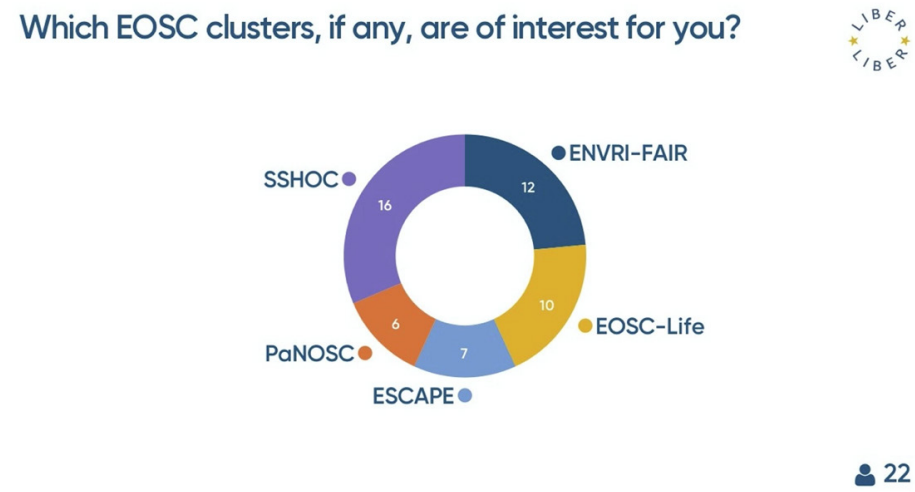
EOSC. ESFRI Cluster Projects. RDA: Connecting commonalities and collaborative solutions for community research data services

Proceedings from the meeting in Helsinki

On 21 October, during the **Research Data Alliance 14th Plenary Meeting** in Helsinki, SSHOC invited representatives from EOSC, the ESFRI cluster projects, and the RDA Working and Interest Groups, to discuss mutual commonalities and opportunities for collaboration. A cross-section of some 40 individuals attended the 4 hour workshop which was introduced by SSHOC Coordinator and EOSC Executive Board member Ron Dekker director of CESSDA.

1. Participant Overview



The EOSC services, commonalities and collaborations event was a collaboration by representatives funded under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the following Grant Agreements: SSHOC #823782, ESCAPE #824064, PaNOSC #823852, ENVRI-FAIR #824068 RDA Europe 4.0 #777388. The information, views and recommendations set out in this publication are those of the projects and cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission

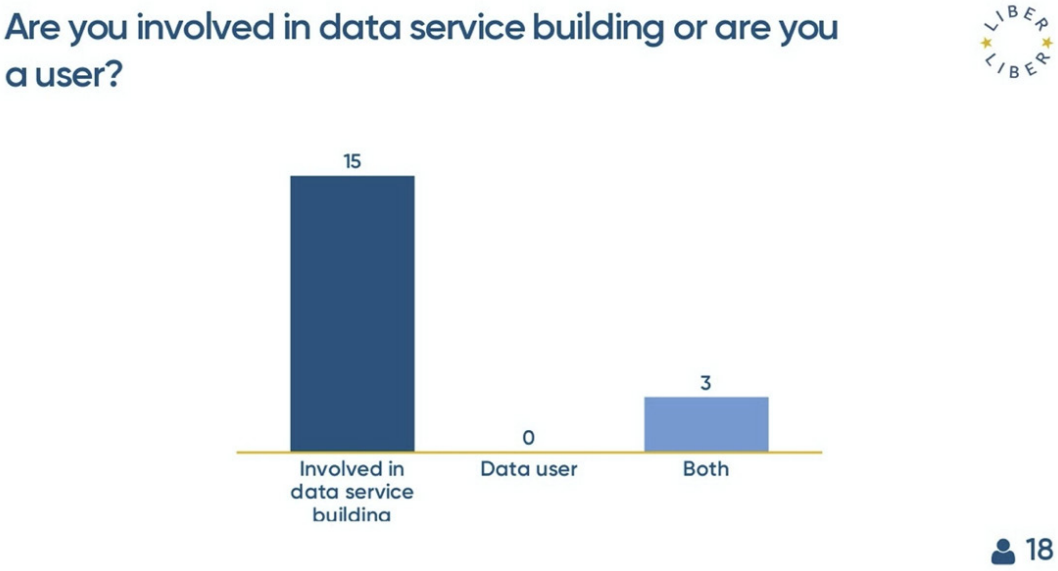
2. Data services

With the launch of EOSC and the EOSC-hub, clear differences have emerged between the priorities of infrastructure initiatives looking to provide stable general data management services, and the research communities with their focus on specific, short-term research data workflows.

