

CALL FOR SCIENCE DEMONSTRATORS

Guide for applicants

The European Open Science Cloud for Research pilot project (EOSCpilot) is funded by the European Commission, DG Research & Innovation under contract no. 739563



Document identifier: EOSCpilot-WP4-Guide for applicants	
Related work package	WP4
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Last update	25/07/2017

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1. INTRODUCTION

The European Open Science Cloud for Research pilot project (EOSCpilot) project is supporting the first phase in the development of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) as described in the EC Communication on European Cloud Initiatives. The EOSCpilot project will address some of the key reasons why European research is not yet fully tapping into the potential of data. Specifically, it will reduce fragmentation between data infrastructures by working across scientific and economic domains, countries and governance models, and improve interoperability between data infrastructures by demonstrating how data and resources can be shared even when they are large and complex and in varied formats.

These actions will build on and leverage already available resources and capabilities from research infrastructure and e-infrastructure organisations to maximise their use across the research community. The EOSC pilot project will improve the ability to reuse data resources and provide an important step towards building a dependable open-data research environment where data from publicly funded research is always open and there are clear incentives and rewards for the sharing of data and resources.

The EOSCpilot is a consortium of 33 pan-European organisations & 15 third parties covering a range of disciplines and organisations working together to achieve a series of objectives:

- **Governance:** designing and testing a stakeholder-driven governance framework with the involvement of research communities, research institutions, research infrastructures including e-infrastructure, and research funding bodies, to shape and oversee future development of the European Open Science Cloud.
- **Policy:** establishing the policy environment required for the effective operation, access and use of the envisioned open and trusted EOSC to foster research and science, by lowering the barriers to interaction with the EOSC.
- **Science Demonstrators:** developing a number of Science Demonstrators in particular domains that will show the relevance and usefulness of the EOSC Services and their enabling of data reuse, and will drive the further development of the EOSC.
- **Services:** creation of a number of EOSC pilot services that federate data, infrastructure and services fostering multidisciplinary research across geographical borders and across time (through data preservation).
- **Interoperability:** defining and implementing specifications, interfaces, standards and processes that enable and underpin interoperability and sharing of EOSC data and infrastructures across disciplines and providers.
- **Skills:** developing common standards and assessment frameworks to ensure that organisations and individuals are motivated to develop the capabilities and competencies that the EOSC will rely on, and to develop an EOSC education and training strategy and coordinate its delivery.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** identifying and engaging with the major groups of stakeholders from the scientific research, private and public sectors coupled with supporting the project through an effective communication and outreach strategy based around results oriented content.

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL

The Call for EOSCpilot Science Demonstrators is intended for projects that:

- Have a strong and well defined scientific challenge addressed by the use of e-infrastructure (*e.g. an explicit data analysis challenge or supporting the operation of a Virtual Research Environment, or the dissemination and sharing of data and other research outputs*) that will show the scientific excellence and societal impact that could be achieved by EOSC.
- Provide data integration, management, interoperability and analysis challenges that will drive the specification and development of services within the EOSC ecosystem that also support open science.
- Are already developed and demonstrated to be working at scale on existing computational/data/connectivity and other infrastructures (e.g. private, national, European or public clouds/grids/HTC/HPC/network resources) that would become part of the EOSC.
- Are representative of a broader scenario that when established in EOSC would have impact across Europe and beyond.
- Are supported by mature research infrastructures and/or research organisations at a European/National level that will be the long-term consumers of the EOSC.
- Are committed to publishing or consuming third-party research artefacts (e.g. publications, datasets, tools, workflows) as part of the Open Science model with the application of FAIR principles, and also as part of the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020.
- Contribute to achieve as broad a range of stakeholders as possible with maximum coverage of different types of research and varieties of types of data, strengthening the consortium.
- Are feasible to be completed within the timeframe available to carry out the work plan (12 months).
- Are suitable to be developed with the awarded 12 Person-Months effort.
The Science Demonstrator is to engage with the EOSCpilot project during the 12 months' duration of each Science Demonstrator.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- Participants in Science Demonstrators will be invited to become beneficiaries of, or third parties to, the EOSCpilot Grant Agreement, and should therefore meet the eligibility requirements of the EC H2020 programme. New project beneficiaries will also be invited into the EOSCpilot Consortium Agreement.

Note: In case of a Science Demonstrator involving several partner organisations, a strong fragmentation of the Person Months (PMs) effort to be awarded by the EOSCpilot project is to be avoided. The smallest number of PMs to be allocated to one specific partner will be 3.

