

Open calls to grow the EOSC Federation: FAQ

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This document is regularly updated

Table of contents

1 ELIGIBILITY	4
1.1 What is an affiliated entity? (of the EOSC Gravity consortium partners, or others)	4
1.2 What is the difference between a Potential Candidate Node, and EOSC Candidate Node and an EOSC Node?	4
1.3 Do I need to be a member of EOSC-A to apply to the calls?	4
1.4 Can I apply to the evaluators call and to the other calls?	4
1.5 Is a private digital preservation vendor eligible to apply as a thematic Node for tripartite governance?	5
1.6 Can the same organisation apply for the enrolment call? In other terms, can the same organisation simultaneously apply to become a National Node and a thematic Node?	5
1.7 Does applying to the enrolment call limit participation in the other two calls?..	5
1.8 Will there be a limited number of applications that will be approved in this wave? If so, how many?	5
2 APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	5
2.1 Inter-project grants	5
2.1.1 How much support, if any, is required from existing Nodes? (Inter-Project Call)	5
2.1.2 Does the endorsement have to come from an existing Node?	6
2.1.3 Can a Candidate Node endorse multiple inter-project applications?	6
2.1.4 When we onboard new services, does it mean we're talking only about national Nodes or other types of Nodes as well?	6
2.1.5 How broad is the definition of 'services' for this call?	6
2.1.6 What level of maturity is expected for the services onboarded through the inter-project call?	6
2.1.7 Can the outcome be a use case that has the potential to develop into a service? In short, can both aspects be included?	6
2.2 Preparatory grants	6
2.2.1 If I apply to the preparatory call, am I obliged to apply to a future wave of Nodes enrolment?.....	6
2.2.2 On the application form: should the answer relate to the 6 months project itself, or to the Node that would be developed?	7
2.2.3 On the application form: What is the correct focus of the section on scalability and sustainability?	7
2.3 Enrolment call of the EOSC Tripartite Governance.....	7

2.3.1	Are there more technical requirements beyond the ones stated in the call to enrol as a Node?	7
2.3.2	Where can I find the Memorandum of Understanding on Preparing Operational Integration within the Envisaged EOSC Federation?	7
2.3.3	How much working time is requested for the 5 people (roles) needed?	7
2.3.4	What is the build-up phase and how long does it last?	7
2.3.5	What is a Node? One or more (virtual) machines?	8
2.3.6	Is there any kind of prioritisation concerning the country covering of the national Nodes?	8
2.3.7	What does a Node have to provide in terms of HW and Networking?	8
2.3.8	Is there any template for the endorsement letter ?	8
2.4	All	8
2.4.1	Can organisations apply to both the enrolment call and the preparatory call?	8
2.4.2	What is the maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organization?	9
2.4.3	Is having a consortium mandatory to apply to the EOSC Gravity calls?	9
2.4.4	If I am already enrolled as an EOSC Node, can I apply to the Gravity calls?	9
2.4.5	Do I need to distribute the funding in a particular way? Should I justify how I use the funding?	9
2.4.6	Where can I find more information on the evaluation criteria of the 3 calls?	10
2.4.7	Is there a minimum number of partners for one application?	10
3	TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ESF PLATFORM	10
3.1	Is there a deadline for creating an account?	10
4	MILESTONES ONCE SELECTED	10
4.1	What is expected at the showcase event?	10
5	OTHER	10
5.1	What is the EOSC Academy?	10
5.2	Is there a tentative schedule for the 2nd inter-project call?	10

1 Eligibility

1.1 What is an affiliated entity? (of the EOSC Gravity consortium partners, or others)

An Affiliated Entity is a legal entity with a legal or capital link to another entity. This legal or capital link may involve relationships such as parent, subsidiary, or sister companies, or ongoing collaboration agreements (but beyond the case of a specific Horizon Europe related project).

Typical examples:

- Parent/daughter/sister companies,
- University spin-offs,
- Permanent legal structures (e.g., associations and their members).

1.2 What is the difference between a Potential Candidate Node, and EOSC Candidate Node and an EOSC Node?

The Federation is currently under construction. We currently have 13 'Candidate Nodes' (the list is available [here](#)) 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.

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'.

1.3 Do I need to be a member of EOSC-A to apply to the calls?

No, this is not a compulsory criterion.

1.4 Can I apply to the evaluators call and to the other calls?

If you applied to one of the EOSC Gravity Calls, you will be considered as non-eligible to be an evaluator for this specific call, as this will represent a conflict of interest.

