub-Grantee Agreement template**, which defines the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties for the development of the funded project.

1.1 The EOSC Federation and the role of the EOSC Gravity Project

The EOSC Federation will be a collaborative and interoperable ecosystem of EOSC Nodes, data and service providers, research infrastructures, and other stakeholders. It aims to provide a unified and seamless access to research data, tools, and services across Europe, enabling researchers to easily share, access, and analyse data and resources. The EOSC Federation will promote the development of common standards, policies, and interfaces to ensure the interoperability and sustainability of the EOSC services.

The EOSC Federation is envisioned as a federation of distributed systems, combined into a system of systems, consisting of multiple 'EOSC Nodes' that are interconnected and can collaborate to share and manage information and resources within and across thematic and geographical research communities. Nodes provide entry points for users to access the full EOSC Federation and so resources beyond those found in their usual environment.

Establishing a Node allows a community to formalise its role as an entry point to the EOSC Federation. Initiatives (European, national, regional, institutional or thematic) may join the EOSC Federation and become EOSC Nodes when they meet the requirements and share resources in compliance with the EOSC Interoperability Framework and EOSC policies.

EOSC has been granted special status as a Horizon Europe co-programmed European Partnership. The Partnership brings together institutional, national and European initiatives and engages all relevant stakeholders to co-design and deploy a European Research Data Commons where data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR). The Partnership includes the European Commission and the EOSC Association.

Through open calls, the EOSC Gravity project will provide funding to **support the EOSC Federation** by encouraging the creation of EOSC Nodes and inter-project collaboration. The EOSC Academy will ensure an informed community has the expertise to foster EOSC-related activities at national and institution levels by mutual learning and knowledge sharing.

The EOSC Gravity consortium is led by the EOSC - Association (EOSC-A), which coordinates key stakeholders in the European research environment and provide insights on overarching themes important for the realisation of EOSC.

The other eight consortium partners are the following: TU GRAZ, ESF, EGI, NCN, ATHENA, TRUST-IT, PRO-M and SWITCH.

The European Science Foundation (ESF) oversees the management of Cascading Grants and Open Calls.

1.2 Call Objectives

The funded projects will support preparatory work for potential future Candidate EOSC Nodes, in alignment with the EOSC Federation Build-up process.

The primary objective of the projects will be to prepare a project charter, supporting a future application for the creation of a Node (national, multi-country or thematic).

Note: Successful completion of the project does not imply approval as an EOSC Node. Organisations interested in joining the EOSC Federation still need to submit their application through the Federation's enrolment procedure.

1.3 Challenges to address

Successful proposals are expected to:

- Demonstrate alignment with EOSC objectives and contribute to the EOSC Federation's build-up process
- Clearly define the project scope and present a clear set of objectives aligned with the EOSC Federation build-up process, including specific outputs such as a project charter supporting a future Node application (national, multi-country or thematic)
- Present a strong value proposition that highlights how the project contributes to the EOSC Federation, including benefits to researchers and participating organisations
- Show how the organisation or consortium plans to meet the minimum requirements to become a Node, including governance, technical readiness, and community engagement
- Projects must clearly identify the expected impact, define a robust strategy to maximise the achievement of their objectives, and ensure effective stakeholder engagement throughout the project lifecycle

- Showcase integration with the EOSC Academy, delivering a matrix outlining how project partners and the future candidate Node can support curriculum delivery, including the sharing of materials, documentation, training content, best practices, and use cases for future adoption and reuse.

2 Timeline

2.1 Call open for Applications

- Opening: **03/11/2025**
- Deadline for submission*: **18/02/26**, 17:00 CET (Brussels time)

* The deadline for submission is as stated in this Guidelines document. Please note that the platform for submission's time depends on the user's configured time zone and may or may not coincide with the correct time (this depends on the user, not the platform for submission). Any discrepancies in system time will not be grounds for deadline extension.

2.2 Evaluation

- Evaluation period: **18/02/26 - 30/04/26**
- Results: The publication of the evaluation's final results will be on **Monday 20/04/26**, marking the beginning of the sub-agreement signing process. There will not be any prior disclosure of information about the evaluation process before that date.

2.3 Onboarding of Successful Applicants

Following the project evaluations, liaison with the successful applicants will be undertaken to finalise contract signatures and prepare for the official project kick-off.

- Sub-grant agreement signature: **20/04/26 - 06/05/26**
- Starting date of the projects: **06/05/26**
- Mandatory kick-off meeting (remote): **06/05/26**

All awarded projects under this open call will be required to attend the remote kick-off meeting. The meeting will go over the milestones that need to be reached by the sub-grantees and explain the payment process and provides an opportunity to meet for all project teams. The details of the meeting (exact time, agenda and link) will be communicated together with the notification of successful application.

3 Rules and conditions

3.1 Eligibility criteria

Funded projects are expected to operate within the wider EOSC landscape and ensure the preparatory work for participation in a future call for candidate EOSC Nodes (funded projects are not automatically admitted into the EOSC Federation).

3.1.1 Eligible entities

The eligible applicants should be from one of the following categories of organisations:

- Potential Candidate Nodes
- Mandated Organisations
- Research Performing Organisations
- Other Parties (organisations, networks, associations) from the wider RI landscape (e.g., organisations who want to become a Node, including from specific or thematic communities)

It is important to note that EOSC GRAVITY consortium partners, their affiliated entities, and their employees **are not eligible**. They are not allowed to submit a proposal and therefore to receive any financial support through the open calls, as this would violate the European Commission's regulations.

3.1.2 Eligible Countries

Only European applicants legally established/resident in one of the following countries (hereafter collectively identified as the “Eligible Countries”) are eligible for funding:

- Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions;
- Although Hungary is a MS of the EU, according to Council Implementing Decision 2022/2506, no legal commitments should be entered into with any public interest trust established based on the Hungarian Law IX of 2021 or with any entity maintained by said public interest trust.
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the MS;
- Horizon Europe associated countries at the time the EOSC GRAVITY grant entered into force (October 2024), (except from those only associated to Pillar II)¹ which are: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom and potentially Egypt, Morocco and Switzerland (if association agreements start producing legal effects). Other associated countries not included in this list, are not eligible;

¹ [list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](#)

3.2 Expected outputs

Funded projects are expected to produce the following outputs:

- A project plan, including the information on how the applicant expects to meet the minimum requirements to become a Node, including governance, technical readiness, and community engagement sections - M1
- A project charter - M4
- A draft plan for an event showcasing the project results and one potential use case - M4
- Short report of one potential use case (no deployment) presenting how the future candidate Node services or solutions can be onboarded into the EOSC Federation - M6
- A matrix outlining how project partners and the future candidate Node can support the EOSC Academy, including future training activities and curriculum delivery (e.g., mentorship, infrastructure, content development, peer-to-peer exchange of practices) - M6
- Contribution to an event to showcase the project results and one potential use case - M6

3.3 Financial Support

The total budget available for this call is €800 000, distributed across several projects (minimum 16).

Each project will receive up to €50 000. The duration of each funded project will be **6 months**.

The financing provided for each sub-granted project is determined through a lump sum scheme, taking into account the requirements specified below.

The grant is provided to the Project Coordinator only. In case of consortia, the eventual distribution of the funds to co-applicants will have to be managed by the Project Coordinator. In that case, it is strongly advised to sign a consortium agreement between the project coordinator and co-applicants.

Payment is linked to **completion of milestones and deliverables**, not to actual cost evidence. The grantee will not have to send financial reports to show how the money is used. There will be no financial reporting.

The costs

- must be in line with beneficiaries' normal practices
- must be reasonable / not excessive
- must be in line with the activities proposed

The total budget will be given to the grantee as a lump sum, meaning it will cover any type of expenses (travels, personnel, equipment, etc.). The application form will include a budget breakdown section, to allow the reviewer to check if the budget provided matches the proposal.

