

Minutes of the EOSC Association AISBL
 13th General Assembly Meeting
 Brussels, 28-29 May 2026
 [Released 29/06/2026]

Date/Time	28 May 2026 , 13:30-17:45 29 May 2026 , 09:00-13:00
Location	Renaissance Brussels Hotel Rue du Parnasse 19, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Chair	[KT] Klaus Tochtermann (EOSC-A) Klaus.Tochtermann@eosc.eu
Secretary	[UG] Ute Gunsenheimer (EOSC-A) Ute.Gunsenheimer@eosc.eu
Voting monitors	David Marshall, Instruct-ERIC; Sofie Peeters, EOSC-A; Wilma Wolf, NFDI
Invited Guests	Representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the EOSC Steering Board (EOSC-SB)
Delegates and Observer Representatives	The list of participating organisations is in Annex 1.
Date of Production	29 June 2026

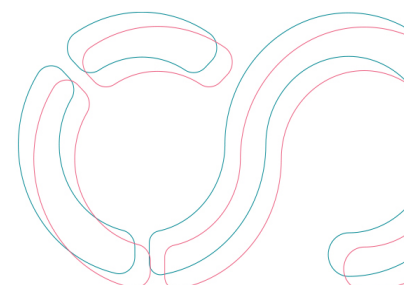
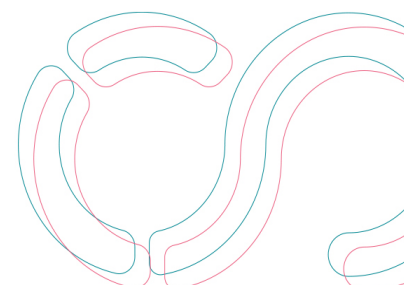


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Thursday, 28 May 2026

Item 01: Opening of General Assembly meeting #13 and adoption of draft agenda

The Chair, EOSC-A President Klaus Tochtermann [KT], opened the 13th General Assembly of the EOSC Association as a face-to-face meeting in Brussels and welcomed Members, Observers, representatives of the European Commission and the EOSC Steering Board, guests, and Members of the Board of Directors. Practical information was provided on the programme, voting procedures, Wi-Fi access, registration support and the arrangements for the group picture and evening dinner.

The GA was informed that quorum had been reached with 128 voting Members present. KT explained that all votes would be conducted openly, with the sequence of questions asking for abstentions, votes against and votes in favour. The voting monitors were introduced as David Marshall (Instruct-ERIC), Sofie Peeters (EOSC-A) and Wilma Wolf (NFDI).

The agenda for Day 1 and Day 2 was reviewed. One change was noted: due to the absence of Director Kamran Naim, the presentation of new Members and Observers would be delivered by Director Antje Keppler [AK].

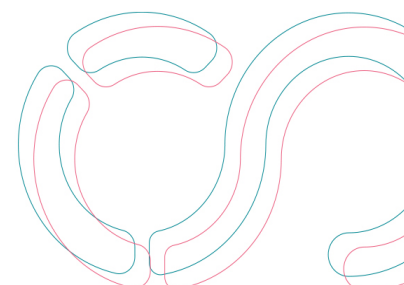
Decision: The draft agenda was unanimously adopted by open vote.

Item 02: Admission of new Members and Observers of the Association, including short presentation of new organisations

Antje Keppler, Director, EOSC-A

Paper A – New Members and Observers

The GA was informed of changes in membership status, resignations and new applications. Two Members, Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Vlaanderen (FWO), Belgium, and Georg-August-Universität Göttingen / University of Gottingen (UGOE), Germany, had resigned membership in order to reapply as Observers, applicable as of 2027. Two Members, Elsevier, the Netherlands, and Grand Équipement National de Calcul Intensif (GENCI), France, had resigned, also applicable as of 2027. Four Observers were reported as resigning: INSTITUUT NATUUR- EN BOSONDERZOEK / Research Institute for Nature & Forest (INBO), Belgium; Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS), Belgium; Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium;



and The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities (The Guild), Belgium. The GA then considered one new application for membership and two new applications for Observer status.

The applicant for membership, the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science ERIC (E-RIHS ERIC), Italy, was represented by Anais Guillem, who presented its role as a European research infrastructure supporting heritage science. E-RIHS is a distributed European RI established as an ERIC in 2025, with a Central Hub in Florence and integrated access across ARCHLAB, FIXLAB, MOLAB and DIGILAB. The presentation underlined the interdisciplinary nature of heritage science and highlighted potential contributions to EOSC.

Due to scheduling conflicts on the part of the representatives from Luleå University of Technology (LTU) in Sweden, Jessica Lindvall, Director of EOSC-A, was asked to present LTU, as an applicant for Observer status. The presentation highlighted the university's applied research profile and technical excellence, and the added value of bringing further Nordic representation into EOSC-A.

Tampere University Foundation s.r. (TAU), Finland, was presented as an applicant for Observer status by Katja Fält. The presentation described Tampere University as the second largest university in Finland, with seven faculties, ten fields of education, 23,200 students and 4,200 employees. Its focus areas are technology, health and society, and it has a strong international and Open Science profile.

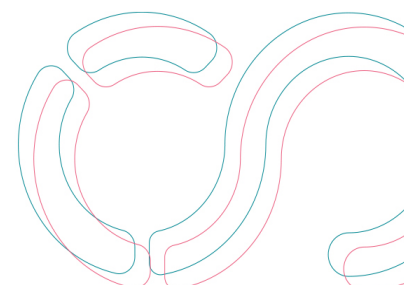
Questions and comments

- A participant asked whether the Association had information on why institutions leave EOSC-A. KT responded that reasons are not always provided, although some organisations change status from Member to Observer.
- A further intervention suggested that future GA meetings could include a summary of reasons for departures where available, since such information could be strategically useful. KT agreed that this should be considered, while noting that resignations remain a small share of overall membership activity. He also noted that providing reasons for resignation is entirely voluntary.

The GA agreed to vote on the new Member and Observers together in one batch, as the applicants were all from the science ecosystem and no commercial-interest organisation was involved.

Decision: The GA unanimously approved the admission of the new Member and Observers by open vote.

The new Member and Observers were welcomed to the EOSC Association.



Item 03: Interim report of the President and the Secretary General

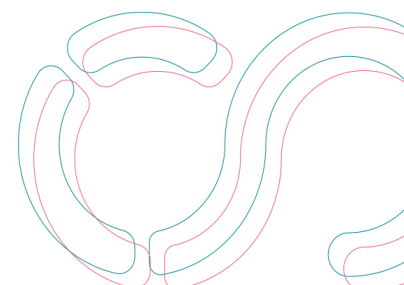
Klaus Tochtermann, President, EOSC-A; Ute Gunsenheimer, Secretary General, EOSC-A

Paper B: Interim report

The interim report was delivered in alternating presentations by KT and EOSC-A Secretary General Ute Gunsenheimer [UG], and covered three main areas: the Tripartite collaboration and the EOSC Partnership [KT]; engagement with the INFRAEOSC project landscape [UG]; and internal developments within the EOSC Association [KT/UG].

Tripartite collaboration and EOSC Partnership

- The report recalled the official launch of the EOSC Federation and described progress towards growth and maturity during 2026.
- The EOSC Nodes agreed objectives for 2026 in three areas: establishing the operational structure foreseen in the Federation MoU, including migration of the Build-up Group to the MoU-based operational structure and evolution of federating capabilities and the interoperability framework; moving the Federation from prototype status towards production, including legal, governance, operational and engagement requirements; and expanding the Federation through further node enrolment, onboarding of resources and use cases, enrolment waves, EOSC Gravity cascading grants, and the HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-EOSC-01 call.
- The Tripartite Governance meeting in Nicosia endorsed 14 second-wave candidate nodes and supported ongoing work through the Tripartite Group, which meets monthly.
- The Federation Handbook 2.0 was updated using experience from first-wave nodes.
- An updated policy narrative for EOSC and the EOSC Federation was published by the EOSC Tripartite Governance in April 2026. It is developed around seven policy impact areas: safeguarding European data sovereignty; fostering European leadership in artificial intelligence; increasing security in research and data management; establishing the EU Single Market for knowledge; enhancing Europe's global scientific competitiveness; boosting the European data economy; and preserving European values.
- The EOSC Steering Board opinion paper, released on 4 May 2026 and representing the view of delegates from 42 EU Member States and Associated Countries participating in the current EOSC Partnership, was highlighted. Its recommendations included establishing EOSC as a distinct work-programme based European Partnership under FP10, keeping the EOSC Federation at the focus of EOSC development, continuing EOSC under tripartite governance, and entrusting coordination of the EOSC Federation to the EOSC Association.
- Preparations for the 2026 EOSC Symposium in Florence, 14-16 October 2026, were presented. Registration was announced as opening the following week. The call for programme contributions invited proposals for speakers, topics, and questions by 1 June 2026, with peer review by the Programme Committee and session co-chairs, and results expected on 09 June.



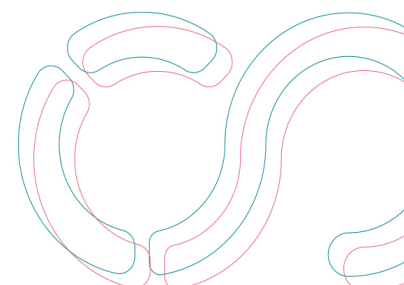
- EOSC Partnership Additional Activities reporting showed continued growth in financial and in-kind contributions to EOSC by the EOSC-A Members. The slides reported AAP 2026 figures of EUR 376,053,916 and 3,129.0 FTEs, and AAP 2027 figures of EUR 451,551,203 and 3,360.3 FTEs. The longer trend showed financial contributions of EUR 2.1 billion and 15,360.2 FTEs across 2022-2027, with reported contributions far exceeding the targets agreed in the MoU.

