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Interim Activity Report 2023/2024

AUSTRIAN MANDATED ORGANISATION / EOSC SUPPORT OFFICE AUSTRIA

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Contents

Executive Summary

This report presents the achievements of the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA) over the period from June 2023 to June 2024, highlighting significant milestones, organizational developments, and future objectives. The report covers the activities and accomplishments of the General Assemblies, details new memberships, and provides comprehensive updates from each organizational body within EOSC SOA.

General Assemblies

The report details the outcomes of past General Assemblies (including the on-boarding of new members which has been pivotal in broadening the scope and impact of EOSC SOA), focusing on key decisions and strategic initiatives undertaken. It also provides an outlook to the upcoming GA in December 2024, emphasizing the ongoing commitment to fostering collaboration and advancing the goals of the EOSC SOA community.

EOSC SOA Bodies

Each EOSC SOA body – Steering Committee, Management Board & Secretariat, Synergy Team & Working Groups, EOSC Café – was given the opportunity to report on the status quo and reflect on future objectives and expected results.

The *Steering Committee* has effectively guided the strategic direction of EOSC SOA. Upcoming goals include refining internal governance structures and enhancing strategic partnerships to bolster the operational framework.

The *Management Board*, supported by the *Secretariat*, has overseen the efficient execution of day-to-day operations and facilitated communication across all levels of the organization. Future key foci include improving administrative as well as communication processes and scaling support services to meet the evolving needs of the EOSC community. To that end, the Secretariat was tasked with improving *General Communications*, *Community Building & Stakeholder Engagement* and *Content as Added Value*.

The *Synergy Team & Working Groups* have been instrumental in creating content and sharing relevant information for / with the EOSC SOA community and will continue to do so.

EOSC Café has served as an interactive platform for knowledge exchange and networking among stakeholders, fostering a vibrant community dialogue. Due to its regular meetings, it will continue to shape the future of the European Open Science Cloud by integrating diverse perspectives and expertise, from Research Infrastructures, e-Infrastructures, horizontal activities related to (Open) Science and the process of building EOSC.

Conclusion

Over the covered period, EOSC SOA has made substantial progress in achieving its mission to support and promote EOSC-related topics in Austria. Looking ahead, it remains dedicated to building on these achievements, strengthening its community, and driving forward the vision of a robust and inclusive EOSC.

Introduction

The EOSC Support Office Austria (SOA) contributes to the development of the Austrian Open Science Policy and the realization of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). This report outlines its activities and organizational efforts in 2023 and 2024, starting with a brief historical overview.

Since the European Commission launched the EOSC initiative in 2015, it has been a long-term process. Recognizing the need for coordinated networking among key players, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMBWF) and engaged universities and institutions took decisive action. By January 2021, the ACONET Association provided its legal status to Austrian stakeholders, and the BMBWF agreed to fund the Austrian Mandated Organization, enabling representatives from various institutions to collaboratively advance the EOSC initiative.

The role of the EOSC SOA involves supporting Austrian Open Science policy, establishing working groups for ongoing development, and promoting seamless integration of Austrian research data infrastructure into the broader European landscape. Membership is free and open to all Austrian institutions and initiatives.

The BMBWF's special funding from autumn 2022 to cover part of the personnel costs of the EOSC SOA Secretariat underscores its appreciation for the members' dedication. While this funding does not cover all personnel expenses, it is a significant recognition of the collective efforts.

This *Interim Report*[1] captures the activities of the past year (June 2023 until June 2024) and highlights the numerous benefits for Austrian partner institutions, including:

- Active participation in the collaborative process of shaping EOSC, rather than merely receiving a finalized product,
- Access to an extensive, competent network and collaboration with EOSC SOA partners for project calls and third-party funding,
- Establishment and expansion of research infrastructures among Austrian EOSC SOA partners,
- Coordination of the EOSC SOA partners' strategies.
- Up-to-date Open Science information dissemination by the EOSC SOA as the Austrian central information hub for EOSC.

Acknowledgments go to all who have contributed their knowledge and commitment to the Austrian EOSC initiative in all its facets[2].

