

EOSC National Tripartite Event

28 September 2022

Event Report

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Introduction

This report arises from Ireland's first European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) National Tripartite Event, a half-day meeting hosted by the Irish Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) on Wednesday, 28 September 2022 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Pearse St., Dublin. The aim of the event was to support increased understanding of and collaboration between respective national and international EOSC activities.

The Tripartite Collaboration is a strategic coordination between the European Commission, the EOSC Association (EOSC-A) and every Member State and Associated Country involved in the EOSC Steering Board. The aim is to bring together national and international stakeholders for the development of Open Science.

The event in Dublin was attended by fifty senior stakeholder representatives from Government bodies, Research Performing Organisations, Research Funding Organisations, ERICs and ESFRI projects.

This report provides an overview of the event, a summary of presentations and discussions, key recommendations, and suggestions for next steps.

Event Overview

The event was organised around two sessions. The opening session included introductory talks from high-level representatives of DFHERIS, the European Commission, the EOSC-Association, the EOSC Steering Board, Ireland's National Research and Education Network (HEAnet), and the National Open Research Forum (NORF). The second session started following a brief coffee break. Conversation was guided by two panels of national stakeholders for the development of Open Science on the subjects of "Research Infrastructures in Support of Open Science and FAIR data" and "Implementing Open Science Policies: Perspectives from Funders and Institutes."

Presentations

Introduction and Welcome

The first half of the event started with an introduction and welcome by Paddy Howard, Principal Officer at DFHERIS, who highlighted the importance of Open Research in national research policy. [*Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy*](#), identifies Open Research as

a key cross-cutting policy agenda supporting strategic objectives related to the Impact of Research and Innovation Structures on Excellence and Outcomes.

European Commission Position on EOSC

The first speaker representing the European perspective was Thomas Neidenmark, Policy Officer at the Open Science Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Neidenmark spoke on the European Commission's Strategy for Open Science and the role of EOSC in the European Data Strategy. Creating a single market for data will make the EU more competitive globally and will enable innovative processes, products and services. The European Data Strategy will make more data available for use in the economy and society, while keeping those who generate the data in control.

Neidenmark went on to emphasise the importance of monitoring and reporting to achieve the Commission's vision for Open Science by 2030. The aim of a monitoring framework is to measure progress towards Open Science being the new norm, and to support alignment of European, national, and institutional policies and practices to support this end.

Within the EOSC Tripartite Governance Structure, the EOSC-Association represents the voice of the community. The Irish event is a part of a series of National Tripartite events and the outcomes of these events will be further discussed at the European Tripartite Collaboration meeting held in conjunction with the EOSC Symposium in Prague, Czech Republic, 14-17 November.

The EOSC-Association

The next speaker was President of the EOSC-Association, Karel Luyben. Luyben introduced EOSC as a "web of scientific insight." He framed EOSC not as a Cloud but as a Commons, with the centering of research as an overarching principle for EOSC development. Luyben articulated the grand challenges for developing EOSC as both technical and social, with emphasis on the latter.

Luyben continued by offering an overview of the 163 members and 78 observers that currently make up the EOSC-Association and introducing new EOSC family branding which form an essential element in bringing focus to the community as the EOSC enters a new phase.

Like Neidenmark, Luyben highlighted the importance of monitoring and reporting to the success of EOSC. Luyben finished by presenting his vision for Open Science, which includes the creation of a "web of FAIR data and related services" in which at least half of relevant research data is made as FAIR as possible by 2040.











September 2022 by EOSC-A

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Luyben, K. (2022). The EOSC Association [PowerPoint slides].
<https://eosc.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/MASTER%20slides.pdf>

EOSC Steering Board and the role of mandated organisations in the EOSC-Association

On a national level, Roberto Sabatino, Research Engagement Officer at HEAnet, followed with two presentations on the EOSC Steering Board and the role of mandated organisations with the EOSC-Association. Sabatino represents HEAnet in the EOSC-Association where HEAnet is Ireland's mandated organisation. He noted the need for continued coordination and dialogue between the diverse stakeholders in Ireland and Europe to allow for a greater synergy of national and international activities. The focus here would be on developments occurring within the EOSC-Association, including its 13 task forces and the opinion papers being developed by the EOSC Steering Board. In addition, experts from the national Open Research community would be invited to contribute to specific tasks of the EOSC-SB work. Future dialogue may be supported by online café-style sessions, complemented by formal meetings to address more complex aspects.