INFRAEOSC projects and EOSC-A support actions

- The report presented the updated INFRAEOSC project landscape, including 13 newly awarded projects from the 2025 call across five topics.
- EOSC-A membership participation in INFRAEOSC projects was presented, demonstrating that EU funding is flowing to the EOSC-A membership. 120 EOSC-A Members, Mandated Organisations and Observers are beneficiaries of HE 2021-2025 INFRAEOSC projects. Total funding received by EOSC-A and its Members was reported as EUR 160,247,468, of which EUR 4,045,562 went to EOSC-A, EUR 125,200,329 to Members, EUR 17,146,503 to Mandated Organisations and EUR 13,855,074 to Observers.
- EOSC-A reported positively on the second-level audit outcome for EOSC Focus, with no material adjustments or systemic findings.
- EOSC Gravity activities included the EOSC Winter School with a brokerage event between EOSC Node coordinators and project participants. A follow-up evaluation of the outcomes of the event will be undertaken to assess its usefulness going forward.
- EOSC Gravity awarded 15 cascading preparatory grants for work to develop potential future national and thematic EOSC Nodes, and 8 cascading inter-project grants for the development of EOSC Federation scientific use cases and service onboarding.
- The EOSC Academy was introduced as a new capacity-building tool to support recipients of cascading grants, candidate EOSC Nodes, resource providers and the wider EOSC Federation community. Its tracks focus on participating in the EOSC Federation and building/operating EOSC Nodes. The first online session was held on 13 May with 78 participants.
- EOSC United activities included work on scientific use cases in the EOSC EU Node (EEN) environment, engagement with Common European Data Spaces, EEN landscape analysis and support to the EOSC Federation's working groups and build-up structures.

Internal EOSC-A matters

- The report recalled outcomes of the December 2025 12th EOSC-A General Assembly, including admission of a new Member and Observer, approval of the co-creation process for a preferred option for EOSC post-2027, and election of new Board Members.
- Upcoming General Assemblies were announced, including the 14th, to include a written procedure for SRIA 2.0 and the presidential mandate (see Item 04), post-summer, and an online General Assembly on 27 November 2026.



- The onboarding of new Board directors was described, including informal Board meetings, legal briefings on directors' duties and liabilities, and topic-specific deep dives.
- A Search Advisory Committee was being established ahead of upcoming Board elections, to include Lidia Borrell-Damian (Science Europe), Allen Weeks (ELI ERIC) and a third member to be confirmed.
- The activities of the four EOSC-A Task Forces were presented. The Task Forces published five deliverables in spring 2026, and were preparing further outputs for the EOSC Symposium when their mandates will give way to a new group of Task Forces.
- The Association is reviewing the logic and effectiveness of its ecosystem of expert bodies by exploring how the EOSC-A Task Forces, EOSC Opportunity Area Expert Groups and EOSC Federation committees and working groups relate to each other, with the aim of reducing duplication and clarifying scopes for future Task Forces. A timeline for this rationalisation was presented.
- Communications activity was reported, including the EOSC-A website, monthly newsletter, LinkedIn, YouTube and use case videos.
- The Association has moved to a smaller office space in the same building in Brussels to better reflect remote-working patterns and reduce costs.

Questions and comments

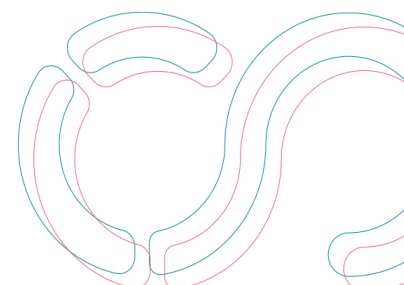
- A participant requested that future interim reports also acknowledge Opportunity Area Expert Group outputs, noting that they are volunteer-led but receive EOSC-A support and are relevant to the ongoing reorganisation of the ecosystem. The request was accepted.

Item 04: Presidential Mandate

Marialuisa Lavitrano, Vice President, EOSC-A

Paper C: Presidential mandate

EOSC-A Vice President Marialuisa Lavitrano [ML] introduced the item with a statement explaining that the Board had identified an ambiguity between the Articles of Association and the Internal Regulations concerning the duration of the President's mandate, following the election of Klaus Tochtermann at GA#10. The General Assembly was informed that the Board was not asking for an immediate extension of the mandate, but for approval of a transparent, stepwise process to clarify the Internal Regulations, followed by a written vote on the amendments and, only if approved, a later vote on whether to extend the current President's mandate. ML's statement emphasised that the proposed process preserved the authority of the General Assembly at each stage and was intended to provide continuity, stability and experienced leadership during a significant transition period for EOSC, the EOSC Federation and the Association.



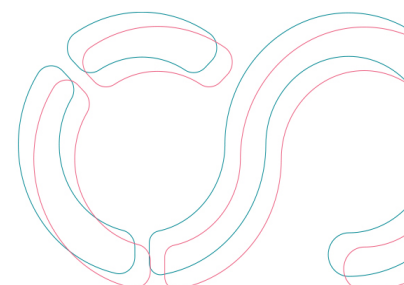
ML characterised the item as both procedural and strategic. The discussion was framed by the importance of maintaining experienced leadership during a sensitive period for the future of EOOSC-A, including expected work on the Articles of Association from 2027 onwards.

KT intervened to briefly state his willingness to continue serving with full commitment if the GA agreed to the proposed process. He then left the room for the discussion and vote.

The Board recommendation was presented by ML. It was explained that the alignment between Article 3.1 of the Articles of Association and Article 4 of the Internal Regulations had not been addressed before the presidential election held during GA#10, creating implications for the term length of the current President. Article 3.1 provides that the General Assembly elects the President for a three-year term, renewable once. Article 4 states that when a Director is elected President, the Board term is effectively restarted on taking up office as President, while also stating that the total mandate of a President should not exceed six years. The proposed process was to amend Article 4 of the Internal Regulations to clarify and align these provisions before a later General Assembly decision on the presidential mandate itself.

Discussion

- Several interventions supported continuity in the presidency during the transition towards FP10 and the further development of the EOOSC Federation. Participants stressed the value of experienced leadership and the President’s contribution to the community.
- A question was raised on the meaning of the term “honorary” President. It was clarified that this referred to the in-kind, non-remunerated nature of the role and did not affect the mandate.
- Participants asked how continuity would be handled beyond 2027, given the likely duration of FP10 and MFF negotiations. The response indicated that the current proposal would complete the three-year presidential term through spring 2028, after which a new election would be required.
- One participant suggested considering a further extension mechanism. Other participants cautioned against introducing additional complexity or creating a precedent for shortcutting important appointments. The discussion emphasised that any amendment would need to be formally proposed and that the GA would retain decision-making authority.
- Questions were raised about the distinction between the role of Director and the role of President, and whether the President’s mandate should be treated independently from previous Board mandates. The discussion clarified that the earlier interpretation of the rules had created uncertainty that the proposed process sought to address.



Decision: The GA unanimously approved the proposed process to revise the Internal Regulations as set out in Paper C. The Board will draft the necessary amendment(s) in consultation with legal counsel and submit them to GA#14 for adoption by written procedure. If the amended Internal Regulations are adopted, a vote in lieu of an open presidential election will be held at GA#15 on 27 November 2026 to extend the President’s term, subject to the applicable quorum and double-majority requirements.

Item 05: Annual accounts 2025, discharges of the Board of Directors and auditor

Klaus Tochtermann, President, EOSC-A; Antje Keppler, Treasurer, EOSC-A; Geert Keunen, VRC Auditors

Paper D: Annual accounts 2025 and audit report

The 2025 annual accounts were presented by KT in his capacity as EOSC-A Treasurer for the duration of 2025. The income categories included fees from Members and Observers, grants from EOSC-A projects, and registration fees from events such as the EOSC Symposium and Winter School. The 2025 budget was reported at approximately EUR 2.8 million.

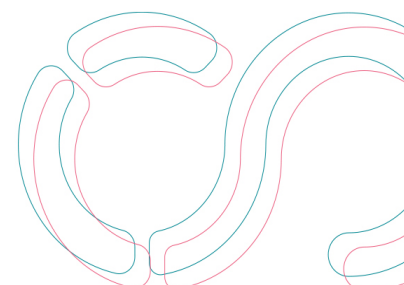
Expenditure was presented against the approved budget, with categories including personnel, other administrative costs, and event-related income and costs. The annual accounts showed a 2025 result of EUR (199,969.32), to be appropriated from profit brought forward.

The auditor, Geert Keunen [GK] of VRC Auditors presented the audit report. GK, on behalf of VRC, issued an unqualified opinion, confirming that the annual accounts gave a true and fair view of the Association’s financial position and results for 2025, and that no comments were required on compliance with the applicable code, bylaws, and accounting regulations.

Decision: The GA unanimously approved the annual accounts 2025. The GA also unanimously discharged the Board of Directors and the auditor by open vote.

Item 06: EOSC-A position paper on the future of EOSC post-2027, including presentation of advocacy material

Sara Garavelli, Director, EOSC-A



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

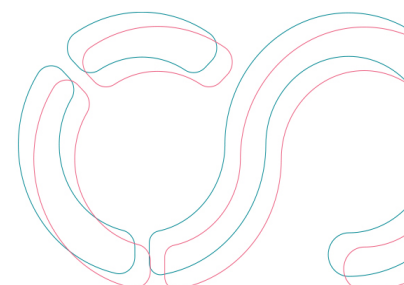
The Association's position paper on the future of EOSC post-2027 was presented by Director Sara Garavelli [SG]. The paper had been revised following extensive consultation with the membership, including two interactive membership consultation rounds and a face-to-face consultation with Mandated Organisations in Brussels on 15 April 2026. The consultations were open to all 253 Members and Observers of EOSC-A, limited to one representative per organisation.

The paper calls on the European Union to establish a distinct Work Programme-based Partnership for EOSC within FP10 that includes EOSC-A as an equal partner in the Partnership's tripartite governance. It defines EOSC as a trusted, resilient and sovereign ecosystem for high-quality and FAIR research data, services and infrastructures, and positions the EOSC Federation, launched in 2025, as the proto-embodiment of the anticipated Web of FAIR data and services for research in Europe and as the basis for operationalising the Common European Data Space for Research and Innovation.

