

EOSC Federation – Second wave of EOSC Nodes enrolment call

Guidelines for Applicants

Call id: Second Wave of EOSC Nodes enrolment

Call opening: 3rd November 2025

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

Call budget: 0€

Expected duration of projects: 24 months with possible extensions

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

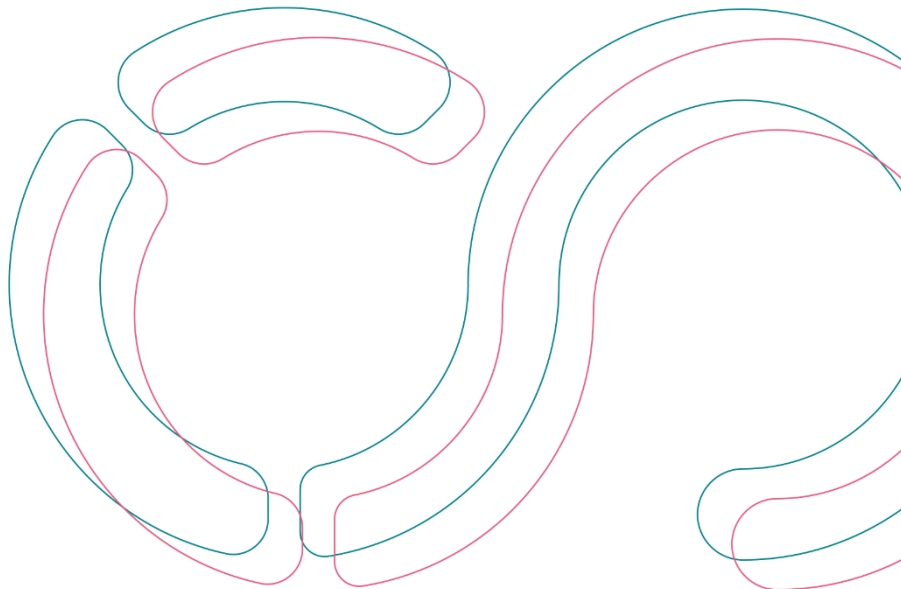
Contact: eosc-nodes-helpdesk@esf.org

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/>



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1 Call Introduction

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide instructions to applicants submitting proposals for the **EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD (EOSC) Federation second wave of EOSC Nodes enrolment call** in the frame of the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation.

These guidelines contain information about the timeline, the eligibility criteria, the assessment 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 enrolment waves or a potential continuous enrolment process.

1.1 Project Description

The EOSC Federation aims to become an open and trusted federation of collaborative, autonomous infrastructures applying agreed, consensus-based EOSC policies and rules of participation, combined into a system of systems to enable European researchers to store, share, process, analyse, and reuse research digital objects (e.g. data, publications and software). The EOSC Federation is conceived as a network of autonomous nodes—the EOSC Nodes—that interact with each other to deliver additional capabilities to users.

The EOSC Federation is currently being built in a **succession of waves**. A first wave of candidate EOSC Nodes joined the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation in March 2025. Based on the experiences of the first wave, a selection procedure was set up by the EOSC Tripartite Governance, which currently provides the overall strategic steering of the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation, to assess the capacity of further candidates and to prepare the second wave of candidate EOSC Nodes.

The EOSC Federation is not in production mode yet. The EOSC EU Node is in production and offering its services since October 2024. During the first wave of building the EOSC Federation, 13 ‘candidate’ EOSC Nodes joined the EU Node with voluntary contributions in building an operational EOSC Federation.

This call provides an opportunity for more organisations to join the efforts of the current 13 ‘candidate Nodes’ and the EU Node in contributing to the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation. As such, they join as ‘candidate Nodes’, with the aim to become EOSC Nodes when the EOSC Federation becomes operational.

With this clarification, in the following text for simplicity of language we will often truncate the terms ‘candidate’ and ‘build-up phase’, e.g., instead of ‘EOSC candidate Node’, ‘enrolling to the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation’, or ‘governance of the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation’ we will use the simpler expressions ‘EOSC Node’, ‘enrolling to the EOSC Federation’ and ‘EOSC Federation governance’.

