



University of Zagreb University Computing
Centre (SRCE)

Project Charter

EOSC Federation: EOSC Node Croatia

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

SRCE is a **national e-infrastructure and service provider** for the Croatian research and higher education system, including compute and storage, authentication and authorisation (AAI@EduHr), research data management (repositories, EFSS), open access publishing, information systems (including the national CRIS system), and an educational platform offering courses on RDM and FAIR data. All services are at TRL 9, and most of them support eduGAIN authentication.

In its role as a mandated member of the EOSC Association (EOSC-A), SRCE led the establishment of the **Croatian Open Science Cloud Initiative (HR-OOZ)**, consisting of key stakeholders relevant to open science: the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, the Croatian Science Foundation, all public universities, national representatives of four ERICs, and the National and University Library in Zagreb.

Building on the national coordination role, the EOSC Node Croatia will serve as the national gateway to EOSC, integrating following research resources and services into EOSC:

- **resources** by exposing Croatian research outputs to the EOSC community, including content from more than 180 repositories¹ and 560 OA scientific and professional journals²
- **services** fostering cross-border scientific collaboration e.g. Enterprise File Sync and Share (EFSS) interconnected with EFSS of other EOSC nodes, computing resources supporting international cooperation of Croatian researchers (SRCE already provides compute resources to the ERICs EPOS and CESSDA).

Project goals are:

1. Strengthening the federating capabilities of the Node, especially focusing on exposing and aligning the Node's service registry (implemented within the national CRIS system) and monitoring system with EOSC Federation requirements.

2. Developing a multi-node scientific use case based on an EFSS tool in cooperation with the Slovenian and SURF/Netherlands EOSC Nodes. The collaboration will involve researchers sharing experimental data generated by instrumental measurements (e.g. microscopy) and will provide an opportunity to increase the volume of shared, high-quality datasets.

3. Implementing a proof of concept (PoC) for leveraging a common platform for research software versioning (GitLab, Croatian implementation³) to contribute to the EOSC Resource Catalogue.

¹ <https://dabar.srce.hr/en/repositories>

² <https://hrcak.srce.hr/en>

³ <https://opencode.hr>

2. VALUE PROPOSITION

Challenges and gaps that the EOSC Node Croatia aims to address by joining the EOSC Federation:

- The EOSC Federation currently offers a limited range of services.
- A lack of shared high-quality datasets available through EOSC (a challenge also present within the Croatian research community).
- Low availability and visibility of research software caused by using software management that is not aligned with FAIR principles, resulting in low reproducibility of the research.
- Low visibility of national research outputs among the EOSC Federation community, and vice versa.
- Limited integration of EOSC services and insufficient support for cross-border collaboration among smaller research groups (non-ERICs).
- Limited capacity of the national nodes to fully integrate resources or services from smaller institutions and research groups into the wider EOSC Federation research community.
- Lack of practical examples that clearly demonstrate the value and support of the EOSC Federation to the research ecosystem.
- Lack of clear business models for offering (costly) nationally or institutionally funded services and resources within the cross-border and multi-node environment.

Value proposition, key benefits, and contribution of the Node to the EOSC Federation:

- Contribution of services to the EOSC Federation Service Registry, expanding the available service list and strengthening the overall Federation offer.
- Contribution of Croatian research outputs to the EOSC Resource Catalogue, including content from more than 180 repositories hosted on the national repository infrastructure DABAR and over 560 scientific journals from the national OA publishing infrastructure HRČAK.
- Enhanced two-way visibility between the EOSC Federation and the national node, leading to increased discoverability and reuse of research outputs. This is expected to foster higher research productivity and stimulate new collaborations among researchers.
- Build trust in the EOSC Federation and motivate broader participation and contribution by creating a cross-border, multi-node service linking and integration. This will be demonstrated through the EFSS use case as a concrete example of how service integration can improve the research ecosystem.
- Increase the visibility and representation of research software in the EOSC Resource Catalogue by leveraging a platform that is widely used by software developers (GitLab); Node will strongly promote and support research software management.
- The national node will provide support for onboarding of national service and resource providers which will lower barriers for their participation in the EOSC Federation.