SG's presentation linked EOSC to wider European policy priorities, including European data sovereignty, European leadership in AI, security in research and data management, the EU Single Market for knowledge, Europe's global scientific competitiveness, the European data economy and European values. It emphasised that continuity through a distinct Work Programme-based Partnership would secure long-term funding, a strategic multi-year roadmap and a balanced governance structure, while maintaining EOSC's unique cross-cutting role across FP10. The GA was reminded that endorsement of the paper does not decide the future of EOSC, but provides a common advocacy message for the Association and its Members in the FP10 discussions.

Questions and comments

- A participant asked whether Member States would be expected to bring cash contributions to the table before decisions on future partnerships are taken. The response indicated that this remains part of ongoing negotiations and that some countries may be more comfortable with in-kind contributions.
- After the vote, Members were asked to use the position paper and the policy narrative in national, ministerial and organisational advocacy. The Science Europe statement supporting continuation of EOSC as a Work Programme-based European Partnership under FP10 was presented as an example of the type of support that Member organisations could provide.
- One participant stressed the need to explain clearly the relationship between EOSC as an initiative, EOSC-A as the Association and the EOSC Federation as the practical offer to researchers. It was noted that this topic would also be addressed in Day 2 discussions.
- A user-perspective intervention noted that advocacy material should include concrete examples and practical "cards" showing current or emerging benefits for users. The response acknowledged the importance of attaching success stories and use cases to the



messages, while noting that the Federation had only recently launched in prototype mode and was expected to move towards production during the year.

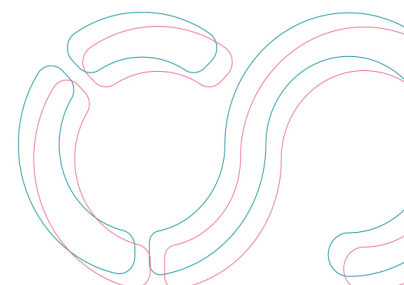
- Another participant noted that some communities, such as astronomy, already have working user-facing services that could be promoted more visibly. The Association agreed that it could improve visibility, including through social media and through Member organisations' own events and General Assemblies.

Decision: The GA unanimously endorsed the position paper by open vote.

Members were encouraged to use the paper and supporting advocacy material actively in their national and organisational contexts.

Coffee break and group photo

The GA paused for a coffee break and group photo. Participants were asked to gather outside for the photograph before reconvening for the interactive sessions.



Interactive sessions

Item 07: Establishment of a Working Group to propose a roadmap for revising the EOSC-A Articles of Association (AoA)

Ute Gunsenheimer, Secretary General, EOSC-A

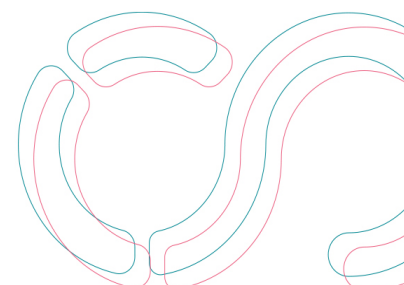
Paper F: Mandate of Roadmapping Working Group

The first interactive session focused on the proposed establishment of an AoA Roadmapping Working Group to prepare a roadmap for revising the EOSC-A Articles of Association. It was emphasised that the Articles would not be changed in 2026. The purpose of the session was to explain the activities foreseen for 2026 and 2027, seek approval of the working group mandate and lifetime for 2026, introduce the approach to 2027, and collect input on topics for the future revision process. The working group's role is to define the approach to any revision of the Articles during 2027, including process, timeline, outputs and milestones, with a view to ensuring that the Association is fit for purpose for the post-2027 environment and a possible future role in FP10.

The proposed working group would be composed of volunteers from the membership, appointed by the Board of Directors following an open call for expressions of interest, with the aim of achieving a fair representation of the membership. The indicative composition presented was two Mandated Organisation representatives, one funder, one RPO umbrella organisation, two RPOs, one ESFRI research infrastructure, one multi-country e-infrastructure, one national service provider, two Board representatives and two Secretariat representatives. The call for expressions of interest would close on 10 June.

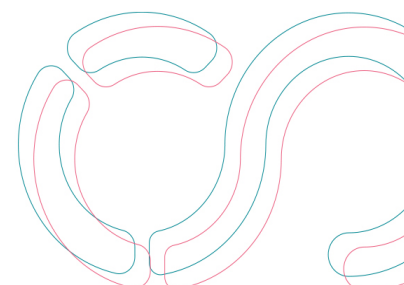
The working group would operate virtually, with in-kind effort from Members, administrative support from the EOSC-A Secretariat and EOSC Gravity, and would report to the General Assembly in November with a proposed roadmap. Meetings would be quorate if more than 50% of Members were present, and the group would act by consensus wherever possible, with the chair holding a casting vote if required.

Decision: The GA unanimously approved the working group mandate and lifetime by open vote. The working group will be convened in June 2026 and complete its mandate by the November 2026 General Assembly. Its deliverables will be the AoA Revision Roadmap and the mandate, reporting lines, membership and selection process for the committee that would implement the roadmap during 2027.



Audience input on the roadmap and future revision process

- A participant suggested that, while virtual meetings are appropriate, the working group should consider a physical meeting towards the end of the process, for example as a side meeting at the EOSC Symposium, to confirm alignment before finalising its proposal.
- A question was raised about whether volunteers serving in the roadmap working group would be excluded from participating in any longer-term committee that might implement the revision. The response was that this should be for the working group to propose and for the General Assembly to approve.
- Participants asked that the future roadmap consider the relationship between EOSC-A and the EOSC Federation, including the links between Members and Nodes, and how the Federation's operational role might be reflected in the Association's governance.
- The involvement of Member States and the European Commission was identified as an important consideration, based on experience from the original establishment of the Articles. While the Association remains its own legal body and the final decision rests with the General Assembly, participants noted that the Commission and Member States have a strong interest, especially given the role of Mandated Organisations.
- A participant suggested that the purpose statement in the Articles should be reviewed, particularly if the Association's role changes, for example in relation to the Federation.
- The discussion highlighted the need to clarify the conceptual relationship between EOSC as an initiative, EOSC-A as an Association and the EOSC Federation. Participants noted that this relationship may need to be reflected in the Articles or internal regulations.
- Business and funding models were identified as an important topic. Participants stressed that if EOSC-A has responsibilities connected to the Federation, the implications for funding, node-to-node agreements, and operational cooperation should be considered.
- Participants cautioned against over-specifying transient concepts in the Articles. One intervention recommended that the Articles remain as general and purposeful as possible, with operational details placed in the Internal Regulations, while another noted that new tasks may require expansion of the Articles if they are not already covered.
- The working group was encouraged to draw on earlier documentation and experience from those involved in the original development of the Association's Articles and governance framework.
- A participant stressed the difficulty of engaging end users and suggested that the roadmap process should consider how real end users, beyond organisational representatives, can be brought closer to EOSC governance.
- Another intervention argued that the committee and final decisions should remain grounded in the voting membership of the Association, while consultation with wider stakeholders could still be valuable.
- Infrastructure providers contributing critical resources to the EOSC Federation were identified as stakeholders who should have a meaningful voice in the Association, with a



suggestion that their membership fee arrangements may need to reflect their in-kind operational contributions.

- Participants suggested that thematic areas and clusters should be considered in the Articles or related governance structures, to strengthen links with thematic communities and other European initiatives.
- The operational costs of running the Federation were raised, including staff, infrastructure and day-to-day operational effort. Participants asked that the roadmap consider where these costs sit and how they relate to the Association's future governance and resourcing model.

The input from this discussion will inform the newly approved working group as it develops the roadmap proposal for the November General Assembly.

Item 08: SRIA 2.0: Shaping the Strategic Priorities for 2026-2030

Klaus Tochtermann, President, EOSC-A

Paper G: Overview of Strategic Priorities of SRIA 2.0

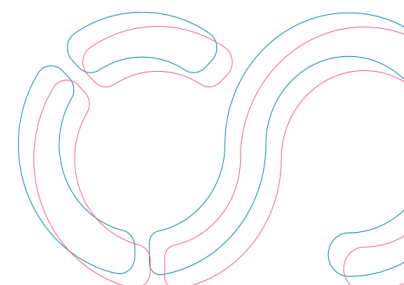
The second interactive session focused on SRIA 2.0 and, in particular, the strategic priorities chapter. The GA was reminded that SRIA 2.0 is structured around vision, mission and strategic objectives; the current landscape, gaps, trends and challenges; and the strategic priorities. The public consultation survey ran from 18 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, focused on priorities for 2026-2030 and received input from 83 participants.

The consultation used three types of questions: open questions linked to the priorities of existing Task Forces; focused questions on technical and governance issues, where respondents could rank proposed priorities; and open questions inviting additional recommendations. The resulting priorities were presented as a synthesis of the converging feedback.

KT emphasised that SRIA 2.0 is a Partnership document co-owned by EOSC-A and the European Commission. KT noted that the Commission had agreed with the strategic priorities and provided only editorial comments.

