



ANCA HIENOLA

provides a personal perspective on the communication (or lack thereof) between EOSC Working Groups and European Open Science Cloud development projects

Three years have already passed since the kick-off meeting of EOSCpilot – the first in a long series for EOSC projects that began the work to realize the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) vision. In the meantime, much has happened - more than 40 EOSC related projects have been kicked-off (as reported by EOSCsecretariat), the EOSC workplan for 2019-2020 has been published, the EOSC governance has been defined and implemented by the European Commission (EC), and the EOSC Working Groups (WG) have been formed as an official part of the EOSC governance - just to mention only a few of the major actions that took place in the increasingly complex landscape of EOSC.

Although the case for European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is strong and the financial support generous, progress towards the fully functional fundamental enabler of Open Science that EOSC is envisioned to be is still erratic and fragmented. In a way, the path towards the achievement of the ambitious but still amorphous dream of EOSC was cleared slightly due to the emergence of the five ESFRI cluster projects launched at the beginning of 2019.

They were conceived by the EC to act as brokers

between EOSC on one hand and the scientific community on the other, as the research infrastructures have strong ties with the research area, manage massive amount of data and develop analytic tools. In terms of development, the ESFRI cluster projects' connection to EOSC should be achieved via the EOSC Working Groups. The Working Groups - covering Landscape, FAIR, Architecture, Rules of Participation and Sustainability aspects - already took several steps by planning and conducting certain liaison activities (webinars and events) with the projects involved in building the EOSC. On the other side, the projects were invited to name contact persons for each WG and to select and communicate the activities and deliverables believed to be relevant to the task of a certain WG. The key to having effective communication and information sharing is good coordination, which is the responsibility of the Working Groups. Willingness to commit, interact and especially listen already exists on both sides. However, the communication between the parties so far has been modest at best. But let us not judge too harshly.

The WGs started their activity in July 2019 and during these few months the work has focused on at least two face-to-face meetings for each WG, description of their work plans, the Strawman report from the Sustainability WG, landscape analysis etc., but not so much on the interactions with the EOSC cluster projects. **Now it is time to put the pedal to the metal as one thing is clear: there are many deep as well as subtle unresolved challenges that only the expertise found within the cluster projects can solve.** Feeding the input on community requirements and best practices into each EOSC

ENVRI-FAIR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

Working Group, providing pragmatic solutions or only ideas will supply the necessary momentum for the EOSC to really commence.

An excellent example that should be followed - but at a smaller scale, to ensure efficiency - is the Concertation meeting organized in September 2019 by the DG-RTD and DG-CNECT, the two units from the European Commission currently funding the EOSC projects and coordinating activities. Each Working Group could, in principle, gather representatives (preferably experts) of the cluster, regional and other projects of interest for a one-day workshop to inform each other on the respective activity, identify topics and critical issues that have to

be addressed, and define and act upon joint actions. In this way chaos, fragmentation and duplication - which, let us be honest, still govern the way EOSC runs - could be minimized, and the operational and cultural experience of the ESFRI projects used to the maximum.

There is no doubt that ESFRI clusters, as a collective initiative, can significantly influence the direction EOSC will take after the end of 2020. As long as communication lines remain open, finding out what functions and what doesn't, and taking some responsibility for bringing the bottom-up view into the equation, EOSC is going to be just fine. In the end, what could go wrong?



Logos of the EOSC related projects

Anca is involved in activities concerning open data and open access, research infrastructure activities and several projects of European dimension. In ENVRI-FAIR she is strongly involved in WP3 that is strategically focusing on alignment with national and international stakeholders, community development and innovation activities.