

Charter for the EOSC - Task Force - Long Term Data Preservation (EOSC TF LTP)

Version 0.5 (08-06-2021)

Main aims

The possibility to reproduce, replicate and re-use scientific results depends on the long-term accessibility and assessibility of the underlying data. The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the EOSC underlines the importance of long-term data preservation, but an explicit strategy has not been formulated.

The EOSC TF LTP will provide recommendations for the EOSC board on the vision and sustainable implementation of long-term data preservation policies and practices, as well as suggestions to later strategy execution. It will address the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, the financial aspects of long-term preservation and the necessary service infrastructure.

In this charter, long-term preservation is defined as a process for continued access to digital materials, or at least to the information contained in them, indefinitely.¹

Core activities

- 1) **Creation of a shared understanding and vision**; starting from what we mean by digital preservation in the context of EOSC and a mapping of the existing landscape, resulting in a suggestion for a strategy, where horizontal EOSC preservation policy enables the connection and collaboration on national, community and local level. This TF will provide recommendations for the EOSC board on the vision and sustainable implementation of long-term data preservation policies and practices, as well as suggestions to later strategy execution.
- 2) **Mapping and promotion of the roles, responsibilities and accountability** of the actors within the EOSC ecosystem with respect to long-term data preservation and responsibility levels defined in the SRIA. Complementing this by identifying the stakeholders in the different stages of the research data life cycle and their respective roles and responsibilities, including recommendations for awareness raising and training, especially on comprehensive and accountable DMPs.
- 3) **Mapping of the financial aspects of long-term data preservation**, including the cost of digital preservation, financial responsibilities of the different stakeholders, as well as possible business models for repositories.
- 4) **Recommendations** on the creation of a European network of **trustworthy digital repositories** following FAIR-enabling principles with disciplinary and geographical spread. **Recommendations for EOSC data services** to connect to this network and a roadmap to further mature the LTP aspects of these repository services.

Working methodology

¹ <https://www.dpconline.org/handbook/glossary>

The EOSC TF LTP depends on the voluntary work of experts and should therefore be cautious in terms of its ambitions. The TF will work in parallel on the four main clusters of activities. There will be a focus group for each of the clusters.

Roughly the phases for the different strands of work will be:

- desk research to identify reports, project outputs, etc. that can be used to build on
- draft recommendations
- open consultation (webinar/workshop)
- revised recommendations

The EOSC TF LTP will base its decision-making on consensus and will not work with voting mechanisms. This way of working requires all TF members to take responsibility, to actively listen, engage and contribute. These conditions will create a trusted environment in which the work can be done and decisions can be taken. In case any issues arise that cannot be solved within the Task Force, the co-chairs will ask the board of directors liaisons to step in as mediators.

Planned duration

Due to the complexity of the topic and the limited attention it received until now, the EOSC TF LTP expects to run for 24 months.

Dependencies

EOSC TF LTP needs input from, collaborates with and creates synergies with:

- TF Defining funding models for EOSC
- TF FAIR metrics and data quality
- TF Technical interoperability of data and services
- TF PID policy and implementation
- TF Data stewardship curricula and career paths
- TF Researcher engagement and adoption
- TF Infrastructure for quality research software

EOSC TF LTP has key dependencies with relevant science communities and projects:

- Reproducibility of scientific results: EU Commission study launched Jan 2021, Horizon Europe Call 2022
- ARCHIVER project (<https://archiver-project.eu>)
- FAIRsFAIR project (<https://www.fairsfair.eu>)
- DICE project (<https://www.dice-eosc.eu>)
- EOSC Future project
- EOSC contributions (EOSC-SB benchmarking study, DPC 'FAIRforever' study report, EOSC Landscape study and Country sheets analysis)
- EOSC risk management
- European data spaces and [Gaia-X](#): the challenge of data life cycle management and preservation is not yet in the plans => economics of scale to find solutions together
- Relevant RDA groups (like the IG Repository Certification)
- Repository (certification) communities (like CoreTrustSeal, nestor, PTAB/ISO16363, WDS, COAR, [ISO](#) OAIS Reference Model, etc.)

- Any relevant projects that will come out of the first Horizon Europe calls, as well as relevant science community projects

Membership

The membership should cover knowledge and competences in the areas of:

- Digital preservation with all its aspects
- Data architects and service owners for long term data preservation processes
- Data provenance and reproducibility
- National and institutional policies on preservation and relevant legislation
- FAIR services and research data management (horizontal and sectoral)
- Incentives and rewards provided by funders (including DMPs)
- European data strategy and data spaces, especially health and climate
- Certification of repositories
- Funding models and financial implications

The membership is open and based on voluntary work and should cover representatives from:

- Digital preservation community (iPRES)
- Repository certification community
- Relevant (project funded) Research Infrastructures and e-infrastructures for Research
- RDA

The EOSC TF LTP strives for the necessary diversity with respect to gender, geography and discipline.