Obviously, the need for research data services to be findable and usable by projects and users is common to both groups, and in this regard, there is much to be learned from the international research data community.

» MingFang Wu (ARDC, RDA Data Discovery Paradigms Interest Group) showcased the *Eleven quick tips for finding research data* and *User Requirements and Recommendations for Data Repositories.*

» Jonathan Clark (DOI Foundation) co-chair of the RDA Persistent Identifier Interest Group, referred to the importance of the human aspect of interoperability.



» Marco Molinaro (INAF, ESCAPE) related how using the Virtual Observatory Framework, applying the FAIR principles, and establishing data stewardship practices is adding value to the scientific content of the ESFRI data archives.

» Daan Broeder (CLARIN, SSHOC) pointed out that many of the technologies and services being lifted into the SSH Cloud, be they generalizations and extensions of existing services such as Switchboard, for new developments such as the Interoperability Hub and Marketplace, are not SSH-specific and could also be adopted in other domains. With respect to sustainability, he said, organisations should take responsibility for the quality of services and data, and projects need to be critical of the results of inherited projects.

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3. Connecting to Communities

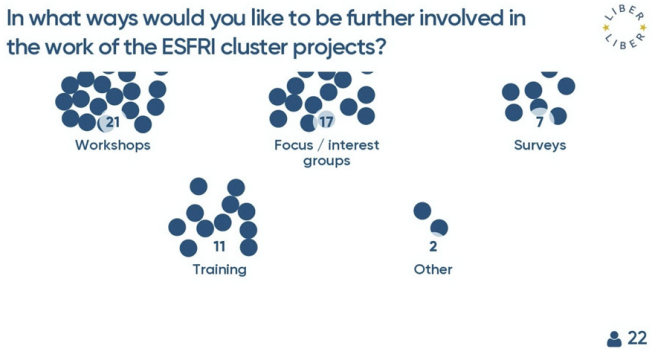
While the ESFRI cluster projects represent the needs of the individual researcher for specificity and flexibility in the EOSC infrastructure, the overall architecture is the responsibility of EOSC-hub-like projects and the EOSC working groups.

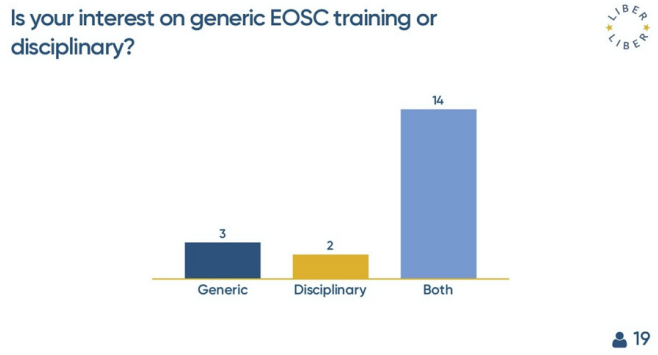
» RDA Group of European Data Experts (GEDE) co-chair Peter Wittenburg (Max Planck Computing & Data Facility) expressed the need for a unifying message, addressing the enormous complexity of the EOSC situation for the individual researcher.

» Ornela De Giacomo (CERIC-ERIC,PaNOSC) pointed out the need in some cases for special direct collaborations between community organisations sharing common interests and topics. She described the methods used to engage the 30.000 members of the Photons and Neutrons community which is spread over a wide spectrum of subdomains.

» RDA adds value to issues particular to data originating from a specific domain through groups like the RDA Social Sciences Research Data IG, introduced by co-chair Ron Dekker. The RDA for Humanities report, authored by RDA Europe Ambassador René van Horik (DANS), is a guide to the RDA value-add for this domain.

» Vasso Kalaitzi (LIBER, SSHOC) highlighted the importance of training and workshops when connecting to communities for the success of EOSC. Participants also indicated that there is a need for both generic and discipline-specific EOSC training.





4. Governance

Governance of the EOSC cluster projects is at least as important as the technical solutions which facilitate data storage and discovery. Both were explored in this session from different domain (cluster) perspectives with the aim of defining commonalities and a joint approach.

