

First meeting of the EOSC FAIR Working Group

Thursday 4th July, 9:00-16.30 CEST

Attending: Sarah Jones (Chair), Palina Shauchuk (EOSC Secretariat), Athanasios Karalopoulos (EC), Magnus Aronsen, Oya Beyan, Christine Choirat, Neil Chue Hong, Anders Sparre Conrad, Oscar Corcho, Magnus Eriksson, Gwen Franck, Françoise Genova, Haris Georgiadis, Natalie Harrower, Andre Heughebaert, Marta Hoffman-Sommer, Rob Hooft, Renee van Kessel, Krzysztof Kurowski, Liisi Lembinen, Juuso Marttila, Milan Ojsteršek, Eva Pastorkova, Ana Slavec, Marta Teperek, Peter Wittenberg

Apologies: Stefano Cozzini, Andras Holl, Christian Kirksteiger, Rachael Kotarski, Leslie McIntosh, Pedro Principe

Action	Who
Coordinate requests to existing H2020 projects, national and related initiatives to map their activities to the EOSC Working Groups	EOSC Exec Board
Request a mailing list for each of the 4 FAIR WG teams. Also add Natalie Harrower to the main FAIR WG mailing list.	Palina / TRUST-IT (Leonardo)
Coordinate calls / meetings to update workplan description	WG teams
Update WG teams doc to allow members to add expertise to other teams	Palina
Issue doodle polls for next meetings and telecons	Palina & Sarah
Support RDA to map WG/IG activities to EOSC Working Groups	Francoise
Draft a remit for a legal interoperability study to submit to co-creation fund	Gwen
Write a blog introducing group	Sarah

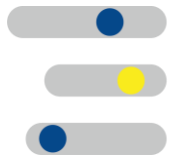
Introductions

All members introduced themselves. Biographies are available in the google drive and are ready to go online. Everyone needs to sign the website policy to give permission for TRUST-IT to act as data controller and put these online.

The EOSC Executive Board and FAIR Working Group remit – Sarah Jones

Sarah introduced the remit of the FAIR group and how it aligns with others.

Francoise asked the status of the RDA groups on Global Open Science Commons. Case statements have been drafted for an overarching Interest Group and first Working Group. If an EOSC Working Group is established on this topic it will work alongside and utilise the RDA forum. Similarly, work on FAIR metrics



should use the relevant RDA group ([FAIR Data Maturity Model Working Group](#)) and not develop anything new or different.

Peter noted that we have to look beyond H2020 projects. This is the intention. We should also reach out to national initiatives like the 90 million investment in Germany and to the ESFRIs (for example via RDA/GEDE).

Sarah noted that there is a co-creation fund available via the EOSCsecretariat. This could be used to support meetings and events if we need to organise anything with the community. The recruitment of a consultant to coordinate the landscape analysis / requirements gathering exercises being conducted by all the projects has already been approved. This person will also support coordinated analysis of results. The exact application procedure should be available on the EOSCsecretariat website soon. See: <https://www.eoscsecretariat.eu/co-creation-calls>

Concerns were raised about how we reach out to the various projects and initiatives. There needs to be strong coordination and a single initial point of contact rather than every working group (or sub-team) reaching out. The Executive Board will do this, with support from the EOSCsecretariat and European Commission. Projects will be asked to map their activities against the EOSC Working Group remit so we know where there are relevant inputs to follow up.

Perspective of the European Commission - Athanasios Karalopoulos

Athanasios presented the background to the development of the EOSC and the common vision. He noted that it is critical that we have a catalogue of federated datasets and a catalogue of federated services by 2020.

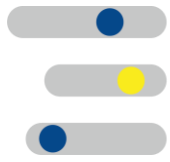
Questions were raised about how abstract or concrete we should be in the recommendations. The answer will depend on the maturity and what is feasible, but we should be pragmatic and address things in stages. We will get a better sense of how specific is appropriate as we begin work.

How we will work –Sarah Jones & Palina Shauchuk

Sarah and Palina explained the basic working practices we will adopt.