The budget breakdown should be a simple table with a general overview of the expenses, allocating a budget for the personal costs, purchase costs, as well as subcontracting and other costs if applicable.

In case of consortia, the amount requested by the respective participants must clearly be specified in the budget breakdown

The maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organization for all EOSC Gravity calls combined (3 calls in total) cannot exceed 100.000 EUR.

In case of consortia, this rule applies to the Project Coordinator as well as to the co-applicants.

Indicative distributions of the funds:

Payments will be disbursed in two stages, contingent upon meeting designated milestones or KPIs and producing the specified output. The main output will be the delivery of a project charter, supporting a future application for the creation of a Node (national, multi-country or thematic). (See [EOSC Federation Handbook](#), section 3.2).

STAGE 1 – M1

- Mandatory Virtual Kick-Off meeting
- Submission of a Project Plan

40% of the total funding
(20k€)

STAGE 2 - M4

- **Project Charter Delivery**
- Submission of draft presentation for a showcase event

STAGE 3 - M6

- Delivery of the project matrix contribution to the EOSC Academy activities
- Short report of one potential use case presenting how the future candidate Node services or solutions can be onboarded into the EOSC Federation
- Contribution to an event to showcase the project results and one potential use case

Final Payment, 60% of the
total funding (30k€)

Table 1. Deliverables and milestones overview.

For a more detailed payment schedule please check Annex 3.

3.4 Origin of the funds

Once an applicant has been selected for funding, they will be required to sign a dedicated Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement with the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium. A template of the Agreement is available in Annex 4.

This Agreement will clearly state the amount granted to the project and the payment conditions (See "3.3. Indicative distributions of the funds" for more details).

It is important to note that the funds attached to the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement come directly from the funds of the Horizon Europe EOSC GRAVITY Programme, which has been funded by the European Commission. Therefore, the funds remain the property of the EU until the payment of the balance, which is managed by the project partners in EOSC GRAVITY via European Commission Horizon Europe Grant Agreement Number 101188045.

The Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement represents a significant commitment from both the EOSC GRAVITY programme and the sub-grantees who will receive funding.

The relationship between sub-grantees and the European Commission through the EOSC GRAVITY programme carries a **set of obligations for the sub-grantees** with the European Commission. These obligations will be outlined in the Sub-Grantee Agreement, which the selected applicants will need to review and agree to.

It is the responsibility of the sub-grantees to ensure that they fulfil these obligations, and the EOSC GRAVITY consortium partners' responsibility to provide guidance and support as needed.

All selected applicants should carefully review the terms of the agreement and ensure that they are able to meet their obligations in order to receive the funding and successfully carry out their project.

3.5 Language

English is the only official language for this programme.

Submissions in any other language will not be eligible and will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the EOSC GRAVITY programme. This means that all the communication and materials will be in English, and all documents and deliverables will only be accepted if in English during the whole process.

3.6 Documents Format

Unless otherwise stated in specific questions of the application form (see Annex 1), any document requested in any of the phases must be submitted electronically in **PDF format without restrictions for printing**.

3.7 Multiple submissions

Applicants are allowed to submit proposals to EOSC Gravity parallel calls. Nevertheless, **multiple submissions by the same legal entity as a Project Coordinator are not allowed for this specific call**. There is an exception for large Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and Research-performing Organisations (RPOs)², in case several groups or research units from the same organisation wish to apply for the same call.

The maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organization for all EOSC Gravity calls combined (3 calls in total) cannot exceed 100.000 EUR.

3.8 Ethical Issues

EOSC GRAVITY strictly adheres to the fundamental ethical principles outlined in the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity." To ensure compliance, all applicants are required to acknowledge and accept our privacy policy and declaration of honour (ethics) during the submission process. This acknowledgment confirms that, by submitting the form, they accept the terms described in the provided text. No additional documents need to be uploaded; applicants are solely required to read and agree to the terms outlined when submitting the form.

During the evaluation process, **the EOSC GRAVITY may verify whether the self-assessment declaration aligns with the contents of the application**. In cases where clarification is needed, the consortium reserves the right to contact the beneficiaries. If an applicant indicates that their application may have ethical issues, an ethics check will be conducted by ESF. Depending on the seriousness and complexity of the ethical issues, an additional ethics review involving external expert(s) may be conducted.

Applications that fail to adequately address ethical concerns or privacy aspects will be rejected.

All applicants must thoroughly review and assess their applications for any potential ethical issues before submission. Failure to comply with the ethical guidelines outlined in the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity" could lead to disqualification of the

² A large organisation has more than 250 employees or more than 50M euros annual turnover, or annual balance sheet total >43M euros

application. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that all applicants take the necessary steps to ensure that their proposals meet the highest ethical standards.

3.9 Data Protection

EOSC GRAVITY requires access to Personal and Entity Data to process and evaluate applications. As open call coordinator, ESF/ EOSC GRAVITY Secretariat will act as the Data Controller for all data submitted through the SmartSimple platform for this purpose. To ensure the safety and security of this data, the SmartSimple platform has been designed and operates under strict compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

Therefore, all applicants are required to accept the SmartSimple Platform terms to ensure full coverage. For more information regarding the data privacy policy and security measures implemented by SmartSimple, please refer to their [website](#).

Data Sharing

Application data will be forwarded to evaluators and the EC for evaluation as appropriate.

4 Proposal submission process

The submission will be done through SmartSimple, the official online submission platform of EOSC GRAVITY, operated by ESF:

for a first connection:

https://esf.smartsimple.ie/s_signup.jsp?token=XVtQC1oGYV5ZSxtZXxJXR1JWYUI1H3Rt

for subsequent connections: <https://esf.smartsimple.ie>

Only applications received directly through this platform will be considered eligible.

The application form is divided in two parts:

The first part of the application form (PART A) should be completed directly on the platform and includes:

- Title of the proposal
- Abstract
- Contact details of the project coordinator: Title, First and Last name, affiliation, department, email address
- I confirm that I have the authority to submit the proposal on behalf of my organisation*

- Organisation type: Research Performing organisations (RPO); Research Funding organisations; Service Provider (including Research Infrastructures); Commercial (e.g. private sector organisations); Other
- Legal Name of the organisation
- Short name of the organisation (if any)
- Country of the organisation
- Website link (if any)
- PIC number (if applicable)
- Co-applicants details (if any)

The second part (PART B) of the application will consist of the **project proposal**.

Explanations on how to submit an application via SmartSimple are available in Annex 2.

An editable template of the application form is available on Annex 1 to allow offline preparation. Sending this form template in any other format and via e-mail or any other means will not be eligible.

The application reception will close on **Wednesday 18 February 2026, 17:00 Brussels time**.

4.1 Application preparation

Projects must answer the challenges presented in section 1.3: Challenges to address.

For the successful submission, applicants are strongly advised to follow these steps:

- Make sure your organisation is eligible to apply.
- Only apply via the official submission platform.
- Make sure to answer all the questions and submit all the necessary documents.
- Only use the provided templates for the documents that needs to be submitted.
- Be concrete and concise. Open questions have response-length limitations. Please examine all the open call documents and attend at least one of the explanatory online events promoted by the EOSC GRAVITY programme.
- Only submissions within the Open Call duration will be accepted. There will not be any deadline extensions unless there is a Force Majeure situation (i.e., a major problem with the platform caused by the EOSC GRAVITY consortium and not by the applicants, making the system unavailable for a long period).
- It is strongly advised not to wait until the last minute to submit your application, to anticipate any technical issue that could occur.

