



Welcome to the series 'Reports on EOSC Projects', that presents EOSC-related projects with contributions from Austrian partners, and provides insights into project objectives and developments.

---

## Report on EOSC Project N°2

---

June 2025



**Context:** Led by the EOSC Association (EOSC-A), the EOSC Focus project helped to coordinate efforts across Europe in making Open Science the new normal. It streamlined collaboration between EOSC-related projects, supported strategic planning and monitoring, and worked closely with the EOSC Partnership to build a common, open European research environment.

In order to implement these coordination efforts, EOSC Focus established collaboration mechanisms that encourage alignment and knowledge exchange across EOSC-related projects.

### **EOSC FOCUS Activities**

Collaboration mechanisms: HE Groups, OA Expert Groups, and the EOSC Winter School Format

#### **The Horizon Europe (HE) Groups**

The [Vademecum](#) aims to help projects work together effectively and get the best results from the INFRAEOSC programme, all contributing to building EOSC. To do this, projects are expected to align with the EOSC Partnership and coordinate with other EOSC-related projects and initiatives. Collaboration is especially important in areas like governance,

communication, monitoring, and technical development. To support this, EOSC Focus created three working groups:

- The **HE Communication and Engagement Working Group** includes communication officers of all EOSC-related projects. It holds monthly meetings to share updates from the projects and key information from the EOSC-A regarding recent developments including the EOSC Federation, and to work on joint outputs.
  - The **HE EOSC Impact Working Group** was established to support the projects in planning the sustainability of their Key Exploitable Results. The KERs from EOSC-related HE projects were first collected and analysed through a series of meetings, identifying key challenges to their sustainable exploitation. In response, EOSC Focus developed the Sustainable Exploitation Planning methodology.
  - The **HE Technology Group** was established to provide an environment for technical coordination between EOSC-related projects. It facilitates cross-project alignment and cooperation on technical development to maximise the impact of project outputs and the long-term sustainability of EOSC.
- 

## The EOSC Macro Roadmap

The [Macro-Roadmap](#) for the implementation of EOSC is an interactive catalogue showcasing the contributions of projects, EOSC-A Task Forces, and others to the implementation of EOSC. EOSC Focus has facilitated the inclusion of results from the EOSC Task Forces and other contributions from the community in the Macro-Roadmap. TU Graz has been responsible for planning, conducting, and analysing interviews with the INFRAEOSC projects to gather this information.

---

## Opportunity Area Expert Groups

The [Opportunity Area Expert Groups](#) (OAEs) have been consolidated during the first EOSC Winter School (2024, Thessaloniki), and formally established at the [EOSC-GA #8](#), held in Leuven, Belgium, in May 2024. OAEs have taken up individual, dynamic work plans after the [2024 EOSC Winter School](#). OAEs are designed to

- sustain and expand strategic collaboration across the EOSC-related projects to advance the development of EOSC
- maximise project impact
- enhance the ability of the community to solve specific challenges through co-creation of outputs.

OAEs, facilitated by EOSC Focus, have continuously onboarded members from new INFRAEOSC projects, and regularly participate in events such as the EC Coordination meetings, the EOSC Symposium, and the EOSC Winter School. There are seven OAEs:

- [OAE1](#) (PIDs)
- [OAE2](#) (Metadata, Ontologies, and Interoperability)
- [OAE3](#) (FAIR Assessment and Alignment)
- [OAE4](#) (User and Resource Environments)
- [OAE5](#) (Skills, Training, Rewards, Recognition, and Upscaling)
- [OAE6](#) (Open Scholarly Communication)
- [OAE7](#) (Research Software)

# Evolution of INFRAEOSC Projects Collaboration

May 2023 – February 2024



Evolution of the OA Expert Groups; Source: [2024 EOSC Winter School Report](#)

## The EOSC Winter School Format

The [EOSC Winter School](#) was created in response to collaboration needs among Horizon Europe EOSC-related projects.



EOSC Winter School Logo; Source: <https://eosc.eu/eosc-focus-project/winter-school-2025/>

EOSC Focus has taken a major role in the organisation of the 2024 and 2025 EOSC Winter Schools, a format conceived with a view to increasing cross-project alignment, designed to gather high-level experts from the INFRAEOSC projects (technical coordinators, work package leads) as well as representatives of the EOSC-A Task Forces and the EOSC OAEs physically in one place to facilitate collaboration and alignment on technical challenges in the implementation of EOSC.

