

# It takes more than a village: lessons on building global research commons

**Sarah Jones, EOSC & DCC**

**Email: [sarah.jones@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.jones@glasgow.ac.uk)**

**Twitter: [@sjDCC](https://twitter.com/sjDCC)**



Image by Marymount.edu

National Data Services Framework Summit  
5-6<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Ottawa, Canada



**Slides at: <https://www.slideshare.net/sjDCC>**

Slides by EOSC Executive Board

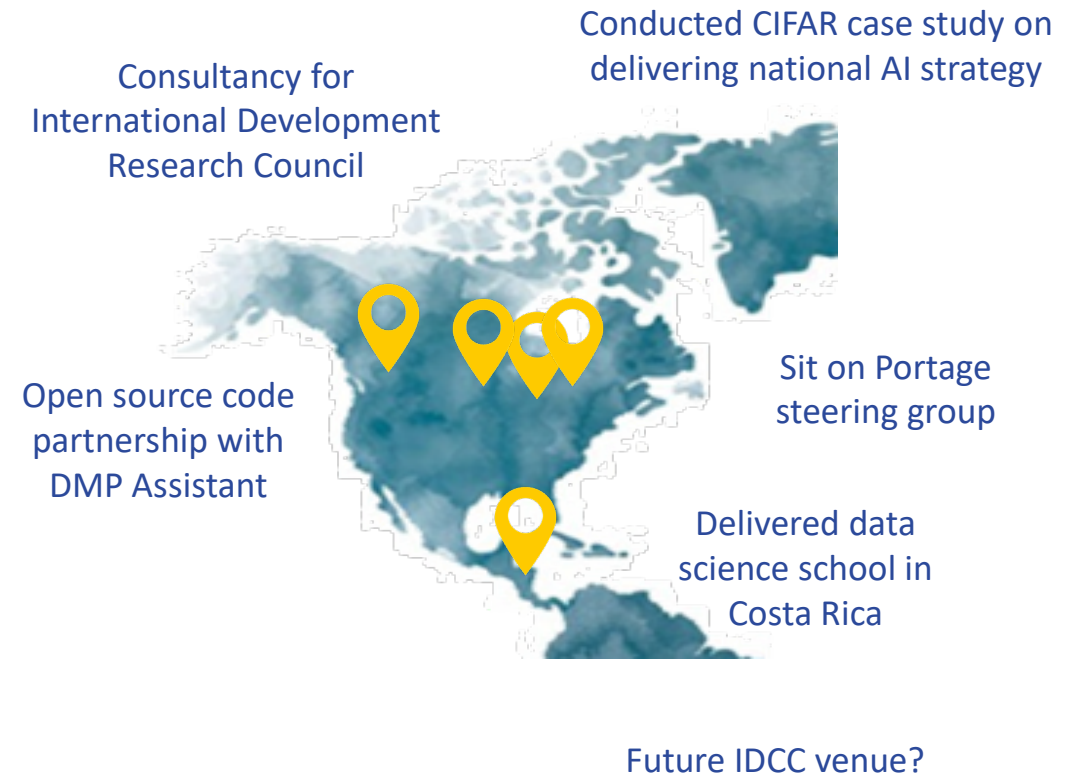


# What is the Digital Curation Centre

*a centre of expertise in digital information curation with a focus on building capacity, capability and skills for research data management and open science*

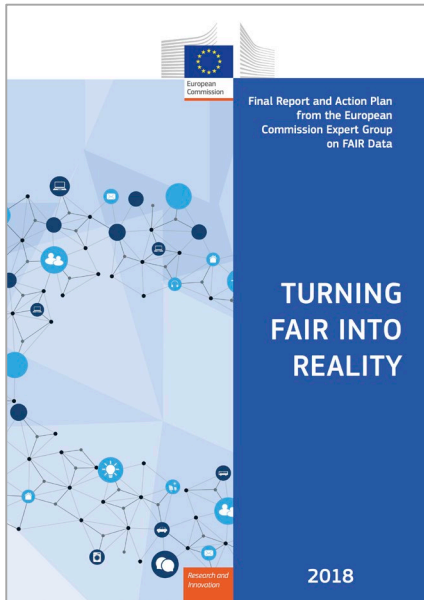
Deliver a range of services, increasingly internationally

- ★ Consultancy
- ★ Research projects
- ★ DMPonline services
- ★ Data management and open science training
- ★ Events – RDMF, IDCC conference and workshops



# My role in relevant initiatives

Co-author of Turning FAIR into Reality Expert Group report



<https://doi.org/10.2777/1524>

Independent Expert on EOSC Executive Board and chair of FAIR Working Group



<https://www.eoscsecretariat.eu/eosc-governance/eosc-executive-board>

Co-chair of RDA Global Open Research Commons IG



[www.rd-alliance.org/groups/global-open-research-commons-ig](http://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/global-open-research-commons-ig)