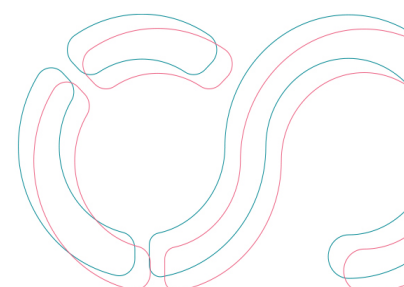
KT then elaborated on each of the five strategic priorities:

1. Operationalisation of the EOSC Federation
2. Data sovereignty and quality of research data
3. AI and EOSC
4. User centricity
5. Strategic alignment with European initiatives and global collaboration



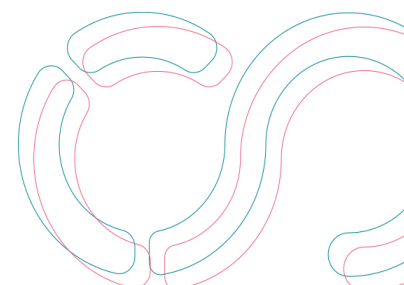
Audience input on SRIA 2.0

- **Data curation:** Participants asked that the role of data curators be made explicit, noting that automated assessment should not replace the human role in data curation. The point was accepted for checking and possible inclusion in the full text.
- **Cross-border use of services:** The discussion highlighted the importance of enabling users to access national and international services and infrastructures across borders. It was noted that this issue is already covered in the full paper, particularly because NRENs and national infrastructures often have national mandates.
- **Roadmapping and sequencing:** Participants asked for clearer links between strategy and implementation, including the sequence of actions and dependencies between priorities. The response clarified that SRIA provides the overarching strategy, while the Multi-Annual Roadmap will serve as the implementation planning document.
- **Funding dependency:** Several interventions stressed that realistic roadmaps depend on available funding and resources, especially given the current reliance on in-kind contributions. The response noted that the SRIA must identify needs and strategic priorities first, while future funding decisions will determine what can be implemented and when.
- **Legal obstacles:** Participants asked that legal barriers faced by infrastructures, countries and disciplines be addressed more visibly, especially in relation to data sharing, storage and cross-border collaboration. It was noted that legal issues are included in the full document even if not highlighted in the slide overview.
- **Underrepresented communities:** A participant asked how communities not represented in EOSC-A consultations, including citizen science and crowdsourced data communities, could be engaged. The point was linked to strategic alignment and the need to bring a broader set of research-driven use cases and communities into the SRIA process.
- **Software and libraries in AI:** The discussion noted that software, libraries and metadata are essential for AI, especially generative AI and LLM-related work. The response clarified that EOSC should focus on making research data and metadata AI-ready and may support the extension of existing AI tools with disciplinary components, rather than prescribing specific AI models.
- **Structure of the data priority:** A participant suggested that the second priority combined several distinct topics, including sovereignty, security, quality, retention, reproducibility and FAIR assessment, and could be made clearer, potentially under a broader data management framing. The suggestion was accepted as useful for improving readability and structure without changing the substance.
- **User awareness and engagement:** Participants noted that many researchers still need EOSC explained to them, and asked what would change under the user-centricity priority. The response referred to the forthcoming Day 2 discussion on the EOSC Federation User Forum and to training and capacity-building work initiated in 2026, while acknowledging that much more is needed to engage scientific communities.



- Openness: A participant cautioned that the priorities should not lose sight of the word “open”. The point was fully accepted, with agreement that openness should be visible in descriptions of the strategic priorities given that EOSC is the European Open Science Cloud.
- Cybersecurity: A question was raised on whether cybersecurity should be more strongly emphasised. The response stated that cybersecurity is addressed in the paper and supported by relevant EOSC Federation working group activity.
- Processing and analytic capabilities: Participants argued that data alone are not enough and that users need processing and analytic capacities. Without such capabilities, researchers may turn to commercial non-European platforms, weakening data sovereignty. The discussion also noted the need to define what services EOSC should provide and how user centricity relates to service provision.
- National-level alignment: A participant observed that the strategic alignment priority referred to European and global levels but did not sufficiently address national-level engagement, which is essential for reaching researchers through their institutions. The point was accepted for addition.
- Mapping priorities to Association structures: Participants suggested that the SRIA priorities should be reflected in EOSC-A structures, including future Task Forces and working groups, so that the Association’s activities align with its strategic goals.
- AI and FAIR: One intervention welcomed SRIA 2.0 as an improvement over the previous version and suggested that AI could be used more explicitly to improve the findability aspect of FAIR. The need to demonstrate impact and relevance by 2030, including to Member States, was also stressed.
- Avoiding an over-broad wish list: Participants cautioned that the SRIA should remain strategic and focused rather than become a catalogue of everything that might be funded. It was acknowledged that the document should be ambitious but focused, with clear priorities and sub-priorities, while specific funding priorities would be defined by the more frequently updated Multi-Annual Roadmap.
- AI as cross-cutting issue: The discussion noted that AI affects many areas beyond its dedicated priority and that user concerns and fears about AI should be taken into account. Participants also cautioned against over-stressing AI simply because it is currently prominent in policy discussions.
- Timing of strategic alignment: A participant suggested that the fifth priority on strategic alignment may depend on decisions under the first four priorities, since EOSC must know what it wants to offer before selecting partners. The response noted that sequencing will be addressed through the Multi-Annual Roadmap rather than in the SRIA itself.

KT noted broad consent around the five strategic priorities, thanked participants for their input and stated that the document would be revised before being brought forward for approval, which is planned via written procedure as part of GA#14.



Item 09: Introduction of Day 2

Bob Jones, Special Envoy for the EOSC Federation, EOSC-A

EOSC-A's Special Envoy for the EOSC Federation Bob Jones [BJ] introduced the programme for Day 2. A Federation use case video on ocean carbon sequestration via marine microbiomes was shown, demonstrating cross-node collaboration between scientific communities, data, tools and analytical pipelines.

Day 2 would focus on interactive discussions on the EOSC Federation. The GA would receive an update on the current status of the Federation, followed by interactive sessions on the Federation's strategic directions and on the forthcoming EOSC Federation User Forum. Participants were invited to provide feedback on the key elements needed for these developments, with leading questions provided in the corresponding Papers.

Recognition of Volker Beckmann and wrap-up of Day 1

The Association thanked Volker Beckmann for his contributions as EOSC Steering Board co-chair and for his wider contribution to the development of EOSC, the EOSC Association and the EOSC Federation. The complexity of developing a Steering Board opinion paper agreed by 42 Member States and Associated Countries was acknowledged as a crowning achievement.

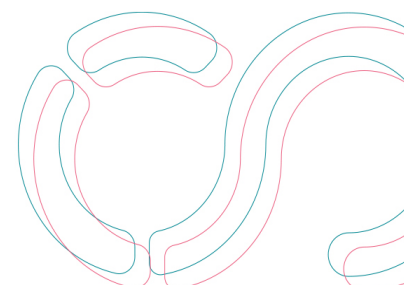
Participants were reminded of the evening BBQ dinner venue and the arrangements for hotel checkout and luggage on Day 2.

Friday, 29 May 2026

Opening and adjustment of Day 2 format

KT opened the second day, continuing in his role as Chair, and reminded participants that the day would focus on the EOSC Federation, including the planned User Forum and strategic considerations for the Federation. KT noted that the discussions on Day 1 had worked well in plenary and proposed that the Day 2 interactive sessions should also be held in plenary rather than as separate breakouts. This would allow the whole Assembly to hear and contribute to the same discussion and would remove the need for separate reporting back from parallel sessions.

The order of the sessions was adjusted by the Chair. The Federation update would be followed immediately by the interactive discussion on strategic considerations, as that discussion connected directly to the update. The coffee break would then be followed by the interactive session on the EOSC Federation User Forum.



Item 10: Update on the EOSC Federation

Bob Jones, Special Envoy for the EOSC Federation, EOSC-A

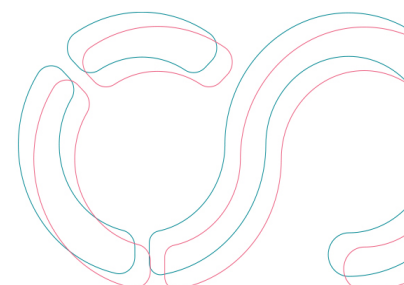
Paper H: Update on the EOSC Federation

BJ began the update on the EOSC Federation by screening a scientific use case video demonstrating how the Federation can support near-data computing for large-scale research data. The example used CERN/LHC open data and demonstrated the principle of bringing computational workflows to data stored across nodes, rather than moving very large datasets to individual researchers.

BJ then reviewed the state of the Federation. He recalled that the first-wave EOSC Nodes launched at the previous Symposium had continued to work during the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026. These include national, thematic, and e-infrastructure EOSC Nodes (such as EUDAT, and the EOSC EU Node).

Governance and operating structures

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the 13 first-wave EOSC Nodes and EOSC-A. The European Commission, responsible for the EOSC EU Node, has not signed the MoU.
- The former Build-up Group has evolved into the MoU-based governance structure. This includes the Node Coordinators Committee, which addresses strategic matters, and the Node Operations Committee, which focuses on operational matters needed for the move towards production.
- Working groups have been formalised or updated. These include groups addressing operational matters such as federated AAI and catalogues, higher-level capabilities, governance-related issues, architecture and federating policies, and legal and governance requirements.
- The new Architecture and Federating Policies Working Group provides a forum for collective discussion of Federation architecture and policy. The Legal and Governance Working Group brings together node legal representatives to consider what is needed beyond the MoU for production operation, including responsibilities related to data protection and privacy.
- Observers in the governance structures include the European Commission, the EOSC Steering Board and second-wave EOSC Nodes. Voting rights are linked to having signed the MoU.
- The size and complexity of the structure were acknowledged, and the need for effective coordination across committees and working groups was noted.



Mandatory federating capabilities

BJ's presentation identified mandatory federating capabilities as the basic "glue" needed for the nodes to operate as a Federation. These were presented as the minimum set needed for production, with higher-level capabilities remaining dependent on the nature and readiness of individual nodes.

- Federated AAI: single sign-on across EOSC Nodes is progressing well, with six to seven first-wave nodes described as production-ready from the federated authentication and authorisation perspective.
- EOSC Catalogue: basic catalogues exist for research products, but further work is needed on service catalogue formats and richer metadata to support more advanced discovery and search across repositories.
- Helpdesk: work is underway to understand existing node-level helpdesks and connect them into a basic federated helpdesk model, with the expectation that this will evolve in sophistication over time.
- Monitoring: nodes are being surveyed on their current monitoring of service quality and availability, with a view to future federation-wide monitoring and service-level reporting.
- Service management system: the Federation will use the FitSM standard to structure service management discussions and workflows across nodes.