WHAT: The EOSC Federation consists of multiple “EOSC Nodes” that are interconnected and can collaborate to share and manage scientific data, knowledge, and resources within and

across thematic and geographical research communities. The EOSC Nodes are the entry points for users to the EOSC Federation, with each Node offering its own and possibly third-party services, including data repositories and accessing services (the reader can find more details in the [EOSC Federation Handbook](#)).

HOW: To enable the establishment of such a distributed system, additional EOSC Nodes need to be enrolled into the EOSC Federation. To this end, following this opening (the 'second wave'), it is anticipated that there will be more opportunities in the future for enrolling more EOSC Nodes.

WHY: The Federation serves as a cornerstone in realising the vision of a coordinated, interoperable EOSC. The EOSC Federation consists of multiple Nodes that are interconnected and can collaborate to find and access data and services for research and innovation. This is to help researchers store, share, process, analyse and reuse FAIR research outputs within and across disciplines and borders.

WHO: The EOSC Tripartite Governance oversees the structure, content and operations of the EOSC Federation, including defining the incremental process for the identification and enrolment of EOSC Nodes in the EOSC Federation. The Tripartite Governance is composed of appointed representatives of the three parties – the European Commission, the EOSC Steering Board representing the EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon Europe, and the EOSC Association (EOSC-A). The EOSC Federation Build-up Group is an organisational structure to steer and support the build-up phase and reports to the Tripartite governance. It is composed of the EOSC-A, the EOSC Nodes, and the EOSC EU Node, with the European Commission and the EOSC Steering Board as observers. The EOSC Federation Build-up group will progressively transition to an interim governance established under the EOSC Federation MoU, referenced later in this document.

The Tripartite Governance will determine the suitability of the proposals and the scheduling of those selected. The EOSC Association, with the support of the EOSC Gravity project, is responsible for the execution of the enrolment call.

1.2 Objectives of the Call

The second wave of EOSC Nodes enrolment is part of the process for the identification and enrolment of EOSC Nodes in the EOSC Federation. The procedure set up by the Tripartite Governance assesses the capacity of each applicant and selects the second wave of EOSC Nodes. The applicants shall **submit a project charter supporting their proposal** for the creation of a Node (national, multinational, thematic, or e-infrastructure).

This enrolment call is unfunded and applicants are responsible for funding the resources committed as part of their proposal.

The applicants should be committed to the process of establishment and operation of their proposed EOSC Node for at least **24 months**.

1.3 Challenges to address

Successful proposals are expected to address the following challenges:

- Proposals shall clearly articulate the primary purpose of the proposed Node's participation in the EOSC Federation.

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 1 that is part of the material submitted by the applicant.

- Proposals shall present a strong value proposition that highlights how the project contributes to the EOSC Federation, including benefits to researchers and participating organisations.

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 2.

- Proposals shall enrich the EOSC Federation with state-of-the-art federated resources (services and data).

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 3.

- Proposals shall identify key deliverables and milestones, including potential risks and limitations that may impact the project execution.

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter sections 6, 7, and 9.

1.4 Documents to submit

- **Project Charter**

The main document that needs to be submitted is the project charter: a template is available on the submission platform and in Annex 3. The project charter contents should in particular address the challenges mentioned above (section 1.3) and parts of the general criteria listed below (section 3.1).

- **Endorsement letter/acknowledgement of the corresponding authority/ies**

Proposals for EOSC Nodes of national scope must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement of the corresponding national authority/ies. It must be provided through the application website in the form of a brief letter about the intention of building an EOSC Node of national scope during the build-up phase. The endorsement must include the name of the authority, the name of the legal entity being endorsed, and the name of its application. A contact point for applicants is the representative of the country in the EOSC Steering Board.

Note that more than one country may jointly propose a single Multinational Node. In case of a proposal representing a region comprising multiple countries, it must be accompanied by an endorsement/acknowledgement from each of the countries involved.

If EOSC Nodes of thematic scope or European e-infrastructure EOSC Nodes are formed by collaborations without a legal form, proposals must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement by the members of the collaboration towards the organisation representing the collaboration.

2 Timeline

2.1 Call open for Proposals

- Opening: **03/11/2025**
- Deadline for submission: **18/02/2026, 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 Assessment

- Assessment period: **19/02/2026 - April 2026 (foreseen)**
- Results: The publication of the assessment's final results will be in **April 2026 (foreseen)**. There will not be any prior disclosure of information about the assessment process.