# What is EOSC?

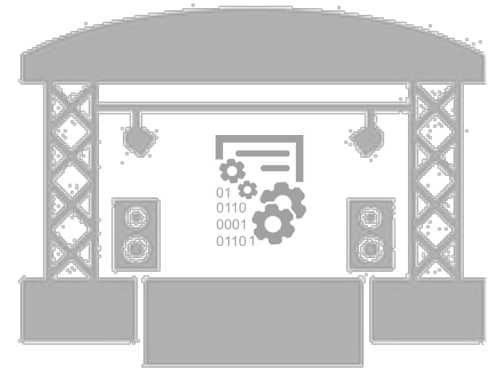
Image: Martin Reisch [https://unsplash.com/photos/6DivtP\\_WRYs](https://unsplash.com/photos/6DivtP_WRYs)



# A platform for European research

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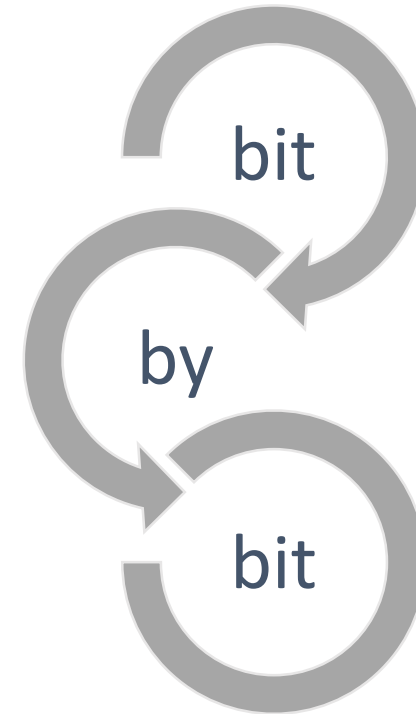
- ★ Federation of existing services
- ★ Web of FAIR research data (and services)
- ★ Virtual space where science producers and consumers come together
- ★ An open-ended range of content and services
- ★ Quality mark « Data made in Europe »



# EOSC design principles

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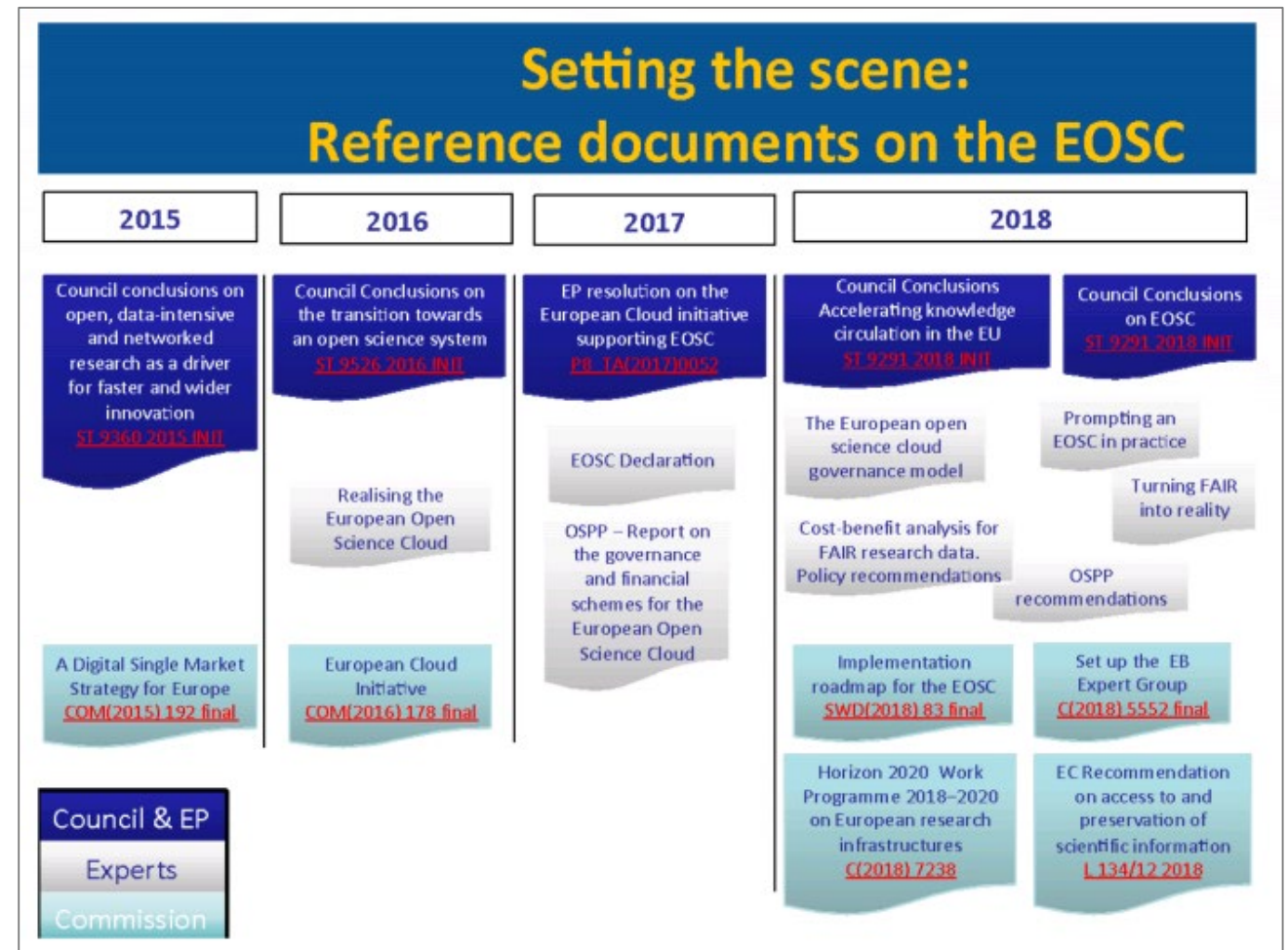
- ★ Co-creation
- ★ Research-led
- ★ Community-driven
- ★ Flexible by design
- ★ Extensible / scalable
- ★ Incremental and iterative
- ★ Hands-on and participatory
- ★ Continuous engagement, consultation & user testing



