

The EOSC Association calls for a distinct Work Programme-based Partnership for EOSC in FP10

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On behalf of its more than 250 Member and Observer organisations, the EOSC Association (EOSC-A) has established a common position on EOSC's role in the EU's 10th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10). Grounded in EOSC's uniquely strategic cross-cutting importance to FP10 objectives and the Union's political agenda, **EOSC-A calls for a distinct Work Programme-based Partnership for EOSC that includes EOSC-A as an equal Partner in its Tripartite governance.** This common position recognises that EOSC-A is the designated voice of a community that has been mobilised into a European-wide cooperation of researchers, service providers, research funders, research infrastructures, and research-performing organisations that collectively have the "potential to [make EOSC] the most generally used infrastructure in Europe"¹.

Value proposition for EOSC

As the European Data Space for Research and Innovation, **EOSC secures Europe's sovereignty over research data, enables a thriving AI and innovation ecosystem, increases resilience in research, strengthens the Single Market for knowledge and innovation, and ensures that European values remain the foundation of global collaborative science.** As a major initiative of the EU's research and digital agendas, EOSC aims to transform Europe's research data ecosystem towards a trusted, resilient, and sovereign common space of high-quality, FAIR research data and related services. EOSC is not simply aligned with EU ambitions, but, as the evolving EU policy landscape has made explicit, is indispensable to delivering on them.

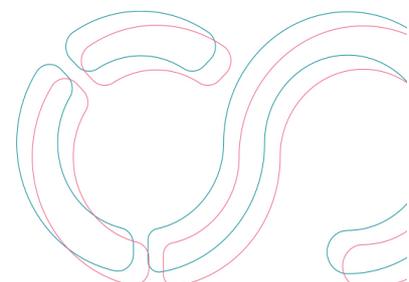
EOSC underpins Europe's competitiveness and innovation agenda as described in the European Competitiveness Compass and the European Research Area Policy Agenda for 2025-2027. EOSC is also anchored in the European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures, the Apply AI Strategy, the European AI in Science Strategy, and the European Data Union Strategy, a position reinforced by the policy recommendations coming from the Letta report, the Draghi report, and the Heitor report on FP10².

A distinct Work Programme-based Partnership with EOSC-A as an equal partner in the Tripartite

EOSC-A considers a distinct Work Programme-based Partnership, with EOSC-A as an equal partner within a Tripartite governance, as the preferred instrument for EOSC under FP10. Such a Partnership is vital to ensure the long-term sustainability, governance, and funding of EOSC, **including the coordinated support needed across European, national, and provider levels to maintain the steady growth of the EOSC Federation during its build-up phase and beyond.** As the current co-programmed Partnership model will no longer be available, a transition to a Work Programme-based Partnership dedicated to the continued development of EOSC and the EOSC Federation offers the most appropriate solution. It is also the most pragmatic solution, arriving at a point of great momentum across the EOSC initiative, providing long-term secured funding, a distinct Work Programme, and a balanced governance structure with defined responsibilities for strategic steering

¹ Heitor et al., [Align, act, accelerate: Research, technology and innovation to boost European competitiveness](#)

² For a full elaboration of EOSC's role in these strategy and policy documents, together with their citations, please see the EOSC Tripartite's, [paper citation forthcoming].



and operational coordination. A distinct Joint Undertaking (JU) could be explored as an alternative option; however, establishing a JU in the short term may not be realistic for EOSC, and should therefore be considered a way for EOSC to evolve beyond FP10 in parallel to other models available in the future.

The strategic tripartite steering of the Partnership by the European Commission and the participating states must include EOSC-A as an equal partner based on its representativeness, strategic and operational responsibility, and indispensable role in ensuring the uptake and impact of EOSC and the EOSC Federation. The EOSC Federation, launched under the governance of the Tripartite, is a new strategic asset of Europe’s research, innovation, and digital sovereignty agenda. The groundswell of community effort that has built the Federation’s EOSC Nodes is the reward for EOSC-A’s mobilisation and coordination of EOSC’s “coalition of the doers”. Continued coordination by EOSC-A as a neutral broker serving as the trusted voice of the community will likewise prove essential to attracting the critical mass of users that will ensure the Federation meets its potential.

Maintaining a tripartite model that includes EOSC-A as an equal partner **will serve to capitalise the investments made over two framework programmes that have culminated in the successful alignment of participating states’ national policies and investments to deliver the EOSC Federation.** EOSC-A’s role as representative of the research community on policy and strategic priorities that concern EOSC remains the best guarantor of EOSC’s reach and uptake across the R&I ecosystem. Likewise, coordinating the Federation requires the sustained fulfilment of various roles, including the implementation of governance structures and decision-making processes, vigorous engagement of current and future EOSC Nodes, compliance and framework management—including documentation, legal and policy implementation—global promotion and outreach, and the continuous monitoring and reporting necessary to maintain strategic direction. In the absence of a stable, distinct and equally weighted Partnership framework, there is significant risk of fragmentation and loss of momentum in the community effort to build-up of the EOSC Federation and its user base, a potential reversal that would directly undermine Europe’s strategic position.

The central role of EOSC in the portfolio of Partnerships under FP10

EOSC should be established as a distinct Partnership among the FP10 portfolio of Partnerships, reflecting its strategic importance for Europe’s research and innovation ecosystem. In its designated role as this ecosystem’s cross-cutting Common European Data Space, EOSC occupies a unique position that is reinforced by its corresponding status as the sole cross-Pillar Partnership established under the current Horizon Europe. Consequently, it is our position that EOSC should continue in this role, acting as a unifying layer across FP10’s sectoral and thematic Partnerships by supporting them in implementing coherent strategies for research data management.

EOSC is a foundational socio-technical infrastructure upon which European researchers and policy-makers will build a trusted, secure and sovereign ecosystem for data, services, and infrastructures. The 14 first-wave EOSC Nodes stand as the proto-embodiment of the long-anticipated Web of FAIR data and services enabling critical European data infrastructure for health, energy, agriculture, finance, industry, climate modelling, and other core areas underpinning European competitiveness, sovereignty, and resilience.