2.3 Next steps for successful Applicants

- Kick-off meeting: **May 2026 (foreseen)**
- Earliest starting date of the projects: **May 2026 (foreseen)**

3 Rules and conditions

3.1 General Criteria

Successful proposals must meet the following criteria:

- #1 Applicants must be interested in enrolling as a separate Node.

Remark: accordingly, this call excludes organisations that are interested **only** to onboard resources to an EOSC Node. On the other hand, EOSC Nodes may at any point in time choose to onboard specific resources to/from other EOSC Nodes.

Remark: to be addressed in the application form available in the submission platform.

- #2 Applicants must have the capacity or have a clear plan to develop the capacity to implement activities that enable the broader represented community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation.

Remark: to fulfil its role as a community gateway to the EOSC Federation, in addition to offering its own resources, the organisation/consortium operating an EOSC Node would need to implement activities that enable the represented community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation. This may include offering the capacity to onboard third-party resources, sharing experiences and practices.

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 8.

- #3 Applicants must agree to comply with the mandatory technical specifications regarding integration in the EOSC Federation, in particular regarding integration in the [EOSC Federated AAI](#) and exposure of their resources through (a) common [EOSC catalogue\(s\)](#).

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 5.

- #4 The resources that applicants aim to make available to EOSC users via an EOSC Node must operate at minimum at Technical Readiness Level (TRL) 7.

Remark: TRLs are defined in the General Annexes of the [Horizon Europe Main Work Programme](#).

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 3.

- #5 Applicants must commit at least five individuals involved for the duration of the build-up phase, including the roles of coordinator, operations officer, a legal officer, a cybersecurity officer and a communications officer. Applicants must specify the names assigned to the aforementioned roles in their application.

Remark: to be addressed in the project charter section 10.

Remark: the build-up phase is an exploratory process whose duration will depend on the overall progress of its volunteer EOSC Nodes. In line with the list of minimal 'requirements for candidate EOSC Nodes' set out by the Tripartite governance, the resources shall be committed for at least 24 months, to ensure also a smooth transition to the operational phase as an EOSC Node.

- #6 Applicants must agree with existing Node(s) or other applicants to align on and propose the development of at least one scientific multi-Node use case or one use case realising a concrete contribution to federating capabilities.

Remarks:

- The proposed use cases must be described in the project charter section 4 that is part of the material submitted by the applicant.
- The other candidate Nodes or applicants involved in the development of proposed use cases must be mentioned in the project charter. In case they include applicants, the relevance of the use case in the application will be valid only if these other applicants also fulfil the application criteria.
- The project charter must include a timeline of realisation of the use cases, that is agreed upon with the involved organisations.

- For use cases leveraging existing Nodes, the applicant needs to include an email from the corresponding Node coordinator (as an appendix to the project charter), where each of the Nodes' coordinators involved confirms the intended scope, objective, and timeline of the use case. If the use case involves a Node not in the Federation, then the referred Node needs to apply during the same Node enrolment call and mention the same use case in the application.
- #7 Applicants are willing to sign a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) on preparing operational integration within the envisaged EOSC Federation.
Remark: to be addressed in the application form available in the submission platform.

3.2 Eligibility Criteria

Proposals must be submitted in **only one** of the below categories:

EOSC Node of national or multinational scope:

- Applicants must represent one country (National EOSC Node) or several countries (Multinational EOSC Node). Each involved country must be an EU member state, or a country associated to Horizon Europe.
- Proposals must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement of the corresponding national authority/ies, see section 1.4.
- Remark: priority in scheduling will be given to EOSC Nodes from countries not represented by the existing EOSC Nodes.

EOSC Node of thematic scope:

- Applicants must represent a multi-country, European collaboration in a specific thematic area.
- Multiple organisations may jointly propose to form a single EOSC Node.
- For collaborations without a legal form, proposals must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement by the members of the collaboration towards the organisation representing the collaboration, see section 1.4. ERICs, EIROs or other forms of legal entities that can act on behalf of the collaboration are excluded from this requirement.
- Remark: priority in scheduling will be given to ERICs, ESFRI Landmarks, European Intergovernmental Research Organisations (Members of the EIROforum) or organisations representing an ESFRI Science Cluster.
- Remark: priority in scheduling will be given to proposals in thematic areas currently not covered by Nodes in the EOSC Federation already.

