



METROFOOD-RI/Jožef Stefan Institute

Project Charter

EOSC Node | METROFOOD

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY

METROFOOD-RI is a distributed European Research Infrastructure listed on the ESFRI Roadmap and currently applying for the ERIC status. METROFOOD-RI operates across multiple countries through a coordinated network of national reference laboratories, analytical facilities and digital services. Its activities support food, nutrition and agrifood research by providing reliable data and services related to food quality, safety, nutrition, authenticity, contaminants and sustainability indicators.

Through this project, METROFOOD-RI aims to formalise its role within the EOSC Federation by enrolling as a thematic EOSC Node and consolidating its role as a structured access point for food-related research data and services. The project focuses on governance alignment, operational consolidation and long-term sustainability for resources that are already operational and widely used at national and European level.

METROFOOD-RI addresses a clear need for reliable, harmonised, and interoperable food research data, which is currently dispersed across heterogeneous systems and disciplines. As an EOSC Node, it will provide coordinated access to laboratory analytical data, reference datasets, metadata catalogues, and digital services enabling their discovery and reuse in cross-domain research workflows involving health, agriculture, environmental and sustainability data.

Technical readiness for EOSC federation has already been demonstrated through the EOSC Beyond project, where METROFOOD services have been exposed, tested and aligned with the EOSC sandbox including AAI, catalogues, FAIR metadata standards and multi-node interoperability mechanisms. EOSC Beyond has enabled the implementation and validation of core federating capabilities, significantly reducing integration risk for the EOSC Federation. As a result, no major new technical development is required for EOSC Node enrolment but only reconfiguration.

Key outputs of the project include the formal enrolment of METROFOOD-RI as an EOSC Node, the productive implementation of mandatory EOSC Federated Capabilities, a governance concept, implementing cross-Node use cases and contributing to the EOSC Academy.

2. VALUE PROPOSITION

METROFOOD-RI contributes to the EOSC Federation by addressing a structural gap in the European web of FAIR data: the absence of a dedicated, well-governed entry point for food, nutrition and agrifood research data that combines metrological robustness with interoperable digital services. Although food data are central to health, environmental, sustainability and policy research, they remain highly fragmented across laboratories, countries and disciplines, limiting discovery, comparability and cross-domain reuse within EOSC. In addition, the One Health concept recognises that human health, animal health, and environmental health are all interconnected, and protecting one requires protecting the others through collaborative, cross-sector efforts.

In this context, the METROFOOD EOSC Node builds on an established network of collaboration with complementary European Research Infrastructures and initiatives, including ELIXIR, BBMRI, EMPHASIS, and AnaEE, to enable cross-disciplinary scientific use cases and interoperable workflows. With ELIXIR, collaboration is advanced as some ELIXIR partners use METROFOOD services to analyse food composition data and through the ARENA project, where interoperability between food and life science data for GenAI will be elaborated. A parallel engagement with BBMRI, pursued through the EOSC Mesh project, strengthens links between food, nutrition and biosample data through federated discovery and common metadata. Cooperation with EMPHASIS focuses on the development of shared use cases and interoperable workflows between agrifood and plant science research infrastructures, while collaboration with AnaEE supports cross-domain integration of food, environmental and ecosystem research to address sustainability and One Health challenges.

Together, these collaborations contribute to the development of shared use cases, interoperable workflows, harmonised metadata, and digital services that strengthen the EOSC Federation. This growing network of collaboration is further reinforced through dedicated training and capacity-building activities, carried out via the TALENTUM project, which facilitates METROFOOD-RI's contribution of training materials to the EOSC Academy.

By joining the EOSC Federation, METROFOOD-RI will bring research resources into a trustworthy European Knowledge Commons. Through EOSC Beyond, METROFOOD services have already been integrated with catalogues and AAI on the EOSC sandbox, tested in real cross-node scenarios and validated against EOSC interoperability and metadata requirements. This positions METROFOOD-RI as a production-ready thematic Node candidate, requiring no substantial new technical integration, only reconfiguration, but rather formal governance alignment and recognition within the Federation.