Beneficiaries:

- Academic and research organizations (RPOs) benefit from greater visibility and presence in the European research environment, which could lead to increased collaboration and easier participation in EU projects and funding schemes.
- Researchers in general, and researchers developing, maintaining or re-using research software.
- Research groups, especially those engaging in cross-border collaboration, will benefit from a better joint work environment and simpler access to services available within the Federation.
- Policy makers and funders gain better insights into research outputs, which will lead to informed decision- making and strategic investment in science.

3. REPOSITORIES AND SERVICES DELIVERED

Service ID	Service Description	Access Policies to the Service	Federation Contributions & Value to Users	TRL
<i>DABAR - Digital Academic Archives and Repositories</i>	<i>National repository infrastructure used by 170 academic and scientific institutions. Repositories for preservation and sharing of all research and educational outcomes in line with FAIR principles (dabar.srce.hr/en).</i>	<i>Users: Croatian institutions. Authentication: eduGAIN; authorization: defined per repository. Metadata are CC0, and data have defined access conditions and licences (~56% OA).</i>	<i>185 institutional and thematic repositories with over 331 000 digital objects and central search. Compliant with OpenAIRE guidelines. Fulfills technical infrastructure and security requirements of the CoreTrustSeal.</i>	9
<i>HRČAK- Portal of Croatian scientific and professional journals</i>	<i>National platform for facilitating OA publishing containing journals that provide OA to articles. Easy searching & browsing. (hrcak.srce.hr/en)</i>	<i>Users are Croatian journal editors, and submissions are accepted from all authors. Content is 100% OA.</i>	<i>570 scientific and professional journals with ~320.000 OA papers. Compliant with OpenAIRE guidelines.</i>	9
<i>PUH Sync and Share Service</i>	<i>Reliable storing and sharing of files during the research. Based on Nextcloud.</i>	<i>Croatian researchers and international collaborators participating in research projects. Authentication: eduGAIN</i>	<i>International / cross-node collaboration on research projects.</i>	9
<i>Advanced Computing and Virtual research environment (VRE)</i>	<i>Solving computational resource-demanding problems: supercomputer, cloud computing and advanced platforms such as Jupyter, Galaxy and virtual computing cluster.</i>	<i>Croatian researchers and international collaborators participating in research projects. Authentication: eduGAIN</i>	<i>Over 180 scientific applications optimized and deployed for HPC, HTC, Galaxy and Jupyter. Connected to PUH service (EFSS) for seamless data access and sharing.</i>	9
<i>OpenCode.hr</i>	<i>Environment (GitLab, wiki, forum, dev tools) for software versioning and collaboration.</i>	<i>Croatian researchers and international collaborators. Authentication: eduGAIN</i>	<i>Source of “research software” resources for Resources Catalogue; reliable & non-commercial service situated within EU.</i>	9
<i>FileSender - large files sharing</i>	<i>Reliable and secure method for sending large files.</i>	<i>Currently national AAI, eduGAIN by the end of 2026.</i>	<i>Easier collaboration between researchers.</i>	9
<i>SRCE Academy</i>	<i>Educational platform with packages for scientists, data stewards, etc.</i>	<i>Employees and collaborators of Croatian institutions. Available on Moodle and in-person.</i>	<i>Training packages empowering researchers and data stewards that could be shared within the EOSC Federation.</i>	9
<i>Core Capabilities</i>	- AAI – National Authentication and authorization (AAI@EduHr) - Resource Catalogues and Registry of Services - Helpdesk - Services monitoring - Service Management System		- AAI@EduHr is a member of eduGAIN; eduGAIN proxies are in place - deliver list of services (implemented within national CRIS) and resources - user support for services through a ticketing system - ARGO service monitoring with GRNET - FitSM-based Service Management System	9