4.2 Error in a submitted application

If the applicant discovers an error in a submitted application or aims to improve the application, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may submit a new version.

For this purpose, the applicant must contact the EOSC GRAVITY helpdesk (EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org) to re-open the application.

Please be aware that once opened, the applicants should send the form again before the set deadline. Failure to resubmit will result in the proposal not being evaluated.

Resubmission requests will be answered up to two hours before the deadline. The helpdesk cannot guarantee a timely response during the last two hours of the open call.

5 Proposal Evaluation and Selection Process

The application reception will close on **18/02/26, 17:00 Brussels time**.

A list of applicants will be created. It will contain their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with the EC for transparency).

The evaluation process will take place after the closure of the call and will be evaluated according to the following process:

5.1 Eligibility check

An filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will follow the shortlist below. Eligibility criteria check will verify:

- The eligibility entity (check Eligibility criteria in section 3.1)
- Whether applicants should be registered in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country (check Eligibility criteria in section 3.1)
- Whether all the required fields in the online application form and all documents uploaded are correctly completed.

Applications marked as non-eligible will get a rejection email including the reasons for being declared as non-eligible at the end of the evaluation process. No further feedback on the process will be given.

5.2 Pre-assessment

Applications that pass the eligibility check will move to the **remote evaluation stage** where external evaluators with experience in the EOSC activities will review each proposal, scoring them based on 3 different evaluation criteria:

- Excellence: covering both soundness and clarity of objectives, alignment with EOSC objectives and the EOSC federation build-up process, value and feasibility of the proposed future candidate node.
- Impact: demonstrating measurable outcomes, stakeholder engagement, societal relevance, and long-term scalability and sustainability.
- Implementation: ensuring operational readiness through a solid workplan and distribution of resources, capacity of the applicant to carry out the proposed activities, clear roles, risk management, and a quality-driven approach to delivering the project charter.

Proposals will be evaluated by two external evaluators: one Lead Reviewer and one Secondary Reviewer.

The evaluators will have no access to the evaluation made in parallel by the other evaluator during the pre-assessment phase, to avoid one evaluator conditioning the other until both reviews are submitted.

The evaluators will be selected by a dedicated call for evaluators. They will be independent of the organisations involved in the consortium and of any third party applying to the open call.

The evaluators will sign a declaration of confidentiality concerning the contents of the proposals they read. In addition, the form which they use in the evaluation carries a declaration of freedom from conflict of interest which they agree to by signing them.

The evaluators will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

Score	Definition
0	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor – criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair – proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good – proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very good- proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Table 2. Criteria Score definition

The total score will be calculated as a sum of the scores of the 3 different criteria. Each criterion has the same weight.

5.3 Review Panel

The evaluators will meet in a panel meeting to discuss the different proposals and establish a ranked list.

During the review panel meetings (teleconference), each application will be presented by their reviewers and discussed by the full panel.

The review panel will then agree on an overall mark for each application and produce a ranked list of applications.

Threshold conditions: The threshold for each criterion will be three (3). The overall score threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be ten (10).

Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

In case of proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have higher score on the Excellence award criterion.

If that does not resolve the issue, the secondary priority criterion will be the score of the Impact section. If this also does not resolve the situation, the panel Chair will call for a panel vote on how to position the two applications relative to each other.

5.4 Consensus Report

The panel members will then produce a consensus report for each application, summarising the panel discussions. Narrative comments (not scores) from the consensus reports will be communicated to the applicants.

5.5 Announcement of the results

Once the consensus reports will be ready, all applicants will be informed about the evaluation process: non-eligible, under threshold, approved but not selected, selected.

Each applicant will receive via email the decision and the following steps (if applicable).

6 Contact information

EOSC GRAVITY offers a dedicated support channel available for applicants. Please contact EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org for any question you might have, including technical questions concerning the submission platform SmartSimple (operated by ESF).

Requests will receive a response within 2 working days of their submission. While all possible effort will be made to respond in a timely manner, the teams should plan their submissions, accordingly, allowing enough time before the deadline (i.e., at least 2 working days prior) if they expect an answer. Lack of the receipt of an answer to an enquiry shall not constitute grounds for extension or re-evaluation of a submission.

Please note that any email received outside the designated support channel will not be taken into account.

Lack of receipt of an answer to an inquiry shall not constitute grounds for an extension or re-evaluation of a proposal.

7 Annexes

Annex 1: Template of the application form

Annex 2: Technical Guidelines – Platform Guidelines for Applicants

Annex 3: Detailed payment schedule for successful applicants

Annex 4: Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement Template

EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call

Annex 1: Application Template

Part A: Preliminary information:

- Project Title
- Abstract
- Contact details of the project coordinator: Title, First and Last name, affiliation, department, email address
- I confirm that I have the authority to submit the proposal on behalf of my organisation*
- Organisation type: Research Performing organisations (RPO); Research Funding organisations; Service Provider (including Research Infrastructures); Commercial (e.g. private sector organisations); Other
- Legal Name of the organisation
- Short name of the organisation (if any)
- Country of the organisation
- PIC number of the organisation (if applicable)
- Website link (if any)
- Information on Co-applicants (if any)

Partner n°*	Short Name*	Legal Name*	PIC	Organisation type	Country
2					
3					
4					
5					

Only if you indicated co-applicants details, indicate the budget repartition per partner. Do not forget to add a line for the Project Coordinator

Partner n°	Short Name	Budget Allocated
Project Coordinator		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Part B: From this point/section onwards, the information is filled-in in a .doc template and submitted as .pdf on SmartSimple:

Project Name:

1. Excellence

Objectives (max. 300 words)

Define the project scope, including specific outputs. In particular, the project should aim to deliver a project charter as a key output, supporting a future application for the creation of a node.

Value proposition (max. 300 words)

Describe the future candidate node's value proposition, its potential contribution to the EOSC-Federation, and how your organisation/consortium plan to meet the minimum requirements for becoming a node.

Use cases (max. 300 words)

Explain how the expected use cases support the EOSC-Federation, with a brief overview of the high-level capabilities addressing key stakeholders' and users' needs.

Training (max. 300 words)

Describe how the project partners and the future candidate Node can support practical training activities grounded in real-world experience and contribute to the EOSC Academy (e.g., mentorship, infrastructure, content development, peer-to-peer exchange of practices).

2. Impact

Strategy (max. 300 words)

Explain how you plan to maximise the achievement of your objectives. Define measurable, realistic KPIs aligned with the project's goals, and show how impact will be monitored and evaluated.

Relevance (max. 300 words)

Describe how the project supports EU policies and the EOSC Federation, outlining the benefits for researchers and participating organisations. Explain the project's potential to enhance the FAIRness of data and services.

Scalability and sustainability (max. 300 words)

Describe how the project results can be scaled, sustained and promoted beyond the project lifetime.

Community Engagement (max. 300 words)

Define your stakeholder engagement approach and the dissemination and communication plan to ensure broad outreach to relevant communities.

3. Implementation

Structure (max. 500 words)

Describe your entity's/consortium's competences, resources and the project team's organisational structure, including roles and responsibilities. Explain the mechanisms that will be implemented to ensure proactive interaction within the consortium and with other relevant stakeholders.

Workplan (max. 300 words)

Describe the feasibility and relevance of the workplan for achieving the project's objectives, outlining how the consortium is preparing for enrolment into the EOSC Federation and how the proposed node will draw on lessons learned from the first wave of candidate nodes.

Project management (max. 300 words)

Identify how project will be managed and provide a Gantt chart or similar visual to map milestones and deliverables, indicating timelines, dependencies, and responsibilities.

--

Quality and risk management (max. 300 words)

Provide a risk assessment identifying potential risks and limitations that may affect project execution, along with proposed mitigation measures. Define the quality management approach, explaining how quality will be assured and maintained throughout the project's lifetime.