A key contribution of METROFOOD-RI is its focus on validated, quality-controlled and policy-relevant data and services. METROFOOD-RI provides laboratory analytical data, reference datasets, associated metadata catalogues and selected food consumption data, produced and managed under harmonised protocols and quality assurance frameworks. These resources support regulatory, scientific and industrial use cases and are essential for EOSC users requiring traceable measurements, reproducible evidence and reliable inputs for risk assessment, regulatory decision-making and policy support.

METROFOOD-RI's distinctive capability is the tight integration of physical and digital infrastructures. Networks of reference laboratories, experimental facilities and analytical platforms are directly connected to an electronic infrastructure providing data repositories, catalogues, processing tools and secure access services. This model allows EOSC users to use real-world measurements in digital research workflows, strengthening EOSC's ability to support data-intensive, cross-disciplinary science. In addition, METROFOOD has an elaborated data quality model that can be introduced to EOSC so that data repositories, datasets, and data records could use a unified data quality model.

Within the EOSC Federation, METROFOOD-RI contributes validated datasets and services exposed through EOSC catalogues, aligned with Single Sign-On, metadata standards and the EOSC Interoperability Framework. It delivers Node Core Capabilities including service exposure, interoperability support, governance alignment and community coordination, and demonstrates validated multi-node use cases that connect food data with health, environmental and sustainability resources.

The primary beneficiaries are 1. researchers working in food science, nutrition, public health, environmental and sustainability research, 2. research infrastructures and EOSC Nodes requiring interoperable, domain-specific data, 3. public authorities and regulatory bodies relying on policy-grade data, 4. SMEs and industry actors in food and sustainability sectors, and 5. society at large through improved data foundations for food safety, nutrition and sustainability policies.

The EOSC Node METROFOOD is already in contact with AgriDataSpace and collaborates with several partners across different projects. Further and closer collaboration is currently being developed, and obtaining an EOSC Node would significantly support and strengthen these activities.

3. REPOSITORIES AND SERVICES DELIVERED

All listed repositories and services are already existing and either integrated and tested within the EOSC Beyond project or will be integrated and tested in the EOSC Mesh project. The presented list is only a part of all available METROFOOD repositories and services.

Service ID	Service Description	Access Policies to the Service	Federation Contributions & Value to Users	TRL
MF-AAI	METROFOOD Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure	EOSC users authenticated via federated AAI	Will be federated with the EOSC EU Node AAI and is already federated with the EOSC Sandbox AAI. Will allow users to use Single Sign-On.	9
DATA-LAB	Laboratories providing data food quality, safety, contaminants, and authenticity	World-wide access; access conditions depend on laboratory and use case	Physical infrastructure generating data that can be combined with other services enabling cross-domain research with health and environmental data.	9
MF-DATA	METROFOOD data repositories	Open, restricted or private	Contribution to web of FAIR data with food data.	9
META-CAT	METROFOOD-RI metadata catalogues describing laboratory datasets and services	Open discovery via EOSC catalogues; access to underlying policy	Improves discoverability of datasets across EOSC. Already federated with the EOSC Sandbox catalogues. Complements existing federated capabilities of federated catalogues.	9

SERVICE-CAT	METROFOOD-RI Service Catalogue integrated with EOSC Service Catalogues	European-wide discovery; service access governed by provider policies	Already federated with the EOSC Sandbox catalogues. Complements existing federated capabilities of federated catalogues.	9
MF-MON	METROFOOD service monitoring (availability, reliability, status)	Public status information via EOSC dashboards	Planned to be federated with EOSC Sandbox monitoring allowing to monitor repositories and services. Complements existing federated capabilities of monitoring.	9
MF-HELP	METROFOOD Helpdesk for users	Open for all METROFOOD partners and users	Already federated with the EOSC Sandbox helpdesk. Complements existing federated capabilities of federated helpdesk.	9
MF-MAN	METROFOOD Service Management System	Used to manage services	METROFOOD has its own service management that can be federated with the EOSC capability.	9
MF-QUAL	METROFOOD data Quality	Currently only accessible to FoodCASE users	Data quality framework to calculate dataset and data record data quality. Could be a new federated capability. User can investigate data quality.	7