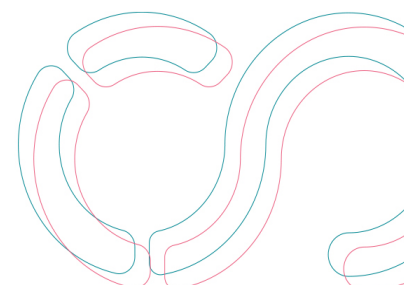
Architecture and role of the EOSC EU Node

BJ described the EOSC EU Node as having played a vital role in the Federation build-up phase by providing mandatory federating capabilities and serving as a reference model for enrolling nodes. At the same time, the discussion highlighted concerns about dependency on a single node for central functions and about the relationship between the EOSC EU Node and the MoU-based governance structure.

A statement agreed by the Node Coordinators Committee was presented. It stated that, as the Federation moves towards production, the current centralised architecture should evolve towards a more distributed and resilient model in which federating capabilities are replicated across, or delegated to, multiple nodes. This evolution should be governed collectively through the Federation's established governance structures. The statement also emphasised clear support for node enrolment, integration and operational coordination, and equitable access for all nodes to guidance, communication channels and escalation procedures.

Second-wave expansion and timeline

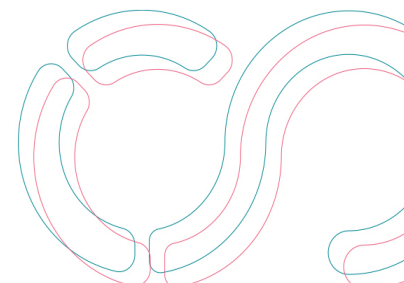
- Fourteen second-wave candidate EOSC Nodes were endorsed by the EOSC Tripartite Governance in April 2026.



- The second wave includes national nodes from Czechia, Croatia, Latvia, North Macedonia, Sweden, Slovenia, Switzerland and Türkiye.
- It also includes pan-European e-infrastructure nodes from GÉANT, EGI and Scholarly Commons, and thematic nodes from METROFOOD-RI, EBRAINS RI and ENVRI.
- The second wave is expected to increase geographic coverage, e-infrastructure capacity and scientific domain coverage, including food safety, neuroscience and environmental research.
- The enrolment process is expected to run over approximately 12 months, from May 2026 to March 2027.
- A face-to-face Federation meeting is planned for September in Karlsruhe, hosted by KIT, to check progress towards production. The EOSC Symposium in Florence in October is expected to provide the opportunity to announce the transition towards production and update the Federation Handbook.

Questions and clarifications

- A participant asked how the EOSC Federation timeline aligns with the EuroHPC Federation. The response noted that EuroHPC is developing its own federation platform, expected to become available in an early version around 2027. Several second-wave EOSC nodes have links to EuroHPC centres, and both systems use the same underlying federated AAI, which should facilitate future interaction.
- A participant asked whether complex workflow management would be addressed as part of the mandatory capabilities. The response clarified that workflow management, virtual research environments, and file sync-and-share are important higher-level capabilities but are not currently mandatory for all nodes, because not all nodes provide compute or storage services.
- A participant asked whether the EuroHPC allocation platform would be used to allocate resources on EOSC nodes. The response clarified that there is no current discussion of using a common allocation process. Resource allocation across the EOSC Federation, including possible business models, remains to be developed.
- A participant asked about a possible third wave of nodes. The response noted that the principle of a third wave had been agreed, but that the timing and eligibility criteria should be informed by the experience and lessons from the second wave and agreed with the Tripartite Governance.
- A participant asked whether the Node Coordinators Committee statement on the EOSC EU Node had been published. The response stated that the statement had been approved only recently and would be published shortly.



- Questions were raised about uncertainty around the governance position of the EOSC EU Node and the risk of continuing the current situation. The response noted that the current situation works operationally, that a procurement supporting the EOSC EU Node runs to February 2027, and that a further procurement was expected to be released by DG Connect in the coming days. It was also noted that the Federation would like deeper consultation on the content and direction of such procurements by the EC.

Item 10a: Interactive session I - Strategic considerations for the EOSC Federation

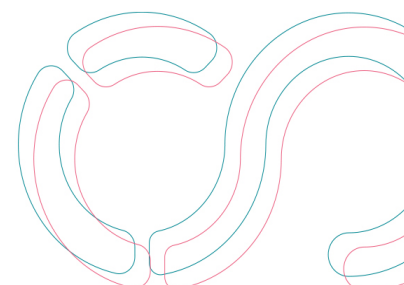
The strategic considerations session was held in plenary immediately after the Federation update. It focused on three questions:

1. The relationship between the EOSC Association membership and the EOSC Federation;
2. whether and how the interim governance structure established under the MoU should be supplemented for the production phase; and
3. the future role of the EOSC EU Node.

Q1: What should be the relationship between the EOSC-A membership and the EOSC Federation?

BJ opened the discussion with the observation that there is currently no formal relationship between the EOSC-A membership and the EOSC Federation beyond the Tripartite delegation of responsibility for Federation operation to EOSC-A. While all EOSC Nodes, including second-wave nodes, are hosted by organisations that belong to EOSC-A, only a small part of the overall membership is directly involved in hosting or operating nodes.

- Participants argued that EOSC Nodes should have a strong voice within the Association, because they are responsible for operating the Federation and dealing with practical service delivery. It was considered potentially problematic if Members not contributing to the Federation were able to take decisions that affect its operation without an appropriate balance of representation.
- A participant called for a strategic plan linking the Association and the Federation, noting that the Federation currently lacks its own strategic direction. The point was made that the Federation and the Association involve overlapping but not identical communities, and that they need to become aligned strategically even if they remain distinct in function.
- Participants linked governance to resources. If operational responsibility for the Federation is delegated to EOSC-A, then resources should also flow to EOSC-A and to the Federation implementers. Nodes should also have a role in shaping decisions where they carry the operational burden.

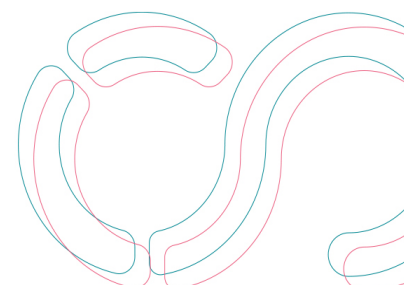


- It was suggested that EOSC-A could define standards and rules that entities follow in order to participate in or interoperate with the Federation, even where those entities are not formally Association Members. EduGAIN was referenced as an example of a wider ecosystem using agreed rules without every participant having the same formal membership relationship.
- A national perspective was raised that Members in countries with many EOSC-A Members and Observers will expect to be associated with the Federation, at least through a national node or other node structure. Otherwise, they may question the value of their Association membership.
- Participants noted that national nodes introduce new structures that may include organisations beyond the current EOSC-A membership. The relationship between a membership organisation, a national node with many partners, and the Federation therefore needs further consideration.
- One participant framed EOSC-A as a strategic governance body, in conjunction with other bodies such as the Steering Board, while the Federation was described as the practical implementation of EOSC. Under this view, participation in the Association helps shape EOSC policy and direction, while participation in the Federation concerns operational and technical implementation. Some policy decisions may still need to be made within the Federation because they arise directly from practice.
- A further intervention stressed that EOSC-A and the Federation should not become two silos. The Association's business model may need to evolve, and the costs of Federation coordination and governance could potentially be linked to nodes or their business models.
- A participant suggested distinguishing between the Federation as the transport or "plumbing" layer and the wider EOSC community as the provider of content, services, and data. Much of the work needed to generate content and services happens outside the Federation, and this distinction should inform the relationship between EOSC-A and the Federation.

Q2: How should the Interim Governance structure established under the MoU be modified or supplemented for the Federation's production phase?

BJ then turned the session to whether the MoU is sufficient for production operation. The MoU was described as an interim, non-legally binding governance structure. It was noted that production operation, particularly for services such as federated AAI, may require clearer legal responsibilities between service providers and nodes, including in relation to GDPR and data protection.

- Some participants supported developing a more binding Federation agreement, at least as an interim step, to clarify responsibilities for the production phase.

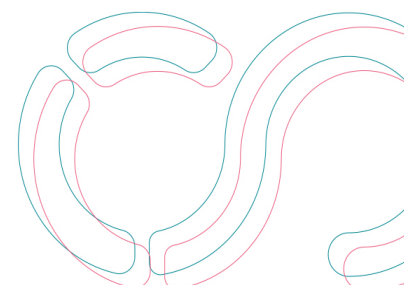


- Others cautioned that the emerging legal environment risks becoming too complex, with overlapping structures between EOSC-A, the Federation MoU, a binding Federation agreement and the potential future Partnership. Participants warned against duplicating governance structures and generating unnecessary effort for nodes.
- A participant suggested that the MoU should remain a lean transitional instrument for onboarding new EOSC Nodes. Once nodes are fully onboarded, the contractual framework should apply, and the MoU should not duplicate governance mechanisms.
- Several interventions stressed that EOSC Nodes already contain internal partnerships, in some cases involving many partner institutions. Additional legal agreements require internal legal review and consultation, which can impose a substantial burden. It was suggested that the Federation should first demonstrate results and only add legal instruments where clearly needed.
- One participant argued for separating technical requirements from legal and data-related requirements. The core technical conditions for joining the Federation should remain simple and mandatory, while more complex legal agreements should be linked to specific activities, such as communication of data or provision of particular services.
- It was suggested that not all EOSC Nodes may need to sign the same advanced legal agreement if their role is limited, for example, to sharing unprotected information or providing only specific technical functions.
- A participant drew attention to the European Health Data Space as a data space that may rely on EOSC services or interoperability functions. This raised the question of what reliability, resilience, and legal assurance EOSC must provide to more formalised data spaces backed by regulation. The Association's Health Data Task Force was mentioned as an existing forum where possible synergies between EOSC and the European Health Data Space are being examined.