European e-infrastructure EOSC Node:

- Applicants must represent a multi-country, European research e-infrastructure collaboration.

- Multiple organisations may jointly propose to form a single EOSC Node.
- Remark: priority in scheduling will be given to ESFRI Landmarks or other European collaborations in the Landscape of the Data, Computing & Digital Research Infrastructures domain of the latest ESFRI Landscape Analysis (2024).

3.2.1 Eligible entities

The applicant must be a public-benefit or not-for-profit legal entity established in an EU member state or country associated to Horizon Europe with full capacity to establish legal agreements. The legal entity may represent a consortium in which case it needs to provide written confirmation from the consortium members that the legal entity has their permission to represent them.

3.2.2 Eligible Countries

Applicants must be legally established in one of the following countries:

- EU Member States, including their outermost regions and linked Overseas Countries and Territories;
- Countries fully associated to Horizon Europe at the time of the closing of this call (30/01/2026)¹, i.e.² Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and United Kingdom. Egypt, Morocco and Switzerland can also be included once their association agreements start producing legal effects.

3.3 Financial Support

This enrolment call is unfunded and applicants are responsible for funding the resources committed as part of their proposal.

3.4 Language

English is the only official language for this programme.

Submissions in any language other than English will not be eligible and will not be assessed. 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.

¹ Entities in countries that are associated only to Horizon Europe's Pillar II are not eligible. List of countries associated to Horizon Europe can be found here: [list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](#).

² The conditions for continued participation in the EOSC Federation as EOSC Nodes will be developed by the EOSC Tripartite Governance.

3.5 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**.

3.6 Multiple submissions

Applicants are eligible to reapply in a subsequent call, however only after a minimum elapsed time of 6 months after the announcement of the results of this call.

3.7 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 assessment 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 proposal may have ethical issues, an ethics review will be conducted. Proposals that fail to adequately address ethical concerns or privacy aspects will be rejected.

All applicants must thoroughly review and assess their proposals 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 proposal. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that all applicants take the necessary steps to ensure that their proposals meet the highest ethical standards.

3.8 Data Protection

Data Collection

EOSC GRAVITY requires access to Personal and Entity Data to process and evaluate applications. 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

Submitted data will be forwarded to the technical experts involved (see section 5), parts of the EOSC Federation build-up group and Tripartite Governance, as appropriate for the assessment.

4 Proposal submission process

The submission will be done through SmartSimple, the official online submission platform of the ESF: for a first connection:

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

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

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

The proposal must be submitted on the SmartSimple platform and consists of two parts. The first one consists of filling some administrative details on the platform, and second is to submit the different documents requested in the platform: the proposal itself (project charter) and (potentially) (a) letter(s) of endorsement/acknowledgement.

Explanations on how to submit a proposal via SmartSimple are available in Annex 2.

An editable template of the application form is available on Annex 1 and 3, 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 proposal reception will close on **18/02/26, 17:00 Brussels time**.

4.1 Application preparation

Proposals must answer the challenges presented in section 1.3 as well as the general criteria presented in section 3.1.

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 character limitations.

- Only the submission within the 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, making the system unavailable for a long period).
- It is strongly advised not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal, to anticipate any technical issue that could occur.

4.2 Error in a submitted proposal

If the applicant discovers an error in a submitted proposal or aims to improve the proposal, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may submit a new version. For this purpose, the applicant must contact the helpdesk (EOSC-nodes-helpdesk@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 Assessment Process

The assessment process will take place after the closure of the call and is outlined subsequently.

5.1 General and eligibility criteria screening

Proposals received will be screened for fulfilment of the general and eligibility criteria stated in section 3.

5.2 Pre-Assessment

Proposals, which meet the general and eligibility criteria, will be assessed independently by two experts considering the following aspects, using the scoring definitions given in table 1:

- The overall project charter submitted and how it addresses the challenges described in section 1.3.
- The feasibility and relevance of the use cases described in section 4 of the project charter. This will include an appraisal of the implementation timelines and the added value of the use cases.
- The feasibility of the proposed activities enabling the represented broader community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation addressed in section 8 of the project charter.
- The proposal shall complement and not unduly overlap with what already exists in the EOSC Federation.

