

Minimum Requirements for a Project Charter

Module 4: Use Cases

Topic 2: Multi-Node Collaboration Development



What General Criterion #6 Actually Checks

General Criterion #6 is the specific Charter requirement that a use case demonstrates multi-Node collaboration. It looks for three things:

Multi-Node agreement

The other Node(s) named have confirmed they agreed to participate

Aligned timelines

The participating Nodes' own plans and capacity can actually support the timeline you've proposed

Defined contributions

Each Node's specific contribution is identified, not just their presence

What General Criterion #6 Actually Checks

A use case that names another Node needs evidence of agreement, alignment, or a defined contribution.

Your named collaborator doesn't have to be an already-enrolled Node.

1. It can be another applicant in the same enrolment wave, though that's riskier — the use case only counts if that applicant's own submission also passes the enrolment criteria.
2. It can also be an organisation that isn't yet an EOSC Node at all, provided it applies during the same enrolment call and names the same use case in its own application.

What doesn't count: a research collaborator with no Node affiliation, or a Node that hasn't actually agreed to participate.

Identifying a Genuine Collaboration Opportunity

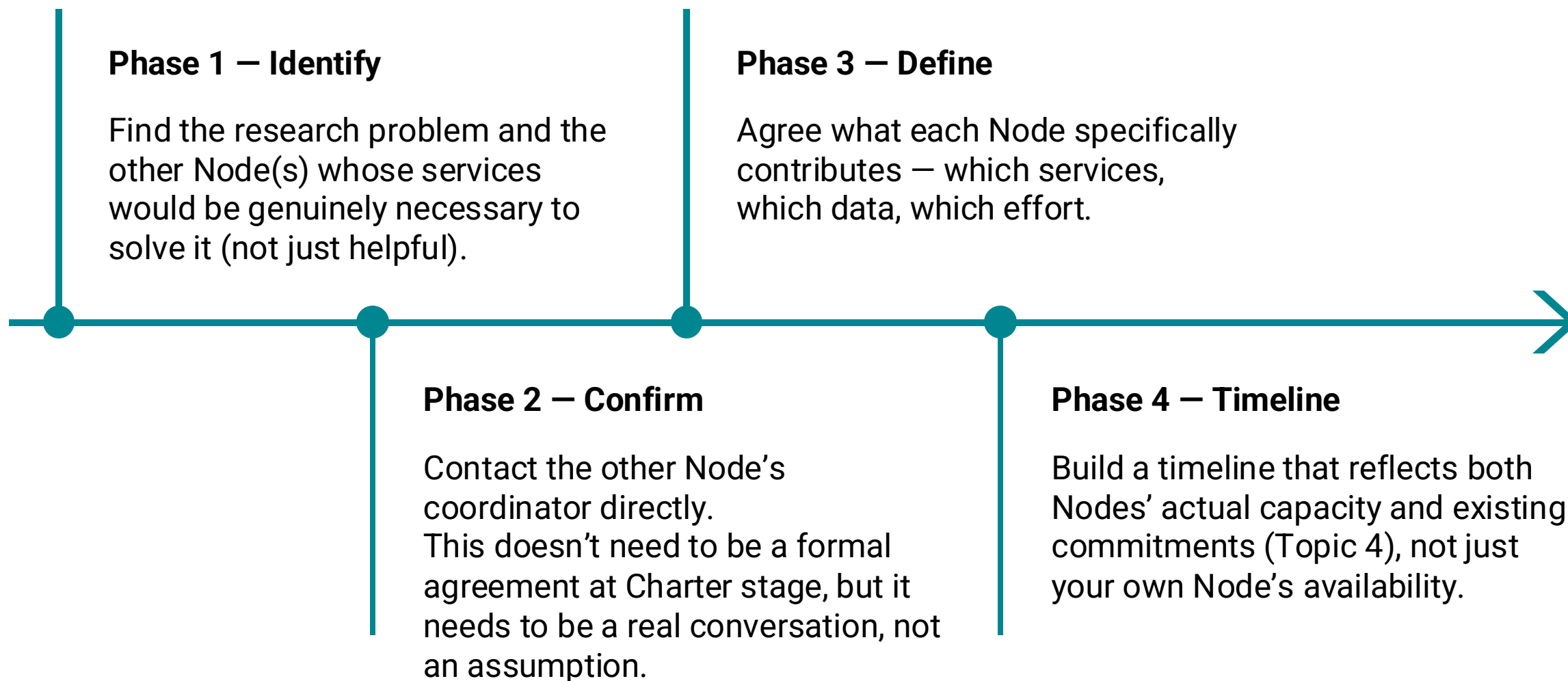
Convincing use cases usually come from a collaboration that already exists in some form (a shared publication, an existing informal data exchange, a joint grant application) rather than one invented for the Charter.

Before drafting the use case itself, **it's worth mapping what you actually have:**

- Which other Nodes does your Node, or your host institution, already have a working relationship with?
- Where has a researcher at your institution already needed a capability that only exists at another Node?
- Has this collaboration been discussed with the other Node's coordinator, even informally?

If the honest answer to all three is “not yet,” that’s a signal to engage with the other party before writing the use case.

A Four-Phase Development Process



Getting the Coordinator's Confirmation

For every other Node named in your use case, **you need an email from that Node's coordinator**, attached as an appendix to your Charter, confirming the intended scope, objective, and timeline of the use case.

A short, specific confirmation is enough. It doesn't need to be a formal legal agreement:

X

Too vague to satisfy the requirement: "Sounds good, happy to be involved."

✓

Specific enough to appendix: "Confirming that the Regional Climate Node will provide access to the North Atlantic regional model output via our existing API, and can commit approximately 0.2 FTE of integration support between Q1 and Q3 2027, contingent on our own infrastructure upgrade completing on schedule."

The second version names the contribution, the mechanism, the effort, and the dependency, and it confirms the coordinator actually knows what they're agreeing to.

This is a **submission requirement**— without it, the use case doesn't satisfy General Criterion #6, however well the description is written.

Common Mistakes

Naming a Node without contacting them

This is discoverable — evaluators or the named Node itself may notice a Charter claiming a collaboration that Node has not agreed.

Forgetting the appendix

A well-written use case with a genuinely willing partner still fails General Criterion #6 if the coordinator confirmation email isn't attached.

Vague contribution language

“The other Node will provide support” is not a defined contribution. Name the service, the data, or the specific effort.

One-sided timelines

Building the timeline entirely around your own Node's capacity and hoping the other Node can keep up.

Other Node(s) involved:

Have you contacted their coordinator? ☐ Yes, confirmed ☐ Yes, in progress ☐ Not yet

Do you have (or can you get) their confirmation email for the Charter appendix?

☐ Yes ☐ Not yet — follow up before submission

Identify their contribution (service, data, or effort — not just “involvement”):

Identify your Node’s contribution:

Evidence of agreement (email, meeting note, or similar — describe what you have):

(If you answered “Not yet” above, pause here and have that conversation before drafting Topic 3’s scope boundaries — scoping a collaboration the other party hasn’t confirmed risks having to redo this section later.)

Thank you!