



Open Call for Communities

Guide for Applicants



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1 Introduction

About EOSC-Pillar¹

EOSC-Pillar aims to coordinate national Open Science efforts across Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Italy, and ensure their contribution and readiness for the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).

The project seeks to support the coordination and harmonization of national initiatives relevant to EOSC in Europe and investigate the option for them to federate at a later stage, help integrating initiatives and data/cloud providers through the development of common policies and tools, and facilitate user communities in adopting and using these services and propose new ones born from their scientific domain.

To this end, the project will integrate a bottom-up approach (by voicing the requirements and needs expressed by the different scientific communities operating at the national level) and a top-down one (by harmonising the national strategies and translating them in a viable work plan).

In the longer term, this is expected to facilitate the design and adoption of common policies and streamline the process of joining EOSC for service providers and user communities while helping to populate the EOSC with useful services of wider European interest, based on the real needs and interests of the European scientific communities. In order to maximise this simplification process, the project will collaborate with related regional and thematic initiatives.

About the EOSC-Pillar Consortium²

The EOSC-Pillar consortium consists of 18 members and covers France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Belgium, which are among the European countries that are supposed to bring a major contribution to the co-building of the EOSC, thanks to their relevant national resources related to open science. They are key players in the fields of Research and Data Infrastructures, e-Infrastructures, HPC and are investing considerable resources in research and innovation. The consortium was built with two objectives in mind:

¹ The text in this section is taken from <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu/project>; see <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu> for more information.

² The text in this section is taken from <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu/consortium>; see <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu> for more information.

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- Facilitating the liaison with budding national initiatives for the coordination of data and open science services, which are at the heart of the project concept.
 - Ensuring the complementarity of competences and expertise, while including the point of view of the key stakeholders represented in the national initiatives (namely involving key research communities alongside e-Infrastructures and data service providers).

2 Scope of the call

The Call for EOSC-Pillar new thematic services is intended for projects that:

- Are already developed and demonstrated to be working at scale on existing computational/data/connectivity and other infrastructures (e.g. private, national, European or public clouds/grids/HTC/HPC/network resources) that would become part of EOSC.
- Have a strong and well defined scientific challenge addressed by the use of e-infrastructure (e.g. an explicit data analysis challenge or supporting the operation of a Virtual Research Environment, or the dissemination and sharing of data and other research outputs) that will show the scientific excellence and societal impact that could be achieved by EOSC.
- Provide data integration, management, interoperability and analyses tools that will drive the specification and development of services within the EOSC ecosystem that also support open science.
- Are supported by mature research infrastructures and/or research organisations at a European or national level.
- Are committed to publishing or consuming third-party research artefacts (e.g. publications, datasets, tools, workflows) as part of the Open Science model with the application of FAIR principles, and also as part of the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020.
- Are feasible to be completely integrated/federated within the time-frame available to carry out the work plan (12 months).
- Contribute to achieve a broad range of stakeholders with maximum coverage of different types of research and varieties of types of data, strengthening the consortium.
- Are ready to be developed with the support granted from EOSC-Pillar experts during the Hackathon event in June 2021 and consume the available resource provisioning such as data storage and/or compute HPC/HTC resources offered from current EOSC-Pillar partners.

3 Eligibility criteria

- Successful participants will be invited to become beneficiaries of or third parties to the EOSC-Pillar Grant Agreement, and should therefore meet the eligibility requirements of the EC H2020 programme. New project beneficiaries will also be invited into the EOSC-Pillar Consortium Agreement.
 - *Note:* there is no allocation of Person Months (PMs) effort awarded by the EOSC-Pillar project, only in-kind contributions from current EOSC-Pillar partners to consume resources offered in the Grant Agreement. The offering basically consists of archive data storage and HPC resources.. A list of available resources can be found in Appendix I.
- Only proposals with a civilian purpose will be eligible to participate in this EOSC-Pillar call.
- Only proposals led by academia and public research organisations will be eligible, although contributions from private sector organisations would be welcome.
- The proposal should conform to the commitment to open science and open access, as part of the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020³, within the constraints of data protection legislation and legitimate confidentiality.
- Only proposals written in English will be eligible.