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[1] A final extended report including July 2024 to December 2024 will be drafted and published by the end of the year.

[2] See https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-austria/governing-bodies/

Activities 2023 & 2024

General Assembly

On October 18, 2023, the Vienna Natural History Museum (NHMW) hosted the third General Assembly of the EOSC SOA. The event, supported by the EOSC SOA Secretariat, brought together members to elect new candidates for the EOSC SOA governing bodies, reflected on the past year's achievements, and discussed the future of EOSC in Austria. The event was covered live on X (formerly known as Twitter) via @eoscassociation.

Key topics included the introduction of the University of Graz as a new member, and the election of new governing body members, with all candidates confirmed in their respective positions. The election also confirmed the continuation of six out of eight Working Groups (WGs) for 2024[3].

In addition to that, updates on ACONET Association's activities, including the new AQUnet project and its withdrawal from PRACE, were presented. Discussions were held on the development of EOSC, its governance structure, value for European researchers, and the role of private service providers.

The event also highlighted the achievements of the last year, such as restructuring communication measures, launching a new logo, and publishing the 2022 EOSC SOA Activity Report. Newly elected chairs outlined their plans for 2024, focusing on alignment with the BMBWF, support for research opportunities, and fostering Open Science practices.

Outlook GA 2024

The 2024 General Assembly of the EOSC SOA will be hosted by the University of Vienna. This gathering is expected to build on the successes of previous assemblies, focusing on advancing Austria's contribution to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

New Members

Within this reporting period, the EOSC SOA welcomed four new members: Universität Graz, Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft and WU Wien. Their inclusion strengthens the collaboration and commitment to the Austrian EOSC initiative. This expansion marks a significant step towards enhancing the national and international Open Science ecosystem, fostering greater synergy and innovation among Austria's leading research institutions.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee's first meeting in 2024 took place on 12 April at TU Wien Bibliothek under the chair of Beate Guba as 1st spokesperson; Katrin Vohland was elected 2nd spokesperson. Representatives of the Management Board, Secretariat, Synergy Team, and General Assembly gave updates on their activities, the international projects EOSC Focus, Skills4EOSC, OSTrails and the national funding program "Kulturerbe digital". Stefan

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[3] For further information on EOSC SOA WGs, please read "Working Groups" further below.

Hanslik, BMBWF, contributed his insights into the current discussion of the EOSC Nodes concept within the EOSC Steering Board and EOSC Café. As the further development of EOSC at the European level will impact the EOSC SOA, a possible adaption of its governance structures was postponed. The participants agreed that cooperation between the bodies of the EOSC SOA was further improved, and they collected additional information requirements that the Secretariat should fulfill. The second part of the meeting focused on prioritizing the activities in 2024 and planning the acquisition of new members based on updated KPIs. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in November 2024 following the EOSC Symposium in October.

Management

Management Board

In 2023, activities whose foundation had already been laid in 2022 were continued. These included the support for the Management Board, maintenance of the website as well as the community's shared working space on coLAB, the creation of workflows (e.g., for the GA elections) and the organization of the GA 2023. Meetings with the Secretariat have been held monthly since 2021.

In addition to regular activities, the Management Board defined three strategic focal points for the 2024 period: *General Communications*, *Community Building & Engagement* and *Added Value Content*. The Secretariat was also tasked with drawing up a timeline for realizing the objectives of these clusters and ensuring the implementation of individual work steps.

General Communications

Communication is crucial for achieving the goal of Austrian research organizations becoming EOSC-ready. Changes in the Secretariat Team and Management Board in November gave impetus to reassess and reinvigorate the communications strategy of the EOSC SOA. Building upon a plan composed by Julia Geistberger in 2022, new and interesting ways to reach the Austrian EOSC SOA community and demonstrate the value of membership to (potential) EOSC SOA partners were established. In addition, main priorities were identified:

First, the EOSC SOA website was to be revamped to support all three clusters. Thus, significant enhancements were made to the EOSC SOA website[4] to improve usability as well as accessibility. One of the primary updates was optimizing the website for better performance on smart phones. With a more responsive mode, the site now offers a seamless user experience across all devices, ensuring that users can easily access information on the go.