4. USE CASES

This section presents all use cases that METROFOOD is going to implement in EOSC Beyond, EOSC Mesh, and EOSC EDEN. The repositories and services described above form the foundation of these use cases.

Use Case ID	1
Use Case Description	Federation of METROFOOD catalogues, not only with the EOSC EU Node catalogues but also with EOSC Node Poland, and the EOSC Node Switzerland (candidate). The connection with the Polish Node was established in a test environment during the EOSC Beyond project and will now be deployed in production.
Federation Contributions & Value to Users	Users across METROFOOD, Poland, and Switzerland will be able to discover repositories and services from all participating Nodes, enhancing cross-border visibility and reuse of research resources.
Participating Organisations	PMT, JSI, METROFOOD, Cyfranet, Switch
Other Nodes Involved	EOSC Node Poland and EOSC Node Switzerland (candidate)
Timeline	M6-M16

Use Case ID	2
Use Case Description	METROFOOD will integrate one of its food composition repositories and FoodCASE software with the Virtual Research Environment (VRE) service of the EOSC Node Digital Twin of the Ocean to calculate recipes within the VRE environment.
Federation Contributions & Value to Users	This use case demonstrates a cross-Node scientific workflow integrating data, software, and computing services from two EOSC Nodes.
Participating Organisations	PMT, JSI, METROFOOD, Trust-IT, and CNR
Other Nodes Involved	EOSC Node Digital Twin of the Ocean
Timeline	M8-M18

Use Case ID	3
Use Case Description	Leverage computational infrastructure from CERN and EGI to implement versioning of food-related data and establish a cross-Node workflow execution model. Deploy interoperable storage and execution endpoints, integrate REANA instances, and demonstrate runnable cross-Node workflows across scientific disciplines.
Federation Contributions & Value to Users	This use case operationalises a secure and interoperable compute-to-data model across heterogeneous Nodes, combining federated catalogues, AAI, containerised computing, REANA orchestration, and reliable cross-Node data transfer.
Participating Organisations	PMT, JSI, METROFOOD, CERN, EGI
Other Nodes Involved	CERN and EGI
Timeline	M12-M22

Use Case ID	4
Use Case Description	Development of a metadata harvester to aggregate metadata from METROFOOD, Finland, and other repositories into a unified platform. A common data quality framework will be piloted, with initial implementation focusing on food composition data.
Federation Contributions & Value to Users	Users benefit from consolidated repository metadata in one location, enabling improved dataset comparison, integration, and quality assessment across Nodes.
Participating Organisations	PMT, JSI, METROFOOD, CSC
Other Nodes Involved	EOSC Node Finland
Timeline	M10-M20

Use Case ID	5
Use Case Description	Creation of a public repository for EOSC datasets, enabling national and international interlinking of scientific data. The infrastructure will include a metadata catalogue with DOI minting, storage services, data ingestion workflows, and a metadata schema registry.
Federation Contributions & Value to Users	This use case facilitates stronger linkage between datasets from Switzerland and Germany and provides persistent identifiers to ensure traceability and reuse.
Participating Organisations	PMT, JSI, METROFOOD, NFDI
Other Nodes Involved	EOSC Node Germany
Timeline	M12-M24

In Scope

METROFOOD will deliver and operate a set of interoperable repositories, catalogues, and workflow services contributing to the EOSC Federation through five concrete use cases implemented between M6–M24. All resources made available through the METROFOOD EOSC Node will operate at minimum TRL 7 (self-assessed), ensuring deployment in an operational environment.