NORF and Ireland's National Action Plan for Open Research

The final speaker of the opening session was Daniel Bangert, Ireland's National Open Research Coordinator and coordinator of the [National Open Research Forum](#) (NORF). Bangert presented those in attendance with an overview of recent progress in Ireland's Open Science strategy, including the development of a National Action Plan for Open Research and

the establishment of the National Open Research Fund. The National Action Plan outlines a vision for a national research system fully aligned with open research principles by 2030. The vision, goals and actions of the National Action Plan are articulated according to three themes: establishing a culture of open research; achieving 100% open access to research publications; and, enabling FAIR research data and other outputs. In relation to EOSC, the National Action Plan includes an action to strengthen connections to international infrastructures supporting open research and research data, including EOSC.

Development of the National Action Plan



Led by NORF, with direct input from over 90 stakeholder representatives and further input via public and targeted consultations



NORF publications: <https://norf.ie/index.php/publications/>

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Bangert, D. (2022). Ireland's National Open Research Forum and National Action Plan for Open Research [PowerPoint slides]. <https://eosc.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/MASTER%20slides.pdf>

Bangert reiterated the point made by Luyben that the greatest challenges to Open Science are social and cultural. Citing the Centre of Open Science's (COS) strategy for culture and behaviour change, Bangert reflected that open research should be made possible through infrastructure, easy through training and support, normative through communities, rewarding through incentives, and required through policies.

Summary

Three common themes emerged from these presentations:

1. The importance of monitoring and reporting Open Science activity, particularly from an EU perspective. Monitoring tools can be used not only to track progress towards KPIs, but also to enable targeted community engagement. Reporting tools and outputs must

be transparent and open to allow for scrutiny and validation. Monitoring should be considered a benchlearning exercise.

2. The main barriers to the successful implementation of Open Science strategies are cultural rather than technical.
3. The stakeholder-driven approach of the Tripartite governance structure and the networked nature of Open Science more generally.

Panel Discussions

Research Infrastructures in Support of FAIR Data

This session was chaired by Sarah Jones, EOSC Engagement Manager at GÉANT, and began with presentations from three of five the panelists: Denis Sheilds, Head of Node at [Elixir Ireland](#); Natalie Harrower, Director of the Digital Repository of Ireland ([DRI](#)); and Sandra Collins (UCD Library, [ISSDA/CESSDA ERIC](#)). The other panelists were Venkatesh Kannan (Technical Manager at the [Irish Centre of High-End Computing](#)) and Jennifer Symonds (Director of Growing Up in Digital Europe).

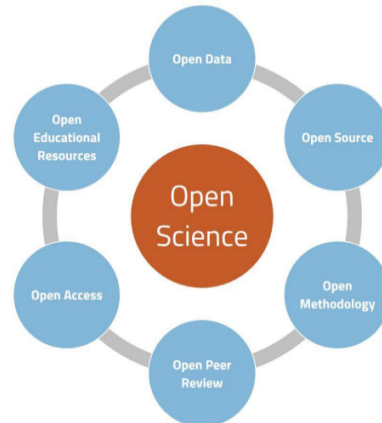
Following the opening presentations, the panelists answered questions on the challenges faced by research infrastructures and plans for an infrastructure roadmap in Ireland. The main challenges identified by panelists were differing definitions of what it means to be “open” among stakeholders, managing and monitoring data collection, and data harmonisation. It was further noted that national data management needs to be positioned with a wider range of data sources, which is both a challenge and an opportunity. For Open Science to continue to grow in Ireland, funding certainty is needed to build and sustain key research infrastructures; there will need to be a greater focus on resourcing (especially for RDM), training and upskilling, and the implementation of nationally coordinated actions via NORF will have to grow significantly.

Implementing Open Science Policies: Perspectives from funders and institutes

The final session of the event was chaired by Joseph Moore, Principal Officer at DFHERIS, and began with presentations from two of five panelists: Patricia Clarke (Programme Manager for [Health Research Board](#)) and Veronica Cunningham (Research Funding Office Manager at the [Marine Institute](#)). The panel also included Lorraine Byrne (Executive Director of [SFI AMBER](#) and the [CRANN Institute](#)), Geraldine Canny (Head of Research at [South Eastern Technological University](#)), and Brian Fitzgerald (Director of [Lero](#)).

Implementing Open Science policies: perspectives from institutions and funders

- Challenges – Resourcing (especially for data management staff in current competitive job market), responsibility for legacy project data, costs of long-term storage. Making all aspects open – methodologies and peer review.
- Planned Improvements – Working on improving the functionality of current databases. Core Trust Seal Accreditation (trustworthy data repositories).