4. USE CASES

Use Case ID	Use Case Description	Federation Contributions & Value to Users	List of the participating organisations	List any other Nodes involved	Timeline of realisation of the use case
UC-1 EFSS	Objective of the UC: to interconnect EFSS platforms across different EOSC Nodes, enabling collaboration. EFSS platforms, such as Nextcloud or ownCloud, are environments in which research teams can reliably store and manage their data. The challenge is that the various installations (national, institutional, and thematic) operate as isolated systems without interoperability. By enabling interoperability between these platforms, the use case will facilitate simpler data exchange and enhanced collaboration among cross-border and cross-node research groups. In this use case, two examples will be used. One is Iva Tolić's Group (Biophysics of Cell Division) from RBI, bringing their broad international collaborations with several groups in the Netherlands in the field of bioinformatics. Their pool of microscope images (2–4 TB per day) requires seamless sharing among collaborators, as they rely on the original recordings to analyse images accurately. Another example used in the use-case will be the Weave programme, coordinated by the national funding agencies HRZZ (Croatia) and ARRS (Slovenia). The successful implementation of this programme relies on sharing the data and research results between project groups in both countries. The EFSS storage service is provided to	EFSS enables research teams to securely store, manage, and share data with other users of the same EFSS instance, independent of their physical location. These platforms are often integrated with scientific instruments that generate or collect data, as well as with analysis and processing tools, forming a core component of researchers' daily workflows. EOSC Nodes, including the EOSC-EU Node, provide EFSS platforms to their user communities. This use case aims to demonstrate interoperability across multiple EFSS instances and, through this interconnection, enable research groups to access and exchange data seamlessly, regardless of which EFSS instance they use or through which EOSC Node they consume the EFSS service. In this way, the use case demonstrates added	SRCE – EFSS provider (Croatian node), ARNES – EFSS provider (Slovenian node), Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI) Croatian universities and research institutes Slovenian universities and research institutes	SURF EOSC Node (The Netherlands)	Month5-Month12 prototyping and pilot definition (CRO - SLO) Month12-Month18 operational pilot and validation (multi-node) Month18-Month24 documentation and dissemination of results

	Slovenian researchers by ARNES, while SRCE provides the same service to Croatian researchers. To ensure smooth research workflows and seamless access to data, linking these systems will effectively erase the obstacles researchers face during cross- border collaboration.	value and potential of the EOSC Federation. By interconnecting EFSS platforms, it addresses challenges related to data transfer and sharing, which become particularly acute when dealing with large and continuously growing data volumes. Compared to previously adopted solutions, the federation of EFSS platforms offers a more advanced, scalable, and cost-effective approach, especially given that many research groups already rely on EFSS services.			
UC-2 GitLab	Goal: Increase the Visibility of Research Software through GitLab Integration. This use case aims to explore the potential of GitLab, a widely used platform among software developers and researchers, to serve as a source for the automated population of the EOSC Resource Catalogue. The proposed approach is to implement the OpenAIRE Guidelines for Software Repository Managers on top of a GitLab instance, thereby enabling the exposure and harvesting of structured, interoperable metadata. Since the EOSC Federation's Resource Catalogue is populated using metadata harvested by OpenAIRE, aligning GitLab with OpenAIRE guidelines and registering it with OpenAIRE would significantly increase the availability and visibility of research software resources within EOSC. In addition, this approach would enable the linking of research software with related datasets and publications, thereby directly	One of the challenges related to research reproducibility is the lack of dedicated repositories for archiving and long-term preservation of research software, as well as limited awareness among researchers of the need to preserve research software in such repositories. At the same time, software developers and researchers are accustomed to using Git-based platforms, particularly GitLab, for software versioning, collaboration, and development workflows. Federation Contribution: Research software seems to be underrepresented in the EOSC Resource Hub (per 100 datasets	OpenCo de.HR consorti um: SRCE, Universit y of Zagreb Faculty of Electrica l Enginee ring and Computi ng, Josip Juraj Strossm ayer Universit y of Osijek Faculty of Electrica l Enginee ring, Comput		Month4- Month12 prototype of GitLab that exposes metadata Month12- Month18 operation al pilot and validation of OpenAIR E harvestin g Month18- Month24 document ation and dissemina tion of results