1.5 Is a private digital preservation vendor eligible to apply as a thematic Node for tripartite governance?

Only public-benefit or not-for-profit legal entities can apply to form a Federation Node, including thematic and e-infrastructure Nodes. However, a private vendor may onboard services to a Node within the Federation by having secured written endorsement from at least one of the existing Nodes that is willing to take responsibility for them and by adhering to the onboarding guidelines for third-party resource providers (basic guidelines exist at the federation level and may be complemented by Node specific guidelines).

1.6 Can the same organisation apply for the enrolment call? In other terms, can the same organisation simultaneously apply to become a National Node and a thematic Node?

Multiple submissions are allowed for this call, if the same entity wants to apply to become several types of Nodes though the criteria for selection are different (e.g. a thematic Node should have a European scope).

1.7 Does applying to the enrolment call limit participation in the other two calls?

Applicants to the enrolment call can apply to the inter-project call. Nevertheless, an application submitted to the enrolment call would withdraw an application submitted by the same entity to the preparatory call.

1.8 Will there be a limited number of applications that will be approved in this wave? If so, how many?

No, there is no limitation for this 2nd wave of enrolment. Be reminded that the applications that pass the eligibility criteria and are selected will be sequenced in time, they are not expected to start deployment activities at the same time.

2 Application requirements

2.1 Inter-project grants

2.1.1 How much support, if any, is required from existing Nodes? (Inter-Project Call)

Projects seeking to deploy a service or use case need to identify, and provide written endorsement from, a suitable host from the list of Nodes that have already been established (i.e., the list of 13 Candidate Nodes + EOSC EU Node). Endorsement must be provided through the application website in the form of an email from the coordinator

of each of the Nodes involved, confirming the intended scope, objectives, and timeline of the use case/Service Onboarding.

A list of the existing Nodes is available [here](#).

2.1.2 Does the endorsement have to come from an existing Node?

Yes, grant applicants must solicit written endorsement from an already established (existing, not prospective at the time of proposal submission) Node (on providing endorsement, see above).

2.1.3 Can a Candidate Node endorse multiple inter-project applications?

Yes.

2.1.4 When we onboard new services, does it mean we're talking only about national Nodes or other types of Nodes as well?

The onboarding of new services can benefit any type of Nodes.

2.1.5 How broad is the definition of 'services' for this call?

The definition of services in the context of this call is broad, including (but not limited to) technical research services, data platforms, data repositories, workflow tools, training services, interoperability components, use-cases and analytical and visualisation tools. A more comprehensive list of services and resources can be found in the EOSC Federation Handbook.

2.1.6 What level of maturity is expected for the services onboarded through the inter-project call?

It must be at least TRL 7.

2.1.7 Can the outcome be a use case that has the potential to develop into a service? In short, can both aspects be included?

Yes, both aspects can be included in the application.

2.2 Preparatory grants

2.2.1 If I apply to the preparatory call, am I obliged to apply to a future wave of Nodes enrolment?

The main objective of the preparatory call is to prepare the project charter in order to apply to a future wave of Nodes. The programme is not forcing any entities to apply to an enrolment wave, but applications to the preparatory call without the intention to apply to a future enrolment wave have a very low chance of being funded.

Successful applications to the preparatory call can apply to the third enrolment wave but also to subsequent waves.

2.2.2 On the application form: should the answer relate to the 6 months project itself, or to the Node that would be developed?

It is understood that the applicant cannot yet know what the full contents of the project charter will be and hence the focus should be on the steps the applicant will take to prepare the project charter, which communities they will consult during the process etc.

2.2.3 On the application form: What is the correct focus of the section on scalability and sustainability?

It is understood that the applicant cannot yet know what the full contents of the project charter will be and hence the focus should be on the steps you will take to prepare the project charter, which communities you will consult during the process etc.

Consider which community and governmental bodies you will engage with to deploy and operate what will be described in your project charter.

2.3 Enrolment call of the EOSC Tripartite Governance

2.3.1 Are there more technical requirements beyond the ones stated in the call to enrol as a Node?

The ones given in the call text are valid as of today; however, further technical requirements may be introduced at a later stage, for example if additional federating capabilities are classed as mandatory for all Nodes.

2.3.2 Where can I find the Memorandum of Understanding on Preparing Operational Integration within the Envisaged EOSC Federation?

The Memorandum of Understanding on Preparing Operational Integration within the Envisaged EOSC Federation can be [downloaded here](#).

2.3.3 How much working time is requested for the 5 people (roles) needed?

These are not necessarily full-time positions. The stated time should be realistic and be able to fulfil the role requirements. The Node coordinator and operations manager role do represent significant effort with regular participation in meetings dedicated to federation activities. In response to a recent survey of the first wave Nodes, most Nodes said they had underestimated the effort required to plan, deploy and operate a Node.

2.3.4 What is the build-up phase and how long does it last?

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.