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Budget breakdown (no word limitation)

Provide a short budget breakdown [per partner in case of consortia, and per budget category (staff costs, other costs)] to show how the financing will match your schedule and objectives.

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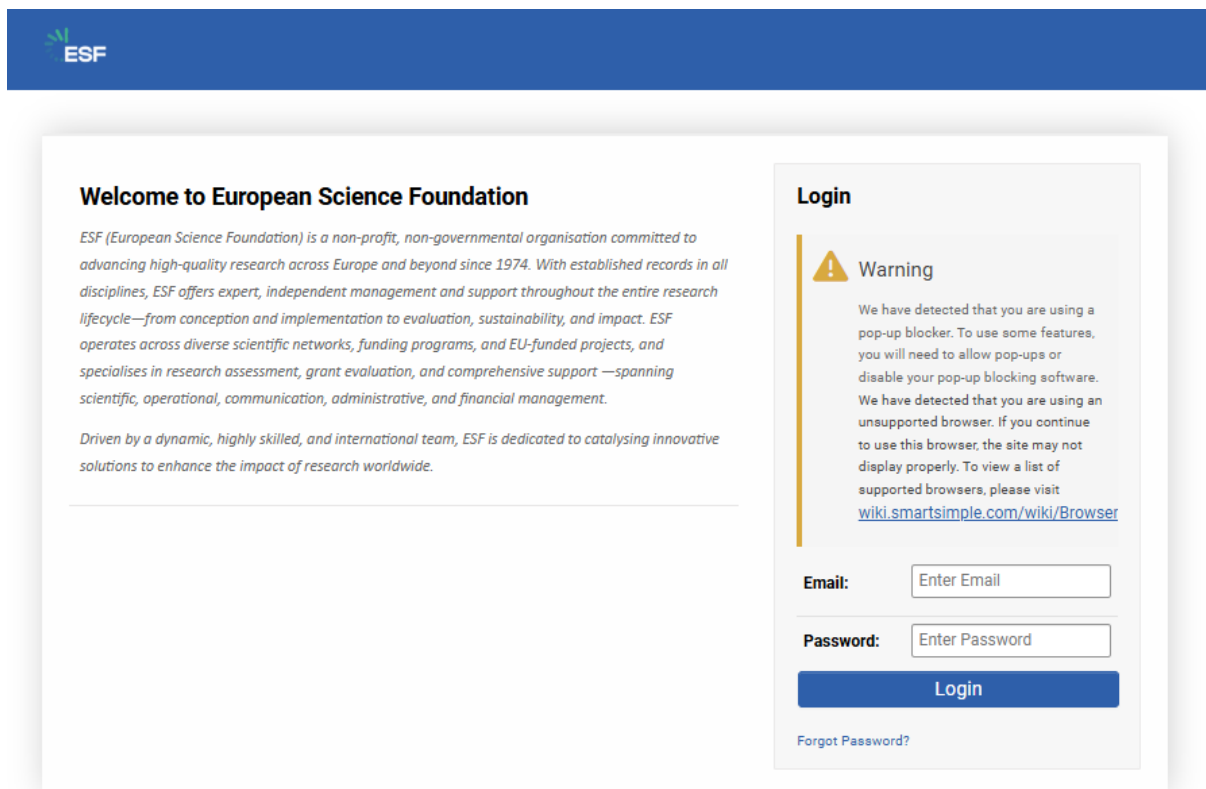
EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call

Annex 2: Technical Guidelines - Platform Guidelines for Applicants

For all correspondence concerning the online submission of your application, please contact EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org

1. Register on the ESF Platform

The ESF has its own platform dedicated to the submission of application: <https://esf.smartsimple.ie>



Welcome to European Science Foundation

ESF (European Science Foundation) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation committed to advancing high-quality research across Europe and beyond since 1974. With established records in all disciplines, ESF offers expert, independent management and support throughout the entire research lifecycle—from conception and implementation to evaluation, sustainability, and impact. ESF operates across diverse scientific networks, funding programs, and EU-funded projects, and specialises in research assessment, grant evaluation, and comprehensive support—spanning scientific, operational, communication, administrative, and financial management.

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Login

Warning

We have detected that you are using a pop-up blocker. To use some features, you will need to allow pop-ups or disable your pop-up blocking software. We have detected that you are using an unsupported browser. If you continue to use this browser, the site may not display properly. To view a list of supported browsers, please visit wiki.smartsimple.com/wiki/Browser

Email:

Password:

Login


[Forgot Password?](#)

- a) You already used this platform in the past: You can directly go to section 2)
- b) You are using this platform for the first time : You need to register first


To register, click on the following link:

https://esf.smartsimple.ie/s_signup.jsp?token=XVtQC1oGYV5ZSxtZXxJXR1JWYUI1H3Rt

Then, please fill in your Contact Information details. Required fields are marked with an asterisk “*”.

 Platform Registration

Contact Information

 Instructions

Required fields are marked with an asterisk "*".

If you have already logged on to our platform to submit an application in the past with the same email address, please login to our platform https://esf.smartsimple.ie/s_Login.jsp.
If you need assistance, please write to esf-panels@esf.org

* Title

* First Name

* Surname

* Email

* Country

--- Select One ---

protected by reCAPTCHA


Privacy · Terms

Submit

Once everything is completed, click on “Submit”.

(!) Make sure that the email address you indicated is correct.

You will land on this page: you can leave it.

 Platform Registration

Registration Complete

Thank you for registering. You will soon receive an email with your login information.

[Login here](#)

After a short while, you should receive a confirmation email, “Platform Registration confirmation”, from esf-panels@esf.org. If you have not received it in your inbox, **please check your spam folder**.

	de	objet	date	taille
	esf-panels@esf.org	*** SPAM *** Platform registration confi...	06/04/20 11:41	7.5 ko

In this email, you will find your login (the email address you have indicated on the Registration Form) and an **activation link**. Click on this link to proceed with the activation of your profile and the creation of your personal password.

Account Activation

New Password:

Confirm Password:

Policy:

- ✖ Password must have at least 8 characters
- ✖ Password must have at least one lowercase letter
- ✖ Password must have at least one uppercase letter
- ✖ Password must have at least one number
- ✖ Password must have at least one special character

protected by reCAPTCHA

Privacy · Terms


Your password is strictly personal and ESF will not have access to it.
(!) Make sure to remember your password.

Click on Submit.

Once done, you will receive an automatic email notifying you the password change. You will receive this email anytime you change your password.

You will then land on the Multi-Factor Authentication Page, and a Temporary Verification Code will be sent to your email. Enter the code on the page.

Multi-Factor Authentication



Verification code sent by email to E*****@esf.org. If you do not see the email, check your junk/spam folder.

Resend Code by Email

Verification Code:



☐ Remember this device

Cancel

Submit

You will finally land on your External Applicant Portal, on the ESF Platform.

ESF External Applicant Portal

Welcome to your portal, MV-test

- Please complete your profile if necessary and accept the agreement. [Click Here](#) You will not be able to finalise your submission unless this step has been completed. For informational purposes, the [ESF's Privacy Policy and Data Protection Policy](#) can be found on our website.
- To start your application, please go to the section "External Open Calls" below and click on "Apply". Once inside the form and in order to create your application, please complete some of the fields and click on "Save Draft". Your application will then be visible in "My Applications" section for editing.

Open Calls

Specified times correspond to Paris (France) time.