	supporting improved reproducibility and reuse of research results. The UC will be implemented using a service provided by the EOSC Node Croatia that supports the development, versioning, sharing, and collaborative use of research software – OpenCode.HR. The service includes GitLab, a wiki, a forum, and a range of development tools, and supports cross-border collaboration, making it a suitable and scalable environment for validating the proposed approach. This use case will also explore the possibility of automating software release publication from GitLab directly to repositories, using the Croatian repository infrastructure DABAR as a test case.	there is only 1 research software). This use case explores an approach that could increase the availability and visibility of research software within the EOSC Resource Catalogue, thereby contributing to a more balanced and comprehensive representation of research outputs. Value to Users: For researchers and software developers, this approach provides an easy and familiar way to share research software using existing workflows. For researchers as reusers, the enrichment of the Resource Catalogue would expand the range of available software for reuse and collaboration, supporting more efficient research practices and improved reproducibility.	er Science and Information Technology Osijek, University of Zagreb Faculty of Organization and Informatics		
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Scope

- A production-level EFSS (TRL 9) operated as part of the EOSC Node Croatia, connected to at least one EFSS instance hosted by another EOSC Node.
- Provision of access, via EFSS, to raw, instrument-generated data for at least one research team from another EOSC Node.
- A production-level GitLab service (TRL 9) operated as part of the EOSC Node Croatia, hosting open-source research software and providing the metadata required for population of the EOSC Services Catalogue.

Out of scope

- Additional development of the existing EFSS platform (Nextcloud).
- Additional development of the GitLab platform, except for minor plugins and necessary scripts to collect and expose metadata to OpenAIRE.

Dependencies

- Dependencies on partner EOSC Nodes and the technical maturity level and policies of their EFSS services.
- Availability of researchers willing to share research software.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

As the organization representing the EOSC Node Croatia, SRCE agrees to comply with the mandatory technical specifications for the integration into the EOSC Federation, in particular regarding integration into the EOSC Federated AAI and the exposure of its resources through (a) common EOSC catalogue(s).

Legal status:

SRCE is a public institution located in Croatia, with legal personality. It is authorized to establish and formalize agreements with partners involved in the Node, with other EOSC Nodes, and with the EOSC Federation. Its administrative and legal structures are well established, enabling effective coordination and management of partnerships.

With extensive experience in operating key components of the national e- infrastructure, typically organized through a three- tier model, the institution is well positioned to coordinate the EOSC Node Croatia. The planned governance structure will follow the three-tier model:

1. Strategic oversight will be provided by the Croatian Open Science (HR-OOZ) Council (already established), which will be responsible for setting strategic priorities and aligning the activities of the EOSC Node Croatia with relevant national and European policies.
2. Coordination, operational and technical management will be carried out by SRCE.
3. Stakeholders (in a broader sense, including members of the research community and the service providers) will be included through the Steering Committee. The Committee will provide feedback and guidance based on their needs and their (operational) experience.

Node Core capabilities operated or performed by SRCE:

- Resource Catalogue and Registry services
 - The national repository infrastructure (DABAR)⁴ and the national open- access infrastructure (HRČAK)⁵, which will contribute research outputs to the EOSC Resource Catalogue, are fully compliant with the latest OpenAIRE Guidelines for Data Archives and Guidelines for Literature, institutional, and thematic repositories. HRČAK is registered as a data provider, as are most repositories established within the DABAR infrastructure.
 - The national CRIS⁶ system includes a prototype of the national service registry, which will be aligned with the requirements for providing data to the Service Registry of the EOSC Federation.
- AAI, the Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure for science and higher education in Croatia (AAI@EduHr)⁷ is a member of eduGAIN. eduGAIN proxies are in place, and most relevant services support authentication via eduGAIN.
- Helpdesk that uses a ticketing system and defined response policies and is fully prepared to serve as the helpdesk for the national EOSC Node and the resources it provides.
- Service Monitoring for continuous monitoring of the availability and performance of the services it provides, using best- practice tools and established operational procedures. Within the EOSC, SRCE provides ARGO service monitoring in cooperation with GRNET and will be able to cover the needs of the EOSC Node Croatia.
- Service and Research Product Accounting for most of the services it provides. A public dashboard⁸ is available (in Croatian). The accounting system will be translated and aligned with the requirements of the EOSC Federation.

