EOSC-Pillar: mixing national recipes to build the European Open Science Cloud

Leveraging national initiatives of the EU Member States and thematic initiatives developed by research communities to help build an Open Science and FAIR data-based EOSC

Officially kicked off on 5 July 2019 in Rome, for the next 3 years, EOSC-Pillar will coordinate national Open Science efforts across Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Italy, and ensure their contribution and readiness for the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

The EOSC is envisioned to offer 1.7 million European researchers and 70 million professionals in science, technology, the humanities and social sciences a virtual environment with open and seamless services for storage, management, analysis and re-use of research data, across borders and scientific disciplines by federating existing scientific data infrastructures, currently dispersed across disciplines and the EU Member States.

EOSC-Pillar is part of EOSC regional projects funded under the INFRAEOSC 5b call and will work in sync with other regional projects such as EOSC Nordic, NI4OS-Europe, EOSC Synergy and ExPaNDS. These projects aim to coordinate the efforts of the national and thematic initiatives in making a coherent contribution to EOSC.

Diversity in policy, and technological and infrastructural maturity among European Union Member States still remains a barrier to the transnational nature of EOSC and research in general. But what unites European countries is the value that they see the EOSC will bring to their own research capabilities. This is why the EOSC-Pillar was established.

"Our vision is that national OS initiatives, either existing or under development, are the key to involve live user communities and research infrastructures in the creation of EOSC," commented EOSC-Pillar Coordinator Federico Ruggieri. "Having an intrinsic sustainability and support from the relevant organisations which fund and promote research in their respective countries, National Initiatives deserve a special place in the foundation of the EOSC, hence we believe that they have a chance and a right to influence the way in which the future EOSC will grow and one of our objectives is to make sure their voices are heard and translated into shared practices and services for the benefit of the respective scientific communities."

Bottom-up approach

While the project involves only five countries in Europe, the aim is to demonstrate that a localised approach to the implementation of the EOSC through a science-driven method, is efficient, scalable and sustainable, and can be effectively rolled out in other countries.

National initiatives are the key of EOSC-Pillar's strategy for their capacity to attract and coordinate many elements of the complex EOSC ecosystem and for their sustainability, adding resilience.

By federating them through common policies, FAIR services, shared standards, and technical choices, EOSC-Pillar will be a catalyst for science-driven, transnational, open data and open science services offered through the EOSC Portal.

Consortium

The project is coordinated by **GARR**, Italy's national research and education network (NREN) and involves the following organisations: **University of Vienna** from Austria, Ghent University from Belgium, **CINES**, **CNRS**, **IFREMER**, **INRA**, **INRIA** and **INSERM** from France, **DKRZ**, **Fraunhofer**, **GFZ** and **KIT** from Germany, and **CINECA**, **CMCC**, **CNR**, **INFN** and **Trust-IT** from Italy.

These organisations are already key players in their own countries and have already contributed to the development of Open Science and FAIR data initiatives in their fields.

Key outputs

The first months of the project will be concentrated on a **multi-dimensional study** that will deliver a view of national initiatives and services, levels of maturity, compatibility with EOSC specifications, and levels of interoperability, accessibility and the implementation of FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) principles for research data that will be a key foundation for the success of the EOSC.

The results of this study will be the basis of the project **coordination activities**: harmonising policies, concertation with parallel EOSC sister projects, governance and related initiatives. **It will also engage EOSC stakeholders on a national level into a community**. **Training** for FAIR data management tools and FAIR-oriented data stewardship practices will also be provided to the community.

EOSC-Pillar will then undertake the **integration**, delivery and validation of nationally-sourced horizontal services such as storage, computing, data sharing and tools for data provision and data usage.

Finally, EOSC-Pillar will also produce **use cases** and **community-driven pilots** providing a concrete demonstration of its overall work.

Join our community and get updates!

EOSC-Pillar will be organising webinars, hackathons, and workshops and will create new services for the EOSC. Lots of opportunities await EOSC-Pillar Community members. Engage with us now:

Join the EOSC-Pillar Community: www.eosc-pillar.eu

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_____ APPROFONDIMENTI_____

GARR

GARR is the ultra-broadband network dedicated to the Italian research and education community. Its main objective is to provide high-performance connectivity and to develop innovative services for the daily activities of researchers, professors and students as well as for international collaboration.

GARR network is designed and managed by Consortium GARR, a non-profit association founded under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, University and Research. The founding members are CNR, ENEA, INFN e CRUI Foundation, representing all Italian universities.

Further info: www.garr.it

EOSC-Pillar

EOSC-Pillar is a European Commission-funded Horizon 2020 project that coordinates national and thematic initiatives across Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Belgium to help build an Open Science, and FAIR data-based European Open Science Cloud. Further info: www.eosc-pillar.eu, info@eosc-pillar.eu

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