

REPORT

EOSC Policy Event —

3 May 2022
Strasbourg,
France

#EOSCpolicy22



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EOSC Policy Event Report

Mainstreaming Open Science

On 3 May 2022, [EOSC Future](#), in collaboration with the [EOSC Association](#), the [EOSC Steering Board](#), the European Commission and the University of Strasbourg organised the EOSC policy event in Strasbourg, France, #EOSCpolicy22.

Leveraging the momentum of the French European Council Presidency, the one-day event brought together 70 key actors driving the open science, EOSC and FAIR data policy developments and implementations in Europe. The event was also live-streamed, and dozens of stakeholders participated in the discussions online.



The main focus of the event was on the **European policy context surrounding and supporting the EOSC initiative**. The agenda's main panel discussions and presentations tackled a host of trending topics, using concrete implementation examples, including the status and progress of open science, EOSC more generally, FAIR data and policies.

After the welcome speech from the local host **Rémi Barillion**, Vice President of Research, Doctoral Programmes and Open Science at the University of Strasbourg, the opening session saw the participation of Member of European Parliament Mr **Carlos Zorrinho**. Mr Zorrinho serves as rapporteur or shadow rapporteur of the ITRE Committee on several legislative and initiative reports or opinions concerning digital issues (e.g. the Digital Europe Programme, the EU Space Programme, Isa2, WIFI4EU or Digital Market Act).

During his speech at the policy event, Mr Zorrinho highlighted that the European Data Strategy is all about putting people first in the development of technology and about defending and promoting European values and rights in the digital world.



'The common European data spaces are crucial to ensure that more data becomes available for use in the economy and society, while keeping the companies and individuals who generate the data in control, based on European ethics and values.'

'The common data spaces, embedded within ethics and common European values, are strategic to build a human-centred European model to the partnership survival and development in an increasingly competitive and geopolitical world,' says Zorrinho.

'We now have the opportunity to make the difference, to gain a competitive advantage, to create and disseminate the skills, to put

people at the centre of the economic and social model and bridge the digital and the development divide!'

Mr Zorrinho concluded that the European Open Science Cloud, one of the data spaces being developed in response to the European Data Strategy, has a role in this momentum.

EOSC in the European policy landscape

The first session of the event provided an overview of the policy landscape surrounding EOSC.

The session opened with a presentation by **Silvia Bottaro** from the Open Science Unit at European Commission, who described how the EU supports the mainstreaming of Open Science and EOSC in the European Research Area (ERA). Afterwards, **Volker Beckmann**, French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI) & EOSC Steering Board co-Chair, highlighted the role and the importance of national policies in providing a frame for Research Performing Organisations and Research Funding Organisations to make Open Science the new normal and to steer investments at the national and regional level.

The session continued with a talk by **Karel Luyben**, President of the EOSC Association, who remarked that 'EOSC will be the trusted open data environment that will allow reliable reuse of research data in academia and the private sector. It will serve as a Google-like search engine that makes finding and accessing data sets across countries and scientific disciplines easy.' Mr Luyben also revealed his dream of 'having 50% of relevant research data be FAIR by 2040 (currently the percentage is around 2%)'.

The session was closed by **Ron Dekker** from Technopolis Group, who is the EOSC Future Project Director. He explained the main tenets of the EOSC Future project: technology via the EOSC Core, Exchange and the Interoperability Framework as well as content through the integration of data and resources and users.

The presentations were complemented by a panel discussion chaired by **Stephan Siemens** from the European Commission's DG CNECT with the presenters and two additional panellists: **Michel Schouppe**, from DG RTD and **Françoise Genova**, from the RDA France and Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg.



Main highlights session 1

- **Policy:** EOSC is a top ERA priority as a key driver for the European Commission and the Member States. Open Science (OS) should support trust in science, multidisciplinary, and data-intensive science.
- **Governance:** EOSC is part of a wider policy/strategy landscape for different sectors. It is important to align with European Data Spaces and involve stakeholders.
- **Engagement:** EOSC needs to combine a top-down with a bottom-up approach. It is also crucial to take a human-centric approach and involve all stakeholders (incl. researchers / communities).
- **EOSC desired functionality:** EOSC should be similar to a Google-like search engine to easily find and access data sets. 50% of relevant research data should be FAIR by 2040.