SRCE will align with the EOSC Federation requirements related to the remaining core capabilities.

Service Management:

SRCE has a Service Management System in place based on FitSM. Several members of the Node team have completed FitSM training and obtained the corresponding certificates.

It also has established processes for risk management and business continuity and operates in compliance with the NIS2 Directive, implemented nationally through the Cybersecurity Act.

Large-scale, quality service provision:

As the national provider of ICT services for science and higher education for 55 years, SRCE operates

⁴ <https://explore.openaire.eu/search/content-providers?country=%2522HR%2522>

⁵ <https://explore.openaire.eu/search/dataprovider?datasourceid=openoair::1c1d4df596d01da60385f0bb17a4a9e0>

⁶ <https://www.croris.hr/?lang=en>

⁷ <https://www.aaiedu.hr/en/>

⁸ <https://dashboard.srce.hr>

infrastructure that supports a very high volume of user actions and data. Some of key indicators include:

- the AAI@EduHr system includes 239 home institutions acting as electronic identity providers; at the end of 2025, the AAI@EduHr system contained a total of 1,034,870 electronic identities; throughout 2025 the SSO system handled 55 million successful authentications
- in 2025, the Advanced Computing service provided users with 89 million CPU hours and 577,000 GPU hours
- the EFSS service PUH stores more than 780 TB of data from 287 research projects
- the national OA infrastructure supports 570 journal editorial teams
- the national repository infrastructure is used by 170 institutions.

Capacity to onboard third-party services:

SRCE has the capacity to onboard third- party services and, as the national ICT provider, already performs this role in practice. For example, the DABAR repository infrastructure hosts 185 repositories from 170 institutions, all of which have implemented SSO (eduGAIN). Through its established onboarding, monitoring, and compliance processes, SRCE ensures that integrated services adhere to the required quality standards, rules, and policies, including those related to security, transparency, sovereignty, and trustworthiness.

Compliance with EOSC federation rules and standards: The services offered by the Node are listed in the table in section 3. Each service has Terms of Use that are already available in Croatian and will also be made available in English. The Terms of Use define the access conditions for each service. All relevant policies are published on the service webpages and are also made available in one place on the SRCE Wiki⁹ (in Croatian). Regular monthly vulnerability assessments of technical services are carried out to ensure compliance with cybersecurity standards. Authentication and authorisation through the AAI and eduGAIN enable users to access the services. EOSC Node Croatia already meets most of the current requirements of the EOSC Federation and will continue to align with future requirements as they evolve.

Sustainability:

SRCE is publicly funded and has been operating for 55 years. Its services are of national importance and are used by most research institutions in Croatia, with the support of the relevant ministry. Furthermore, EOSC is explicitly included in the Croatian Open Science Plan and in the national strategy *Research Infrastructure Development Roadmap of the Republic of Croatia 2023–2027*¹⁰.

Each of the listed services is supported by a dedicated team responsible for development, maintenance, user support, and the preparation of training materials. In addition, the services are backed by teams responsible for the underlying e-infrastructure layers (e.g. system administration and related technical operations), as well as by the education and training team and the communications team. Furthermore, for EOSC- related activities, in 2025 the relevant ministry approved two full- time positions, and two staff members have been employed accordingly. This will contribute to continuity and stability in EOSC activities, the development of expertise, and alignment with EOSC policies, as well as continuous communication with the EOSC Association and the wider community.

