EOSC Workshop at EU Open Science Coordination in Europe Meeting

Meeting:	EU Open Science Coordination in Europe
Date/Place:	21 October 2019 at Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki
Chair:	Henriikka Mustajoki

Workshop:	Linking Countries to EOSC
Leaders:	Karel Luyben and Gareth O'Neill
Materials:	Presentation (re-used with permission from Sarah Jones)
Abstract:	While the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is under construction, many organisations and countries ask themselves: How can we link-up? In this workshop we will first give an overview of the state of play in the development of EOSC. One or more examples of preparing to link-up will be presented and next we will discuss issues from the participants with respect becoming a party in the EOSC ecosystem.

Summary report:

- Idea of a Council of National Open Science Coordination (CoNOSC) is to align policies and activities of national initiatives fostering Open Science in Europe
- The aim of EOSC is to federate existing research data repositories/infrastructures in Europe so that all research data sets are findable, accessible, and linked for querying
- An interesting question is how to link the major European research infrastructures of EIROforum (EUROfusion, CERN, ESO, EMBL, ESRF, ILL, ESA, and XFEL) to EOSC
- All researchers and disciplines should be served by EOSC: the focus is not on how much data is produced or the size of the data sets but rather reaching all data sets
- EOSC focuses on the principles of Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) and that research data is machine actionable and not just human actionable
- EOSC is (self-)inclusive: both national and European research infrastructures as well as relevant parties will be able to be involved in EOSC following predefined conditions
- The transition to Open Science needs support from national governments: this may involve initial extra funding but in principle comes from the existing research budgets
- Idea of a Data Steward Competence Centre (DSCC) is to provide data stewardship support at institutional level and link up the competence centres in a national network
- The employment of professional data stewards at institutions is crucial for the training and support of researchers in research data management for FAIR and Open Science

- Distinction between data steward (focusing on research data management support) and Open Science officer (focusing on policy making and support for Open Science)
- Three operational levels for data stewards: institute/faculty level for disciplinary support; institutional level for coordination; national level for national coordination
- Data stewards are employees with appropriate training and are able to provide support to researchers in broad or discipline-specific research data management
- Skills identification and training for Open Science and EOSC is crucial: such skills development and training could be organised nationally or via organisations of EOSC
- A proposed Working Group on Skills under the EOSC executive board will learn from national and organisational initiatives and help develop and support training materials
- A proposed Task Force on International Outreach under the EOSC executive board will aim to reach out and link to non-European research data infrastructures for EOSC
- The Ivy League of American universities now have a network of professional data stewards: a proposed EOSC Task Force on International Outreach could link to them
- Making data FAIR should not be an additional burden: it is crucial that research projects plan for FAIR from the outset and the FAIRisation is embedded in the project
- Making data FAIR should also not be an afterthought: a plan for FAIR data will guide the researchers during their projects and should be completed before the project ends
- A cost-benefit analysis for making research data FAIR by PwC for the European Commission shows that not making data FAIR costs Europe €10.2 billion per year
- It is important to understand and clarify that FAIR data does not equal Open Data: FAIR makes data machine actionable and can but does not need to be (fully) opened
- The concept of Open Data often scares researchers and organisations: they are worried about their data and results being scooped and being commercially exploited
- 'Open Data' is not a binary term of open versus closed: there is gradation of openness and also exceptions for medical, private, sensitive, security, and commercial data
- The incentives and rewards system must be changed for Open Science: researchers must be rewarded in career and research evaluations for Open Science and FAIR
- A standardised glossary is needed for Open Science and EOSC: the terms change continuously and are understood differently across stakeholders leading to confusion

Photos:

- Photo 1
- Photo 2
- Photo 3
- Photo 4
- Photo 5
- Photo 6