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[4] https://eosc-austria.at/

Figure 1: Website developments. New event page is shown on the left; EOSC SOA and External resources on the right.

Various pages on the website have been revised to feature a more user-friendly reading style. These updates make it easier for visitors to find and comprehend information, enhancing overall readability and engagement. Additionally, the homepage was restructured to improve navigation and highlight key information more prominently, making important content more accessible at a glance.

Furthermore, new pages have been added to provide information on EOSC SOA as well as EOSC-related resources. These pages are designed to help the EOSC SOA community stay up to date with the latest developments in EOSC, offering valuable insights and information that support ongoing collaboration and innovation.

Second, more information about events and news relevant to the EOSC SOA community was to be shared in a timely manner. This matter was dealt with as a part of the website's revamping as a new event calendar was added[5]. This calendar includes events from all EOSC-related Horizon Europe projects, national projects and initiatives, and other nationally organized events. By leveraging contacts, a comprehensive resource for upcoming events that will keep our community well-informed and engaged was created.

Third, communication via SOA-All Mailing List and Newsletter to deliver content and increase engagement (i.e., encourage the community to use the mailing list and feature partners more) was to be increased. At the time of the December 2023, a newsletter infrastructure had already been created and three editions of it had already been

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[5] https://eosc-austria.at/events/

published. However, the idea was established to invest in the Newsletter as a major channel of direct communication with members, subscribers, and stakeholders.

The EOSC SOA Secretariat also started using a new tool called *Brevo* for sending the Newsletter. Brevo is GDPR compliant and offers an easier-to-use interface and a more aesthetically pleasing result. Future Newsletters are expected to continue to have themes and to highlight members of the community and their work.

Community Building & Stakeholder Engagement

Since April 2024, the EOSC SOA has been developing a plan for efficient and productive community building and stakeholder engagement. Basic principles include:

- Community building and stakeholder engagement are dynamic. The plan should therefore be regularly evaluated and adapted as necessary.
- Engagement strategies should be "tailored" to the respective stakeholders.
- Priorities must be set (e.g., relevance of stakeholders, or opportunities in terms of available resources and existing contacts).
- "Unnecessary" acronyms and synonyms are to be avoided in order to prevent misunderstandings.
- Close co-operation with General Communications is a must.

Community building aims in particular to strengthen cooperation and communication within the initiative. To make this possible, for example, a communication flow with the reference points was established to enable a regular exchange of information. Additionally, at least one member of the Management Board and/or the Secretariat attends all key meetings of other bodies (Steering Committee, Synergy Team, EOSC Café) to ensure a reliable flow of information. Strong and regular communication as well as the newsletter (possibility of guest contributions), the website[6] and the exchange of information via the mailing list for all members are central to community building.

The stakeholder engagement plan is currently undergoing a feedback process. However, it can already be mentioned that stakeholders are very heterogeneous and have different interests in the EOSC Support Office Austria. It is therefore important to define specific goals, subgroups and engagement activities for each stakeholder group. Furthermore, potential synergies and overlaps (through projects, for example) must be identified.

Although the stakeholder engagement plan is still in the making, several key activities have already been implemented. For example, the article "European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) – Europäische Forschungsinfrastrukturen für nationale Museumssammlungen?"[7] was published in June in collaboration with the Natural History Museum Vienna, the *Österreichische Museumsbund*[8] and the EOSC Support Office
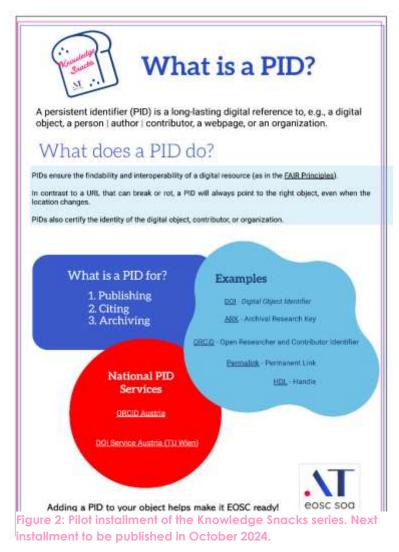
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[6] https://eosc-austria.at/