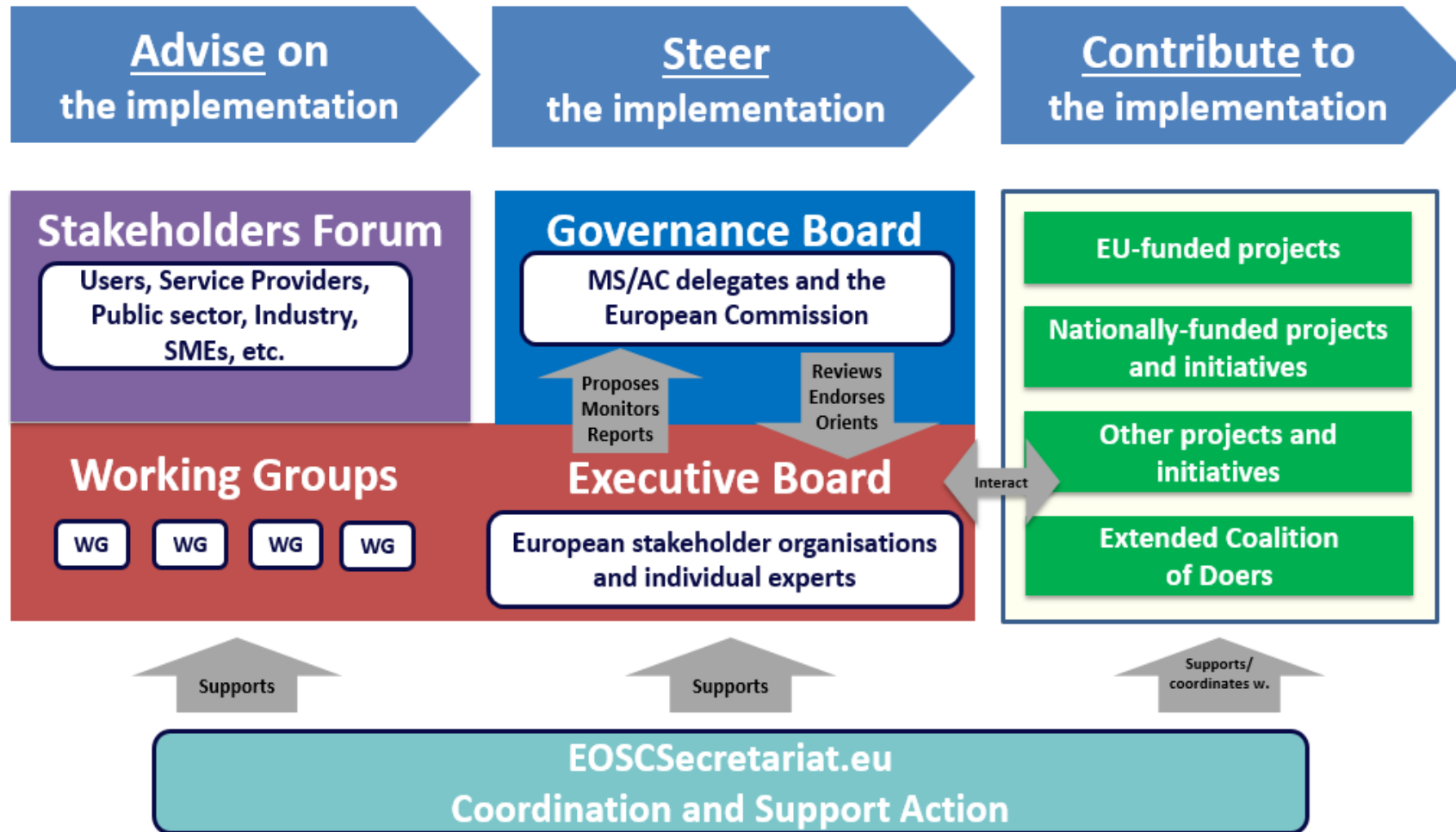
# Long history of political agreements and activity

Lots of groundwork since 2015

- ★ Council Conclusions
- ★ Expert Group reports
- ★ EC documents
- ★ Major investment in EOSC related projects...