³https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-dissemination_en.htm

4 Important deadlines

- The call for proposals opens on 18 December 2020 and closes on 28 February 2021 at 23h59 CEST.
- If needed, applicants will be able to reply to comments from technical and scientific reviewers in the following weeks.
- The applicants will get the result of the call for proposals in April 2021.
- Successful applicants will be invited to attend a workshop in mid of June 2021 (between 14th till 18th) where one-on-one support will be given to each Service Providers by experts affiliated with the EOSC-Pillar project.
- The selected services will start to be executed on 1 July 2021 .

5 How to apply

- All proposals must be submitted via the EOSC-Pillar website by filling in the relevant field in this web form : <https://www.eosc-pillar.eu/form/call-thematic-services-application>
- All proposals must be fully completed and submitted by the closing date (28 February 2021 at 23h59 CEST).
- In the case of technical difficulties, the decision of EOSC-Pillar members as to whether an application can be accepted is final.
- Your proposal clearly describes:
 - describe your service (minimum 1 paragraph and maximum 2 pages)
 - service URL and/or endpoint
 - proposing/offering research community (referred here as Service Provider)
 - current targeted research groups
 - service contact name and email
 - under what conditions you would like to make the service available in EOSC
 - free for everyone without login option
 - free with login access
 - free with login and some restrictions apply
 - fee based access (pay per use or monthly fee)

6 Selection criteria and evaluation procedure

In this section, we give the list of requirements that each service should comply with.

Proposals will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria:

- The service is already developed as a prototype and demonstrated to be working on an operational environment to become part of EOSC, i.e. minimal Technology Readiness Level (TRL) equal to 7;
- How strong and well-defined the scientific challenge is addressed by the use of research infrastructure, and how large the expected value is that this service can bring to researchers;
- How challenging the service it is in terms of data integration, management, interoperability and analysis;
- Its commitment to publishing or consuming third-party research artefacts as part of the Open Science model with the application of FAIR principles and also as part of the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020;
- Its contribution to achieve a broad range of stakeholders; and its feasibility and suitability to be deployed within one year with the support provided by EOSC- Pillar.

The selection and evaluation procedure falls into two main steps:

- Step 1: Check proposals documentation
- Step 2: Evaluate proposals after the Hackathon

In the following we list the steps of this process.

Step 1.1: Call for Proposals

The call for proposals should:

- Provide clear guidelines on how to prepare and submit expressions of interest.
- Be properly broadcasted and targeted to relevant stakeholders.
- Be announced in a timely manner and include reminders as the deadline approach.
- Inform applicants on how to get support or help in clarifying issues.

The call for proposals opens on 18 December 2020 and closes on 28 February 2021 at 23h59 CEST. You can find information on the application process in [Section 5](#).

Step 1.2: Review submission

Once the call is closed, the submission reviewer will check on the completeness and compliance of each proposal. The submission reviewer will contact the applicant to solve small issues.

Step 2.1: Assignment of reviewer(s)

Assignment of reviewers selected from the appointed Selection Committee. The call coordinator(s) will assign the proposals to reviewers depending on their area of expertise. The applicants will get the result of the call for applications in April 2021.

Step 2.2: Service demand for resource consumption

Once the results have been communicated to the applicants, submitters can explicitly request any of the offered services as a service demand to advance the developed service. If applicant requests resources that exceeds the current offering then the EOOSC-Pillar Open Call team will decide on the possibility to approve or decline it. A list of resource provisioning is available in the [Appendix 1](#).