[7] https://www.museumsbund.at/museumspraxis/european-open-science-cloud-eosc-europaeische-forschungsinfrastrukturen-fuer-nationale-museumssammlungen

[8] https://www.museumsbund.at/

Austria. In this article, the EOSC Support Office Austria is introduced as an initiative relevant for research museums and scientific collections. Another article that serves the purpose of awareness raising (albeit at European level) was submitted at the beginning of September.

Another example of successful Community Building & Stakeholder Engagement was the "FAIR-IMPACT National Roadshow Austria"[9] event, which took place online on 18 June 2024. Barbara Sánchez Solís (TU Vienna, 2nd Chair of the General Assembly of EOSC SOA) moderated the event. Key notes were given by Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi (TU Graz, 1st Chair of the General Assembly of EOSC SOA, Shared RDM Services & Infrastructure project coordinator) and Tereza Kalová (University of Vienna, Chair of the Management Board of EOSC SOA), among others.

Figure 2: Pilot installment of the Knowledge Snacks series. Next installment to be published in October 2024.

Against the background of Community Building & Stakeholder Engagement, workflows were developed to gather feedback from the community (via online meetings and by email) on diverse topics. Austrian perspectives have already been collected twice in this way - firstly in connection with the EOSC Nodes[10] and secondly with the Multi Annual Roadmap[11] (MAR) - and passed on to the European level through the EOSC Association.

Content as an Added Value

Through the processes of developing a stakeholder engagement plan and revamping the EOSC SOA website, it became clear that one of the main functions of the EOSC SOA is to provide the infrastructure for the EOSC SOA community. Creating content to help EOSC SOA partners and the public

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[9] https://eosc-austria.at/fair-impact-national-roadshow-austria/

[10] https://eosc.eu/eosc-about/building-the-eosc-federation/questionnaire-for-parties-interested-in-contributing-to-the-build-up-phase-of-the-eosc-federation/

[11] https://eosc.eu/sria-mar/

interested in EOSC developments and related topics such as Open Science navigate the dense and prolific policy landscape and integrate that knowledge into everyday activities is one way to support the community, which is to be perceived as an added value of membership to or engagement with the EOSC SOA.

One concrete project to help get this started is to produce open educational resources that especially research support staff can use in their day-to-day work. Thus, the idea for *Knowledge Snacks*, a running series of one-pagers about data-management-related topics, was born. Knowledge Snacks are supposed to not only create useful and quickly digestible content to support research support staff in their day-to-day work- e.g., use cases, best practices, state of art developments, but also to "translate" documents into easily and quickly understandable and readable formats (such as policies or deliverables of the EOSC task forces and projects).

Secretariat

In 2023 the team consisted of five members (Marthe Bierens, Katharina Flicker, Juliana Giroletti, Franziska Krauss and Bernd Saurugger) from three EOSC SOA partner institutions, namely the University of Vienna, TU Graz and TU Wien. The personnel costs were (and are) funded by the Ministry for Education, Science and Research[12] (BMBWF).

In this constellation, Katharina Flicker coordinated the EOSC SOA Secretariat. Bernd Saurugger managed coLAB and ensured that the mailing lists were regularly updated. Marthe Bierens, Juliana Giroletti and Franziska Krauss handled a wide range of communication-related topics. For example, they regularly updated the website, shared events and were responsible for the newsletter. All other tasks were distributed according to the resources of the team members in the joint meetings, which have been held bi-weekly since 2022.

There were several staff changes at the start of the year and in the first half of the year. The current team consists of Meghan Bohardt, Marie Czuray, Katharina Flicker, Stefan E. Reichmann, Bernd Saurugger and Birgit Söser. The University of Vienna, Graz University of Technology and Vienna University of Technology are again represented.