The experts will moreover appraise the operational and organisational readiness of the proposals. All the assessment results will be collectively considered by a technical committee. The technical committee is composed by external experts selected via a dedicated call for experts.

The experts will sign a declaration of confidentiality concerning the contents of the proposals they read. In addition, the form which they will use in the assessment carries a declaration of freedom from conflict of interest which they confirm by their signature.

The experts will score collectively the aspects listed above on a scale from 0 to 5. Each proposal will receive a total overall score between 0 and 5 points.

Score	Definition
0	Cannot be assessed - proposal fails to address the aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2 or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1	Poor - the aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2 are inadequately addressed or there are serious weaknesses
2	Fair - the proposal broadly addresses the aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2, but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good - the proposal addresses well the aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good - the proposal addresses very well the aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent - the proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects mentioned in the guidelines section 5.2. Any shortcomings are minor

Table 1. Score definition.

Tripartite decision

The screening and assessment results will be provided to the Tripartite Governance, that will decide on proposals for EOSC Nodes. The Tripartite Governance will thus in particular decide on scheduling (in time) for the enrolment of the proposed EOSC Nodes, taking into account the assessment of the technical committee respecting strategic considerations in parallel. The Tripartite Governance may contact the EOSC Federation build-up group for advice.

The Tripartite Governance may moreover contact applicants, for example in case synergies between different proposals are identified, suggesting modifications to the implementation phase.

Scheduling among others depends on the readiness of the applicant and the existing (or applying) EOSC Nodes to fulfil planned activities, and on the pre-existing workload of the EOSC Nodes.

Organisations, which are positively assessed by the Tripartite Governance, become EOSC Nodes and will be invited to join the EOSC Federation build-up phase.

5.3 Announcement of the results

Each applicant will receive via email the feedback, the suggested schedule and the following steps (if applicable).

6 Contact information

EOSC Federation offers a dedicated support channel available for applicants. Please contact EOSC-nodes-helpdesk@esf.org for any question you might have.

In case of technical questions concerning the submission platform SmartSimple (operated by ESF) please reach out to: EOSC-nodes-helpdesk@esf.org

Requests will receive a response within 5 working days of their submission. While all possible efforts 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 5 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: Project Charter - Template

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Annex 1: Application Template

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 Organisation, Research Provider (including Research Infrastructure), Commercial (e.g. private sector organisations), Other
- Name of the organisation
- Country of the organisation

Please mark the check boxes if appropriate:

- ☐ The applicant confirms to be interested in enrolling as a separate Node ([General criteria #1](#)).
- ☐ The applicant confirms that the applying entity is a public benefit or not-for-profit legal entity established in an EU member state or country associated to Horizon Europe with full capacity to establish legal agreements ([Eligibility criteria](#)).
- ☐ The applicant confirms willingness to sign the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) on preparing operational integration within the envisaged EOSC Federation ([General criteria #7](#)).

Proposals must be submitted in **only one** of the below categories ([Eligibility criteria](#)):

- ☐ EOSC Node of national or multinational scope

By choosing this category, the applicant confirms to represent one or several countries. Please name the represented country/ies: *Free text field*

- ☐ EOSC Node of thematic scope

By choosing this category, the applicant confirms to represent a multi-country, European collaboration in a specific thematic area. Multiple organisations may jointly apply to form a single EOSC Node.

Please name the corresponding thematic area¹: *Free text field*

For collaborations without a legal form, please name other involved members of the collaboration (Name and country of each organisation): *Free text field*

☐ European e-infrastructure EOSC Node

By choosing this category, the applicant confirms to represent a multi-country, European research e-infrastructure collaboration. Multiple organisations may jointly apply to form a single EOSC Node.

For collaborations without a legal form, please name other involved members of the collaboration (Name and country of each organisation): *Free text field*

For named countries and other involved members, an endorsement/acknowledgment may be necessary, see below.

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

Project charter outlines:

[Download example to fill in.](#)

Endorsement/acknowledgement of the corresponding authority/ies

In case of EOSC Nodes of national scope, applications must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement of the corresponding national authority/ies.