## Engagement with researchers

The EOSC Focus project has drafted Open Science guidance materials tailored for RPOs that offer a structured yet flexible approach to context-sensitive Open Science strategies aligned with their internal priorities and global Open Science developments.

- The Open Science Guide: [Development of Open Science Strategy](#) has been designed as a practical tool for decision-makers to establish a robust Open Science ecosystem within their institutions adapted to different institutional contexts.
- The Open Science Guide: [RDM & FAIR Training Framework for Research Performing Organisations \(RPOs\)](#) addresses the growing need for upskilling across diverse roles within RPOs, ensuring effective engagement with Open Science and FAIR enabling infrastructures, services and practices.

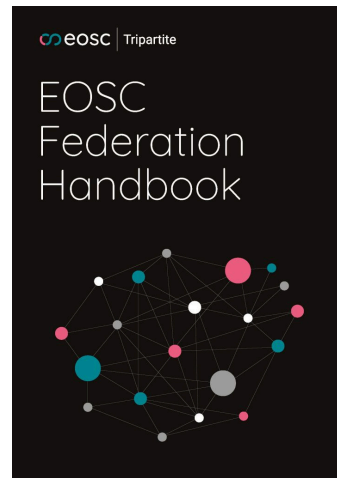
## Updates to MAR and SRIA

The objectives of the EOSC Partnership are defined in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). The development of the SRIA is an iterative and collaborative process that is being shaped through continuous consultation with the broader EOSC community to ensure alignment with the evolving research and innovation landscape. The development of SRIA 2.0 is being led by the EOSC-A Board of Directors, with the support of EOSC Focus.

## The EOSC Federation Handbook

The [EOSC Federation Handbook](#) provides an overview of the organisational and operational structure and technical characteristics of the EOSC Federation, aiming to serve as a practical guide for organisations that are interested in making their resources available within and across the EOSC Federation. Organisations can achieve this objective by creating and operating an “EOSC Node”, and “enrolling” it as part of the EOSC Federation, and/or by “onboarding” their resources in one or more EOSC Nodes operated by other organisations. The handbook was written by approx. 30 volunteers, and steered by the EOSC-A with support from EOSC Focus.

---



EOSC Federation Handbook; Source: <https://eosc.eu/eosc-about/building-the-eosc-federation/eosc-federation-handbook/>

## The EOSC Forum

Over the project's lifetime, the [EOSC Forum](#) has served as a bespoke platform for collaboration, discussion and information exchange. It has been established as the go-to place for consolidated news from the Horizon Europe EOSC-related projects, as well as an engagement hub for the EOSC-A membership groups, including Funders, Research Performing Organisations, e-Infras, and ESFRI Research Infrastructures. During the project's lifetime, the user base of the Forum has been steadily growing. EOSC Focus has supported the consolidation of the EOSC Forum as the reference platform for the EOSC community.

---

## Interviews with [EOSC Mandated Organisations](#) and NTEs

[Interviews with Mandated Organisations](#) aimed to highlight the role of the EOSC-A's [Mandated Organisations](#), to strengthen connections between each country's Mandated Organisation and its [EOSC Association Member and Observer organisations](#), as well as to make visible the work going into the implementation of EOSC at the national and institutional levels. [National Tripartite Events \(NTEs\)](#) are designed to stimulate engagement and foster dialogue among relevant ministries, RPOs, research-funding organisations, and the broader research community.

## Impact on EOSC

EOSC Focus has created outcomes that will remain in use and provide a strong foundation for the work ahead under [EOSC Gravity](#), ensuring the momentum continues as the community moves through the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation.

Among key highlights was the creation of collaboration frameworks, such as the Opportunity Area Expert Groups (OAEs), Horizon Europe topical groups, and launching of the annual EOSC Winter Schools. The project also established a structured process to gather community input for the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and its three updates.

To advance internal processes, EOSC Focus launched the EOSC Macro-Roadmap, an online catalogue with over 170 outcomes of EOSC-related activities from projects, EOSC-A Task Forces, and EOSC-A Members. The Sustainable Exploitation Planning methodology has been developed to facilitate the integration of research outputs into long-term EOSC operations and frameworks.

