

European Open Science Cloud – From vision into useful services

Vision for the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) was presented in the European Commission communication on the 'European Cloud Initiative', as a part of the Digital Single Market Strategy, in April 2016. As presented in the EOSC Strategic Implementation Roadmap 2018-2020, it will be *"a seamless environment enabling interdisciplinary research, an environment to foster data-intensive innovation. The EOSC will allow for universal access to data and a new level playing field for EU researchers."*

The Cloud EOSC will serve 1.7 million European researchers and 70 million professionals in science, technology, the humanities and social sciences. It provides a virtual environment with open services for storage, management, analysis, and re-use of research data. The EOSC serves communities across borders and scientific disciplines by federating existing scientific data infrastructures, currently dispersed across disciplines and the EU Member States.

The launch of the EOSC was prepared with an extensive consultation with scientific and institutional stakeholders that took place in 2016 and 2017. The first EOSC Summit in June 2017 resulted in the EOSC Declaration endorsed by more than 70 institutions. In March 2018, the Commission presented the summary outcome of the consultation in the form of a roadmap for implementing the EOSC.

The EOSC is implemented by projects under the Horizon 2020 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, funded by the European Commission.

[EOSCsecretariat.eu](https://eosccsecretariat.eu) addresses the need for the set-up of an operational framework supporting the overall governance of the EOSC. Led by a lean consortium of experienced and complementary partners, the project maintains a practical approach to address the specific needs of the coordination structure expected by the EOSC. The EOSC secretariat is neutral towards the community it is serving and has a pragmatic approach that is fully dedicated to realising the outcomes of the EOSC design.