⁹ <https://wiki.srce.hr/x/T4CGBq>

¹⁰ <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Znanost/ZnanstvenaInfrastruktura/ZnanstvenaOprema/znan-oprema-29-12-2023/Research-Infrastructure-Development-Roadmap-of-the-Republic-of-Croatia-2023-2027.pdf>

6. EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES & KEY RISKS

External Dependencies & Risks	Actions / mitigations measures	Deadline
A reduction in funding could negatively affect the pace of the Node's EFC implementation.	This is an external risk beyond the project's control and may result in an extension of the project duration. SRCE continuously applies for new projects, which helps mitigate such risks and maintain the sustainability of its activities.	
The implementation of UC-1 (EFSS) depends on configurations, maturity levels, and resources available at partner EOSC Nodes.	Widening of collaboration on the use case to additional EOSC Nodes, noting that multiple use cases are already oriented towards EFSS interoperability. Specifically, discussions have been initiated with the team of the Swedish EOSC Node, which is also planning a use case based on EFSS, and there is strong potential to implement the use case in collaboration with them.	January 2027
Misalignment of policies and terms of use may lead to GDPR, licensing, or security violations.	Review existing policies and Terms of Use and identify potential gaps and issues (Deliverable D4).	February 2027
Uncertain scope of EOSC Federating Capabilities. Incorrect estimates may arise due to an incomplete understanding of the activities required to implement the EOSC Federating Capabilities (EFC). At present, the EFCs are not defined in sufficient detail, making it difficult to precisely plan the required time and resources.	Improved understanding of EFC through consultations with EOSC Nodes that are more advanced in their implementation.	May 2027
The implementation of UC-2 (GitLab) may be affected by a lack of sufficient quantity or quality of research software made available by researchers.	Development of training courses and targeted education for researchers and RPOs on Research Software Management.	September 2027

7. CONTRIBUTIONS [DELIVERABLES (INCLUDING DOCUMENTATION)]

Deliverable ID	Deliverable Name	Responsible	Deadline
D1	Communications Plan The Communications Plan will define the objectives, target audiences, goals, key messages, timing, and responsibilities for effectively disseminating project goals, information, and results to the relevant stakeholders.	Slaven Mihaljević	September 2026
D2	Training Plan The Training Plan will outline the training needs and objectives, the target audience, the timeline, the format of sessions, and the expected learning outcomes.	Dejana Carić	September 2026
D3	First set of onboarded services and repositories with confirmed AAI integration, registration record in the EOSC Catalogue, and defined access policies.	Mijo Đerek, Draženko Celjak, Ivan Jelenić	November 2026
D4	EOSC Node Policies Assessment and Governance Model The deliverable assesses the Node's alignment with EOSC Federation requirements, identifies gaps in technical, organisational, and policy areas, and defines actions required for compliance. It also establishes the governance model of the Node. More details below.	Draženko Celjak, Sabina Rako, Mijo Đerek, Dejana Carić	December 2026
UC2-D1	Online training course on research software management The training course serves as supporting material for Use Case 2.	Dejana Carić	December 2026
D5	Second set of onboarded services and repositories with confirmed AAI integration, registration record in the EOSC Catalogue, and defined access policies.	Mijo Đerek, Draženko Celjak, Emir Imamagić	May 2027
D6	Onboarding Rules and Procedures for Third-Party National R&D Entities. Includes the development of legal frameworks to govern the onboarding of external entities, technical guidelines, etc.	Sabina Rako, Dejana Carić, Draženko Celjak, Ana Marušić	October 2027
UC1-D1	EFSS Use Case Report This deliverable will document the implementation progress, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and the initial impacts of the Use case 1.	Draženko Celjak, Dejana Carić	February 2028

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UC2-D2	Research Software Use Case Report This deliverable will document the implementation progress, challenges encountered, lessons learned, and the initial impacts of the Use case 2.	Dejana Carić, Draženko Celjak	March 2028
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D4 - This deliverable will provide an analysis of the current state of the Node and included service in relation to the requirements of the EOSC Federation. It will identify gaps across organisational, policy, and service dimensions, including terms of use, privacy policies, and security topics. Based on the identified gaps, the deliverable will define a structured action plan with steps to achieve alignment with EOSC Federation requirements. In addition, it will describe and formalise the governance model of the Node, including roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SRCE will rely on its role as a mandated organisation in the EOSC and as coordinator of the national open science cloud to implement the activities required for effective community engagement and participation in the EOSC Federation. It will utilise its expertise and previous experience, its long-standing close cooperation with the research community, and its excellent track record in projects related to EOSC and open science in general.