» Franciska de Jong (CLARIN, EOSC sustainability WG, SSHOC) questioned how diversity and the need for alignment would be balanced on disciplinary, national, European and e-Infrastructure organisational levels.

» Mirjam van Daalen (PSI, EOSC sustainability WG, ESFRI taskforce on EOSC) explained how the EOSC community is involved in the definition of the Strawman document. In reply to the comment by Ari Asmi (University of Helsinki, ENVRI FAIR) that each cluster project has a Work Package on governance, she said that this work should feed into the EOSC WG's discussion.

» Participants were most interested in the EOSC Working Group on Sustainability. Stakeholder alignment and overcoming domain borders via national representatives were identified as challenges for EOSC governance.

» Regarding the next steps for governance, a clear role was seen for the RDA in fostering collaboration, understanding governance in existing e-Infrastructures, and influencing national funders through its international network.

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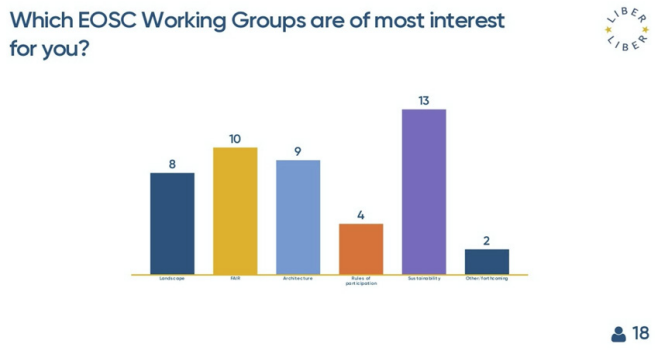

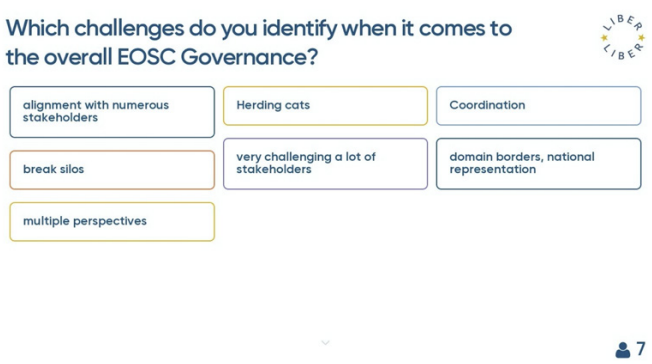

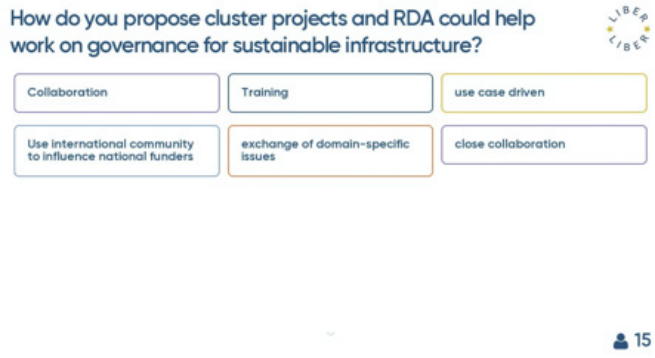

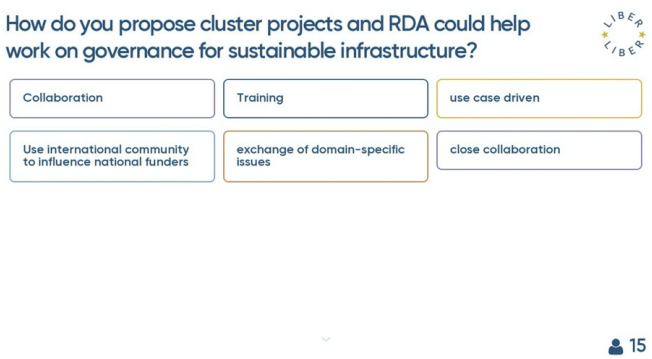

5. Conclusions and next steps

"You are part of EOSC." With these closing words, Christian Cuciniello (EC policy maker DG RTD), stressed the importance of continued coordination and the sharing of best practice amongst the cluster projects and the RDA and the EOSC working groups on the joint journey to EOSC.

A follow-up meeting is planned to which researchers will be invited. Representatives of each cluster project will also meet on a 3-monthly basis to identify opportunities for collaboration and share best practices.

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