1-6 of 6

Type	Call Name	Deadline Date	Action
Fight Kids Cancer	FKC Eol 2025	2025-10-17 at 12:00:00	The call deadline has passed.
AgroServ TNA	AgroServ Transnational/Virtual Access 2025 - Call 4	2025-10-15 at 16:00:00	The call deadline has passed.
King Baudouin Foundation	KBF Lol 2025	2026-01-08 at 17:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC - 2nd wave for Nodes	2026-02-18 at 14:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC Gravity - Inter Project Grants Open Call 1	2026-02-18 at 17:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC Gravity Preparatory Grants Open Call	2026-02-18 at 17:00:00	Apply

The portal has several sections:

- Welcome to your portal: a welcome section with a direct link to your profile,
- External Open Calls: the list of External Open Calls currently opened on our platform,
- My applications and Rebuttals: the list of the applications and rebuttals you submitted on our platform

First, you will need to complete your **profile**.

(!) If your profile is not completed, you will not be able to submit your proposal.

To complete your profile, click on the button "Click Here" on the "Welcome to your portal" section.

Welcome to your portal, MV-test

- Please complete your profile if necessary and accept the agreement.** Click Here You will not be able to access the website.
- To start your application, please go to the section "External Open Calls" below and click on "Apply Applications" section for editing.

Fill in the Contact Information Details. If some mandatory fields are not applicable to you, put N/A (like University, or Department)

Click on "Save Draft" and then "Complete Profile" once it is done.

Please note that once you have completed your profile, it will be locked and you will need to contact EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org to modify it.

2. Submit your Application

Double check your Profile to make sure that it is up to date.

If any change is needed, contact EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org so that the support team can reopen your access to your profile.

Go to the External open Calls Section:

Click on "Apply" next to "EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call".

There might be several calls open at the same time on our platform. Please make sure to choose the correct one.

External Open Calls

Type	Call Name	Deadline Date	Action
Fight Kids Cancer	FKC EoI 2025	2025-10-17 at 12:00:00	The call deadline has passed.
AgroServ TNA	AgroServ Transnational/Virtual Access 2025 - Call 4	2025-10-15 at 16:00:00	The call deadline has passed.
King Baudouin Foundation	KBF Loi 2025	2026-01-08 at 17:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC - 2nd wave for Nodes	2026-02-18 at 14:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC Gravity - Inter Project Grants Open Call 1	2026-02-18 at 17:00:00	Apply
EOSC	EOSC Gravity Preparatory Grants Open Call	2026-02-18 at 17:00:00	Apply

Fill the Application Form

Required fields are marked with an asterisk "*".

(!) When you are filling in your application form, **remember to click on "Save Draft" regularly.** The first time you will click on "Save Draft", you will obtain the reference ID (project Number) for your application:

If you log out and re-login later, you will find your application under "My Applications and Rebuttals" section.

My Applications and Rebuttals

APPLICATIONS (0) REBUTTALS (0) REBUTTALS MISSED DEADLINE (0)

#	Application Type	Project Number
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Finally, when you are ready to submit your application, click on “Submit for review”.
 If you have made any modifications since your last “Save Draft”, you will need to click on “Save Draft” first before submitting your application.

(!) Be careful, once you have submitted your application, you will not be able to modify it anymore!

Once you have submitted your application, the color green on your portal will confirm the submission, and the platform will generate a pdf overview of the fields you have completed that you can download by clicking on “Print Form”.

My Applications and Rebuttals

APPLICATIONS (3) REBUTTALS (0) REBUTTALS MISSED DEADLINE (0)

1-3 of 3

#	Application Type	Project Number	Project Title	Call Name	Edit / View
1	EOSC GRAVITY - Preparatory Projects	25-EOSC-GRV-PREP-001	Test title	EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call	Print Form

You will also receive an email notification confirming your submission.

If you need any help in submitting your application or using the submission platform, please contact EOSC-Gravity-grants@esf.org

EOSC Gravity - Preparatory Grants Open Call

Annex 3: Detailed Payment Schedule

Project starts on the 6th of May with a Mandatory Virtual Kick-Off Meeting

Stage 1 : 6th May – 6th June 2026

20k€ = 40% of the funding - given at the end of the Stage, following the completion of the milestones below:

- Participation to the Mandatory Virtual Kick-Off Meeting on May 6th.
- Submission of a short project plan, including the information on how the applicant expects to meet the minimum requirements to become a Node, including governance, technical readiness, and community engagement sections.

Deadline for the project plan submission: June 6th.

The bank transfer will be done after validation of the project plan by the consortium.

Stage 2: 6th June – 6th September 2026

No funding will be delivered at the end of that stage. The grantee is expected to complete the milestones below:

- A project charter
- A draft presentation for an event showcasing the project results and one potential use case

Stage 3: 6th September – 6th November 2026

30k€ = 60% of the funding - given at the end of the Stage, following the completion of the milestones below:

- A matrix outlining how project partners and the future candidate Node can support the EOSC Academy, including future training activities and curriculum delivery (e.g., mentorship, infrastructure, content development, peer-to-peer exchange of practices)
- Short report of one potential use case (no deployment) presenting how the future candidate Node services or solutions can be onboarded into the EOSC Federation

- Contribution to an event to showcase the project results and one potential use case following the draft plan submitted M4.

Deadline: November 6th.

The bank transfer will be done after reception of the different documents and reports on the platform.



Annex 4: Sub-Grant Agreement

Number XXX- [Sub-Project ACRONYM]

This Agreement (“the Agreement”) for providing financial support to Selected Third Parties, is between the following Parties:

on the one part,

FONDATION EUROPEENNE DE LA SCIENCE (ESF), PIC 999987939, established in QUAI LEZAY MARNESIA 1, STRASBOURG CEDEX 67080, France, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by Nicolas Walter, CEO of ESF. ESF is the Coordinator of EOSC GRAVITY Cascading Calls and FSTP (Grant Agreement N° 101188045), hereinafter referred as the “Contractor”

and

on the other part,

(OFFICIAL NAME OF THE SELECTED THIRD PARTY) (Acronym)

With National ID Number:

PIC:

VAT Number:

Established in : [ADDRESS – STREET, POSTCODE, CITY, COUNTRY],

organised under the laws of: [Country],

duly represented by [Legal Representative], [Legal Representative Position], hereinafter referred to as the Selected Third Parties/Beneficiary.

Hereinafter the “Contractor” and the “Selected Third Parties/Beneficiary” sometimes each individually referred to as “Grantee”, “Party” or collectively as “Parties”.

Have agreed to enter into the Agreement relating to the Action entitled [Sub-project name], hereinafter referred as the [Sub-Project ACRONYM] under the terms and conditions below.



Background information

The EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD (EOSC) Federation will be a collaborative and interoperable ecosystem of EOSC Nodes, data and service providers, research infrastructures, and other stakeholders. It aims to provide a unified and seamless access to research data, tools, and services across Europe, enabling researchers to easily share, access, and analyse data and resources. The EOSC Federation will promote the development of common standards, policies, and interfaces to ensure the interoperability and sustainability of the EOSC services.

The EOSC Gravity project provides funding to support the EOSC Federation by encouraging the creation of EOSC Nodes and inter-project collaboration.

The EOSC Gravity consortium is led by the EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD ASSOCIATION AISBL (EOSC-A), which coordinates key stakeholders in the European research environment and provides insights on overarching themes important for the realisation of EOSC.

The other eight consortium partners are the following: TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET GRAZ (TU GRAZ), FONDATION EUROPEENNE DE LA SCIENCE (ESF), STICHTING EGI (EGI), NARODOWE CENTRUM NAUKI (NCN), ATHINA-EREVNITIKO KENTRO KAINOTOMIAS STIS TECHNOLOGIES TIS PLIROFORIAS, TON EPIKOINONION KAI TIS GNOSIS (ATHENA), TRUST-IT SERVICES SRL (TRUST-IT), PRO M PROFESSZIONALIS MOBILSZOLGALTATO ZARTKORUEN MUKODO RESZVENYTARSASAG (PRO-M) and SWITCH (SWITCH).