- There is a google drive which will act as the central filestore for the group. Please update files here directly and don't send them as attachments to email.
- There is an email list that goes to all working group members. Please use this for main correspondence. Natalie noted that she needs to be added.
- We will request email lists for the four teams and circulate details asap. We will also ensure all member emails are in the spreadsheet in case anyone needs to contact individual members.
- Monthly telecons and any team meetings will be held on Zoom. Palina can share login details.
- Palina is the main contact for scheduling meetings and administration e.g. reimbursements

We discussed how much should be shared openly. The google drive will not be made public, however members are encouraged to actively engage and consult the community at regular points. We should



have internal consensus before documents are released for consultation. We also agreed to make the main meeting notes publicly available.

Several members asked about sharing details with alternate members or those appointed to other Working Groups by their Governing Board representative since there were coordination meetings between them at a country level. We agreed that this was allowed and encouraged all members to ensure alternates were kept informed and to coordinate with peers on others EOSC Working Groups.

The FAIR Work Plan – Sarah Jones

Sarah walked through the work plan to explain the main proposed actions and timelines. The next step is for each team to review the content and make changes based on their plan of action. Each team is to coordinate a call and revise text next week. All are asked to make changes in the googledoc directly.

Since the FAIR practice group does not have an associated 'deliverable' questions were asked about their activities. Sarah proposes that they liaise with the various projects to understand and map FAIR practice in different disciplines to ensure we have a good understanding of researcher needs. This will be an input to other work to ensure the PID policy, metrics and interoperability framework etc are appropriate and fit-for-purpose.

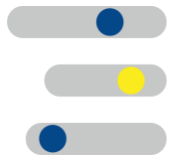
We also discussed the level of granularity for interoperability. For example, when we talk about a catalogue is this at the dataset level or searching at a variable level within actual datasets. Several experts expressed scepticism about defining granularity, since it is very much dependent on traditions in the disciplines and also dependent on the type of digital object. A cross-search at a dataset level to facilitate discovery is the first step. Interoperability at first instance means to register schemas and vocabularies so they are discoverable and data can be understood. This is one of the implications of FAIR and people need to be encouraged to change practices in this sense. Some disciplines don't even have schemas yet though so we need to be pragmatic and ensure recommendations speak to all.

The need to coordinate with other Working Groups was also raised. How we facilitate this has not been discussed in detail yet, but there is a willingness and we intentionally have joint activities e.g. PID policy and Interoperability Framework. We will ask whether WG members can see each others google drives (Sarah suggested we exclude Landscape and Sustainability from this and only share across Architecture, Rules of Participation and FAIR). Since we have been setup first, we should also take a lead on PID policy and Interoperability Framework and share a suggested approach for discussion.

Convening Working Group teams

Sarah explained that the teams are intended to facilitate day-to-day work, not to limit members to certain aspects. All can get involved in and comment on the entire activities but having discussion with such a large group is impractical. Members confirmed they are happy with the current allocation.

Francoise asked that we add an additional column or table to the groups to highlight where other members have expertise to add into the team. Alternately we could create a grid with people in columns and expertise areas in rows and everyone can tick the boxes they can contribute to. Rob suggested we could use a RACI matrix to identify roles for each member in each group.



Engaging with projects, initiatives and stakeholders working on FAIR

Renee presented FAIRsFAIR which has a synchronisation task force to encourage collaboration across the different projects doing FAIR work. This is a key vehicle for us to do project coordination. Workshops are scheduled for November 2019, July 2020 and January 2021. We should get involved. The FAIR Expert Group recommendations will be taken as key input for the first workshop.

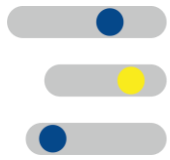
Renee asked how synergies can be established and how the task force can serve us. How can they share details so we understand what is coming in the project? A timetable of relevant project deliverables and activities should be made available. Written demands and requests could also be provided for specific analysis or support. The co-creation fund is also available to support workshops and studies. We agreed that FAIRsFAIR should have a standing invite to the group to ensure alignment with the synchronisation task force.

