

Long-Term Data Retention and Reusability Task Force

Charter

1 Task Force background and scope

The Long-Term Data Retention and Reusability Task Force (2027–2028) succeeds the Long-Term Data Retention Task Force (2024-2026), building on its results. Widening its focus beyond retention to include the reuse and reusability of research outputs ensures that data preserved for the long term remain findable, trustworthy and re-exploitable across the EOSC Federation.

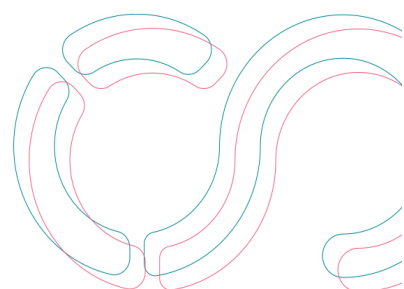
As active long-term preservation of research outputs is vital for their reuse, reproducibility, integrity and resilience, the Task Force (TF) is working to identify sustainable policies and criteria for long-term data retention. The aim is to establish robust reuse mechanisms, including reproducibility and provenance tracking, to strengthen the readiness of repositories in the Federation and anchor the ecosystem in trusted infrastructures. To this end, the TF engages with the Federation Nodes to understand the status, needs and challenges in data retention, appraisal and provenance. This will enable the TF to deliver structured guidance for repositories onboarded through EOSC Federation Nodes.

In line with the mandate set by the EOSC-A Board of Directors, the TF is expected to deliver, in particular: recommendations on user-driven reuse and provenance tracking mechanisms for the Federation; recommendations on standardised long-term data management and preservation strategies and practices; and a concept for a coherent preservation architecture enabling the integration of disparate data sources.

The TF is a strategic, time-bound body that works in direct service of the EOSC Federation. Its single annual output is a concise paper that identifies a specific problem, sets out possible solutions, and formulates actionable recommendations addressed to the relevant Federation Working Groups and to the EOSC Nodes more broadly, anchored wherever possible in one or more EOSC use cases, so that recommendations are grounded in real Federation needs.

2 Potential areas of work for the annual deliverable

The current TF produced two complementary deliverables (March 2026). [Current needs and challenges on data retention, appraisal, and reappraisal across stakeholders and communities](#) identified nine key challenges — each with proposed solutions — across the retention lifecycle, while its supplement, [Conceptual framework on the implementation of workflows concerning appraisal, reappraisal, retention and preservation of digital objects: Retention \(Re\) Appraisal - Iteration Logic \(RRAIL\)](#), proposed a conceptual workflow model for appraisal, retention and



reappraisal decisions, drawing on the EDEN Core Preservation Processes, the FIDELIS Transparent Trustworthy Attributes Matrix (TTRAM) and the CoreTrustSeal levels of retention, curation and preservation (LoRCAP). Together with the Board's mandate, these suggest potential topics for separate papers. The TF is invited to select and sharpen at least one of them (or a comparably scoped problem):

a) Reuse, reproducibility and provenance tracking

- **Provenance and audit trail interoperability across the retention lifecycle.** A deliverable could specify how provenance and audit trails are recorded and exchanged as objects are appraised, transformed, migrated and reappraised, so that the history of an object and the level of care applied to it travel with it across repositories and Nodes.

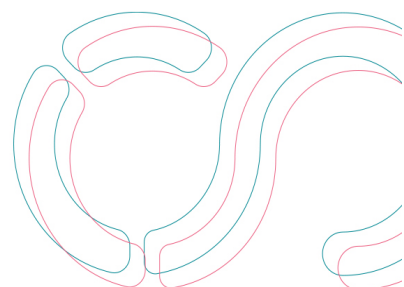
b) Preservation strategies and sustainable retention frameworks

- **Standardised preservation strategies and practices.** Building on the nine challenges and the RRAIL workflow model, a paper could recommend standardised long-term data management and preservation practices – appraisal and reappraisal workflows, format and integrity management – that repositories of different maturity can adopt. The work could also explore user-driven reuse and reproducibility tracking, suggesting relevant work and potential ideas for further exploration that will allow the Federation to capture how, by whom and to what effect datasets are re-used – including for reproducibility – so that reuse becomes a measurable and rewardable signal for repositories and depositors.
- **Sustainable retention frameworks and levels of care.** A deliverable could propose sustainable policies and criteria for what to retain, for how long and at what level of care, drawing on transparent, comparable schemes such as CoreTrustSeal LoRCAP and the FIDELIS TTRAM, so that retention decisions are defensible, cost-aware and consistently communicated. The work could look into wider architectural implications of the implementation of such policies and criteria.

c) Federation readiness of repositories and preservation architecture

- **Guidance on Federation readiness of repositories.** Engaging with the Federation Nodes to understand their status, needs and challenges, a paper could deliver recommendations and best practices that repositories onboarded through EOSC Federation Nodes can use to become and remain preservation- and reuse-ready.

These areas are illustrative, not prescriptive. The elected Co-Chairs, in consultation with the relevant Federation stakeholders, will define the precise problem, scope and use-case anchor in the first month of the mandate.



3 Expected membership

We are looking for members who are willing to contribute actively to an output of the kind described above, in line with the proposed structure (problem – solutions – actionable recommendations). Concretely, prospective members should be ready to:

- Research, analyse and write specific sections of the annual deliverable, within agreed deadlines.
- Critically review and provide constructive feedback on the contributions of fellow members.
- Incorporate feedback received from reviewers and other Federation bodies into the draft.
- Engage with the relevant EOSC Federation Working Groups and the Federation Nodes, and, where applicable, wider preservation and curation communities, to keep the deliverable connected to real needs.
- Commit to consistent and continuous participation throughout the mandate.

Expertise should be relevant to the chosen disciplinary scope – for example: digital preservation and long-term data management; data appraisal, retention and reappraisal workflows; provenance and reproducibility; trustworthy repository certification and levels of care (e.g. CoreTrustSeal); the reuse of research data; or the governance and sustainability dimensions of preservation across Nodes and Data Spaces.

Applicants are asked to submit a short statement of relevant expertise, a CV, and an endorsement letter from their organisation; gender balance and broad representation across the community are taken into account in the selection.