2.3.5 What is a Node? One or more (virtual) machines?

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](#)).

2.3.6 Is there any kind of prioritisation concerning the country covering of the national Nodes?

Priority in scheduling will be given to EOSC Nodes from countries not represented by the existing EOSC Nodes.

2.3.7 What does a Node have to provide in terms of HW and Networking?

There are no specific requirements other than ensuring the underlying infrastructure is capable of supporting the resources proposed by the Node at the stated technical readiness level (i.e. TRL 7 or above) and interoperating with the mandatory technical capabilities.

2.3.8 Is there any template for the endorsement letter ?

There is no template provided. The letter should be 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.

Be clear about the Lead organisation name and contact details, the Coordinator name (point of contact) with contact details, the Cooperating organisations (co-applicants), the Proposed Candidate EOSC Node name and ensure that the signatures contain the following information: Signatures: date, place, name, organisation, position for all actors involved including the national authority

2.4 All

2.4.1 Can organisations apply to both the enrolment call and the preparatory call?

A submitted application to the enrolment call would withdraw an application submitted by the same entity for the preparatory call.

2.4.2 What is the maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organization?

The EOSC enrolment call is not funded.

The maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organisation for all EOSC Gravity calls combined (3 calls in total: one preparatory call, and 2 inter-project calls) cannot exceed 100.000 EUR.

The maximum amount of funding that can be granted to a single organisation for the EOSC Gravity Inter-Project Calls (2 calls in total) cannot exceed 50.000 EUR

- **Example 1:** Entity 1 applies and is selected for the Preparatory Call → Funding = 50k€; Entity 1 also applies and is selected for the Inter-Project Call 1 → Funding = 50k€. As a consequence, the limit of 100k reached, Entity 1 cannot apply for Inter-Project Call 2.
- **Example 2:** Entity 1 doesn't apply to the preparatory Call, but applies and is selected for the Inter-Project Call 1 → Funding = 50k€. As a consequence, the limit of 50 k€ reached for Inter-Project, Entity 1 cannot apply for Inter-Project Call 2.
- **Example 3:** Entity 1 doesn't apply to the preparatory Call, but applies as part of a consortium and request 20k€ in the budget breakdown + the project is selected for the Inter-Project Call → Funding = 20k€. As a consequence, Entity 1 can apply for Inter-Project Call 2 OR for a SECOND APPLICATION for C1 as part of a Consortium and request up to 30 k€.
- **Example 4:** Entity 1 applies and is selected for the Preparatory Call → Funding = 50k€. Entity doesn't apply for Inter-Project Call 1. As a consequence, Entity can apply for Inter-Project Call 2 and request up to 50 k€

2.4.3 Is having a consortium mandatory to apply to the EOSC Gravity calls?

No, you can apply as a single entity.

2.4.4 If I am already enrolled as an EOSC Node, can I apply to the Gravity calls?

You can apply to the EOSSC Gravity inter-project call.

2.4.5 Do I need to distribute the funding in a particular way? Should I justify how I use the funding?

The funding is provided as a lump-sum, upon delivery of the expected milestones. EOSC Gravity won't request any financial reports during the project. Nevertheless, a budget breakdown will have to be presented during the application phase, in order to justify how the funding is planned to be used.

2.4.6 Where can I find more information on the evaluation criteria of the 3 calls?

For information on the guidelines for applicants for each call, go to the section "Proposal Evaluation and Selection Process" and to "Pre-Assessment". There, you will find more details about the evaluation criteria.

2.4.7 Is there a minimum number of partners for one application?

No, an application can be submitted by a sole entity.

3 Technical questions about the ESF platform

3.1 Is there a deadline for creating an account?

No, you can create an account and submit an application on the day of the deadline, even if we recommend to do it before to avoid last minute technical issues.

4 Milestones once selected

4.1 What is expected at the showcase event?

Inter-project calls: The showcasing event is a workshop towards the end of the funding period (i.e., M6) where projects are expected to present their goals and how these were achieved. More specifically, both projects seeking to deploy use cases with a Node or seeking to pilot the onboarding of a new service into the Federation will be expected to present a demo at the workshop.

Preparatory grants: The showcasing event is a workshop towards the end of the funded projects (i.e., M6) where funded projects are expected to present their goals and demonstrate how these have been achieved. The event also serves to highlight how project results will contribute to the EOSC Federation and to showcase one potential use case.

5 Other

5.1 What is the EOSC Academy?

The EOSC Academy is under construction. It will ensure an informed community has the expertise to foster EOSC-related activities at national and institutional levels by mutual learning and knowledge sharing.

5.2 Is there a tentative schedule for the 2nd inter-project call?

There is no precise schedule for this call yet. The plan is to publish it mid-2026.