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## EUDAT joins e-Infrastructures and science clusters in calling for a user-centric EOSC

Last week, on 17 September 2020, EUDAT, along with several e-Infrastructures and ESFRI science clusters published a statement - *EOSC - a tool for enabling Open Science in Europe* following their participation in the consultation on the European Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

The statement called for re-orienting activities towards the development of the EOSC towards higher relevance for research communities and that the focus now needs to be geared towards ensuing uptake of the EOSC by researchers.

Involved in the statement are the ESFRI science clusters ENVRI-FAIR, EOSC-LIFE, ESCAPE, PaNOSC, SSHOC and the European e-infrastructures EGI, EUDAT, GÉANT, and OpenAIRE provide inclusive services across Europe and beyond to the benefit of science.

According to the initiatives, the four key areas that need to be taken into account in the EOSC roadmap include research-oriented services, trust-based open access, collaboration support, and sustainability.

See the full statement below.

## **EOSC - a tool for enabling Open Science in Europe**

The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) will “enable a trusted, virtual, federated environment in Europe to store, share and reuse digital outputs from research (including publications, data, metadata and software) across borders and scientific disciplines”. Today, at the end of 2020, many building blocks are in place and on-going EOSC projects endeavour to enrich the EOSC ecosystem. To ensure strong engagement by research communities, we believe that this is the time to re-orient the EOSC activities towards higher relevance for these communities.

With the creation of the EOSC Association and the new Horizon Europe framework programme taking shape, the H2020 Science Cluster projects and the European e-infrastructures believe that efforts of the EOSC construction have now to focus on the uptake by researchers. This uptake will be the main KPI against which the success of the EOSC will be measured.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) defines important action items to ensure rapid progress on the construction of EOSC. However, more emphasis should be placed on making EOSC user centric. User requirements should be at the heart of the next phase of the EOSC implementation.

To this aim we believe that the following points need careful consideration and reflection on how to integrate them in the EOSC roadmap:

1. **Research-oriented services:** Our vision is an EOSC which is an inclusive and federated ecosystem based on FAIR data and other open science outputs, integrating many services such as data visualisation, analysis and physical resources to store and re-use data for open science. We expect EOSC to take up the mandate of providing the resources required for the re-use of data.
2. **Trust based open access:** Using EOSC services must be easy, with low barriers and transparent access mechanisms. Similarly, contributions to EOSC should not be subjected to overly complex regulation. A

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careful balance between a top-down and bottom-up approach in the design and governance needs to be built on trust to allow for a user friendly EOSC.

3. **Collaboration support:** The EOSC user communities, service providers and governance must closely work together to ensure that EOSC is capable of adapting to innovative emerging needs. This implies a stronger coordination of on-going and future EU funded projects and a strong participation of the user communities in the EOSC governance.
4. **Sustainability:** The EOSC must have sustainable funding from the relevant authorities, particularly the Member States, allowing for long-term service provisioning, data preservation, and concrete support. Simple funding mechanisms which avoid complex commercial transactions have to be found. Sustainability is fundamental for a long-term engagement of all key actors and notably in attracting a large scientific user community.

The ESFRI Science Clusters and the European e-infrastructures are committed to working together and actively contributing to making the EOSC a success.

*The Science Clusters ENVRI-FAIR, EOSC-LIFE, ESCAPE, PaNOSC, SSHOC bring together 72 world-class research infrastructures from the ESFRI roadmap and beyond to work on FAIR data management and connecting their user communities to the EOSC. The European e-infrastructures EGI, EUDAT, GÉANT, and OpenAIRE provide inclusive services across Europe and beyond to the benefit of science.*