Cunningham, V. (2022). Marine Institute [PowerPoint slides].
<https://eosc.eu/sites/default/files/2022-10/MASTER%20slides.pdf>

The panel members were asked about the potential impact of Open Science on public-private partnerships within research, the response of researchers to Open Science policies, and institutional support structures for Open Science. The main barriers to Open Science raised by the panelists were resourcing (especially for data management staff), the project-based funding model and its associated shortsightedness, and challenges surrounding research culture, incentivisation and rewards. As Canny observed, institutional governance needs should be more closely linked to the operational reality, and the reality is that publications and the associated metrics continue to dominate the research landscape. Consequently, more needs to be done in these areas to incentivise researchers to implement Open Science practices.

Closing

In his closing remarks, Paddy Howard thanked each of the contributors and reflected on the content of the afternoon's proceedings: "Today we have been presented with a picture of progress for Open Science in Ireland," he remarked. Howard highlighted the need for continued dialogue between national and European stakeholders, and EOSC's vision of Open Science as a public good.

Recommendations

This section presents a summary of the recommendations that arose from the event. These recommendations have been drawn from the questions posed to each of the individual presenters and questions and conversations arising from the panel discussions.

For National Stakeholders

- **The continued importance of coordination and dialogue between the diverse stakeholders in Ireland and Europe.** Suggestions were made as to how best to facilitate this. Examples include, informal online world café style gatherings, complemented by more formal settings and encouraging national experts to contribute to EOSC Steering Board tasks.
- **The Irish stakeholder base needs to be broadened to include research active private partners.**

For Funders and Institutions

- **Funding needs to be made available to train and hire data stewards.** The increasingly vital role of data stewards to enable and support Open Science was noted throughout the meeting.
- **A model for spending money on institutional Open Science Strategies needs to be developed.** It was noted that in instances where funds were made available, it can be unclear where best to place them.
- **There needs to be a greater focus on roadmapping processes and funding models for sustainable research infrastructures, both for processing of data and generation of data.** The project-led approach is reaching its limitations. A long-term funding model needs to be developed and implemented.
- There needs to be **greater communication between national funders on an international level.** The challenges faced by Irish stakeholders are not unique to Ireland and best addressed through a united rather than a fragmented approach.

For EOSC and mandated organisations

- **There remains a need for greater clarity around the EOSC.** There needs to be a clearer, more coherent picture of what exactly EOSC is, how it connects with related national and European Open Science infrastructures and activities, and suggested routes to strengthen engagement and contribution by all stakeholders.

Other Issues | Overarching Issues:

It is important to acknowledge that **there exist a number of social barriers which will greatly impact the success of both national and international Open Science strategies.**

Ireland's National Action Plan sets forth five broad actions to encourage the cultural change required to transition towards open research:

- **Upskill researchers and relevant professional** support staff in open research;
- Strengthen the system-wide **recognition and reward** of open research practices;
- **Align research assessment** with the principles of open research;
- **Support** institutional and community **networks** for open research;
- Encourage initiatives to **facilitate open research in funding programmes and awards.**

Next Steps

1. HEAnet will set up a team channel on MS-Teams, titled "EOSC-Ireland". In the first instance, membership of this group will be opened up to those in attendance at the EOSC Tripartite Event. The dual aims of this channel are to keep members informed of EOSC activities and to facilitate conversation and an exchange of information.
2. This channel will also serve as a shared space for documents. The first documents to be included will be the EOSC Steering Board policy papers, the slides for the National Tripartite Event and event report.
3. HEAnet will schedule a series of bi-monthly webinars, the first of which will take place in early-December 2022 on the topic of the EOSC Observatory survey. Other topics may include:
 - a. EOSC-SB and EOSC-A initiatives, task force developments;
 - b. National developments;
 - c. Progress updates on the projects awarded via the NORF's 2022 Open Research Fund.

Acknowledgments

This event was co-organised by the Department for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), Ireland's National Research and Education Network (HEAnet), Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF), and the EOSC-Association. We would like to thank the speakers and panelists for their contributions to the event.