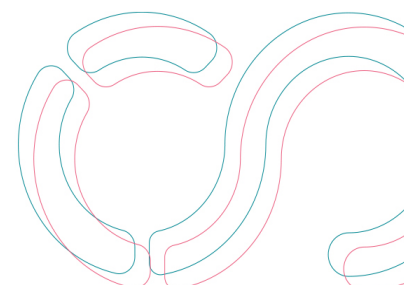
Q3: What should be the role of the EOSC EU Node in the future?

The final strategic question focused on the future role of the EOSC EU Node. BJ again recognised that the EU Node has been essential to the initial development of the Federation and that the Federation would likely not exist in its current form without it. At the same time, he noted concerns about long-term dependency, governance, transparency, coordination with national policy and the role of centralised functions.

- One participant suggested that, if federating capabilities are distributed across other nodes in the future, the EU Node could serve as a Commission sandbox or demonstrator for services of common European interest. However, concern was raised that the EU Node currently risks competing with or confusing national and institutional services unless it is closely coordinated with national policymakers.



- Participants asked for more information on the current use of the EU Node, including which countries, universities and scientific communities are using it and what scientific outcomes have been produced. The available figure noted in the discussion was approximately 5,500 registered users across Europe, but participants asked for more detailed evidence to inform future decisions.
- Several interventions argued that a distributed Federation still requires some central functions. The key question is which functions need to be centralised for technical reasons, such as identity, trust, credential management, catalogue coherence, and access control, and which functions should be centralised for policy reasons. It was suggested that this question should be separated from the question of whether those functions are hosted by the EU Node specifically.
- Participants agreed that the EU Node should not continue to hold all controlling functions by default. Central functions could be provided by other EOSC Nodes or distributed across nodes, depending on the architecture and the responsibilities involved.
- The current hub-and-spoke model was discussed. Some participants argued that, depending on the future model, the EU Node may become a special node with specific responsibilities or simply one node among others, with certain shared functions provided elsewhere.
- Funding was identified as a central issue. The EU Node is currently the only node receiving direct funding for its activities and services. The future role of the EU Node therefore depends on the funding model for the Federation and on whether other nodes receive resources to take on central or mandatory functions.
- Participants suggested that the EU Node could continue to enable cross-node use cases and drive integration efforts, while centralised control should be reduced or transferred into collective governance.
- One participant noted a tension between defining production readiness around capabilities currently provided by the EU Node and then asking other nodes to provide those capabilities. Care is needed in defining minimum qualifying criteria, and in separating capability requirements from the identity of the organisation hosting them.
- The EU Node was described as useful as a visible reference point for policymakers and the public, helping make the benefits of EOSC tangible. It was also noted that, given the scale of the Commission's investment, the EU Node is likely to remain highly important for the next four years.
- A strong view was expressed that the Commission should be brought to the table in a way that enables the EU Node to sign the same documents as other nodes or otherwise participate within the shared Federation governance. Continuing to treat the EU Node as an exception was considered inefficient and potentially damaging.



- A participant proposed that a mixed technical and policy working group, including expertise in security, AAI, data and policy, should define the baseline requirements for the Federation and decide which functions should sit in the EU Node, which could be picked up by other EOSC Nodes, and how to move beyond the current arrangement. This was noted as close to the mandate of the Architecture and Federating Policies Working Group.
- The discussion concluded with a suggestion that future discussions about the EU Node should include both sides: the European Commission as owner of the EU Node and the Federation/EOSC-A as the community expecting services and governance clarity from it.

BJ closed the session by thanking the participants for their active engagement. He noted that the input would be used as material in future planning for the Federation.

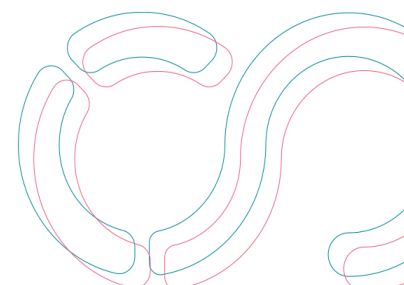
Coffee break

Item 10b: Interactive session II - The EOSC Federation User Forum

After the coffee break, Andy Götz [AG] of ESRF, and coordinator of the Photon and Neutron Cloud EOSC Node, together with Sally Chambers [SC], Director of DARIAH-EU, led the GA into a discussion on the planned EOSC Federation User Forum. AG previewed and introduced the Forum as a shared space where the EOSC Federation research community can learn, ask questions, exchange experiences, and help shape the Federation. AG noted that the User Forum is being developed by a working group initiated by EOSC-A and supported by the EOSC United project.

Presentation of the User Forum concept

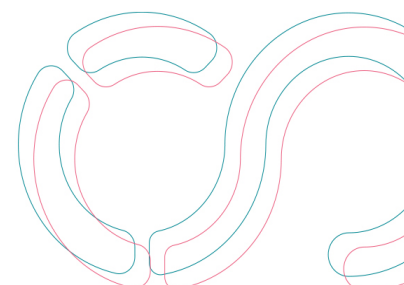
- The Forum is intended to capture demand-side user feedback on service quality, usability and FAIR data access across the Federation.
- It is intended to ensure that the research community voice informs Federation development and priorities, complementing technical governance bodies that work primarily from the supply side.
- The proposed composition includes a User Board of active researchers from across disciplines and countries to steer, manage and animate the Forum, as well as general user meetings open to the community.



- The expected outputs include periodic user experience reports with prioritised improvement recommendations and dedicated user forum events to build the community and capture success stories.
- The reports are expected to feed into the Interim EOSC Federation’s Node Coordinators Committee and, once agreed, be shared with the Tripartite Governance.
- The Forum is based on the open-source Discourse platform, hosted in Europe. Anyone, including search engines and AI crawlers, can read the content. Users will need to log in to post. MyAccessID login integration is planned once remaining technical/legal issues are resolved.
- The Forum is expected to be moderated by power users from the EOSC Nodes. Nodes have been asked to identify power users or future power users, with a minimum critical mass of around five considered enough to begin.

Questions and clarifications

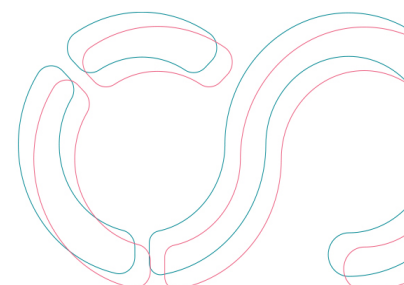
- A participant asked who would determine the Forum categories. The response indicated that categories had been initially created by the project team based on Federation knowledge, but that they remain flexible and can be changed by the user board or power users.
- A participant argued that EOSC should have only one user forum, to avoid splitting users and creating confusion about where to post. The response agreed that a single forum is desirable, while noting that the initial emphasis should remain on Federation users rather than the usual EOSC stakeholder community.
- It was clarified that existing domain or service-specific forums will continue to exist, because many users will ask technical or discipline-specific questions in their existing communities. The proposed EOSC Federation Forum should therefore serve as a common place for questions and feedback specifically related to the Federation and cross-node matters, rather than replacing specialist forums.
- Participants asked how to reach researchers who are unaware of EOSC and how to know whether researchers are already EOSC users. The Forum was presented as one possible place to discuss and coordinate communication on these questions.
- Participants raised the risk of users asking questions but not receiving timely answers. The response noted that moderators and power users would need to ensure that questions do not go unanswered.
- A participant asked whether nodes would be expected to link to the User Forum. It was suggested that this would be useful, while acknowledging that nodes may already have their own forums and may also need to link onward to those.



- Participants suggested that Forum replies should include links to documentation and authoritative sources. This would improve user confidence and also make the material more useful for search engines and AI tools.
- The question was raised whether EOSC-A should be the body creating and managing the Forum. It was noted that the Forum sits above the level of a single node and should not appear to be an EU Node service. EOSC-A provides a neutral place to initiate and support the Forum for Federation matters.
- Some participants advised against launching too early. A successful launch should be linked to coordinated communication through nodes, the Federation and other channels, so that the Forum appears active from the beginning.
- A participant suggested that, in the early phase, the Forum could operate as a place where people ask questions to the Association, with the Association responding, while node and community participation grows over time.
- Concerns were raised about feeding early Forum content directly to AI tools, as misunderstood or low-quality content could discourage users from asking questions publicly. An alternative was suggested: collect frequent questions and curate them into blog posts or FAQs that are better suited for AI indexing and search.
- Participants noted that the Federation is not starting from zero: nodes already have communities, services and users, and there is experience from previous EOSC tools such as the EOSC Marketplace. The Forum should build on existing user communities and avoid repeating mistakes where services disappear when projects end.
- A participant noted that enabling MyAccessID before wider launch would help avoid future user migration issues.
- A link was made to the previous day's discussion on the Articles of Association: if EOSC-A is serious about strengthening the user voice, it may need to revisit whether individual membership or another mechanism for power users should be considered in future governance discussions.
- It was noted that some users may have questions about EOSC-A rather than the Federation. A suggestion was made to include Association-related FAQs or a category within the Forum to direct users to the right place.

Q1: How can the User Forum help attract users to the EOSC Federation?

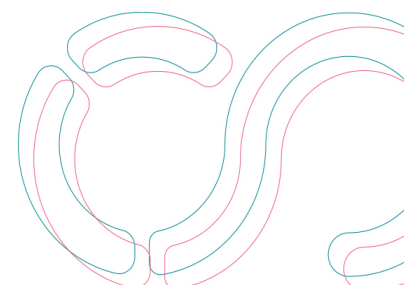
- One intervention stressed that users will come if the Federation offers good, known, and useful services. The Forum should not be seen as a substitute for high-quality services and effective communication through channels used by researchers, including universities and research centres.