We have sessions at two upcoming events which we need to plan:

- **EOSC @ RDA** co-located event at RDA Plenary in Helsinki 22 Oct 2019
We have a two hour slot for the FAIR Working Group. Hilary Hanahoe has offered to map RDA IG/WG to EOSC WG activities so we can reach out to international members conducting related activities and co-run the session with them. This was agreed by members and Françoise offered to help with the mapping. The afternoon session will be held at the same time as the Chair meeting, which may be an issue for the Chairs of the relevant RDA Groups to attend.
- **EOSC symposium** 26-28 Nov 2019 Danubius Hotel Helia in Budapest with European audience
The agenda is still in development but we should have one or two 90 minute sessions. Members are asked to consider what would be most useful to get from the audience. Are all members expected to be there? No, but it would be helpful to have presence and travel could possibly be supported by the Secretariat if needed. Possibly we could host a WG meeting on Monday though November is quite late. Preferably we would meet in September or October.
- **IDCC conference** (Feb 2020, Dublin)
Sarah suggested that we could co-run a workshop at the IDCC conference with relevant projects like FAIRsFAIR, FAIRPlus, ENVRI-FAIR and others. This could investigate or ratify an analysis of FAIR practice and consult on plans for the EOSC interoperability framework.
- **EOSC Hub week** on 18-20 May 2020 in Karlsruhe
Given the date of this it is a good opportunity to get feedback on preliminary outputs. We should plan to attend and hold our working group meeting alongside this.

Contacting stakeholders

Again we covered the need to coordinate reaching out to the projects. The EOSC EB will do the initial approach to projects and initiatives. This is an urgent task to avoid summer break delays. FAIR WG teams will then follow up where relevant.



The spreadsheet list should cover more than just H2020 projects. All should add other relevant projects, ESFRIs and national initiatives that we should reach out to.

Peter and Rob mentioned a broad survey action called “FAIR Technology Matrix” that is intended to collate an overview about the technologies being used by the ESFRIs/ERICs and beyond. Similar to an [earlier survey by RDA Europe](#) in 2014 it will give impulses for RDA, EOSC etc. Peter will add the materials to the reference folder on google drive.

Neil asked that we produce a package of core slides and messages by the end of the year so we can communicate to people at conferences.

Meeting schedule

We expect to hold another meeting in Autumn time - September-October preferable. Palina to send doodle. Earlier is better and location preference for Brussels or Amsterdam.

We expect to hold 3-4 meetings in the next year.

- End of January - 1st meeting alongside PIDapalooza? <https://pidapalooza.org>
- May -2nd meeting - co-locate with EOSC week
- 3rd meeting in early September
- 4th meeting in November

Telcons will take place monthly in the morning. Sarah will propose options for a doodle.

Members were allocated to coordinate teams and get initial calls and work started.

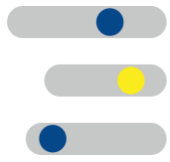
- PIDs: Peter W
- Certification: Francoise and Magnus A
- Interoperability: Oscar (after next 2 weeks) Kryz now
- FAIR practice: Marta T and Rob

The open call

Sarah explained that the open call is intended to allow the broader stakeholder community to put themselves forward. There are many ways to get involved outside of being a member, and we only want to add new members where they bring additional skills or perspectives. We can't add more than 10 people purely for practical reasons of numbers.

Plan to open in September once we know better what skills gaps there are. Currently we know we are weak on legal interoperability and ethical skills and that we are missing input from publishing and scholarly communications. Teams should identify missing skills as work begins.

We discussed the complexities of legal interoperability and proposed commissioning a study via the co-creation fund. This should do an inventory of existing work, identify the specific challenges that pertain to EOSC in terms of sharing and reusing data across different jurisdictions (e.g. laws and consent agreements not being machine-actionable) and make recommendations on how we address these. Neil



noted the Free Software Foundation Europe as a good place to commission such studies. Gwen was proposed to take a lead on scoping this.

AOB

Members were asked to sign the website privacy policy to put bios online.

Palina noted that the reimbursement form is on the googledrive. Please scan and send receipts files.

Thanks to all for such active inputs!