Main Takeaway

EOSC can act as a driver for aligning OS policy agreement among Member States, while ensuring bottom-up uptake of Open Science practices and supporting a participatory approach from the research communities.

EOSC / FAIR Data Policies: National & European Alignment

The focus of session 2 was on EOSC-related policy activities at the national level and possible links with EU policy. **Sofia Abrahamsson** from the Swedish Research Council, who co-chairs the EOSC Steering Board subgroup 'National contributions to the EOSC', presented the first results of the monitoring survey on policies and related investments conducted by the EOSC Steering Board. Her presentation was complemented by a talk from **Ola Berge** from the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, who illustrated policy activities in Norway while reminding the audience that *'data generated through publicly funded research should in principle be considered a public good and shared with other researchers, business and industry, and society at large'*. The session then moved to a presentation from **Jos van Wezel** from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, who acted as a representative of the EOSC 5b projects National Policies and Governance task force. Mr van Wezel presented the policy-related findings of the regional EOSC projects. The presentations concluded with an intervention by **Mark Allen**, Director of the Strasbourg Astronomical Data Centre, who explained how essential it is to take not only a national but also a disciplinary perspective on data-related policies. The session wrapped up with a panel discussion by the presenters with **Biljana Kosanovic** from University of Belgrade, chaired by **Roberto Sabatino** from HEAnet and the EOSC Steering Board.



Main highlights session 2

- **Monitoring:** Policy monitoring is about fostering compliance and enabling the sharing of experiences.
- **Policy:** Many European countries already have policy ambitions in place: e.g. national strategy on access and sharing of research data.
- **Policy:** Policy development requires listening to research communities.
- **Standards:** EOSC is a scaffold to make interoperability work by endorsing existing standards and promoting them, ensuring global recognition.

Main Takeaway

National initiatives are increasingly putting in place high-level OS strategies. Combined with EOSC, this makes for a stronger two-way support for OS becoming the new normal.

Implementing FAIR data policies: Success stories, challenges and current barriers

The last session of the day was dedicated to the concrete implementation of EOSC/FAIR data policies. **York Sure-Vetter**, NFDI Director, opened the session by describing the implementation status of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) in Germany. **Ruben Kok**, Director at the Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences, continued with several ongoing initiatives to develop a FAIR-based research ecosystem in the Netherlands. **Ari Asmi**, RDA Europe Director, shook the audience with a provocative talk highlighting the challenges that researchers face today.

The session closed with a vibrant panel moderated by EOSC Association Director **Sara Garavelli** from CSC, in which the presenters were joined by **Daniel Bangert**, Ireland's National Open Research Coordinator, and **Ilire Hasani-Mavriqi**, who works at TU Graz and is the Chair of the Management Board of the Austrian EOSC Mandated Organisation.



Main highlights session 3

- **Policies / governance:** As a community-driven initiative, EOSC needs to get buy-in from the EOSC Association members, projects, RIs, funders, etc.
- **Alignment:** National EOSC-related efforts are essential building blocks, and alignment and coordination with EU efforts are fundamental to avoid duplication of effort.
- **EOSC desired functionality:** In building EOSC, the community needs to respect disciplinary practices and provide real solutions in terms of facilitating FAIR functionalities.
- **Skills and training** are essential aspects for the EOSC success. EOSC should leverage on existing national competence centres and educational efforts.

Main Takeaway

EOSC should take into account national developments, collecting input via its members and multipliers, around disciplinary needs and work together for optimal solutions to serve the research community.

The one-day event was closed by EOSC Future Coordinator **Yannis Ioannidis**, Professor of Informatics & Telecom at the University of Athens and Affiliate Professor at Athena Research & Innovation Center. Mr Ioannidis succinctly summarised the highlights from the different sessions, remarking that EOSC has tremendous potential as a virtual platform to collect, manage and preserve digital content for the long term, all while offering users high-quality, specialised functionalities that align with comprehensive co-defined policies. He also highlighted the importance of data quality associated with FAIR principles and the need for better communication and alignment among the different entities involved in EOSC's development.

The event also launched the pre-registration for the 2022 EOSC Symposium. This major annual EOSC gathering will be held as a hybrid event from 14 to 17 November 2022 in Prague. The first day of the Symposium will coincide with the second EOSC Tripartite Collaboration Event. Don't miss the opportunity to pre-register at <https://events.eoscfuture.eu/Symposium2022>.