Event Programme

Ireland National EOSC Tripartite Event

Venue: Institute of chartered accountants, Pearse St, Dublin

Date: 28th September 2022 12:00-17:00

PROGRAMME

Time	Title	Speakers / Panellists
12:00-13:00	Light lunch	
13:00-13:15	Introduction and welcome	Paddy Howard – DFHERIS
13:15-13:35	EC position on EOSC	Thomas Neidenmark – EC
13:35-14:05	The EOSC-Association	Karel Luyben – President of the EOSC Association
14:05-14:20	EOSC-Steering Board	Roberto Sabatino – HEAnet
14:20-14:30	The role of mandated organisations with EOSC-Association	Roberto Sabatino – HEAnet
14:30-14:50	NORF and National Action Plan for Open Research	Daniel Bangert – DRI, National Open Research Coordinator
14:50-15:10	Break	
15:10-16:00	Research Infrastructures in support of Open Science and FAIR data	<p>Moderator: Sarah Jones – EOSC Association Board Member</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denis Shields (ELIXIR) • Natalie Harrower (DRI) • Venkatesh Kannan (ICHEC) • Sandra Collins (CESSDA) • Jennifer Symonds (GUIDE)
16:00-16:50	Implementing Open Science policies: perspectives from funders and institutes	<p>Moderator: Joseph Moore - DFHERIS</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Clarke (HRB) • Veronica Cunningham (Marine Inst.) • Lorraine Byrne (SFI AMBER) • Brian Fitzgerald (SFI LERO) • Geraldine Canny (SETU)
16:50-17:00	Closing	Paddy Howard - DFHERIS

Event Presenters and Panelists



Paddy Howard is a Principal Officer in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. He is responsible for the monitoring and funding of innovation and research organisations and programmes including Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council and international research organisations in which Ireland participates including the European Open Science Cloud.



Dr. Thomas Neidenmark is a policy officer at the Open Science unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation where he is focused on the transition to open science. He is engaged with the EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) Steering Board and open science monitoring as a member of the EOSC team.



Roberto Sabatino is Research Engagement Officer at HEAnet, since November 2020. He represents HEAnet in the EOSC-Association, where HEAnet is Ireland's mandated member. He is also representing Ireland, on behalf of DFHERIS, in the EOSC-Steering Board and will talk about these at the event.



Dr. Venkatesh Kannan - ICHEC - is responsible for defining and implementing the vision, strategy and roadmap of the Centre's RD&I activities. This includes developing partnerships with domestic and international organisations in academia, industry and the public sector.



Dr. Natalie Harrower is Director of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI). She is a member of the National Archives Advisory Council, the ALLEA Open Science Taskforce, and CNC CODATA. She has also served on expert and advisory groups for the Research Data Alliance (RDA), the European Commission (FAIR data), the EOSC (FAIR working group), and the OECD (Sustainable Data Repositories). The DRI coordinates Ireland's National Open Research Forum (NORF).



Prof. Jennifer Symonds directs Europe's largest planned birth cohort study: Growing Up in Digital Europe (GUIDE). GUIDE is a landmark European research infrastructure, marked by its appointment to the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructure Roadmap in 2021.



Prof. Brian Fitzgerald is currently Director of Lero, having previously held the role of Chief Scientist. In 2020, he was elected President of the Association for Information Systems, the global body for information systems worldwide. Recently, Lero announced its Open Source Program Office (OSPO) and its Open Science Charter.



Lorraine Byrne is the Executive Director of the SFI Centre for Advanced Materials and Bioengineering research (AMBER) and the CRANN Institute at Trinity College Dublin. Within this role where she has leadership responsibility for the non-scientific aspects of both organisations including industry engagement, Funding diversification, Communications, Public Engagement and governance.



Dr. Geraldine Canny is Head of Research at SETU where she leads the research support team. She holds a Ph.D. in Immunology from University College Dublin. Between 2018 and 2021 Dr Canny held the position of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) National Delegate and National Contact Point. During her tenure as Head of the Irish MSCA office funding awarded to Irish HEIs, companies and non-academic organisations exceeded 95 million euros.



Prof. Karel Luyben is Rector Magnificus Emeritus of the Delft University of Technology as of 2018. At present he is primarily active in the domain of Open Science. He is National Coordinator for Open Science in the Netherlands, Chairman of the Board of the Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences and President of the EOSC-Association.



Dr. Daniel Bangert is Ireland's National Open Research Coordinator. He coordinates the activities of the National Open Research Forum (NORF). He is a member of the Council for National Open Science Coordination (CoNOSC), the EOSC Task Force on Research Careers, Recognition and Credit, and co-chairs the RDA Working Group on National PID Strategies. His background is in arts and humanities research, academic librarianship, and European Open Science projects (RDA, FAIRsFAIR).



Sarah Jones is EOSC Engagement Manager at GÉANT, where she works with NRENs on supporting Open Science. Sarah was rapporteur on the European Commission's FAIR Data Expert Group and independent expert on the EOSC Executive Board, chairing the FAIR Working Group. She now sits on the EOSC Association Board of Directors.