EOSC Focus supported the ecosystem by mapping national investments, facilitating Additional Activities Surveys to track in-kind contributions, and boosting engagement through National Tripartite Events and interviews with Mandated Organisations. It also helped clarify sustainable funding models and played a key role in facilitating the community-wide drafting process of the EOSC Federation Handbook.

## EOSC Focus – Contributions from Austrian institutions

TU Graz was involved in creating and sustaining the collaboration mechanisms offered by the EOSC Focus (and now EOSC Gravity) project, in particular in terms of managing and facilitating the [EOSC Opportunity Area Expert Groups](#), in managing the HE Technology Group, and in populating the [EOSC Macro-Roadmap](#). TU Graz also contributed to the development of the SEP Methodology, as well as to understanding potential EOSC funding models. In addition, TU Graz participated in drafting the [EOSC Federation Handbook](#). TU Graz was also involved in shaping the format and programmes of the [EOSC Winter School](#), managing participants and facilitating the sessions on site.

TU Wien developed the comprehensive Open Science Guide on [Open Science Strategy Development](#) as well as on [Open Science Training](#) to support institutions in aligning with EOSC principles. Additionally, TU Wien contributed to monitoring the EOSC development through KPI and AAP surveys, supported updates on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and elaborated possible scenarios for EOSC post 2027, thereby contributing to its strategic orientation and long-term planning.

## Austrian Project Partners



[Graz University of Technology](#), specifically the [Research Data Management Team](#) from the [university library](#). Project members: Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi, Marthe Bierens, Claire Jean-Quartier, Stefan Reichmann, Miguel Rey Mazon



[TU Wien](#), mainly the Center for Research Data Management. Project members: Barbara Sánchez Solís, Marie Czuray, Juliana de Mello Castro Giroletti, Katherina Flicker, Ka Yee Suvini Lai, Andreas Rauber, Bernd Saurugger, Dario Vins

**Project Acronym:** EOSC Focus – Focusing on Open, Collaboration and Useful Science

**Project Runtime:** 6/2022-5/2025 (36 months)

**Project Coordinator:** [EOSC-A](#)

**Budget:** EUR 4.599.653,75

**Funding Source:** Horizon Europe call INFRA-2021-EOSC-01-02 "Supporting the development and coordination of activities of the EOSC Partnership".

**Project Type:** CSA (Coordination and Support Action)

**Project Consortium:** 9 partners

## Project Website

## Additional Information

- Budroni, P., De Loof, C., de Mello Castro Giroletti, J., Dale, R., Schröder-Pander, F., & Caetano, I. (2024). EOSC Focus - D3.1 - EOSC Technical Collaboration with other European Partnerships and relevant initiatives. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10893958>
- Hasani-Mavriqi, I., Bierens, M., Ivanoaica, T., Otsu, K., Rey Mazon, M., & Scardaci, D. (2024). EOSC Focus - D3.2 - Report in the form of the half-yearly digest on EOSC technical activities following the ETCC. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10931801>
- Jean-Quartier, C., Rey, M., Hasani-Mavriqi, I., Nardello, I., & Wolski, O. (2022). EOSC Focus D4.1 - Selection of KPIs to be reported by Horizon Europe projects of the INFRAEOSC calls. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10928339>
- Reichmann, S., Rey Mazón, M., & Hasani-Mavriqi, I. (2025). Report on the EOSC Winter School 2025 (1.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15101262>
- Rey Mazón, M., & Hasani-Mavriqi, I. (2024). Report on the EOSC Winter School 2024 (1.0.1). EOSC Association. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15055465>
- Sánchez Solís, B., Galica, N., Pazik-Aybar, A., & Vins, D. (2025). Open Science Guide: RDM & FAIR Training Framework for RPOs. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15124383>
- Vins, D., Pazik-Aybar, A., Sánchez Solís, B., & Galica, N. (2025). Open Science Guide: Development of RPO's Open Science Strategy. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15124402>

**eosc.AT**  
support office austria

Kind regards,  
The EOSC SOA Secretariat Team



## EOSC SOA

Favoritenstraße 16, 1040, Vienna

[View in Browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