ESF, as a member of the Consortium, is signing this agreement on behalf of the Consortium within the framework of the EOSC Gravity project and for the sole purpose of its achievement.

ARTICLE 1. Subject of the agreement

The Beneficiary has been selected through the evaluation process of the EOSC GRAVITY calls to receive a grant which will allow the Beneficiary to implement the proposal submitted in the frame of the EOSC Gravity Preparatory Grants Open Call (Proposal available on Annex 3 of this Agreement).

1. The Agreement sets out the terms and conditions of awarding and paying the grant to the Beneficiary.
2. The grant is awarded for [beneficiary's EOSC GRAVITY], selected in the EOSC GRAVITY Preparatory Grants Open Call
3. The Grant is the aggregated amount payable by ESF to the Beneficiary and includes among others all taxes, transfer costs and other expenses that the Grantee might incur and meet the conditions set out in the Guidelines.
4. Payments made under this Sub-Grant Agreement are not subject to any tax, nor VAT. In case local tax authorities in the Grantee's country may have a different analysis, ESF shall not be responsible for any tax or VAT adjustment to which the Beneficiary is subject related to the payments made under this Grant Agreement and shall not bear the cost of any such adjustment or shortfalls due to such VAT adjustments.
5. The Beneficiary shall be responsible to cover any expenses incurred with regard to the Project and the EOSC GRAVITY Programme that exceed the amount of the Grant.
6. The assistance EOSC GRAVITY Consortium provides to the Beneficiary will be in the form of cash (as a flat rate) and/or services.



ARTICLE 2. Duration and starting date of the project

1. The duration of the whole Project is of **6 months** starting from May 6th 2026.
The Beneficiary will have to participate to general activities common to all the grantees (Kick Off-session, general trainings). The participation to those events will be part of their expected deliverables and KPIs.

ARTICLE 3. Eligibility conditions, conflict of interest

1. By signing the Agreement, the Beneficiary declares that it meets the eligibility conditions for participation in the Programme as defined in the EOSC GRAVITY Preparatory Grants Open Call Guidelines for applicants
2. In particular the Beneficiary confirms that:
 - a) information concerning its legal status provided to the Contractor is correct, complete and up-to-date;
 - b) all the data included in the formal check are true, correct, complete and up to date;
 - c) it has not received any other EU grant for the Project and will give notice of any future EU grants related to this Project awarded to the Beneficiary;
 - d) it has stable and sufficient sources to maintain the activity throughout the action and to provide any counterpart funding necessary and has or will have the necessary resources needed to implement the Project;
 - e) it is not excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of either national or EU law, or by a decision of either national or EU authority;
 - f) it is not bankrupt, being wound up, having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or is not subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures (this applies also to persons with unlimited liability for Beneficiary's debt);
 - g) it is not in breach of social security or tax obligations;
 - h) it is not (or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant) in one of the following situations:
 - I. being guilty of grave professional misconduct, having committed fraud, having links to a criminal organisation, being involved in corruption, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking,
 - II. showing significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision,
 - III. being guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95, iv. being established in another jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin (including the establishment of another entity with this purpose);
 - i) the Project is based on Beneficiary's original works, or the Beneficiary may use the works constituting the basis of the Project and any foreseen developments of such works are free from third party rights/claims, unless stated otherwise.
3. The Beneficiary hereby declares lack of any conflict of interest with any of the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium members and that they will take all measures to prevent any. A conflict of interest means any situation where the impartial and objective nature of the awarding of a grant for the Beneficiary's Project is compromised for reasons related to economic interest, political or national



affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared, direct or indirect interest. The Beneficiary is obliged to inform the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium about any existing or occurring conflict of interest and immediately take all the necessary steps to manage the situation as instructed.

4. If a Beneficiary breach any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be terminated (see Article 20). Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Articles 19-22 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4. Grant administration

1. The grant amount of **50 000€** is **paid as a flat-rate (lump-sum) following the conditions set out in this Agreement and its annexes. The maximum financial contribution to be granted to the Beneficiary shall not exceed this amount in the frame of [Sub-Project ACRONYM] selected in the Preparatory Grants Open Call**
2. The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed from Horizon Europe funds. Under this method, the Beneficiary is not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the cost incurred (e.g. invoices) but is obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the Project in line with the milestones set for the Project.

There are no rules about the eligibility of the costs and there will be no financial reporting, but the costs

- must be in line with beneficiaries' normal practices
- must be reasonable / not excessive
- must be in line with the activities proposed

The lump sum does not release the Beneficiary from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation, in case of audit from the Commission or other official entities (see Article 10).

3. Payment of the individual tranches of the grant to the Beneficiary **depends on the proper implementation of the Project and completion of the agreed milestones/deliverables** and delivery of the agreed documents. See Annex 1 "Sub-Grant Agreement Annex 1_Preparatory Grants_Detailed payment schedule for successful applicants" for more details.
4. Beneficiary acknowledges that the "no double funding" rule applies to the awarded grant. "Double funding" means the situation where the same costs for the same activity are funded twice through the use of public funds. It is a fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget. It is not allowed in any circumstances. The Beneficiary undertakes to follow this rule.
5. The Beneficiary cannot use money received within the EOSC GRAVITY to cover activities other than the ones related to the Project.
6. The maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organization (Project Coordinator or co-applicant) for all EOSC Gravity calls combined (3 calls in total) cannot exceed 100.000 EUR.
7. If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 3) and the grant may be reduced (see Article 21).

ARTICLE 5. Payment schedule

1. The lump sum mentioned above will be paid in the instalments as follows:

STAGE 1 – M1	STAGE 2 - M4	STAGE 3 - M6
--------------	--------------	--------------



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandatory Virtual Kick-Off meeting• Submission of a Project Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Charter Delivery• Submission of draft presentation for a showcase event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery of the project matrix contribution to the EOSC Academy activities• Short report of one potential use case presenting how the future candidate Node services or solutions can be onboarded into the EOSC Federation• Contribution to an event to showcase the project results and one potential use case
40% of the total funding (20k€)		Final Payment, 60% of the total funding (30k€)

See Sub-Grant Agreement Annex 1_Preparatory Grant_Detailed payment schedule

2. Payments will be made in euros. The Beneficiary shall provide a bank account denominated in euros or accepting euros transfer; otherwise, the Beneficiary will bear the currency conversion costs as well as associated banking fees.
3. The grant received by the Beneficiary is owned by the European Commission (EC) until the payment of the balance for the whole EOSC GRAVITY project. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium is a mere holder and manager of the funds.

ARTICLE 6. Bank accounts for payments

1. All payments will be made to the following bank account:

BANK NAME	
Bank address (street name and number, postal code, city, country)	
Name of Account (if different from above name of legal organization)	
BIC/SWIFT CODE	
IBAN	

2. In addition to this Agreement, The Selected Third Party will fill the Third Party Financial Identification Form (FIF) available in Annex 2 and send it to the Contractor. The bank details



will need to be validated by a phone call made on a landline that has been identified by ESF finance team publicly. No validation phone call will be made on private mobile phone.

3. The Selected Third Parties shall complete the FIF in a comprehensive manner and shall notify any changes to the Contractor as soon as it has occurred. The Contractor shall not in any case be liable for any late payment incurred by a change in the financial identification of the Selected Third Parties.
4. Each Selected Third Party will provide a bank account denominated in euros; No payment will be made on bank account that do not accept euros.