Note that more than one country may jointly apply for a single multinational Node. In case of an application representing a region comprising multiple countries, it must be accompanied by an endorsement/acknowledgement for each of the countries involved.

In case of EOSC Nodes of thematic scope or European e-infrastructure EOSC Nodes formed by collaborations without a legal form, applications must be accompanied by a written endorsement/acknowledgement by the members of the collaboration towards the organisation representing the collaboration. ERICs, EIROs or other forms of legal entities that can act on behalf of the collaboration are excluded from this requirement.

[Give option to upload pdf.](#)

Additional supporting material

Additional supporting material not reported anywhere else, which can help with the evaluation of the application.

max. 300 words

¹ If possible, please name the corresponding thematic area in the ESFRI Landscape Analysis (2024), being either Energy, Environment, Health & Food, Physical Sciences & Engineering, Social Sciences & Humanities or – if not within the next category of a European e-infrastructure EOSC Node - Data, Computing & Digital Research Infrastructures.

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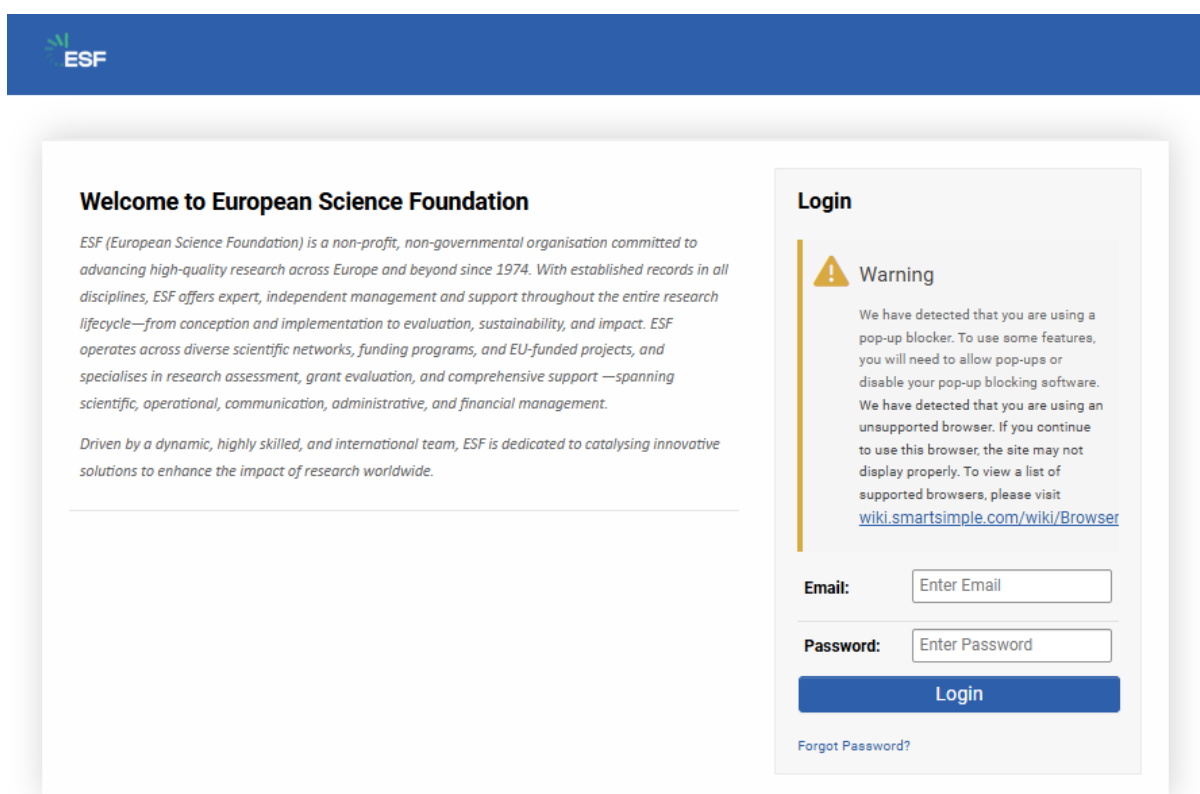
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Annex 2: Technical Guidelines - Platform Guidelines for Applicants

For all correspondence concerning the online submission of your application, please contact eosc-nodes-helpdesk@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

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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-nodes-helpdesk@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-nodes-helpdesk@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 - 2nd wave for Nodes".

