The EOSC Lustrum
5 years of EOSC developments

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All about everything.

Communiqué on the Event "The EOSC Lustrum: 5 years of EOSC developments"

In November 2018, the Austrian Presidency and the European Commission invited stakeholders from all member states to celebrate the launch of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) in a festive event at the University of Vienna. The launch event during the Austrian Presidency marked the end of a long consultation and reflection process with stakeholders and was the symbolic start of the EOSC.

The Vienna Declaration on the EOSC governance structure, which was acclaimed back at that time, summarizes the consultation process, highlights the steps taken and recalls the commitments agreed by the Member States in the form of various political documents. It also underlines the need to actively support this joint effort to ensure a smooth and successful implementation of the EOSC.

The idea of a European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) emerged in 2015 as the European Commission's vision of an integrated transnational research infrastructure to support and promote open science and innovation in Europe and beyond. The EOSC federates existing scientific data systems to offer science and technology professionals unprecedented access to storage, management, analysis, and re-use of research data and services that have been historically confined within geographic borders or scientific disciplines. The EOSC envisions the establishment of a European data infrastructure, integrating high-capacity cloud solutions, eventually widening the scope of these services to include the public sector and industry.

Approximately five years after the presidency event in Austria in 2018, a follow-up event themed "The EOSC Lustrum - 5 years of EOSC developments" was held at the same venue. At this Event, renowned international guests presented and discussed perspectives for the future of EOSC and highlighted opportunities and challenges for open (research) data in science and research in Europe and in an international context. New ideas and perspectives were developed and exchanged in topic-specific sessions.

The event once again took place at the historical Site of the main reading room of the library of the University of Vienna and was held in the format of a hybrid meeting with more than 100 participants present on side and many more interested online-guests. The main organizer was the University of Vienna. Participating partners and organizing team include the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Vienna University of Technology, the European Commission, the EOSC Association, GÉANT, FAIR Digital Object Forum, e-Infrastructures Reflection Group, and the EOSC Support Office Austria.

After a brief greeting by some of the members of the organisation committee, the guests were warmly welcomed by representatives of the rectorates of the University of Vienna, the Technical University of Vienna and the Technical University of Graz as well as a representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. Before the start of the first session, a lightning-
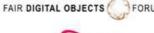
talk by Paul Ayris about Open Science in a global context served as a suitable in-depth introduction to the topic of the day.

The first part of session one aimed at raising awareness on what progress the last five years have brought in the process of implementing EOSC and the specific future goals that should be achieved from the point of view of the community. Furthermore, a global picture of Open Science e-Infrastructures and Initiatives was presented and discussed in general. More specifically, the two talks presented by the EOSC Association on one hand as well as the European Commission on the other hand covered the topics "The main play, European Science – the global feature?" and "Architectures of Knowledge: the EOSC".

A thematic Demonstrator about how EOSC can be used in a practical way served as the next part of session one of the Event. The "Earth Observation Data Center (EODC)" presented the C-Scale Initiative: Enabling Copernicus Big Data Analytics through EOSC and its portal. This project is coordinated by EODC and brings together 11 partners from all across Europe. As closing talks of session one, the "Croatian Open Science Cloud Initiative" and the"Current Swiss model in relation to EOSC, with reference to the Swiss open research data (ORD) strategy" were presented to the participants.

The related presentations and discussion of session one were followed by a panel discussion where experts faced questions intended to stimulate the clarification of views on the past and the future implementation of FAIR Data and EOSC in Europe and internationally.

The second session focused on one hand on the question whether or not the "EOSC governance as it is now can be sufficient for all EOSC infrastructures now and in the future" and on the other hand on "the reasons why EOSC is still needed". This session was intended to raise awareness (in a slightly provocative way) on the question whether or not EOSC is needed for the long-term goal of a research-data ecosystem, which fulfils the FAIR-data requirements. In this session, all participants were invited to focus their attention on how to develop a fair-research-data-ecosystem – with or without the need of an entity called EOSC.

At the end of session two, panel discussions with international experts gave room for ideas and thoughts about what it takes to foster a research data environment that makes use of the data available in the best possible manner. The talks and the panel discussion focused on views from different actors amongst the EOSC Community on issues such as EOSC Governance, turning FAIR into practice, the federation of research data Infrastructures and EOOSC as supporter for research, innovation and education.

Summarising the second session, it should be noted that the main focus of the efforts of the community should be pointed towards the question on how to implement a FAIR-based research data environment primarily – the means by which this goal is achieved are secondary.

The third and last session aimed to address the topic of the future development of FAIR research data in the framework of EOSC. This session tried to paint a picture of the past developments of the

open research data idea and tried to extrapolate necessary steps into the future, obeying the credo "as detailed as possible and as unspecific as needed".

Before the closing session of the event, the floor was given to CODATA, which presented in a short and concise manner its point of view on "EOSC at a glance, in a global context".

After the last session, members of the organisational committee presented a concluding statement with reference to the Vienna Declaration on EOSC.

The Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Research, the Rectors of the Universities presented short statements in reflection to the main objectives of the Vienna declaration. As a brief closing remark, the head librarian of the University of Vienna expressed her appreciation of the process of the establishment of a FAIR-based research data ecosystem and the event itself.

All material and the presentations of all speakers can be found at Speakers' PPTs (eosc-lustrum.eu).

"The EOSC Lustrum: 5 years of EOSC developments" (eosc-lustrum.eu)

- November 2023