With this change, the tasks are distributed as follows: Katharina Flicker coordinates the EOSC SOA Secretariat and is also responsible for the Community Building & Stakeholder Engagement cluster. Meghan Bohardt is responsible for the General Communications and Added Value Content clusters. Bernd Saurugger is responsible for all technical aspects of the website in addition to his previous activities. Marie Czuray is involved in all activities, especially in regard of the website and the communication of events, calls and funding opportunities relevant to the EOSC SOA. Birgit Söser and Stefan Reichmann are primarily working on the knowledge snacks as part of the General Communications cluster. As in the previous periods, any further tasks are distributed within the team depending on the resources in terms of time available.

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[12] https://www.bmbwf.gv.at/public.html

Synergy Team

As discussed at the Steering Committee's evaluation meeting in summer 2023, the Synergy Team[13] intends to meet at least four times a year to provide updates on their work as well as to facilitate the exchange of information and the identification of potential synergies.

In 2023 the Synergy Team met up four times. By the time of finalizing this report (September 2024), the Synergy Team has already met four times. The current speakers are Susanne Blumesberger (University of Vienna) and Claire Jean-Quartier (TU Graz). According to the MoU, there should be three speakers, but in the last period there were only two candidates who were finally elected at the GA 2023. Due to a longer absence of Claire Jean-Quartier, the EOSC SOA Secretariat (Katharina Flicker) has been supporting the Synergy Team since the beginning of 2024.

As the Synergy Team consists of the EOSC SOA Working Group's coordinators the following section is dedicated to the Working Groups.

Working Groups

The EOSC SOA started out with eight Working Groups[14] (WGs) dedicated to the following topics: Austria Country Report, Collections, Data Stewardship, KPIs, Researcher Engagement in Austria, Stakeholder Engagement, Technical Infrastructure and Training. Three of them – namely Data Stewardship, KPIs and Stakeholder Engagement – declared their work completed at the General Assembly 2023 and did therefore not continue. The WG Data Stewardship continues to work as an on-demand expert group that can be contacted with questions regarding their topic. Information on recent developments, the status quo, results as well as future plans of all WGs that are still active can be found in the following paragraphs:

Austria Country Report

Since 2023, the WG has published five editions of the Austria Country Profile, the latest in Q3/2024. Task of this WG is the regular (quarterly) monitoring of EOSC building processes in Austria, i.e., open science and FAIR related policies, projects, activities as well as research data (management) and computing infrastructures.

The basic structure of the reporting template was set up in 2020 and has since then been adapted slightly and expanded periodically. The working group has been very stable since its foundation and all members actively contribute to the updates. Joint editing of the document via Onlyoffice in CoLAB this has proven to be a practicable method.
There is, in addition, regular transfer of information from the report to the forschungsdaten.info website (Austria sections)[15].

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[13] https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-austria/governing-bodies/

[14] https://eosc-austria.at/working-groups/

[15] https://forschungsdaten.info/fdm-im-deutschsprachigen-raum/oesterreich/

Collections

The collections WG was active with respect to harmonizing dataflows in the digitization efforts of Natural History Collections in the course of the OSCA Project[16] and have established a portal that integrates records of NatHist collections from various sources[17] including domain specific. To achiveve this goal the implementation of data standards, namely DarwinCore[18], DublinCore[19], Minimum Information for a Digital Specimen[20] (MIDS), Europeana Data Model (EDM), and FAIRification of digital collections using persisten identifiers for the digital objects in a standardized form. In March 2024 the group co-organized a workshop in the course of the SKILLS4EOSC[21] project on "Digital collection Curators" with the Österreichischer Museumsbund[22]. Target audience were curators and collection holders covering a broad spectrum, from natural history to humanities, and social sciences to film to introduce the Open Scientific Collections concept and discuss and identify the necessary skillset for protagonists from technicians and digitizers to management level. Results of this workshop together with forthcoming activities in the SKILLS4EOSC project will lead to a learning path and a minimum viable skillset definition for collection holders.