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 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

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

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 (2)

REBUTTALS (0)

REBUTTALS MISSED DEADLINE (0)

1-2 of 2

<>

#	Application Type	Project Number	Project Title	Call Name	Edit / View
1	EOSC Nodes - 2	25-EOSC-NODES-001	Test title	EOSC Federation - Second wave of EOSC Nodes enrolment call	<div>Print Form</div>

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-nodes-helpdesk@esf.org



Organisation

Project Charter

Project name

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Maximum 300 words.

This section should clearly articulate the primary purpose of your organisation's participation in the EOSC Federation. Highlight how your organisation's activities will support the Federation's overarching mission to enable Open Science, foster collaboration, and facilitate seamless access to FAIR data and services across disciplines and borders. Define the project scope, main goal, needs addressed and key benefits. Include specific outputs and describe which resources will be made available to the Federation, Node core functions and exchanges.

Clarify the geographic, thematic, disciplinary, or technical scope of your organisation's activities. Describe how your organisation will contribute to the EOSC ecosystem, such as by providing high-value FAIR data, EOSC interoperability framework development, technical infrastructure, research services, supporting training programs or developing standards, and community coordination.

2. VALUE PROPOSITION

Maximum 1 page.

What is the value proposition of your organisation to the EOSC Federation? Identify specific challenges or gaps in the EOSC ecosystem that your organisation aims to address by joining the Federation (e.g., lack of data hosting, integrating federating capabilities, need for specialised computing capabilities, interoperability framework development, cross-discipline scientific use cases/workflows). Who are the beneficiaries of your organisation's contribution to the EOSC Federation such as Research Institutions and Universities, public sector bodies, research user community, citizens and society.

Clearly define the needs addressed, key benefits, target user audiences (e.g., researchers, institutions, policymakers, private sector) and how your organisation will better meet their needs as part of the Federation. What unique capabilities does your organisation offer? Highlight specialised infrastructure, tools, expertise, or geographical focus that differentiates your organisation from others. Any links to other European Common Data Spaces should be mentioned.

3. REPOSITORIES AND SERVICES DELIVERED

Maximum 1 page.

Describe the repositories/services (core functions, exchanges) to be made available by the new Node. Include the access policies for these repositories/services (e.g., specify the type of users who can access them: are they from your organisation only or from your country/discipline only or European-wide?).

Describe whether you intend to use or complement already existing federated capabilities or whether these services are a new addition to the Federation capabilities. See the EOSC Federation Handbook for details.

The resources made available to EOSC users via an EOSC Node must operate at minimum at Technical Readiness Level (TRL) 7 (self-assessment). (General criteria #4)

Service ID	Service Description	Access Policies to the Service	Federation Contributions & Value to Users	TRL

4. USE CASES

Maximum 3 pages.

Propose the development of at least one scientific multi-Node use case or one use case realising a concrete contribution to the federating capabilities. (General criteria #6)

This section should define the expected use cases that will be delivered to the users and to the organisations participating in building the EOSC Federation. Use cases represent the high-level capabilities that are critical to delivering the expected benefits to stakeholders and users. Use cases should demonstrate the added value of the EOSC Federation, for example developing multi-node scientific workflows, scaling service provision, sharing common capabilities, etc.

At this stage, use case descriptions should remain high-level, focusing on the capabilities required and their purpose, rather than the technical details of implementation. These features will be further detailed as the project progresses, with a focus on how they will be implemented by the project team. A use case may also involve more than one participating organisation. Identify any other Nodes involved in the use case.

Include a timeline of realisation of the use cases, that is agreed upon with the involved organisations. In addition, for each of the Nodes listed in column "List any other Nodes involved", include an email from the corresponding Node coordinator (as an appendix to the project charter), where each of the Nodes' coordinators involved confirms the intended scope, objective, and timeline of the use case.

Use Case ID	Use Case Description	Federation Contributions & Value to Users	List of the participating organisations	List any other Nodes involved	Timeline of realisation of the use case

In Scope

This section should identify what it is considered as in scope for the project, i.e., the outputs that the project WILL deliver and which form the solution which addresses the current situation (problem, need or opportunity).