Step 2.3: Provide one-one support

A workshop in the form of a Hackathon will be organized in June 2021 for those applicants that passed the first round of evaluation. During this event, submitters will be provided a one-one development support from Pillar experts in order to showcase their service. In turn, EOOSC-Pillar expects participants to participate actively and full-time in the hackathon.

Step 2.4: Final Selection committee review

The Selection Committee will evaluate the technical suitability and feasibility of the proposal. The proposed applications need to comply with the requirements. A ranking list of the proposals to be supported based on the scored evaluation criteria will be produced. After verifying that the process has been undertaken transparently they will finalise the selected proposals during the last session of the hackathon event.

Step 2.5: Notify result to the applicants

The results will be communicated to the applicants in Summer 2021. Formal acceptance or rejection letters will be sent by e-mail or other means.

Step 2.6: Resource allocation

Once the results have been communicated to the applicants, the resources (human and technical) that will develop the proposed project need to be allocated .

Step 2.7: Appeal request

The applicant will have right to appeal after the reception of a rejection letter.

Step 2.8: Respond to appeal

The appeal requests will be treated and answered by the Selection Committee, if needed in consultation with the submission Reviewers. The call coordinator will ensure the responses

are completed and communicated to the requester in a timely manner. If the appeal is rejected, as best practice the call coordinator can suggest alternative options or next steps to follow.

In Figure 1, we list the selection process model which consists of the activities to perform and their respective estimated time duration. Each activity modelled with a rounded rectangular is labelled with a name. The elements represented as diamonds with an 'X' named "Xor gateway" is used to control the flow of the process and define which path to take. Whereas, the elements represented as diamonds with an '+' named "Parallel gateway" visualize the concurrent performing of the activities. Each activity is assigned with a preceding number, e.g. 1.2 (second activity of first evaluation stage) to highlight the activities performed either in first stage of evaluation or the second one. Sequence flow are represented through arcs with an arrow that connects flow objects in a process map.