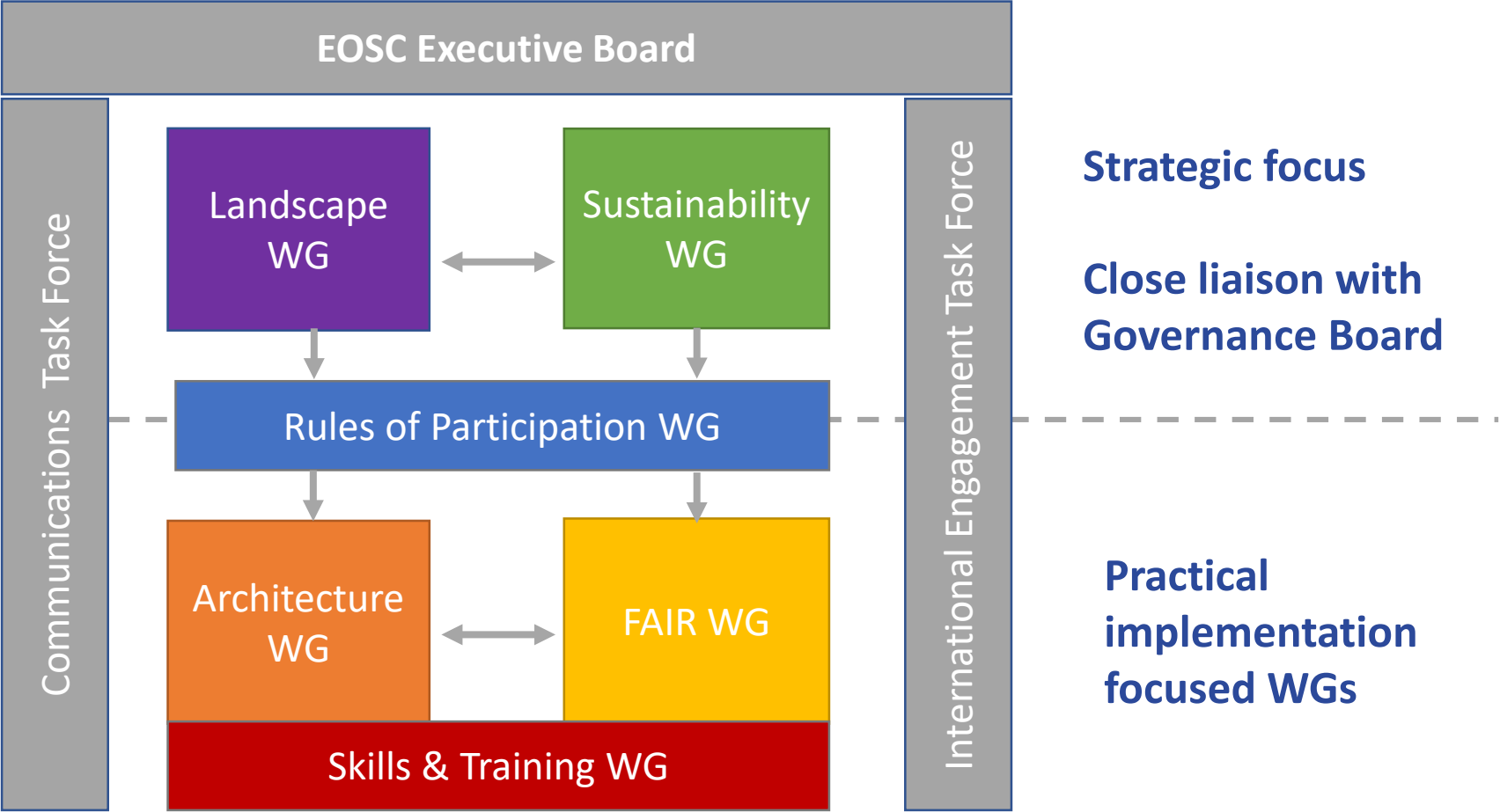


# EOSC governance structure





# EOSC Working Groups and Task Forces



# Working Groups by numbers

## Landscape

15 male  
9 female

## RoP

11 male  
8 female

## Architecture

39 male  
3 female

## FAIR

16 male  
11 female

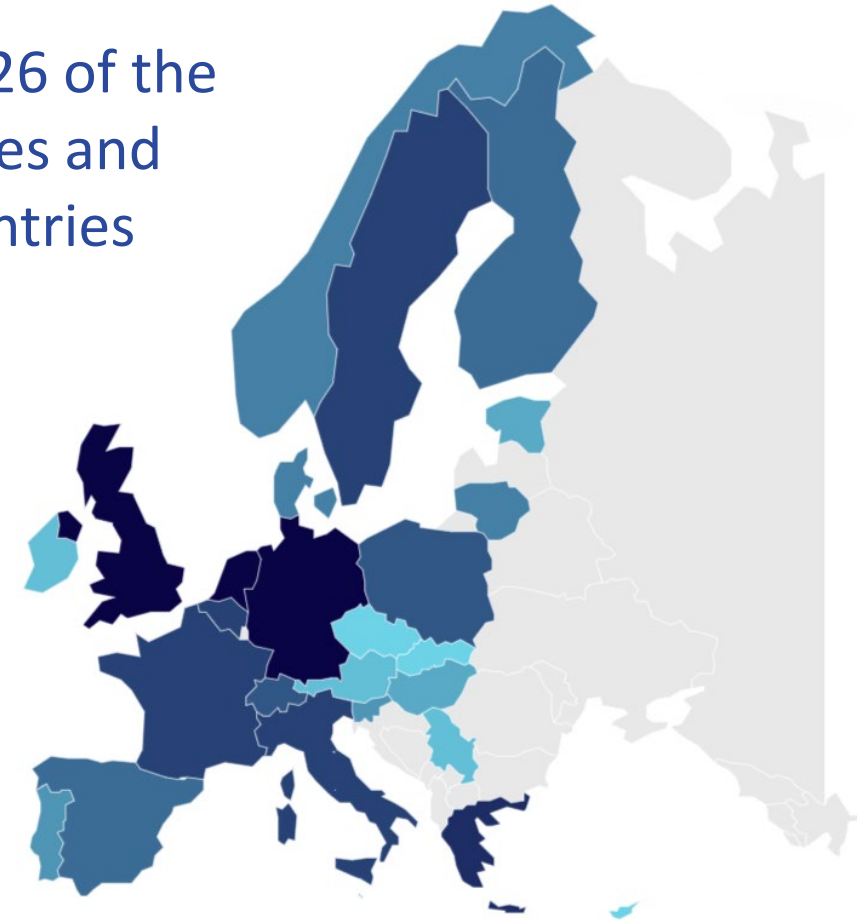
## Sustainability

10 male  
8 female

## Skills

4 male  
10 female

Experts represent 26 of the  
EU Member States and  
Associated Countries



# A first iteration of EOSC by end 2020

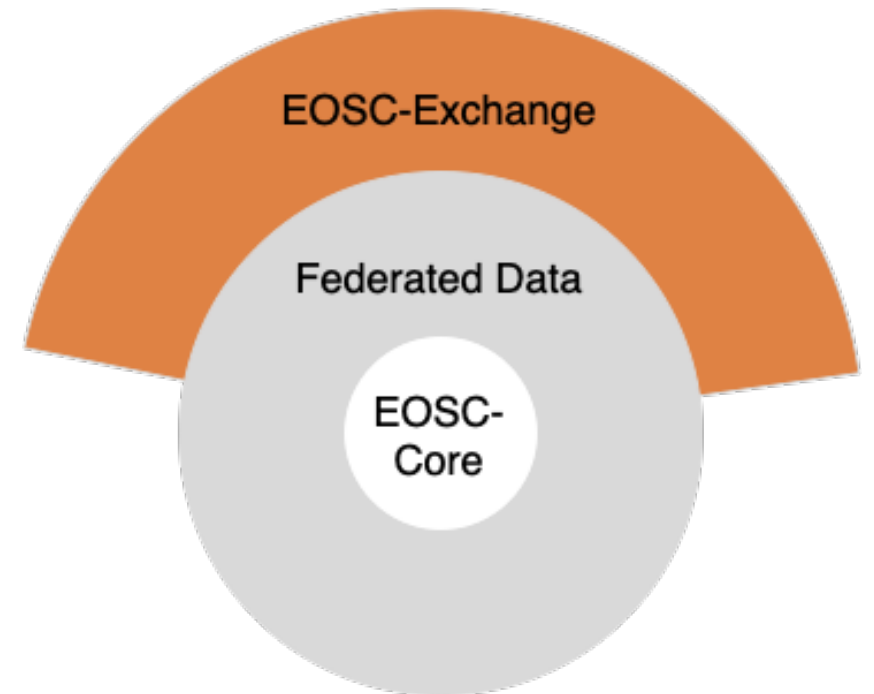
- ★ Agreed and tested Rules of Participation (Rules of Participation WG)
  - ★ Analysis of the existing national infrastructures and policies (Landscape WG)
  - ★ Financing model, legal entity & post 2020 governance structure (Sustainability WG)
  - ★ Functioning federated core
  - ★ Initial set of EOSC data and services
  - ★ EOSC Interoperability Framework
  - ★ Persistent Identifier policy
  - ★ Metrics for FAIR data and certified services
- Architecture WG
- FAIR WG