- Participants suggested that engagement must go beyond written questions and answers. Demo sessions, “hacky hours”, webinars, short service demonstrations and opportunities for users to try out services together could make the Forum more engaging.
- Participants cautioned against expecting every EOSC Node to provide moderators or power users too early, before services and communities are mature. A step-by-step approach was recommended.
- Experience from an existing EuroHPC forum was shared. It was noted that such forums work best when expert service providers answer questions; users should not be expected to answer each other’s questions at scale. Login requirements can function as a basic form of moderation, and statistics on questions, response time, and popular topics can help identify training priorities.
- A participant suggested using the Forum to share user experiences and success stories rather than promote services. Even a small number of real user accounts explaining how the Federation was used could trigger questions, ideas, and uptake by others.
- Participants proposed that users should also be seen as potential providers of future scientific services, datasets, computational services, and tools that could be onboarded through nodes. The Forum could therefore become a place where future service onboarding needs are identified.
- The importance of humanising users was emphasised. Participants suggested highlighting named individual users and their stories, similar to social media or influencer-style communication, to show concretely what researchers were able to do because of EOSC.
- Participants cautioned that online forums typically have many passive readers, fewer occasional contributors, and a small number of active users. The Forum should be useful but should not be expected to replace other forms of user engagement. It should be allowed to grow organically and should not be over-designed.
- Participants suggested that existing EOSC-A content, including website items, newsletters, videos, and pointers, should be cross-posted or linked from the Forum to enrich it and avoid duplication of effort.

Q2: Who should moderate the User Forum, and how can volunteers be attracted?

- It was noted that login under a user’s own name already provides a form of moderation. Spam filters and AI-based systems can also support moderation, but human oversight remains necessary.
- A draft code of conduct has been prepared, setting out expected standards of respectful behaviour.



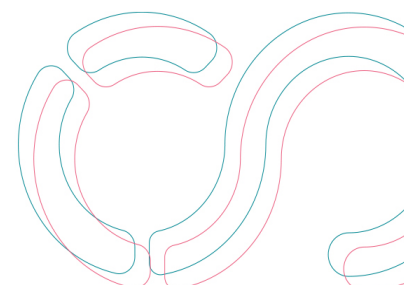
- Participants suggested that moderation is a time-consuming and important support role. EOSC support projects or other funding mechanisms could recognise the role by allocating person-months or FTEs to it, at least during the start-up phase.
- The idea of power users from the nodes remains central, but the discussion stressed that these should emerge as the Forum and services mature, rather than being imposed as a rigid requirement from the start.

Q3: How can the User Forum help users drive the development of the EOSC Federation?

- Participants suggested that the Forum can help identify gaps in the service offer and capture user requests for additional functionalities. However, the Forum alone may not be sufficient for structured user-driven development.
- Experience from EuroHPC suggested that annual surveys can be useful for gathering systematic user input, provided the questions are specific and the survey also collects information about user type, discipline, career stage, and organisational background.
- It was stressed that the Forum must demonstrate that user input is taken seriously and propagated to the bodies driving Federation development. Users will be more willing to contribute if they see that feedback leads to roadmap changes or visible responses.
- Participants proposed using multiple mechanisms: surveys, easy feedback buttons, live meetings, open spaces, hackathons, training follow-ups, and community-specific discussions. Different communities use services in different ways and cannot always express complex needs through surveys alone.
- Training was identified as a natural entry point. After EOSC Academy sessions, EOSC training sessions or EU Node training, participants could be directed to the Forum for follow-up questions and discussion.

Q4: How can the User Forum assess the Federation's success from a user perspective?

- Participants noted that research outputs can help measure success. Publications, software citations, acknowledgements, and tags linked to EOSC or Federation services could allow outputs to be tracked through systems such as OpenAIRE or other discovery mechanisms.
- Success stories and testimonials should be collected and made visible, but they should be complemented by usage statistics from Federation nodes and services.
- Participants suggested that the Forum should be understood as one element in a broader engagement strategy, alongside events, social media, community meetings, and direct outreach. Not every EOSC user will engage through the Forum.



- It was noted that a successful infrastructure may become invisible to users because it works transparently through the EOSC Nodes. Failures may be easier to detect because users complain when something does not work. Success assessment should therefore combine Forum data with node-level usage and operational data.

AG noted that a session on the User Forum will be organised at the EOSC Symposium 2026 in October. The input collected during this GA will inform that session and further development of the Forum.

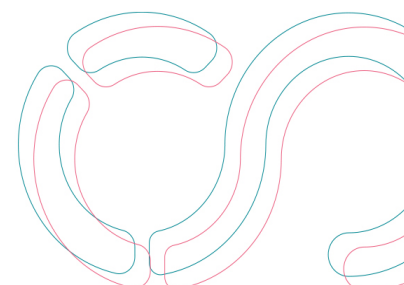
Item 11: AOB and closing

The Chair invited any other business from the GA. No substantive additional business was raised by participants. KT then provided several closing updates and reminders.

- The EOSC-A position paper calling for a distinct Work Programme-based partnership for EOSC under FP10 with EOSC-A as an equal partner has been published on the EOSC-A website. Participants were asked to share it through their organisations, websites, and communication channels.
- The advocacy material presented on Day 1, including the slide deck on seven EU policy impact areas and the EOSC-A policy one-pager, is also available on eosc.eu. Participants were encouraged to use it in their own fora and communities.
- Registration for the EOSC Symposium 2026 in Florence will open the following week. Participants were encouraged to register early, as space was limited and would be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The 14th General Assembly will be held as a written procedure after the summer break. Its purpose will be to approve SRIA 2.0 and address the revision of the internal regulations related to the presidential mandate. Participants were reminded that quorum will be required.
- The 15th General Assembly will take place online on 27 November 2026 and will include the election of three new Directors.
- The call for expressions of interest for the working group to develop a roadmap for updating the Articles of Association is open, with a deadline of 10 June 2026.
- The newly published procurement for managed services for the EOSC Platform / EOSC EU Node was noted.

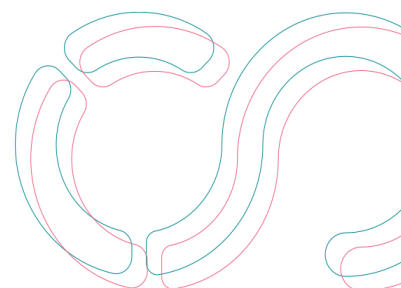
KT thanked the participants for their contributions to the discussions, the Board of Directors for its continued engagement, and the Secretary General and secretariat team for the work required to organise and support the General Assembly and related EOSC events.

The meeting closed with a final EOSC Federation scientific use case video on the Photon and Neutron Cloud EOSC Node. The example showed how data portals across photon and neutron

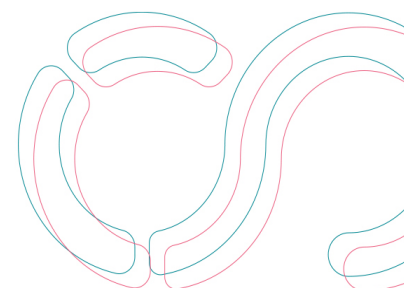


research facilities can be integrated through a common search layer to make data more findable and reusable, support cultural change towards data reuse, and connect facility data to the wider EOSC Federation.

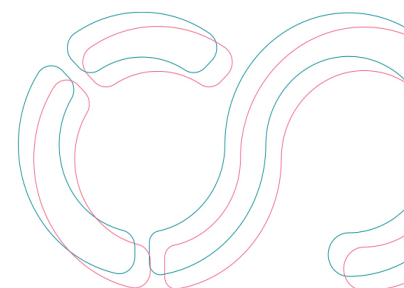
The Chair then closed the 13th General Assembly and invited participants to lunch.



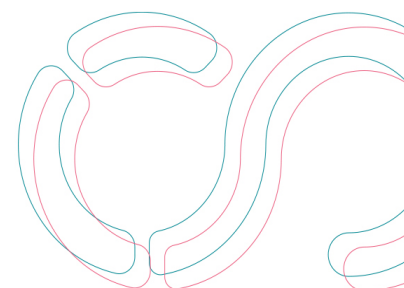
ANNEX 1: List of actual participants in GA#13



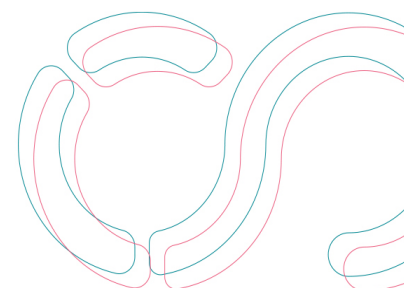
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Aben	Guido	Vetenskapsrådet: The Swedish Research Council
Afanasjevs	Ilja	The Higher Education and Science Information Technology Shared Service Centre
Allegaert	Karel	European Paediatric Translational Research Infrastructure (EPTRI)
Amez	Lucy	Vlaamse Interuniversitaire Raad
Andrén	Lina	Vetenskapsrådet: The Swedish Research Council
Antol	Matej	Masaryk University
Antosz	Patrycja	NORCE Research
Ardagna	Danilo	Politecnico di Milano
Armstrong	Margaret	EOSC Association
Augustus	Ron	Coöperatie SURF u.a.
Bangert	Daniel	Technische Universiteit Delft (TU Delft)
Barbu	Dragos-Catalin	ICI Bucharest
Bayindir	Hakan	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye - National Academic Network and Information Center
Beckmann	Volker	Steering Board
Benincasa	Francesco	Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
Bernal-Delgado	Enrique	EOSC Association
Bertino	Andrea	Switch
Bicarregui	Juan	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
Bonvin	Alexandre	Instruct Integrated Structural Biology Infrastructure in Europe
Bošnjak	Aleš	IZUM