Prof. Denis Shields is the Head of Node of Elixir Ireland. Elixir is a European organisation spanning EU and non-EU nations. It promotes maximal use and sharing of life science data, with services provided by nodes, and with communities and platforms connecting people into activities. He is Professor of Clinical Bioinformatics at University College Dublin.



Dr. Sandra Collins is University Librarian at University College Dublin. She is the Chair of the Consortium of National and University Libraries (CONUL), a member of the Irish Government's Expert Advisory Group for Commemorations, the Advisory Forum to the Irish Government's National Conversation on Research, the Board of HEAnet and the DRI, and the international Council of the RDA.



Joseph Moore is Principal Officer at DFHERIS - Innovation, Research & Development Policy unit, where he is responsible for the development, coordination and implementation of cross Government national, EU and international Research, Development & Innovation policy including Impact 2030 - Ireland's National Research and Innovation Strategy.



Dr. Patricia Clarke is a Programme Manager for Health Research Board (HRB) with responsibility for work on EU Framework Programmes, leading on open research agendas. Her current role includes managing the HRB Open Research platform (<https://www.hrbopenresearch.org/>), co-Chair of National Open Research Forum Ireland and National Delegate for Horizon Europe Cluster 1 Health.



Veronica Cunningham current role is Research Funding Office Manager with responsibility for the management of its Research Programme. She is a member of the JPI Oceans Management Board, and represents the Marine Institute on several national and international fora (e.g. National Research Integrity Forum, National Open Research Forum, EPA Climate Research Coordination Group, etc.).

About NORF and Ireland's National Action Plan

Author: Daniel Bangert, National Open Research Coordinator d.bangert@ria.ie

Ireland's [National Action Plan for Open Research](#) outlines objectives and actions for the next chapter in Ireland's transition towards open research. It builds on a number of national policies and international recommendations, including the *National Principles on Open Access* (2012), the *European Commission Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information* (2018), the [National Framework on the Transition to an Open Research Environment](#) (2019), and the *UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science* (2021).

The process of developing the action plan was led by Ireland's [National Open Research Forum](#) (NORF), a broad group that combines the expertise of representatives from policy, research funding organisations, research performing organisations, the library sector, research infrastructures, enterprise and other key stakeholders in the research system across Ireland.

The action plan serves as a roadmap for the implementation of open research across Ireland, outlining national goals and coordinated actions that will assist the research system as a whole to better support open research practices. The plan covers the period 2022-2030 and will be subject to periodic assessment and updates.

Themes and actions

The action plan is structured according to three themes or overall aspirations, under which a vision, goals, and actions are articulated. There are 19 actions in total, with additional sub-actions. Themes and selected overall actions are as follows:

- **Establishing a culture of open research**
Actions include upskilling researchers and relevant professional support staff in open research, strengthening the system-wide recognition and reward of open research practices, and aligning research assessment with the principles of open research.
- **Achieving 100% open access to research publications**
Actions include strengthening Ireland's network of open access repositories, supporting rights retention for Irish researchers, investing in persistent identifier infrastructure, and aligning policies for open access to publications.
- **Enabling FAIR research data and other outputs**
Actions include supporting the development and professionalisation of research data stewardship nationally, supporting national services for storing, managing, sharing and preserving research data, aligning policies for the management and sharing of

research data and other outputs, and strengthening connections to international infrastructures supporting open research and research data, including the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

Implementation

Implementation of the action plan will be overseen by NORF and delivered under *Impact 2030: Ireland's Research and Innovation Strategy* with the support of DFHERIS. [Funding of €1.725 million](#) has been provided by DFHERIS to support priority actions. Projects to implement the following six priority actions will commence by the end of 2022, running to 2024:

1. National Open Access Monitoring: to develop a monitor for open access at the national level to publish, analyse and track progress towards 100% OA.
2. Open Access Repository Assessment and Alignment: to conduct a national programme of repository alignment to deliver standardised metadata nationally while building infrastructure in line with international best practices.
3. Open Access Transition Programme: to conduct a feasibility study and pilot with a view to establishing a national platform for Diamond OA publication of journals and books.
4. Open Research Training Programme: to develop a national open research training programme to enable researchers at all stages of their career to upskill in open research practices.
5. National Data Stewardship Network: to establish a national network across research performing organisations, funders, and related research support services and infrastructures to build national capacity in FAIR data management and stewardship.
6. Shared Data Storage Pilot: to develop a national shared data storage service for active data, starting with a pilot for diverse research groups.

To keep up to date with NORF's activities you can sign up to NORF's Newsletter and mailing list [here](#).