ARTICLE 7. Costs of payment transfers

1. The cost of the payment transfers is borne as follows:
 - the Contractor bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank;
 - the Selected Third Party bears the cost of transfers charged by its bank;
 - the Party causing a repetition of a transfer bears all costs of the repeated transfer.

Article 8. Beneficiary's obligations

1. The Beneficiary has full responsibility for implementing the Project in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement and its annexes and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.
2. The Beneficiary is also responsible for:
 - a. Project's proper implementation;
 - b. providing in good time any required documents, milestones or information to the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium, mainly stated in Annex 1;
 - c. informing the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium immediately of any events or circumstances likely to significantly affect or delay the implementation of the Project;
 - d. informing the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium immediately of changes in its legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation that might affect its eligibility status.
 - e. informing the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium immediately of circumstances affecting the decision to award the grant or compliance with requirements under the Agreement.
3. The Beneficiary must provide any information relevant to an evaluation of the impact of the Project. Such evaluation might be run by EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or EC. Providing such information is obligatory, both during up to 6 years after EOSC GRAVITY project ends (31/12/2027), upon request of the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or EC.
4. Collaborate with EOSC GRAVITY in its transversal Dissemination & Communication activities.
5. Grant provided upon this Agreement is funded within Horizon Europe programme, therefore the Beneficiary has certain obligations towards the European Commission (see Article 9-14).

ARTICLE 9. General obligation to inform and keeping records

1. The Beneficiary must provide, during the implementation of the Project and 6 years after EOSC GRAVITY project ends (which is 31/12/2027), upon request of the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or EC, any information requested in order to carry out:
 - a. the verification of proper implementation of the Project by the Beneficiary (including achievement of the agreed milestones, compliance with obligations under the Agreement);
 - b. an evaluation of the impact of the Project;
 - c. statistical analyses and evaluation.



2. The Beneficiary shall make the supporting documentation available upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits or investigations.
3. If there are on-going checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement (including the extension of findings from other grants to this grant), the Beneficiary must keep the records and other supporting documentation until such checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims under the Agreement are resolved.
4. The Beneficiary must keep the original documents. Digital and digitised documents can be considered originals if authorised by the applicable national law. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may accept copies of documents if it considers that they offer a comparable level of assurance.
5. The procedure described in Articles 10 and 11 applies accordingly.

ARTICLE 10. Checks, reviews, audits, and investigations.

1. The Commission may, during the implementation of the Project and/or afterwards, carry out checks/investigation reviews and/or audits concerning the Project to ensure its proper implementation and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement and applicable EU law.
2. Checks/reviews/audits/investigations will be formally notified to the Beneficiary and will be considered to have started on the date of the formal notification.
3. The Beneficiary must provide, within the deadline requested, any information and data related to the Project implementation (including information on the use of resources).
4. All information provided must be accurate, precise, complete and in the format requested, including electronic format. The Commission may also request additional information.
5. Checks/reviews/audits/investigations may be started up to three years after the end of the EOSC GRAVITY project, which is 31/12/2027, plus a possible extension for payments made at the end of the project.
6. The Commission may carry out checks/reviews/audits/investigations directly (using its own staff) or indirectly (using external persons or bodies appointed to do so). The Beneficiary has the right to object to the appointment of such external entities on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.
7. The Beneficiary may be requested to participate in meetings, including with external experts. For on-the-spot checks/reviews/audits/investigations, the Beneficiary must allow access to its sites and premises, including to external persons or bodies, and must ensure that the information requested is readily available.
8. Checks/reviews/audits/investigations (including review reports) are in the language of the Agreement.
9. The Commission may also access the Beneficiary's statutory records.
10. The following bodies may — at any moment during the implementation of the Project and/or afterwards — carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations to establish whether there has been a fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the EU:
 - the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013 and No 2185/96
 - the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
 - the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046. If requested by these bodies, the Beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format).



ARTICLE 11. Checks, reviews, audits, and investigations — EOSC GRAVITY consortium's rights

1. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may, during the implementation of the Project and three years after the end of the EOSC GRAVITY project, which is 31/12/2027, review the proper implementation of the Project and its compliance with the obligations under this Agreement, plus a possible extension for payments made at the end of the project.
2. Proceeding on behalf of the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may be performed by the Consortium Coordinator or other partner indicated by the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium.
3. Article 10 should be applied accordingly.
4. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will formally communicate the review results to the Beneficiary. The Beneficiary may formally respond to the review report within 30 days ('contradictory review procedure').

ARTICLE 12. Consequences of findings in checks, reviews, audits, and investigations —extension of findings

1. Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this Agreement may lead to the reduction of the grant, recovery of undue amounts and termination of the Agreement.
2. Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations may lead to reviews and withdrawal, among other things, of other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension of findings from this grant to other grants').
3. Moreover, findings arising from OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.
4. The EC, OLAF, ECA, EPPO and any other authorised EU or national authority may extend findings from other grants to this grant if the Beneficiary is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant.
5. The Beneficiary will be formally notified of the list of irregularities and actions taken (in particular, the reduction of the maximum grant amount or termination of the Agreement).

ARTICLE 13. Ethics and values

1. The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.
2. The Beneficiary must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities) and take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the Project and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan. They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the Project, including at supervisory and managerial level.
3. If a Beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 23). Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Articles 17-20 of this Agreement.



ARTICLE 14. Confidentiality and security

1. The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the project.
2. If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.
3. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.
4. The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:
 - a. need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and
 - b. are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
5. The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies. It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:
 - a. this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and
 - b. the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
6. The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:
 - a. the disclosing party agrees to release the other party
 - b. the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation
 - c. the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.
7. The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/444 14 and its implementing rules¹).
8. Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.
9. If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 21).

ARTICLE 15. Promoting the project — visibility of EU funding

1. The Beneficiary must promote its funded Project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. The beneficiaries will be encouraged to actively engage with the EOSC GRAVITY Communication team, sharing information that supports a variety of communication efforts.
2. Any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must display the EU emblem and EOSC GRAVITY project logo:



and include the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

¹ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information



“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. Funded within the framework of the EOSC GRAVITY project under grant agreement No 101188045.”

3. The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.
4. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.
5. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.
6. For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.
7. Where applicable (and if provided by the Beneficiary), the granting authority will insert the following information: “© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

ARTICLE 16. Transparency and Public Disclosure Clause

1. Purpose of Disclosure: In the interest of promoting transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of public funds, EOSC GRAVITY shall make specific project details of the Subgrantee publicly available across various repositories.
2. Details Subject to Public Disclosure: The following details related to the Subgrantee's project shall be disclosed:
 - Organisation Name: The official name of the Subgrantee's organisation.
 - Grant Received: The exact amount of funding awarded to the Subgrantee.
 - Dates of Project Execution: The commencement and conclusion dates of the Subgrantee's project.
 - Title of the Project: The official title or name of the Subgrantee's project.
3. Rationale for disclosure: Public disclosure ensures accountability of all subgrantees for the funds they receive and the projects they implement. Transparency in the use of public funds can bolster public confidence in the EC's initiatives and the projects it supports. Making project details public motivates organisations to use funds judiciously and for the intended purposes.
4. Only the details specified in this article will be disclosed. All other information, including but not limited to sensitive data, proprietary information, or intellectual property, shall remain confidential as per Article 17.

ARTICLE 17. Data protection

1. The beneficiaries must process personal data under the Agreement in compliance with the applicable EU, international and national law on data protection (in particular, Regulation 2016/679²).
2. They must ensure that personal data is:
 - a. processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subjects;

² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC ('GDPR') (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).



