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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Council conclusions on the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)

Delegations will find attached a Presidency text for the Draft Council conclusions on the 'European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)' with a view to the Research Working Party meeting on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

DRAFT**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS****on the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)****THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION****RECALLING:**

- its Conclusions of 27 May 2016 on “The transition towards an Open Science system”¹, which called on the Commission, the Member States and the stakeholders to take the necessary actions needed for making open science a reality and to advocate the need for concerted actions in relevant national, EU, multilateral and international fora;
 - the resolution of the European Parliament on the European Cloud Initiative, adopted in February 2017, supporting the European Open Science Cloud, and calling on the Commission and Member States to rapidly establish a clear roadmap for the implementation of EOSC actions;
1. ACKNOWLEDGES the progress that has been made on the development of access of world-class European data infrastructures and cloud-based services since the Commission Communication of 19 April 2016 on “European Cloud Initiative - Building a competitive data and knowledge economy in Europe” and the Commission Communication of 10 May 2017 on the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy, which confirms the need to come forward with an implementation Roadmap for the European Open Science Cloud;

¹ 9526/16

2. NOTES the EOSC Declaration from 26 October 2017 resulting from the EOSC Summit of 12 June 2017, which aimed at building consensus on the implementation of the plans for the EOSC and identified the priority areas for EOSC funding and RECALLS that the creation of EOSC, one of the major research-centred processes in the EU today, lies in the shared responsibility of the European Commission, the Member States, and the stakeholders;
3. HIGHLIGHTS that the implementation and further development of advanced solutions for the effective provision and use of high quality scientific data, with effective descriptors, ease of access, interoperability and reusability, fully implementing the FAIR² principles and developing and promoting Data Commons, should take into account already established practices by ESFRI Research Infrastructures and horizontal e-Infrastructures;
4. STRESSES that with regard to data sharing, relevant privacy and security interests need to be addressed, following the formula “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”;
5. In this context, WELCOMES the Commission Staff Working Document on the Implementation Roadmap for the European Open Science Cloud introducing a two-stage approach on the roll out of the EOSC with an evaluation by the Commission and the Member States to take place before the start of the second phase; TAKES NOTE of the planned support to the EOSC by means of projects under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020);
6. ACKNOWLEDGES that the development of the EOSC is the supply side of a broader policy initiative aimed at ensuring open access to scientific results and mainstreaming open science practices in Europe; STRESSES that effectiveness requires to act simultaneously on the demand side, with research funders enforcing open access and FAIR data management mandates. URGES the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the EOSC is designed as a user-centred environment, serving scientists and researchers foremost;

² Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR).

7. AGREES that the EOSC model should be based on a pan-European federation of data infrastructures in order to be flexible and adaptable to changing needs of the stakeholders; with regard to enabling this federation of data infrastructures, ENCOURAGES Member States to ask their relevant communities, such as e-infrastructures, Research Funding Organisations (RFO's) and Research Performing Organisations (RPO's), to get organized as to prepare them for connection to the EOSC and CALLS ON the Commission to make optimal use of existing expertise and knowledge available via existing initiatives, such as the GO FAIR initiative;
8. CONSIDERS that given the open character of EOSC, its development should be an inclusive and gradual process and in this regard RECOMMENDS to the Commission and Member States to ascertain that stakeholders can participate on a voluntary basis by choosing which services or datasets they can share based upon the available means and according to the existing rules and regulations;
9. INVITES the Commission, jointly with Member States, therefore to explore the creation of a map of national initiatives in the Member States which could be federated, in order to ensure that current structures, competences, functions, and initiatives regarding research data management are duly taken into account as well as to support the development of the EOSC federating core³;
10. UNDERLINES the importance of adequate governance as a central factor the EOSC's success. SUPPORTS the two-stage approach for the EOSC governance that enables the Member States and the Commission to steer and oversee the initial development of the EOSC in the first phase. In the second phase the EOSC governance would become fully stakeholder-driven, while maintaining a higher-level oversight role for the Member States and the Commission;

³ Constituted of shared technical resources, a common compliance framework and a dedicated governance framework

11. It WELCOMES the EOSC model constituted of 6 interrelated lines of actions (architecture, services, data, access, rules, governance) and INVITES the Commission in close cooperation with the Member States - taking into account the recommendations of the ERAC Standing Working Group on Open Science and Innovation, to set up a governance structure that ensures proper representation of stakeholders from the scientific community and effective involvement of Member States and correspond to the following criteria:
- a. Federation and interoperability of existing data infrastructures whilst respecting the governance and funding mechanisms of the latter;
 - b. Simplification of interrelations among the separate EOSC structures and in particular clear definition of the roles of the Governance Board and the Executive Board, assuring that both structures have monitoring tasks with Governance Board overseeing the EOSC governance implementation;
 - c. Effectiveness and transparency in establishing clear and sound principles for selection and involvement of Member States and Associated Countries representatives and stakeholders, such as the large pan-European research infrastructures (RIs), public research organisations (PROs) and Universities in the Executive Board, working groups/subgroups and other relevant committees;
 - d. Inclusiveness and openness, providing that EOSC coordination and governance will ensure direct communication among doers⁴ and decision-makers;
12. EXPECTS the EOSC governance structure to be launched if possible in 2018.

⁴ The attendees of the EOSC Summit in June 2017 and signatories of EOSC Declaration committed to implement the vision of the European Science Cloud while open to new entrants willing to participate in the effort.

13. CALLS ON the Commission for specific capacity-building measures to maximise the opportunities of the EOSC for all Member States. Such measures would include, among others, investment in infrastructures and human capital. STRESSES in particular the importance of developing a sustainable business model and of choosing the best fit legal vehicle for the future phase of development;
 14. CALLS FOR an efficient implementation of the EOSC and requests the adequate and timely consultation of the Member States on the future financing of the EOSC and any other budgetary decisions resulting from the implementation of the EOSC;
 15. STRESSES the global nature of research data management, welcomes ongoing discussions in the context of international fora and CALLS ON the Commission and Member States to coordinate their positions in an international context.
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