- Only proposals with a civilian purpose will be eligible to participate in EOSCpilot call.
- Only proposals led by academia and public research organisations will be eligible, although contributions from private sector organisations would be welcome.
- The proposal should conform to the commitment to open science and open access, as part of the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020, within the constraints of data protection legislation and legitimate confidentiality.
- Only proposals written in English will be eligible.

4. HOW TO APPLY?

- All proposals must be submitted via the EOSCpilot website or sending the completed application form to any recipient specified by the EOSCpilot project members.
- All proposals must be fully completed and submitted by the closing date.
- In the case of technical difficulties, the decision of EOSCpilot members as to whether an application can be accepted is final.

5. IMPORTANT DEADLINES

All applicants must keep in mind the following deadlines:

- The call for proposals opens on Aug 1, 2017 and closes on Sep 11, 2017 at 23h 59min CEST.
- If needed, applicants will be able to reply comments from technical and scientific reviewers in the following weeks.
The applicants will get the result of the call for proposals on November 10, 2017.
- The Science Demonstrator will start to be executed on December 1, 2017.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The Selection process will be formed by the next steps:

Step 1: Call for Proposals

The call for proposals should:

- Provide clear guidelines on how to prepare and submit expressions of interest.
- Be properly broadcasted and targeted to relevant stakeholders.
- Be announced in a timely manner and include reminders as the deadline approach.
- Inform applicants on how to get support or help in clarifying issues.

Step 2: Review for compliance

Once the call is closed, the compliance reviewer will check on the completeness and compliance of each proposal. The compliance reviewer will contact the applicant to solve small issues.

Step 3: Assignment of reviewers

The call coordinator/s will need to assign the requests to reviewers depending on their area or expertise.

Step 4a: Scientific review

If possible, every accepted proposal will need to represent a different area of science, while giving consideration to already selected science demonstrators. The aim is to get at least one demonstrator per broad scientific field.

Step 4b: Technical review

Evaluation of the technical suitability and feasibility of the proposal. The proposed projects need to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of the EOSC.

Step 5: Right to reply

The appraisal done by the Scientific and Technical review will be provided to the submitters in order to gather their feedback.

Submitters will not receive all the details of the reviews, only the appraisal.

Step 6: Prioritization

The Selection Committee will analyse all the reviews, synthesize them and produce a ranking list of the proposals to be supported.

Since the number of applications to be accepted is limited, the ranked list may be organised in three different categories: proposal awarded, proposal positively considered but not awarded due to insufficient resources available, and proposal not accepted (e.g. due to not being aligned with the objectives of the call).

Step 7: Final Selection

The prioritised list will be presented by the Selection Committee to the General Assembly. The General Assembly will be able to review the process that has been undertaken, and the technical and scientific reviews of the proposed Science Demonstrators, and verify that the process has been undertaken transparently and finalise the selected Science Demonstrators.