# First iteration – a minimum viable EOSC (MVE)

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- ★ The MVE includes EOSC-Core and EOSC-Exchange which work with federated FAIR datasets
- ★ MVE must enable the federation of existing and planned research data infrastructures
- ★ Federate the disciplinary cluster and regional projects as a critical first step
- ★ Begin with simple use cases – open data not sensitive or closed



# EOSC-Core: functions and proposed coverage

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## Functions

- ★ Provides the means to discover, share, access and re-use data and services
- ★ Will not store, transport or process data, at least initially
- ★ Should be as widely used as possible  
→ will be accessible to any authenticated user to promote open research across Europe

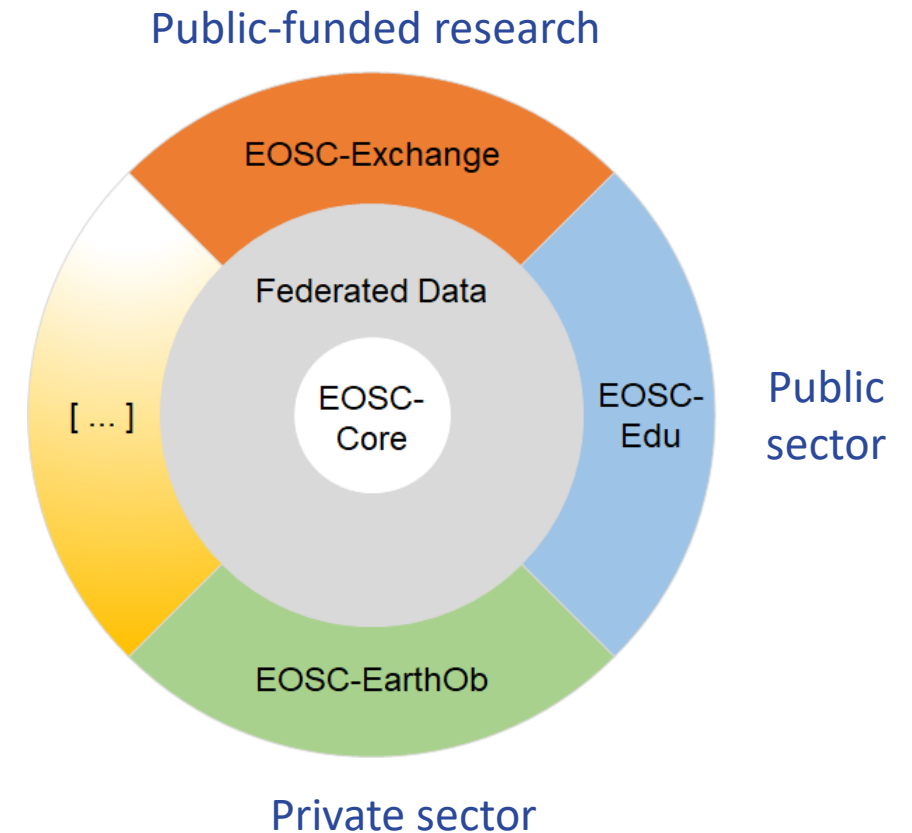
## Proposed coverage

- ★ Shared open science policy framework
- ★ AAI framework
- ★ Data access framework
- ★ Service management & access framework
- ★ Minimum legal metadata framework
- ★ Open metrics framework
- ★ PID services
- ★ Help-desk

