

Info Sheet on the EOSC SOA General Assembly 2026

3 December 2026, 13:00 - 18:00

JKU Linz, Uni Center, LOFT A-D, Altenberger Straße 69, 4040 Linz

On-site event, event language: English

What is the General Assembly of the EOSC Support Office Austria?

The General Assembly (GA) connects strategic questions with practical experiences from research infrastructures, research and services. It gives the Austrian EOSC community the opportunity to reflect, discuss common priorities and coordinate the next steps for Austria's participation in the EOSC Federation.

The General Assembly is the representative and decision-making body of the EOSC Support Office Austria (EOSC SOA). It consists of one representative from each partner organisation and is open to the public. At a GA, the Chair and Deputy Chair are elected for a term of two years; re-election is possible. In these roles, neither officeholder has the right to vote. Upon taking office, they may no longer represent their organisation at the General Assembly; the organisation appoints a new representative.

2026 Focus Areas: Austrian EOSC Node & Knowledge Transfer

A central focus of this year's General Assembly is the preparation of an Austrian EOSC Node and, consequently, Austria's future role in the EOSC Federation. The EOSC Federation is based on a "system-of-systems" architecture. It currently comprises 28 active Nodes and is transitioning from the prototype phase to operational deployment. Services are being expanded, and additional national and thematic Nodes are being integrated. At the same time, the legal and organisational frameworks and the competences required for sustainable operation are being further developed. The first wave of Nodes was established in 2025, and a second wave was initiated in 2026. Thus, the EOSC is evolving from a vision and an innovation programme into a federated European infrastructure for research data and services.

As part of the preparations in Austria, governance arrangements, organisational and technical requirements, and suitable Austrian services for future participation in the EOSC Federation are being developed and coordinated. The aim is to integrate Austrian research services and resources into the European federation, thereby enabling their use and access at a European level.

Another focus of EOSC SOA is knowledge transfer and training. The development of the Austrian EOSC Node also addresses how research infrastructures can be designed to be more accessible and easier for researchers to use. Particular attention is being paid to how researchers can be encouraged and enabled to use federated research infrastructures and supported through suitable training.

How is EOSC SOA organised? Governance and Decision-Making

The internal governance of EOSC SOA is based on a multi-level organisational structure that combines the initiative's strategic direction, operational coordination and substantive development. The General Assembly is the central decision-making body and brings the partner organisations together. Management is responsible for operational coordination and acts as an intermediary between the various bodies and the partners. The Steering Committee provides overall strategic direction and consists of representatives of the ordinary partners. The Synergy Team and time-limited working groups address specific topics and develop them further. The governance structure is complemented by the EOSC Café, an open forum that enables accessible exchange. All partners have voting rights in the bodies, with voting weights differentiated according to partner status¹.

The General Assembly is therefore the central venue for formal decisions, while the Steering Committee, Management, Synergy Team, working groups and EOSC Café perform different functions relating to strategic direction, coordination, substantive work and open exchange.

The EOSC SOA General Assembly on 3 December 2026 at JKU Linz also demonstrates this function in practice. In addition to expert contributions and discussions on the current situation and further development of EOSC SOA, key governance and decision-making matters are on the agenda, including the Management Board's report, as well as the election of a new Chair of the Management Board and an additional Management Board member.

Preparation of the General Assembly

The programme was developed by a programme committee comprising representatives of BMFWF, ACONET, the EOSC SOA General Assembly, the Management Board, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat, together with JKU as host. The committee began its work in April 2026, defined the thematic priorities by the end of June and finalised the programme by the end of September. The EOSC SOA Secretariat supports the preparations through coordination, documentation and follow-up.

Further information

- About the European Open Science Cloud, EOSC Federation and EOSC Association: <https://eosc.eu/>
- About Austria's participation in EOSC and the work of the EOSC Support Office Austria: EOSC Support Office Austria: <https://eosc-austria.at/>
- Brief information on EOSC SOA: https://www.aco.net/community_eosc-soa.html
- Zenodo Community (EOSC Austria), materials, reports, poster, etc.: <https://eosc-austria.at/eosc-soa-materials/>
- News article on the previous General Assembly: <https://eosc-austria.at/5th-eosc-soa-general-assembly-austrias-path-to-an-eosc-node/>
- Events and Open Calls: <https://eosc-austria.at/events/>
- EOSC SOA newsletter registration and archive: <https://eosc-austria.at/newsletter/>
- Questions and suggestions: EOSC SOA Secretariat, contact@eosc-austria.at

¹ EOSC Association Member: 10 votes; Observer: 5 votes; and Associate Partners: 1 vote. If a member is unable to attend, a proxy may be appointed or the vote may be transferred in writing in advance to another member; the Chair must be notified of this.