Stakeholder Support:

The METROFOOD Node is designed to support:

- Researchers in food, nutrition, and health
- Cross-disciplinary scientific communities using food-related data
- Universities and research infrastructures
- EOSC Nodes seeking interoperable catalogues and workflow integration
- Data stewards and repository managers
- SMEs and innovation actors requiring access to validated food datasets

Integration:

METROFOOD's integration efforts include:

- Federation with EOSC Nodes Poland, EOSC Node Finland, EOSC Node Germany, EOSC Node Digital Twin of the Ocean, EOSC Node CERN, and EOSC candidate Node Switzerland and EGI
- Interoperability via federated catalogues and AAI
- Containerised computing and REANA-based orchestration
- Reliable cross-Node data transfer mechanisms
- Adoption of FAIR principles (persistent identifiers, rich metadata, interoperability standards)
- Alignment with EOSC Federation architecture and governance

Out of Scope

To ensure clarity and prevent scope creep, the following activities are explicitly excluded:

- Primary data production and data collection activities
- Domain-specific scientific curation beyond food composition pilot scope
- Development of new large-scale computing infrastructures (beyond integration with CERN/EGI)
- Provision of generic cloud services outside food-related workflows
- Full lifecycle data stewardship for third-party repositories

Limitations:

Limitations are:

- Geographic focus is aligned with participating Nodes; global federation beyond these partners is not included in the build-up phase.
- Data quality framework implementation is limited initially to food composition data.
- Support is focused on research and research infrastructure communities rather than commercial SaaS-level service provision.

Dependencies:

The following elements depend on external Nodes or partners:

- Computational infrastructure provision (CERN, EGI)
- VRE services from EOSC Node Digital Twin of the Ocean
- National Node infrastructure in Poland, Switzerland, Finland, and Germany

5. COMPLIANCE WITH TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

METROFOOD is fully committed to becoming an active and reliable contributor to the EOSC Federation. It will maintain continuous alignment with the EOSC Tripartite Governance and proactively engage in EOSC initiatives and task forces. This ensures early awareness of evolving Rules of Participation and compliance criteria and supports coherent development across the Federation.

From the outset, METROFOOD agrees to comply with all mandatory technical specifications governing participation in the Federation. In line with the enrolment call requirements and the architectural, operational, and interoperability framework described in the EOSC Federation Handbook, the Node will implement all required federating capabilities and ensure that its services and resources are technically, semantically, organisationally, and legally interoperable within the EOSC Federation.

Building on the achievements from the projects EOSC Beyond and EOSC EDEN and the upcoming EOSC Mesh, METROFOOD enters the build-up phase with a strong preparatory foundation. METROFOOD demonstrates initial AAI interoperability, early catalogue exposure, and provides a structured testbed for aligning infrastructures with EOSC architectural requirements. METROFOOD already meets most important eligibility criteria established for first-wave EOSC Nodes: it is operated by several legally recognised organisations with clear accountability for all Node functions, demonstrates technical readiness through established AAI interoperability and catalogue exposure, and allocates sufficient full-time equivalent (FTE) staff to ensure both a successful build-up phase and long-term operational sustainability.

5.1 Integration with the EOSC Federated AAI

To fulfil the mandatory AAI integration requirement, METROFOOD will connect its AAI to the EOSC AAI Architecture 2025 (EOSC AAI Architecture 2025 - <https://zenodo.org/records/15388270>), following integration patterns validated by first-wave Nodes, such as the UmbrellaID → eduTEAMS → MyAccessID alignment model. A compliant AAI proxy will enable federated identity management and Single Sign-On (SSO) across services, supporting harmonised attribute release, role-based access control, and identity assurance levels aligned with EOSC policies.