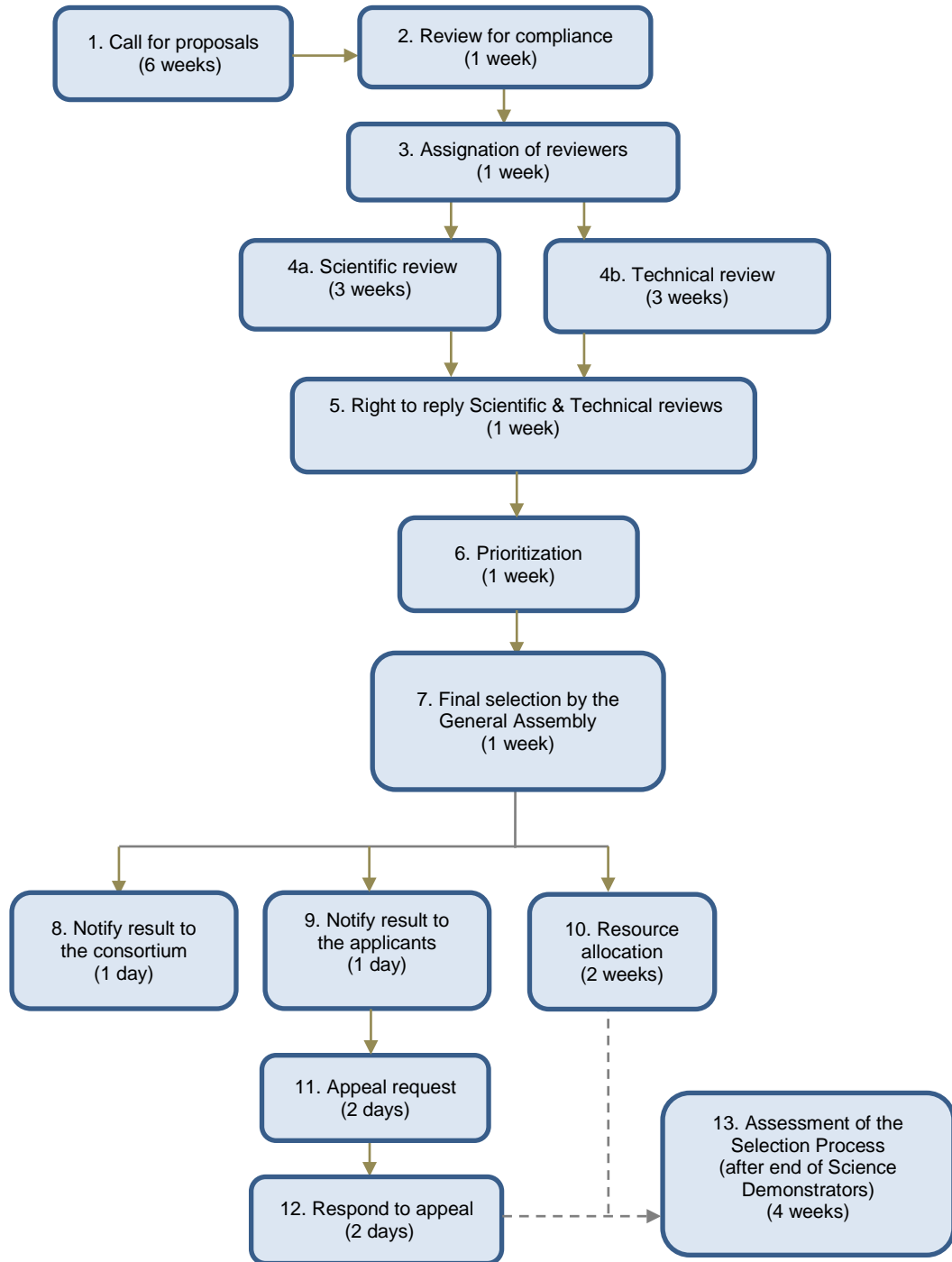
Step 8: Notify result to the consortium

The results have to be communicated to the EOSCpilot consortium members.

Step 9: Notify result to applicants

The results have to be communicated to the applicants. Formal acceptance or rejection letters can be sent by e-mail or other means.

Figure – Activities and estimated time of the EOSCpilot project Selection process



Step 10: Resource allocation

Once the results have been communicated to the applicants, the resources (human and technical) that will develop the proposed project need to be identified. It has already been established that each awarded proposal will be allocated 12 PM of effort to engage with the EOSC Project during the 12 months’ duration of the Science Demonstrator.

Step 11: Appeal request

The applicant will have right to appeal after reception of a rejection letter.

It will have to be noticed that appeal requests will not block the allocation process since they will be considered for the next call.

Step 12: Respond to appeal

The appeal requests will be treated and answered by the Selection Committee, if needed consultation with the Scientific and Technical Reviewers. The call coordinator will ensure the responses are completed and communicated to the requestor in a timely manner.

If the appeal is rejected, as best practice the call coordinator can suggest alternative options or next steps to follow.

Step 13: Assessment of the selection process

Once the science demonstrator is over, the awarded applicants and the assigned shepherds will be contacted to get their feedback on the effectiveness of the overall selection and support process. This feedback will be considered to improve the process for the future calls.

General information relating to the call will be released: number of applicants, project titles and summaries, number of proposed projects deemed fundable/rejected/funded. Individual project proposal or their reviews will not be released.

7. APPLICANT COMMITMENTS

The awarded applicant commits to:

- Joining the EOSCpilot project as a project beneficiary or third party, and work within the EOSCpilot processes and procedures, including financial and effort reporting.
- Allow the EOSCpilot project to use results of the Science Demonstrator as appropriate within dissemination and outreach activities, within the scope of the EOSCpilot GA and CA.
- Once the Science Demonstrator is over, provide feedback on the effectiveness of the overall selection and support process.
- Acknowledge the role of the EOSCpilot in all publications which include the results from the execution of the awarded project. Users shall use the following (or equivalent) wording in such acknowledgements:

“We acknowledge the EOSCpilot project for the support received. Specifically, we gratefully appreciate the support of [name of person/people] from [organisation name], [country].”