Clearly define the activities, services, and deliverables that are included by your contribution to the EOSC Federation. Focus on what your organisation will actively deliver and support.

The resources made available to EOSC users via an EOSC Node must operate at minimum at TRL 7 (self-assessment).

Stakeholder Support: *Detail the types of users and stakeholders your Node is designed to support (e.g., specific research domains, universities, or SMEs).*

Integration: *Highlight integration efforts with EOSC services and other Nodes, including interoperability standards and FAIR principles.*

Out of Scope

This section should identify what it is considered as out of scope for the project, i.e., that the project will NOT deliver during the build-up phase (and beyond).

Specify what your Node will not include to avoid confusion and manage stakeholder expectations. This is essential to prevent scope creep.

Examples include:

Excluded Activities: *Identify specific services, activities, or tools that your organisation will not be responsible for.*

Limitations: Highlight any limitations in the scope of support, geographic reach, or target audiences.

Dependencies: Identify activities that are expected to be handled by other EOSC Nodes or external partners.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Maximum 2 pages.

Show how the organisation or consortium plans to meet the minimum requirements to become a Node, including governance and technical readiness, in particular integration in the [EOSC Federated AAI](#) and exposure of their resources through the common [EOSC catalogue](#). Explain how the Node Core Capabilities will be implemented.

Please start with a sentence confirming to agree to comply with the mandatory technical specifications regarding integration in the EOSC Federation. (*General criteria #3, 50 words.*)

6. EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES & KEY RISKS

Maximum 1 page.

This section should describe any limitations, risks or restrictions that affect how the project can be managed and executed. These constraints could come from various sources — internal organisational factors, external environments, or specific project requirements such as EOSC EU Node dependencies — and may influence decisions on resources, timeline, technology, and scope. Identifying these constraints early on ensures that the project team can plan accordingly and address potential challenges proactively. Also list decisions and compliance related risks. Mention risks that arise both from the organisation as well as from the external (to the project or/and organisation) environments.

In the case where a separate document does not exist, then you can also include information related to security risks, document management risks, data protection risks, or other.

External Dependencies & Risks	Actions / mitigations measures	Deadline

7. CONTRIBUTIONS [DELIVERABLES (INCLUDING DOCUMENTATION)]

Maximum 2 pages.

This section should identify the deliverables of the project and their respective contributors (where there is more than one) within the organisation. Deliverables can be tangible (such as documentation, software code, APIs) or intangible outputs created during the project. These deliverables are intended to be delivered to the project owner organisation. It is important to note that the deliverables may be produced by different partners within the organisation, each contributing specific components or outputs as part of the overall project.

Deliverable ID	Deliverable Name	Responsible	Deadline

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maximum 1 page.

Describe how the organisation/consortium operating an EOSC Node intends to implement activities that enable the represented community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation, which may include offering the capacity to onboard third-party resources. Define how the project will use the lessons learned from the current wave of Nodes.

Please start with a short paragraph confirming the capacity or the clear plan to develop the capacity to implement activities that enable the broader represented community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation. (General criteria #2, 100 words.)

9. TIMING AND MILESTONES

Maximum 1 page.

This section should list the important project points in time of the project lifecycle (i.e., milestones) for events or project deliverables. The list can include an indication regarding the foreseen timing of the repositories/services made available, the major project phases (e.g., the PM phases of Initiating, Planning, Executing, Closing), as well as both project and project management deliverables (e.g., the Project Work Plan and the date it's expected to be finalised).

After deployment of a service, indicate when documentation explaining the service to users and or administrators will be made available.

ID	Milestone Description	Target Delivery Date

10. CONTACTS

Maximum 300 words.

Describe your organisational structure of the project team with roles and responsibilities, and resources involved.

Applicants must commit at least five individuals involved for the duration of the build-up phase, including the roles of coordinator, operations officer, a legal officer, a cybersecurity officer and a communications officer (General criteria #5). Please start with a sentence explaining how many individuals are involved and assign names to all roles in the subsequent table.

Role	Name	Email
Coordinator		
Operations Officer		

EOSC Federation Build-Up Phase Project Charter:

Project name

Cybersecurity Officer		
Legal Officer		
Communications Officer		