Integration will ensure interoperability with European and international identity federations and will implement robust identity lifecycle management procedures, including onboarding, offboarding, and incident response related to authentication events. Cross-node authentication workflows will be validated through multi-node use cases to guarantee secure and seamless access to federated services.

5.2 Integration with Resource Catalogues and Registry Services

In compliance with the mandatory requirement to expose resources and services via EOSC catalogues, METROFOOD will integrate its service and research product catalogues with the EEN Resource Catalogues and Registry Services. The Node will implement the necessary adapter to send catalogues' entries to the EEN catalogues based on the Interoperability Guidelines (DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.15516020), ensuring compatibility with the EOSC Registry and Provider Dashboard.

All exposed services will provide machine-readable metadata through standardised APIs and will adopt persistent identifiers (e.g. DOI, ORCID where applicable) to guarantee findability and citability. METROFOOD resources will thus become seamlessly discoverable via the EOSC Resource Hub, fully aligned with the EOSC Interoperability Framework. Synchronisation mechanisms between METROFOOD catalogues and the EOSC federated catalogue will ensure consistency and timely updates.

5.3 Compliance with the EOSC Interoperability Framework

METROFOOD will fully align with the EOSC Interoperability Framework (EOSC IF), encompassing the Interoperability Guidelines, the EOSC IF Registry, and the associated EOSC IF Governance structures.

The Node commits to implementing the definitions, standards and specifications set out in the Interoperability Guidelines, including agreed metadata schemas, API requirements, PID policies and semantic interoperability principles. All onboarded services will be validated against these requirements prior to federation exposure.

Should METROFOOD onboard new federated capabilities, it will ensure accurate and compliant registration of new Guidelines in the EOSC IF Registry and to follow the EOSC IF Governance. In addition, METROFOOD will actively engage in EOSC IF Governance processes to remain aligned with evolving rules and updates to the IF. Through this structured approach, interoperability compliance is embedded both technically and organisationally, ensuring coherent integration within the Federation.

5.4 Node Core Capabilities and Service Management

In accordance with the EOSC Federation Handbook, METROFOOD will implement the required Node Core Capabilities which are currently AAI federation and Resource Catalogue and Registry Services while helpdesk, service monitoring and service management system will become mandatory in 2026.

Beyond the mandatory baseline, METROFOOD will progressively implement additional capabilities that enhance operational maturity and user experience. This includes participation in a federated helpdesk, integration with federated monitoring and accounting services, adoption of a service management framework aligned with FitSM or ITIL principles, and workflow orchestration aligned with established models such as CERN/REANA and SURF.

A structured Service Management System (SMS) will support incident, change and problem management, and define Service Level Agreements (SLAs) or Operational Level Agreements (OLAs) where appropriate. Drawing on operational practices demonstrated by first-wave Nodes, METROFOOD will ensure compatibility and coherence within the Federation.

5.5 Cybersecurity Compliance

Aligned with the cybersecurity provisions of the EOSC Federation Handbook, METROFOOD will implement an Information Security Management (ISM) based on recognised standards such as ISO/IEC 27001 or equivalent national and European information security regulations. Security incident response procedures will be coordinated with EOSC-level mechanisms where applicable. Logging, monitoring, vulnerability management and regular risk assessments will ensure infrastructure resilience and service integrity. Security compliance will be embedded in service onboarding procedures. In addition, regular risk monitoring and assessments will be conducted, a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) will be created, and trainings will be organised to raise awareness and knowledge about cybersecurity.

5.6 Data Protection and GDPR Compliance

METROFOOD will ensure full compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and relevant national legislation. Clear designation of controller and processor roles, documented processing activities, transparent privacy notices, and adherence to data minimisation principles will be required. Services processing personal or sensitive data will implement additional safeguards such as secure processing environments, controlled access workflows, and enhanced auditing.

