

Response to the HLEG open consultation on EOSC Rules of Participation

The EOSCpilot[[1]](#footnote-1) project has been funded by the European Commission to support the first phase of the development of the European Open Science Cloud. EOSCpilot is:

* Proposing and trialing the governance framework for the EOSC and contribute to the development of European open science policy and best practice;
* Developing a number of pilot demonstrators that integrate services and infrastructures to show interoperability and its benefits in a number of scientific domains; and
* Engaging with a broad range of stakeholders, crossing borders and communities, to build the trust and skills required for adoption of an open approach to scientific research.

EOSCpilot is a collaboration between more than 50 organisations across Europe. It began in January 2017 and will run for 2 years.

The EOSCpilot project is already playing a significant role in establishing some of the groundwork to deliver the EOSC. EOSCpilot has seven objectives covering: Governance, Policy, Science Demonstrators, Services, Interoperability, Skills, and Community Engagement. EOSCPilot welcomes the HLEG’s proposed recommendations, which complements the EOSCPilot’s proposed Rules of Participation, which have recently been delivered[[2]](#footnote-2). We summarise these rules below.

## EOSCpilot proposal for EOSC Rules of Participation

The EOSCpilot project has proposed a minimal set of Rules of Participation for Service Providers and Users in EOSC, necessary for EOSC participation and function. The project has investigated and analysed the landscape of e-Infrastructures, Research Infrastructures, commercial cloud providers and scientific initiatives that have been established on the basis of charters or codes of conduct. As a result, a set of organisational Rules of Participation for EOSC have been designed in harmony with widely accepted working practices already established in organisations, embracing the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness.

The EOSCpilot project proposes a main Rule of Participation for all EOSC service providers, complemented by a series of 7 specific requirements which could be applied depending on the needs of each scientific field.

The main rule is that “EOSC services shall be registered in an EOSC compliant or compatible service catalogue visible to the global EOSC gateway”. Additional service characteristics may be required in the catalogue(s) depending on the scientific domain. We identified seven criteria of importance, which inform the users and the EOSC governance on the function of the service: availability, functionality, maturity, support, terms of use, contractual framework, and the properties of the service: quality, performance, sustainability, access policies, data portability, and compatibility, among others. Service descriptive information must be provided to the catalogue(s) and publicly displayed to enable users to assess the characteristics and quality of the service, as well as those of the service providers. The proposed service criteria tackle the following topics:

**Machine readable metadata:** All services must be described in machine readable format and be identifiable by means of a common and persistent identification.

**Terms of Use and Policies:** All EOSC services must have Terms of Use and other policies displayed publicly online and/or via the EOSC Service catalogue(s).

**Accessibility:** EOSC Service Providers must describe how they ensure accessibility and interoperability, and provide information in the EOSC compatible service catalogue where they are registered, to allow for a more open market for users.

**Portability:** Legal and technical infrastructures should enable the portability of data and services, as much as possible.

**Access costs and charging model:** Service providers may apply user charges/fees, which could vary by type of service, type of service provider and location of users. This information must be made clear to users online and via the service catalogue(s)*.*

**Quality of service:** Service providers should adhere to a minimal set of quality guidelines that are being developed within the EOSCpilot project and the EOSC-hub project[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Relation to users:** Service providers should be transparent about the data management mechanisms they use to store-process-publish content, considering FAIRness and Reproducibility; Privacy and Security; and Easing usability.

Additionally, we propose that users of the EOSC agree to terms-of-use for: data sharing and sustainability, depositing and sharing data in community-recognised FAIR data repositories; and acknowledgement of use of services accessed through the EOSC gateway via citations in publications or other means.

These criteria will need to adapt to the dynamic ecosystem consisting of the EOSC Services.

1. <https://EOSCPilot.eu>. EOSCpilot has received funding from the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement no 739563 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. EOSCpilot D2.5: Recommendations for a minimal set of Rules of Participation [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.eosc-hub.eu/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)