Researcher Engagement in Austria

The WG Researcher Engagement in Austria[23] contributes to the identification of the research communities' needs to ensure that EOSC services will be of actual use. A series of interviews based on an interview guideline was therefore conducted with researchers located at public universities in Austria in order to learn about requirements for the sharing and re-using of data, discipline-specific data practices to understand the exact context of data sharing and re-using as well as trust in data quality.

There are 22 public universities in seven of nine of Austria's Federal States[24] (*Bundesländer*). The WG managed to cover 10 public universities by conducting a total of 12 interviews with researchers from a broad range of disciplines. The still missing universities are located in the federal states of Vienna, Upper Austria, Salzburg and Styria[25].

The following list is ordered by the date of publication on Zenodo:

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[16] https://osca.science/

[17] https://osca.science/portal/

[18] https://dwc.tdwg.org/

[19] https://www.dublincore.org/

[20] https://github.com/tdwg/MIDS

[21] https://www.skills4eosc.eu/

[22] https://www.skills4eosc.eu/

[23] https://eosc-austria.at/working-groups/researcher-engagement/#re

[24] There are no public universities in Burgenland and Vorarlberg.

[25] The missing universities include: Medizinische Universität Wien, BOKU, Universität für angewandte Kunst, Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien, Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien, Akademie für bildende Künste (Vienne), Universität für künstlerische und industrielle Gestaltung Linz (Upper Austria), Universität Mozarteum Salzburg (Salzburg), Montanuniversität Leoben, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Medizinische Uni Graz, Kunstuniversität Graz (Styria).

1. Thomas Lampoltshammer / Computer Scientist at *Universität für Weiterbildung Krems*: https://zenodo.org/record/7319375#.ZH8iDnZByUk (14 Nov 22)
2. Maria Schreiber / Communication Scientist at *Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg*: https://zenodo.org/record/7758011#.ZH8iD3ZByUk (21 Mar 23)
3. Wolfgang Kraus / Cultural and Social Anthropologist at *University of Vienna*: https://zenodo.org/record/7804887#.ZH8iEHZByUk (6 Apr 23)
4. Thomas Hofer / Chemist at *Universität Innsbruck*: https://zenodo.org/record/7855137#.ZGO_Z3ZByUk (22 Apr 23)
5. Erich Schmutzhard / Neurologist, Intensive Care Physician and Tropical Medicine Specialist at *Medizinische Universität Innsbruck*: https://zenodo.org/record/7868201#.ZIrq8nZByUk (15 Jun 23)
6. Angela Fabris / Literature and Film Scientist at *Universität Klagenfurt*: https://zenodo.org/record/8084534 (29 Jun 23)
7. Birgit Wassermann / Microbiome Researcher at *TU Graz*: https://zenodo.org/record/8364680 (20 Sep 23)
8. Josef Küng / Computer Scientist at *JKU*: https://zenodo.org/record/8051728 (27 Sep 23)
9. Marcus Huber / Quantum Physicist at *TU Wien*: https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.8398357 (2 Oct 23)
10. Ansgar Jüngel / Mathematician at *TU Wien*: https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10912050 (3 Apr 24)
11. Susanne Reichl / Contemporary Literature in English Scientist at *University of Vienna*: https://zenodo.org/records/11357635 (27 May 24)
12. Fajar Juang Ekaputra / Computer Scientist at *WU Wien*: forthcoming.

The interviews are to be analyzed qualitatively in order to summarize findings and submit the results at conferences or journals. Based on the results the interview guideline will be revised. In the next period, the WG intends to narrow down the topics to be discussed in interviews (depending on the outcome).

Technical Infrastructure

In 2023, the WG Technical Infrastructure[26] intended to evaluate national data services for their EOSC-readiness. In the course of doing so, research into criteria for services to be integrated into EOSC revealed the lack of updated guidelines in the form of checklists and recommendations for several service types in the Austrian context. Past publications by OpenAIRE, EOSChub, EOSC Synergy, EOSC Pillar, and particularly EOSC Nordic listed specifications for technical infrastructure, such as Vitlacil et al. 2020[27]. Still, service catalogues shall be extended to include standards for software as well as data workflows, and further have to be unified, updated, and communicated via the EOSC EU node.