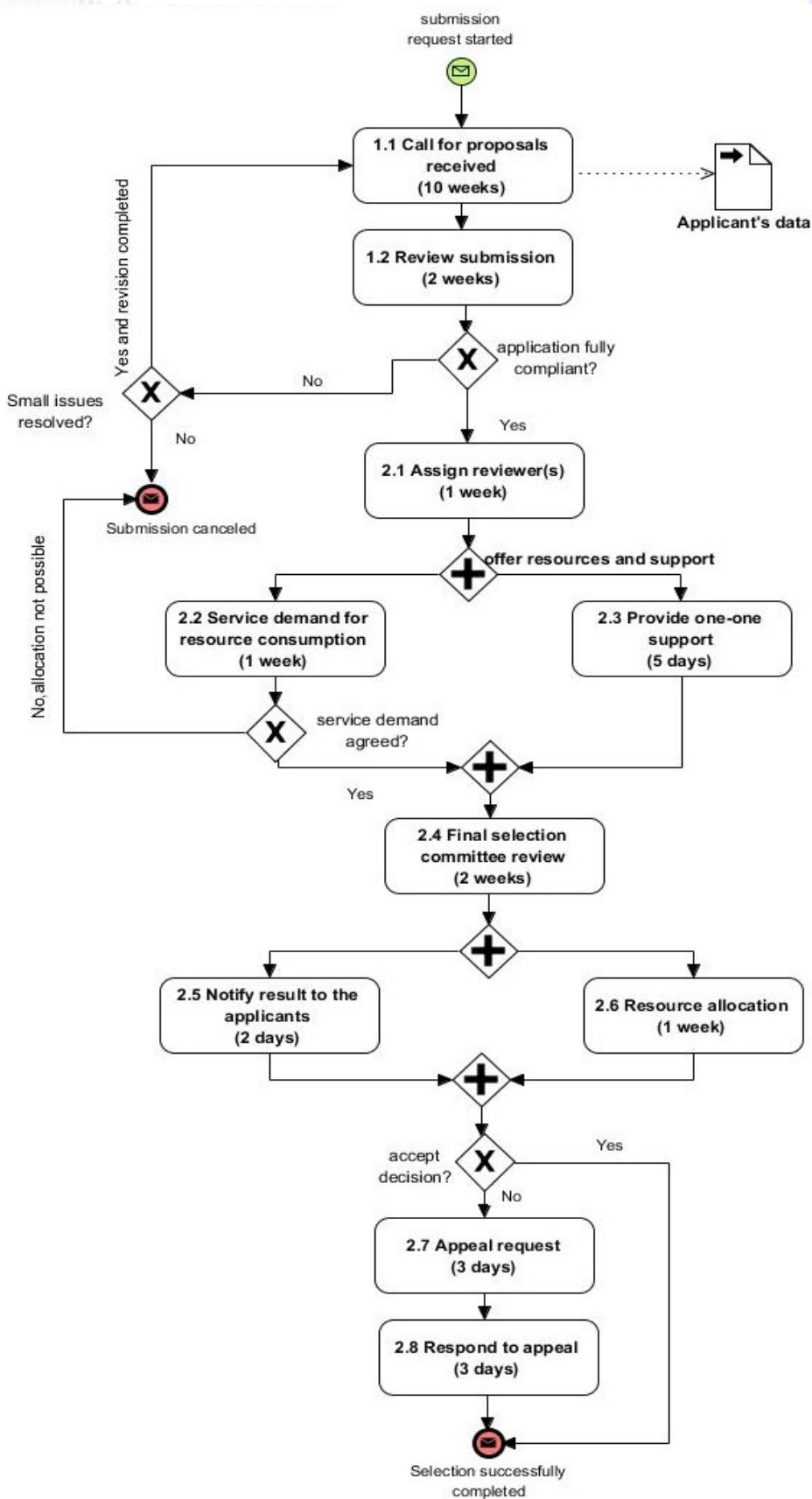


Fig. 1 Set of Activities and their Estimated Time in EOC-Pillar Selection Process

7 Applicant commitment

The awarded applicant commits to:

- Joining the EOSC-Pillar project as a project beneficiary or third party, and work within the EOSC-Pillar processes and procedures, including financial and effort reporting.
- Allow the project to use results of the deployed service as appropriate within dissemination and outreach activities within the scope of the GA and CA.
- Acknowledge the role of EOSC-Pillar in all publications which include the results from the execution of the awarded project. Users shall use the following (or equivalent) wording in such acknowledgements:

“We acknowledge the EOSC-Pillar project for the support received. Specifically, we gratefully appreciate the support of [name of person/people] from [organisation name], [country].”

Appendix I. List of offered services

In this table we show the list of available resources.

DISCLAIMER:

The partners in EOSC-Pillar offer many more services not listed explicitly.

They may fit your need or can be adapted to do so. Our review process will suggest resources that match requirements even when not explicitly listed. If the listed services are less applicable, the review committee in collaboration of the applicant and service provider, will broker a resource that matches your requirement.

Partner Organisation	Data storage	HPC and Cloud computing	VM/VRE	Dataverse repositories
KIT	100 TB Storage in the EUDAT B2SHARE service		20 VMs with 32 GB in the bwcloud [tbd]	
CINES	B2SAFE/iRODS short/medium term storage resources - up to 150 TB			
GARR (coordinator)	50 TB storage in the virtual data centre of GARR		200 VM with dedicated 10-40 Gb links and running a multi-site OpenStack system	
CNR-ISTI			a digital research environment offering workflows, storage compute in a easy to use package	
CNR-IBIOM				Laniakea@RECAS, Galaxy instances
INRAE				dataverse repository instances

INRIA	Provides storage and PID for your software to enable reference			
INFN	50 TB cloud storage	CPU resources in cloud@RECAS		

Table. 1 List of offered services from existing Pillar partners