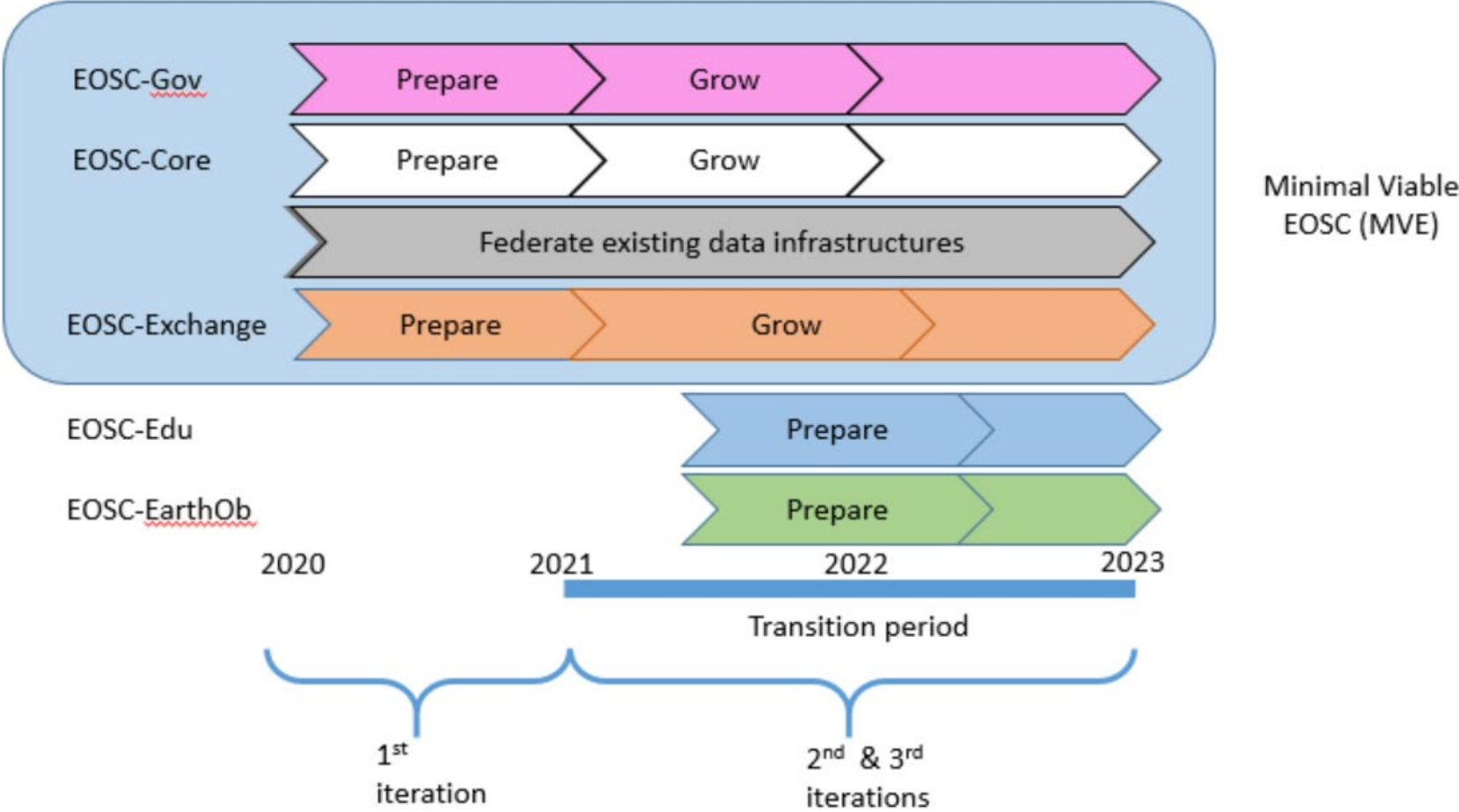


# Proposed second and third iterations

- ★ Extensions to serve public sector and industry
- ★ Not new user communities as public sector and industrial partners will already use MVE
- ★ Would ideally be one 'marketplace' but differing requirements and legislation may require linked but alternately governed spaces



# EOSC is a journey – it won't happen overnight





Progress to date





# Draft Persistent Identifier policy

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- ★ Out for consultation since mid December 2019
- ★ Over 900 downloads and comments from Australia, USA, China and obviously Europe!
- ★ New version due in March and implementation guidelines in Summer 2020
- ★ Comment on PID forum: <https://www.pidforum.org/t/please-give-us-your-feedback/775>
- ★ Policy: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3574203>



# Draft Rules of Participation

## ★ Draft RoP imminent

### GROUND RULES

- G1. EOSC is open to all
- G2. EOSC resources are registered in an EOSC recognised catalogue

### DATA RULES

- D1. Data resources exposed through EOSC are free of charge at the point of access
- D2. Data producers adhere to principles of proper research conduct.
- D3. Data providers determine the terms of use of data resources.
- D4. Data providers will respect principles of FAIR data.
- D5. Data users adhere to the terms of use of data resources.
- D6. Data users reference the source.

### SERVICE PROVIDER RULES

- S1. Services exposed through EOSC are free of charge at the point of access
- S2. Service providers adhere to principles of proper research conduct.
- S3. Service providers determine and publish the conditions of use of their services.
- S4. Services align with EOSC service architecture
- S5. Service users adhere to the terms of use of the services they consume.
- S6. Service users reference the source.

### OPERATOR RULES (related to EOSC Core)

- Op1. Registry of Data and Service Catalogues
- Op2. Onboarding of data and services
- Op3. Monitoring and Accounting
- Op4. Authentication and Authorisation
- Op5. Search function and other global functions
- Op6. APIs for value-add providers



# Draft metrics and certification guidelines

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- ★ Metrics based on output from FAIR Maturity Working Group in RDA
- ★ Based on tests, we will define what can be required in EOSC
- ★ Repository certification based on CoreTrustSeal, with phased entry
- ★ Workshop to define other services which should be certified
- ★ Papers out for consultation in w/c 10<sup>th</sup> February



# Ongoing partnership proposal and SRIA

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- ★ Partnership proposal is effectively a business case for Member States to support EOSC and decide nature of relationship with EC
- ★ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda aims to agree focus of next Framework Programme and set budget allocation
- ★ Various drafts submitted to Governance Board between October 2019 – March 2020
- ★ Ongoing work...