This is also a central topic for the compliance to the rules of participation. Emphasizing the slow progress of the corresponding Task Force, the topic has been communicated to the former EOSC Association Task Force for Technical Interoperability as missing

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[26] https://eosc-austria.at/working-groups/technical-infrastructure/#infra

[27] https://zenodo.org/records/5541618

component, also noted for the EOSC Technical Architecture and Interoperability Framework to be elaborated by the EOSC Technical and Semantic Interoperability, which is the 2024 succession to the former Task Force addressing Technical Interoperability.

National collaborative infrastructure projects could make use of the current available checklists, as soon as they have been approved by the European Commission, to assess corresponding institutional, regional and national data services.

Training

The Working Group on Training has been working on how training materials - mainly in German - can be offered openly and with as low a threshold as possible. The "Collection of materials for training courses in research data management"[28] seems to be well suited for this purpose. This has the advantage that the uploaded materials are curated, can be provided with extensive metadata, and it is also possible to easily link to materials already stored elsewhere and provide them with extensive metadata. A workshop with the responsible person and interested colleagues showed that the upload works well. The training materials are easy to find, you can search by many criteria and find the right training material. The database is currently being revised. Another focus was the creation of an overview of offers and services related to the research database. Publications and links on various topics should be listed, briefly described and made available to all interested parties.

EOSC Café

The EOSC Café is a dynamic and open forum designed to foster collaboration and idea exchange among a diverse group of experts. These experts come from a wide array of disciplines, including various fields of science and research, research policy, as well as societal and economic sectors. The primary goal of the EOSC Café is to provide the EOSC SOA with fresh and innovative perspectives from outside the core EOSC initiative.

Key Features of the EOSC Café

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: The forum brings together professionals with varied backgrounds, ensuring a rich exchange of ideas and viewpoints. This interdisciplinary approach helps in addressing complex challenges and leveraging diverse expertise for the betterment of the EOSC initiative.

Regular Meetings: Participants of the EOSC Café (EOSC Steering Board Member, Members of the EOSC Association, the Austrian EOSC Support Office, Research Performing Organizations, etc...) convene at least three times per year. These regular meet ups facilitate continuous dialogue and keep the momentum of collaborative efforts going. The frequency of the meetings ensures that the inputs and insights are timely and relevant. In the year 2023/2024 several meetings took place covering issues like: Governance and Policy Framework, Data Interoperability and Standards, Infrastructure

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[28] https://rs.cms.hu-berlin.de/uag_fdm/pages/home.php

and Services, Data Management and Stewardship, Funding and Sustainability, Researcher Engagement and Training, Legal and Ethical Issues, International Collaboration, Innovation and Technology Development, Impact Assessment and Monitoring.

External Impulses: One of the core objectives of the EOSC Café is to infuse the EOSC Support Office with external insights. These impulses from "outside" help in broadening the perspective of the EOSC, ensuring that it remains inclusive and considers a wide range of factors and viewpoints in its development and implementation strategies.

Supporting the EOSC Vision: The experts in the EOSC Café contribute towards the overarching vision of the EOSC, which aims to create a sustainable, inclusive, and accessible European Open Science Cloud. Their contributions help in shaping policies, strategies, and practices that align with the goals of the EOSC. Currently the concept of EOSC Nodes is one of the main topics discussed in relation to policy developments.

Diverse Expertise: The experts involved in the EOSC Café include scientists, researchers, policy makers, and professionals from societal and economic sectors. This diversity ensures that the forum covers a broad spectrum of topics and issues, enriching the discussions and outcomes.

The EOSC Café serves as a vital platform for interdisciplinary collaboration and external engagement, playing a crucial role in shaping the future of the European Open Science Cloud by integrating diverse perspectives and expertise, from Research Infrastructures, e-Infrastructures, horizontal activities related to Open Science and the EOSC process.

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