3.4.3   Details on the Mandated Organisation

Belnet[15] was selected by the CIS-CfS as the Mandated Organisation for Belgium within the EOSC association. Since Belgium is a federated country where research is a regional capacity, coordination is established through a bottom-up process through the Open Science working group of CIS-CFS (Commission International Cooperation-Commission Federal Cooperation). As such, the Mandated Organisation represents the federated research landscape where Belnet functions as a representative of the different stakeholders. Within the EOSC association, they represent Belgian interests and positions.

Belnet is a federal government organisation and belongs to the Federal Science Policy (BELSPO). As a National Research and Education Network (NREN), Belnet is one of the few research-oriented infrastructures in Belgium that is national in scope. Belnet is a data network provider that has an important role to play as a Service Provider with services focused on connectivity and security. They stimulate the deployment of the knowledge and information society by providing and maintaining high quality innovative network infrastructures with associated services. Belnet will represent the interests of all players that form a part of the Belgian research landscape. Furthermore Belnet will take care to provide a variety of value-added services to the EOSC and is already connected through the GÉANT network.

3.4.4   Details on the Flemish Open Science Board

In Flanders, the Flemish Open Science Board unites all Flemish stakeholders in a shared vision for the future with regard to Open Science and EOSC, and, supported by technical working groups, advises the policy on steps to be taken to fully integrate Flanders into the international Open Science landscape. The aim is to roll out and support open science policy in Flemish knowledge institutions. Its operation is part of a broader European policy - such as the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) - and mainly focuses on open data and research data management (RDM). This requires infrastructure (data archiving), metadata and standardization (data discovery) and training and expertise.

The main objectives of the Flemish Open Science board are:

- To unite all Flemish stakeholders in a shared vision of the future with regard to Open Science and the EOSC.
- Consolidate existing expertise in the field in the Flemish Open Science Board to advise policy on steps to fully integrate Flanders into international Open Science initiatives such as EOSC.
- Ensure interoperability between data providers and promote FAIR data with e.g. investing in data stewards
- Investment in infrastructure and human resources to transition to FAIR and Open Science practices.

In the Flemish region, this transition is supported by the Flanders Research Information Space[16] (FRIS) the regional digital platform containing information on researchers and their research, funded

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[15] https://www.belnet.be/en
[16] https://www.researchportal.be/en

via public Flemish funds since 2008. The Flemish Government wants to offer a unique window on research in Flanders and increase its visibility. FRIS aggregates all the publicly funded research in Flanders. Five Flemish universities and 9 research institutions have already linked their systems directly to FRIS, automatically ensuring their data feeds directly into its information space. All information from the FRIS platform is displayed on a portal website. FRIS has been established as close cooperation between the Department of Economics, Science and Innovation of the Flemish Government and the knowledge institutions in Flanders, i.e. Flemish universities, higher education colleges, strategic research centres, and other scientific institutions. FRIS is in the process of providing metadata to OpenAIRE, prioritizing datasets, to connect to the EOSC.