In parallel, METROFOOD will implement procedural safeguards to support and verify compliance, recognising that regulatory responsibility ultimately lies with the individual services. To facilitate this, GDPR compliance will be embedded in the service onboarding process, including expedited review of Terms of Use and Privacy Policies, verification of roles and responsibilities, and alignment with EOSC Federation requirements. Designated legal and security officers will oversee and coordinate compliance in accordance with the call.

5.7 Contributing Horizon Europe and EOSC Projects

METROFOOD-RI's readiness for EOSC Federation compliance has been built up through active participation in a portfolio of EOSC-related projects, each contributing specific capabilities that underpin the Node's technical, operational, and governance alignment. The table below summarises these contributing projects and clarifies their manner of contribution to the Node's development.

Project	Contribution
EOSC-ARENA	Development of AI-enabled services, semantic technologies and interoperable data exchange supporting food and life science research.
EOSC Beyond	Development and validation of the prototype METROFOOD EOSC Node, including AAI federation, catalogue federation, interoperability testing and initial implementation of EOSC Federated Capabilities.
EOSC EDEN	Development of data quality services, FAIR data management and long-term preservation of research data.
EOSC Mesh	Deployment of production-ready federated services, implementation of cross-Node workflows, REANA integration and operational federation of EOSC services.
TALENTUM	Capacity building, EOSC Academy training materials and dissemination of best practices supporting the adoption of EOSC services.

6. EXTERNAL DEPENDENCIES & KEY RISKS

METROFOOD-RI enters the EOSC Federation with a mature technical and organisational setup. Nevertheless, as with any federated infrastructure, its operation depends on a number of internal and external factors that may influence execution, coordination, and long-term sustainability. The risks identified below are primarily operational and coordination-related, rather than technical development risks, and are addressed through established governance structures and mitigation measures.

External Dependencies & Risks	Actions / mitigations measures	Deadline
Dependence on EOSC EU Node services (AAI, catalogue availability, policies)	Continuous coordination with EOSC EU Node and alignment with published EOSC guidelines and timelines	Continuously
Coordination and collaboration with other EOSC Nodes for multi-Node use cases can cause delay	Early engagement with partner Nodes, escalation in EOSC-A and projects EOSC Beyond, EOSC EDEN and EOSC Mesh	During use case implementation
Ongoing evolution of first and second wave Node standards, EOSC Federation Handbook, including changes to mandatory and recommended federating capabilities	Continuous alignment with EOSC-SB, EOSC-A, participation in public consultations, early review of impacts before implementation	Continuously
Cybersecurity risks related to federated operations	Security monitoring, incident response procedures, and alignment with EOSC security recommendations	Continuously
METROFOOD partners do not deliver on time	Use of existing METROFOOD governance and communication channels, reassignment of responsibilities and replacement of key personnel where required.	Continuously

7. CONTRIBUTIONS [DELIVERABLES (INCLUDING DOCUMENTATION)]

Deliverable ID	Deliverable Name	Responsible	Deadline
1	Federation with EOSC federated capability 1: AAI	METROFOOD	M8
2	Federation with EOSC federated capability 2: Resource Catalogue and Registry Services	METROFOOD	M10
3	Federation with EOSC federated capability 3: Service Management System	PMT	M12
4	Concept to adjust METROFOOD governance becoming an EOSC Node	JSI	M12
5	Federation with EOSC federated capability 4: Helpdesk	PMT	M13
6	Federation with EOSC federated capability 5: Service Monitoring	JSI	M14
7	Use case 1: Federating catalogues with PL and CH	PMT	M16
8	Use case 2: Using VRE from Digital Twin of the Ocean to calculate recipes	PMT	M18
9	Use case 4: Metadata harvester and data quality service	PMT	M20
10	Use case 3: Using CERN's REANA for cross-Node workflows	PMT	M22
11	Use case 5: Using general data repository and DOI minting from NFDI	PMT	M24
12	Contribution to EOSC Academy	METROFOOD	M24

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

METROFOOD-RI has an established and active European community spanning food science, nutrition, public health, environmental research, and policy-oriented stakeholders. As an EOSC Node, METROFOOD-RI builds on this existing community base and organisational experience to support sustained participation in the EOSC Federation and effective use of federated services.