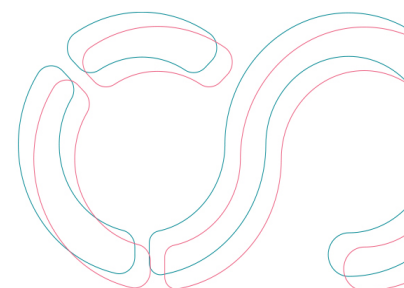
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Both	Joeri	OpenAIRE
Bozzi	Concezio	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN)
Cabrerizo Padilla	Patricia	EOSC Association
Caetano	Isabel	EOSC Association
Campanella	Mauro	Consortium GARR
Cebecauer	Marek	J. Heyrovsky Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences
Celjak	Draženko	University of Zagreb University Computing Centre
Chambers	Sally	Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH-EU)
Clare	Helen	Jisc LBG
Collot	Mélanie	EOSC Association
Damiano	Rossana	Università degli studi di Torino
De Castro	Ana	The Dutch Research Council (NWO)
De Luca	Mariarita	Area Science Park
Deriemaecker	Niels	Belnet
Didou	Yasmine	EOSC Association
Dillo	Ingrid	Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS)
Dobre	Ciprian	University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest
Dominguez Del Angel	Victoria	Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et Automatique
Drobnjak	Marko	Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES)
Dumouchel	Suzanne	EOSC Association
Eeckhout	Jerome	Conseil des recteurs
El Khouri	Laurence	National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)



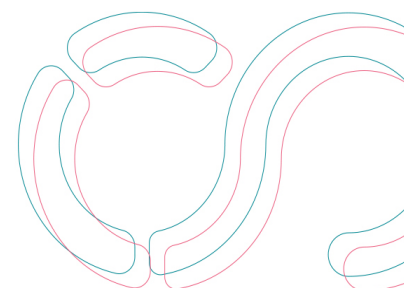
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Fält	Katja	Tampere University Foundation s.r.
Fink	Anne Sofie	Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium (DeiC)
Florio	Licia	NORDUnet A/S
Fontanillo	Jose Maria	Entidad pública empresarial Red.es
Forni	Monica	Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Fouilloux	Anne	LifeWatch ERIC
Foury	Pascale	Universite Paris-Saclay
Friedrich	Tanja	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR)
Gagnon-Van Leeuwen	Thomas	OpenAIRE
Gaillard	Vinciane	European University Association (EUA)
Galica	Natalia	National Science Centre
Garavelli	Sara	EOSC Association
Giglia	Elena	Open scholarly communication in the European Research Area for the Social Sciences and Humanities (OPERAS)
Gillet	Jacqueline	Consortium unifié des établissements universitaires et de recherche pour l'accès aux publications numériques
Giorgetti	Alessandra	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale
Glauner	Annika	ETH Zürich
González Guardia	Esteban	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
Gonzalez Lopez	Jose Benito	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
González-García	Juan	Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences (IACS)
Gotz	Andy	EOSC Association
Guba	Beate	Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien)
Guillem	Anais	European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science European Research Infrastructure Consortium



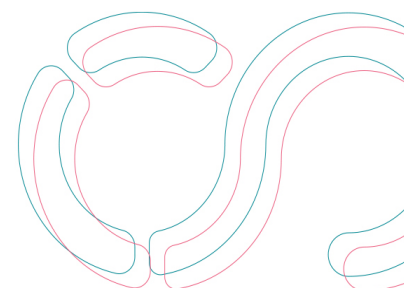
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Gunnarsson	Mattias	Linnaeus University
Gunsenheimer	Ute	EOSC Association
Hasani-Mavriqi	Ilire	ACONET Verein
Hasgall	Alexander	Stichting LIBER
Holmgren	Sverker	Chalmers tekniska högskola Aktiebolag
Holub	Petr	BBMRI-ERIC
Ivanovski	Stavro Lambrov	Europlanet Association (Europlanet)
Jakobsson	Ulf	University of Gothenburg
Jones	Bob	EOSC Association
Juneström	Amalia	Umeå University
Juracek	Jaroslav	Masaryk University
Kaiser	Max	Universität Wien (University of Vienna)
Kanner	Janne	CSC - IT Center for Science Ltd
Karlsson	Hans	Uppsala University
Keppler	Antje	EOSC Association
Klein	Vladimir	ELI ERIC
Kok	Ruben	Stichting Health-RI (HRI)
Komljenovic	Vanja	Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives - CESSDA
Lacagnina	Carlo	EOSC Association
Laurent	Anne	Université de Montpellier
Lavitrano	Marialuisa	EOSC Association
Lazzeri	Emma	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)
Leporati	Alberto	Università degli studi di Milano-Bicocca



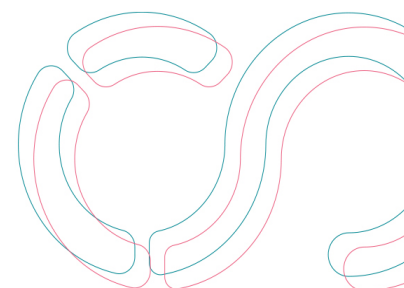
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Libaers	Yann	EOSC Association
Lindell	Kristoffer	Umeå University
Lindroos	Hanna	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
Lindvall	Jessica	EOSC Association
Lopez Garcia	Alvaro	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Lueck	Rupert	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Lutz	Jean-Francois	Université de Lorraine
Maes	Elisa	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Magnusson	Patrik	Karolinska Institutet
Mallmann	Daniel	Forschungszentrum Jülich
Marek	Jiří	Masaryk University
Marshall	David	Instruct Integrated Structural Biology Infrastructure in Europe
Massol	Marion	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE)
Mathur	Aastha	Euro-BioImaging ERIC
Matilla	Oscar	Consortio para la Construcción, Equipamiento y Explotación del Laboratorio de Luz de Sincrotrón
Matyska	Luděk	CESNET
Meijer	Jan	Sikt - Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research
Mendes Moreira	João	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
Meyer	Norbert	Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry - Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center
Mickael	Menager	Université de Paris
Mishev	Anastas	University Ss Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (FCSE-UKIM)



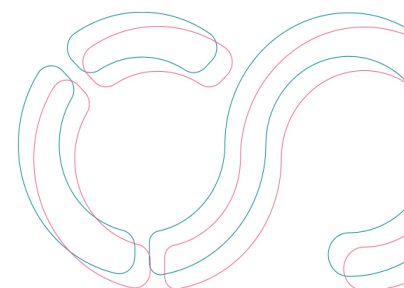
Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Mohacsi	Janos	Professional Mobile and Network Service Provider (Pro-M)
Mohrs	Simone	The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities
Mota	Ana Teresa	European Commission
Muscella	Silvana	Trust-IT Services
Niemi-Grundström	Minna	University of Helsinki (UH)
Noro	Jorge	University of Coimbra
Oliveira	João Pedro	Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (Iscte)
Pansanel	Jérôme	University of Strasbourg
Papadopoulou	Elli	Athena - Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies
Pavlič-Zupanc	Jana	BBMRI-ERIC
Pazik-Aybar	Aneta	Steering Board
Peeters	Sofie	EOSC Association
Perrin	Jean-François	European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)
Petrauskienė	Žibutė	Vilnius University (VU)
Piasini	Eugenio	Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA)
Ploomipuu	Ave	University of Tartu
Poelmans	Hanne	Hasselt University
Possenti	Andrea	Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica - National Institute for Astrophysics
Poveda	Lucy	Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB)
Presser	Karl	Premotec GmbH
Quesneville	Hadi	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE)
Rank	Sven	Forschungszentrum Jülich



Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Reale	Mario	EOSC Association
Reichmann	Stefan	Graz University of Technology
Rey Mazón	Miguel	Graz University of Technology
Robertson	Dale	EGI Foundation
Rod	Thomas	European Spallation Source (ESS)
Rodopoulos	Yannis	European Commission
Rohden	Jan	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation)
Romaniello	Martino	European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO)
Ruda	Miroslav	Masaryk University
Sabatino	Roberto	ASIERA
Sarramia	David	Université Clermont Auvergne (UCA)
Schmidt	Birgit	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Stiftung Öffentlichen Rechts
Scory	Serge	Royal Belgian institute of Natural Sciences (IRScNB – KBIN)
Segers	Philippe	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe
Serjeant	Stephen	The Open University
Sesink	Laurents	Coöperatie SURF u.a.
Simona	Collina	University Suor Orsola Benincasa
Sjöström	Anders	Lund University (LU)
Smith	Tim	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
Stensköld	Eva	University of Gothenburg
Stöver	Cathrin	GÉANT Association
Sure-Vetter	York	Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI) e.V.



Name: Last	Name: First	Member/Observer Organisation
Svensmark-Baciu	Georgiana	The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)
Szuflita-Żurawska	Magdalena	Gdańsk University of Technology
Tedds	Jonathan	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Teperek	Marta	The Dutch Research Council (NWO)
Terboven	Carla	Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie GmbH (HZB)
Thies	Annika	Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY
Tierney	James	EOSC Association
Tochtermann	Klaus	EOSC Association
Torras Calvo	Maria Carme	University of Bergen (UiB)
Ulinici	Doinita	National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)
Unge	Lenka	EOSC Association
Utka	Andrius	Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)
Van De Sanden	Mark	GÉANT Association
Van Nieuwerburgh	Inge	Ghent University
Van Wezel	Jos	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Vandeghinste	Vincent	CLARIN ERIC
Velupillai	Sumithra	Vetenskapsrådet: The Swedish Research Council
Walter	Nicolas	European Science Foundation (ESF)
Wardemann	Rasmus Kvaal	The Research Council of Norway
Weeks	Allen	ELI ERIC
Wilk	Roksana	Academic Computer Centre CYFRONET of the AGH University of Science and Technology
Witkowska	Iza	SURF



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Witzanyová	Nada	ELI ERIC
Wolf	Wilma	Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI) e.V.
Wolff	Russel	Universitetet i Oslo
Wyns	Roxanne	EOSC Association
Xhelaj	Arjan	Rrjeti Akademik Shqiptar
Zachar	Ondrej	Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information
Zanaroli	Matteo	Italian Research Center on High Performance Computing, Big Data and Quantum Computing (ICSC) Foundation