The main tool for community engagement with the EOSC Federation will be the Croatian Open Science Cloud Initiative (HR-OOZ), which is coordinated by SRCE. It is an organisational and technological environment that encourages, supports, and enables open science. It consists of all public universities in Croatia, several of the largest research institutes, the National and University Library, the Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ), and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth (MSEY), in total 21 institutions. Based on this initiative, the MSEY developed a Croatian Open Science plan in 2025, paving the way for further connecting HR-OOZ with the EOSC Federation.

Through the HR- OOO initiative and with the support of its members, SRCE has the capacity and a clear plan to develop the necessary capabilities to enable the broader Croatian research and innovation community to engage and participate in the EOSC Federation. It will serve as a central place through which the community is informed, educated, and onboarded into the EOSC Federation.

SRCE will use a multidisciplinary team in engaging with the research community, covering different areas and services relevant for the EOSC Federation. For example, it will include SRCE experts in repositories, interoperability, and data services, experts in the integration of advanced computing systems and technologies relevant to research and education, as well as teams for authentication, authorisation, and single- sign-on mechanisms aligned with EOSC requirements.

SRCE and its multidisciplinary team will rely on already established engagement and communication activities and channels (either its own or those of HR-OOO members) to engage with the community through, for example, events, workshops, trainings, newsletters, social networks, and publications. SRCE's yearly conference "Days of e-infrastructure SRCE DEI" will serve as the main event for gathering (potential) service providers, onboarding them, and engaging with the broader community throughout the duration of the project.

It will also start new targeted activities aimed at specific communities that have the greatest potential for participating in the EOSC Federation (e.g. consultations, demonstrations, and hands-on training). In this way, different communities will become familiar with the EOSC Federation and its benefits and will be given the opportunity to engage with the EOSC Federation through the national Node. In doing so, SRCE will support the onboarding of third-party resources from the community and promote shared practices.

In addition, two SRCE staff members working full-time on EOSC-related tasks will contribute their expertise to coordinate and align with EOSC policies and maintain continuous communication with the EOSC Association and community.

9. TIMING AND MILESTONES

ID	Milestone Description	Target Delivery Date
M1	Use cases activities started	August 2026
M2	Alignment of the national AAI infrastructure (AAI@EduHr) with EOSC requirements	October 2026
M3	EFSS use case prototype (including at least 2 nodes)	October 2026
M5	Onboarding of the first set of services and repositories in progress (candidates: HRČAK, PUH, FileSender)	October 2026
M4	Established EOSC Node Croatia governance	November 2026
M6	Onboarding of the second set of services and repositories in progress (candidates: DABAR, OpenCode.HR, Advanced Computing)	February 2027
M7	Integration with Monitoring Federating Capability	April 2027
M8	GitLab use case prototype	April 2027

10. CONTACTS

During the project build-up phase of the EOSC Node Croatia, six dedicated individuals will be continuously engaged (core project team). These individuals, together with their roles and responsibilities are listed in the table below. The coordinator will lead the project team, oversee the overall project results, and act as the main contact point for the EOSC Node Croatia. Strategic decisions will be taken by the coordinator in consultation with the core project team. As indicated by their titles (provided beneath their names), most team members are heads of organisational units and, during specific phases of the project, will involve additional staff from their respective units as needed.

Involved resources (FTEs) of the 6 persons listed in table: 2,35 FTE

Involvement of other team members: 3,50 FTE

Total resources: 5,85 FTE (11,70 FTE / 2 years)

Role	Name	Email
Coordinator	Draženko Celjak (Head of Data Management Department)	drazenko.celjak@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr
Operations Officer	Dejana Carić (Information specialist for Open Science)	dejana.caric@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr
Cybersecurity Officer	Mijo Đerek (Head of Middleware and Collaboration Systems Department)	mijo.derek@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr
Legal Officer	Ana Marušić (Legal & General Affairs Division)	ana.marusic@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr
Communications Officer	Slaven Mihaljević (Head of Cooperation and Communication Department)	slaven.mihaljevic@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr
Service Portfolio Manager	Sabina Rako (Head of Service Development and Management Department)	sabina.rako@srce.hr , eosc@srce.hr