- b. collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes;
 - c. adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
 - d. accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
 - e. kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed and;
 - f. processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the data.
3. The beneficiaries may grant their personnel access to personal data only if it is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement.
4. The beneficiaries must ensure that the personnel is under a confidentiality obligation. The beneficiaries must inform the persons whose data are transferred to the granting authority and provide them with the Portal Privacy Statement.

ARTICLE 18. Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

1. All outcomes from the Project will solely belong to the Beneficiary.
2. Notwithstanding the above, projects are strongly encouraged to share Results, including documents, source code, and APIs, under a permissive open-source license (like Apache v2.0 or similar) in open access repositories, to the extent possible.
3. The Contractor can access any Result to assess the ongoing activities in the EOSC GRAVITY project, even before its official release.
4. Any project result that is intended to be used in EOSC Academy activities, or other EOSC related activities and events, must be shared under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence 4.0 (CC-BY 4.0) or equivalent.

ARTICLE 19. Liability for damages

1. Liability of the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or an EOSC GRAVITY Consortium Partner:
 - a. the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or any Consortium Partner cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the Beneficiary or third parties as a consequence of implementing the Agreement;
 - b. the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or a Consortium Partner cannot be held liable for any damage caused by the Beneficiary or third parties involved in the Project, as a consequence of implementing the Agreement.
2. Liability of the Beneficiary:
 - a. except in case of force majeure, the beneficiary bears liability and must compensate the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium or a respective Consortium Partner for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation or lack of implementation of the Project in compliance with the Agreement.
3. With the exception of the duty of confidentiality, the Beneficiary's liability for damages is limited to direct loss but does not extend to consequential loss, such as interruptions in production or other operating losses, loss of revenue or profit, or other indirect losses. The Beneficiary's liability is limited to the amount of the grant, provided such damage was not caused by a wilful act or gross negligence.
4. The terms of this Agreement shall not be construed to alter or limit the statutory liability of either Party.
5. The EC is not a Party to this Agreement. Therefore, the EC cannot be held liable for any damage, including gross negligence, caused to the Beneficiary or to third parties as a consequence of implementing the Agreement.



6. The EC cannot be held liable for any damage caused by the Beneficiary or third parties involved in the Project, as a consequence of implementing the Agreement.

ARTICLE 20. Termination of the agreement

1. The granting authority may — during the process, at beneficiary termination, final payment or afterwards — reduce and/or suspend the grant for a beneficiary, if:
 - a. the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed:
 - I. substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or
 - II. serious breach of obligations under this Agreement or during its award (including improper implementation of the action, non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, breach of ethics or security rules (if applicable), etc.), or
 - b. the beneficiary (or a person having powers of representation, decision-making or control, or person essential for the award/implementation of the grant) has committed — in other EU grants awarded to it under similar conditions — systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant (see Article 12).
 - c. If the beneficiary does not provide the corresponding deliverables by the end of each stage. see Annex 1 for more details about the deliverables.
2. Either Party may terminate the Agreement.
3. Beneficiary has the right to withdraw a Project at any point in time, by informing EOSC GRAVITY Consortium. Obligations toward EC remain in force. Further payment of the grant will not be possible.
4. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may terminate the Agreement if:
 - a. Beneficiary no longer meets the eligibility criteria;
 - b. the Project has lost scientific or technological relevance;
 - c. the Beneficiary failed to achieve its milestones or implement ethical recommendations within agreed deadlines without reasonable justification;
 - d. the grant is used by the Beneficiary in violation of the EOSC GRAVITY project and Horizon Europe fundamentals.
5. Before terminating the Agreement, the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will formally notify the Beneficiary:
 - a. informing it of its intention to terminate and the reasons why; and
 - b. inviting him, within 14 days of receiving notification, to submit observations and if applicable, to inform the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium of the measures to ensure compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.
6. If the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium does not receive observations or decides to pursue the procedure despite the observations it has received, it will formally notify the Beneficiary of the termination and the date it will take effect. Otherwise, it will formally notify that the procedure is not continued.
7. The termination will take effect on the day specified in the termination notice.
8. The Beneficiary may not claim damages due to termination by the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium.
9. Termination has no effect on the provisions that normally continue to apply after the end of the Programme and duration of the Agreement.



ARTICLE 21: Rejection of payments

1. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may reject any payments in cases of non-compliance with this agreement and/or failure in the project implementation (i.e., if the Project is not properly implemented, Beneficiary is in serious breach of its obligations under the Agreement or submitted false information or statements - including failure to provide requested information, breach of ethical principles), in particular following checks, reviews, audits or investigations. Rejection of deliverables may lead to grant reduction.
2. Before rejecting the payment, EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will formally notify the Beneficiary of its intention to reduce the grant, the amount it intends to reduce and the reasons why, and will invite it to submit observations within 7 days of receiving such notification, unless deliverables are not being delivered and approved.
3. If the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium does not receive any observations or decides to pursue the reduction despite the observations it has received, it will formally provide notice of the confirmation of the reduction (if applicable, together with the notification of amounts due).
4. If the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium reduces the grant after the payment of the grant, it will calculate the revised final grant amount. If the revised final grant amount for the Beneficiary is lower than the grant paid, the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will recover the difference.

ARTICLE 22. Recovery of undue amounts

1. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will claim back any amount that was unduly paid (it might happen also after the completion of the Project).
2. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will formally notify the Beneficiary of its intention to recover the amount due and the reasons why and will invite it to submit observations within 30 days of receiving such notification.
3. If no observations are submitted or the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium decides to pursue recovery despite the observations it has received, it will formally provide notice of the confirmation of the recovery (together with the notification of amounts due) and the payment deadline.
4. If the payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium will recover the amount by taking legal action in accordance with the relevant national law.
5. The EOSC GRAVITY Consortium may offset the due amount, without the Beneficiary's consent, against any amounts owed to the Beneficiary by ESF.
6. If the payment is not made by the date specified in the debit note, the amount to be recovered will be increased by late-payment interest (from the day following the due date for payment up to and including the date of payment).
7. Partial payments will be first credited against expenses, charges, and late-payment interest and then against the principal.
8. The Beneficiary bears all costs incurred in the recovery process by the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium.

ARTICLE 23. Final provisions

1. Annexes to the Agreement form an integral part of it. In case of any discrepancies between this main agreement and its annexes, the main agreement shall prevail.
2. Amendments to this Agreement and its termination shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorised representative of the Parties.
3. Any modification of the bank account shall be communicated to the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium Coordinator in written form and will have to follow the full FIF validation process.



4. The Beneficiary may not assign any of its claims for payment against the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium to any third party, except with the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium's prior written consent; otherwise, the assignment will be null and void.
5. Beneficiary confirms that all the data included in the formal check are true, correct, complete and up to date. Beneficiary also confirms having a chance to ask questions and bears full legal including criminal responsibility for the false statement.
6. The Beneficiary bears sole responsibility for abidance by its national law, in particular in relation to tax and social security and labour law.
7. By signing the Agreement, the Beneficiary confirms that it has read and understood these conditions and accepts them.



The Agreement enters into force on the day of signature by the EOSC GRAVITY Coordinator Representative or the Beneficiary, whichever is later, with the Agreement's effective date on [start date].

By signing the Agreement, the Beneficiary accepts the grant and agrees to assume responsibility for it and implement it in accordance with this Agreement, including all the rights, obligations, and conditions it sets out. The Beneficiary confirms that all information provided is true, correct and up to date as of the date of signing the Agreement.

The individual signing below hereby represents and warrants that it is duly authorised to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of the named Party and that this Agreement is binding upon the named Party in accordance with its terms.

For the Beneficiary

For the EOSC GRAVITY Consortium

[Date]

[Date]



Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed payment schedule

Annex 2: Financial Identification Form

Annex 3: Beneficiary proposal