# Learning from the Aussies



# What is the ARDC?

A transformational initiative that enables the Australian research community and industry to access nationally significant, leading edge data intensive infrastructure, platforms, skills and collections of high-quality data.

*[It will become]* a coherent research environment to enable researchers to find, access, contribute to and effectively use services to maximise research quality and impact.



# The organisation is not the thing

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“The ARDC is not the  
Australian Research  
Data Commons”

Rosie Hicks, ARDC Chief Information Officer



# Challenge of remit without authority...

ARDC holds the overall remit for bringing the Commons into existence but doesn't have the mandate to coordinate DDeRP (main stakeholders).

EOSC Exec Board has remit to steer but ultimately has no sway over H2020 projects. Need to give greater emphasis to how we interact





# Three under-represented groups in EOSC (*my view*)

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Institutions

**Recommendation:**

Consider the role research institutions play in EOSC and ways to ensure their input is included

Researchers

**Recommendation:**

Involve the Research Infrastructures and representative bodies e.g. Academies / Learned Societies more closely in EOSC work

Internationals

**Recommendation:**

Institute an international advisor role and ensure each Working Group endorses approaches that work globally, not just in EOSC context, unless appropriate to do so



# Report and presentation

- ★ Provides an overview to the ARDC and Australian Research Data Commons
- ★ Makes recommendations for EOSC implementation
- ★ <https://doi.org/10.2777/41170>
- ★ Slides: [www.slideshare.net/sjDCC/reflections-on-eosc-through-the-mirror-of-ardc](http://www.slideshare.net/sjDCC/reflections-on-eosc-through-the-mirror-of-ardc)



# Take aways



# Clarify the decision making process

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- ★ Who is the ultimate authority to approve work?
- ★ When will they do this?
- ★ What information do they need?
- ★ What lead times do you need to work to?

For EOSC, the Governance Board (Member States & Associated Countries) ultimately decide and we need a Legal Entity in place by December 2020 to sign the MOU with the European Commission



# Consult openly and transparently

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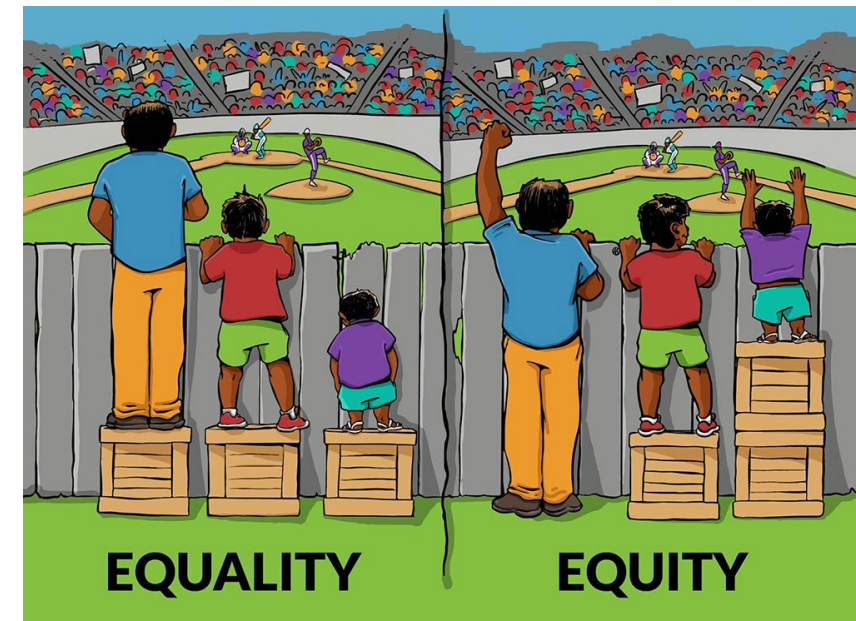
- ★ Make documents public
- ★ Announce the consultation widely
- ★ Enable various forms of feedback – googledoc comments, survey responses, voting/likes, freeform written responses, workshops...
- ★ Give clear timelines for responses and new versions



# Be inclusive and encourage diversity

- ★ Adopt a 'radical collaboration' approach like Nancy McGovern
- ★ Who is at your table? Do they reflect the group you serve?
- ★ Consider gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, research discipline, career stage, professional background, country, characteristics....
- ★ If necessary, level the playing field

<https://publications.arl.org/14uvcr7>



# Engage research institutions

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- ★ It's where research happens and who is ultimately responsible
- ★ They are your friend – can act as a conduit to research community
- ★ Libraries, IT, research offices and local support staff will often point researchers to relevant services
- ★ Build on partners like data stewards and research software engineers



# Use global fora like the RDA

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- ★ Copy what works elsewhere
- ★ Learn from others' mistakes
- ★ Get a sounding board for your ideas
- ★ Build more robust, internationally applicable solutions



*“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”*



# Any questions?



Thanks!