Community engagement within EOSC is organised through a centrally coordinated approach, ensuring consistency across national nodes while allowing services and datasets to remain close to their providers. This structure enables efficient onboarding, clear communication, and a coherent user experience for EOSC users accessing METROFOOD resources.

Engagement activities focus on enabling discovery, access, and meaningful reuse of EOSC and METROFOOD services. These activities include the structured onboarding of METROFOOD services into EOSC catalogues with clear access conditions and user guidance, as well as support for the onboarding of third-party resources where appropriate and aligned with METROFOOD data policy, FAIR principles, and EOSC interoperability requirements.

Capacity building and user support are integral components of METROFOOD's engagement approach. Training activities such as webinars, online workshops, and user-oriented documentation support researchers, institutions, and public authorities in effectively using METROFOOD services within EOSC workflows. Dissemination activities will be integrated into METROFOOD's existing communication channels and aligned with EOSC practices to ensure broad visibility and uptake. In addition, METROFOOD will contribute to the EOSC Academy with training materials developed in the TALENTUM project.

Continuous interaction with users will be supported through established feedback mechanisms that inform service refinement and prioritisation. User input is used to improve documentation, access procedures, and interoperability, ensuring that METROFOOD services remain aligned with evolving user needs and EOSC developments.

The METROFOOD EOSC Node serves researchers, research infrastructures, EOSC Nodes public authorities and policy users, and SMEs. By integrating these communities into EOSC, METROFOOD extends the Federation's reach into the food and nutrition domain and supports cross-domain research linking food data with health, environmental, agriculture, and sustainability resources.

METROFOOD-RI's engagement approach reflects experience gained from participation in European and EOSC-aligned initiatives and adopts practices demonstrated to be effective during the current wave of EOSC Nodes. Emphasis is placed on realistic expectations, clear scope definition, and sustainable engagement models that can be maintained beyond the initial Node build-up phase.

9. TIMING AND MILESTONES

The milestones below mark METROFOOD-RI's key events, capability integrations, and use case implementations. Target months may be refined as second-wave coordination with the EOSC Federation progresses.

ID	Milestone Description	Target Delivery Date
1	Kick-off meeting	M1
2	Revised project plan approved	M3
3	Mandatory EOSC Core Capabilities (AAI and Resource Catalogue) successfully integrated	M10
4	METROFOOD governance model adapted for EOSC Node operation	M12
5	Additional federating capabilities integrated (Service Management System, Helpdesk, Service Monitoring)	M14
6	Federating capabilities and governance concept presented to NCC/NOC	M14
7	Initial cross-Node use cases (UC1 and UC2) implemented: Federating catalogues with PL and CH and Using VRE from Digital Twin of the Ocean to calculate recipes	M18
8	All five use cases implemented	M24
9	Use cases and EOSC Academy contribution presented	M24

10. CONTACTS

The METROFOOD project team comprises four core members covering the mandatory roles: Coordinator, Operations Officer, Cybersecurity Officer, and Communications Officer, complemented by an additional external legal expert as Legal Officer to ensure alignment with the EOSC Federation. The team brings extensive experience in research data management, legal and regulatory compliance, cybersecurity, Open Science infrastructures, and communication. With the exception of the Coordinator and Operations Officer, whose responsibilities remain stable throughout the build-up phase, role allocations may evolve to reflect the progressive maturation of processes and governance within the EOSC Federation. METROFOOD is expected to obtain ERIC status in 2026. Consequently, the involved organisations, personnel, and roles may evolve, and the strategic commitment to establishing an EOSC Node is likely to strengthen.

EOSC Federation Build-Up Phase Project Charter:
EOSC Node | METROFOOD

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