Kick-off face-to-face meeting of the EOSC Skills and Training Working Group

26 February 2020, 08:45 – 16:00 CET

Location: EUA premises, 24 avenue de l'Yser, Brussels

Attending: Vinciane Gaillard, Natalia Manola, Ignacio Blanquer, Carlos Casorrán, Judit Fazekas-Parragh, Iryna Kuchma, Dunja Legat, Caterina Petrillo, Jerzy Proficz, Fotis Psomopoulos, Anne Sunikka, Elin Stangeland, Lennart Stoy, Michael Svendsen, Susan Trinitz, Celia van Gelder, Angus Whyte, Vassia Diochnou

Remote attendance: Ieva Cesevičiūtė, Miroslav Dobrucky, Ana Portugal Melo, Ricarda T.D. Reimer, Sadia Vancauwenberghe

Agenda and notes

Introduction to EOSC EB operations /objectives
What's new in EOSC - partnerships proposal - practicalities are still being discussed

Introduction to the WG remit
- What do we want to achieve in a year? Where do we limit ourselves? What's missing? How to prioritize? On what level do we intervene and how?
- The WG member's role is to transfer back to their countries providing a bridge between European and national activities
- Deadlines: mid summer – preliminary results and final results in autumn
- Digital Europe programme includes digital skills, we should also keep an eye on these developments
- Practicalities: split into smaller task forces (see break-out groups below)
- Assign ambassadors to liaise with other groups, e.g. Landscape, FAIR, Architecture. For example, open learning initiatives are a part of Landscape WG.
- Use co-creation funding to commission studies, write requirements, etc.
- Focus on competence and capabilities, but not on building capacities - this is a national task
- Certification for training courses/programmes or some quality assurance procedures for trainers and recognition for people attending training. Consider certification as standards - for trainers, trainees, materials. Standards (required) vs best practice (recommended)

- What about governance of the training materials?
- What about curricula, do we need specific curricula? Part of skills and competencies. We need to change the culture now – every student graduating in every discipline should have basic skills. FAIRsFAIR is partially addressing this, perhaps it's too early to make it EOSC MVP.
- We are not focusing on education, just training.
- Open data perspective is important as well as Data Management skills and data sharing
- What is EOSC MVP - basically it's a roadmap

Putting the context: An introduction of FAIR4S framework
Angus Whyte from the Digital Curation Centre talked about [FAIR4S](#) – FAIR Stewardship Skills for Science and Scholarship – skill and role profiles that propose an example, and about [terms4FAIRskills](#) that can help map across different frameworks.

A need for use cases and implementation experiences was flagged as well as a need for a broader context and coordination with the OECD Global Science Forum Expert Group on [Digital Skills for Data-Intensive Science](#).

Researchers should be in the center of this process and in addition to hard FAIR skills they need soft skills as well. And EOSC portal should also be more user – researcher – friendly.

Celia van Gelder from DTL – Dutch Techcentre for Life Sciences and ELIXIR-NL, presented a research infrastructure perspective – [The ELIXIR Training Platform](#) and approach to tackle the digital skills gap. Important ingredients are a [train the trainer programme](#) upskilling trainers and providing open and reusable materials and establishing a data steward as profession for the Life Sciences ([descriptions](#), [skills and competency framework for the three data stewardship roles](#): policy, research and infrastructure, and the [Data Stewardship Wizard](#) – a web-based application for preparing smart Data Management Plans).
The [ELIXIR-CONVERGE project](#) that started this February is aimed at strengthening Europe's data management capacity through a comprehensive training programme delivered throughout the European Research Area and aligning national data management standards and services through a sustainable, scalable and cost-effective data management toolkit.

Action: Create a slide template to collect information on what's available in other countries, especially in English language (similar to Celia's presentation)

Break out groups: Refine objectives and deliverables

1. EOSC minimal skillset: what is it? Training in EOSC MVP
- Differences in backgrounds, vocabulary and still lack of clarity on EOSC tools and processes
- Need for a glossary
- Will this group also address certification for skills set?
- Make sure that open science skills are also addressed
- Create an inventory of skillsets with a basic SWOT analysis
- Map roles to functions; tasks are in between the roles and the skills.

2. Options for organizational models for regional/thematic/EU competence centers and their coordination
- Is competence center a hub or a source of information?
- National communities as EOSC competence centers nationally: coordination, building synergies to provide better service
- Institutional - National - regional/thematic/EU
- Networking is important
- Thematic aspects are already addressed in Research Infrastructures
- Best practices, characterization what it is, standards, metadata for catalogues
- FAIRsFAIR as a demonstrator, landscape who else is setting up a competence center. What are the corresponding national bodies?
- Recommendations and actions
- Definition: "A shared hub of expertise offering leadership in adopting FAIR and open science principles and implementing the corresponding practices, coordination and cataloguing services to connect relevant people, guidance, learning resources and curricula" (reusing FAIRsFAIR D6.1)
- How about providing skills and support? Where is IT here? Add amongst others after the corresponding practices?
- A competence center will:
  1. Adopt FAIR and Open Science Principles (not necessarily defined them, but getting involved in the definition)
  2. Implement them as practices to be used; standards as the required aspects, and best practices as the recommended (aspect to strive for)
- Landscape: Which FAIR and Open Science Principles are there? Conduct the landscape analysis: European, thematic and national - what organizational models are there already, what works and what doesn't, etc.
  - Do you have a competence center in your organization, country, discipline at the regional or EU level?
  - What is your organizational model?
  - Which Open Science principles does your center use?
  - Do you support collaboration and if yes, how?
  - Do we ask about skills?
  - Ask about gaps and what's needed (for us to plan our activities)
- Include this question in the EUA survey
- Focus on this WG members, FAIR and Sustainability WG members, GO FAIR DSCC-IN and EOSC projects (5b Training and Skills TF, clusters, EOSC-hub)
- Start in March, aim for end of spring to write up results
- Define questions, tools to process responses, etc. Shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to fill it out.
- Also create a list of FAIR and Open Science Principles already existing (literature review)?
- Professional bodies certifying training - are they even a target? Their expectations from this WG (in a form of metrics). One of our target audiences.
- Follow up if needed

- Define organizational model for EOSC: to work in sync, describe functions (e.g. have helpdesk or not), scope of competencies (e.g. some are focussed on technical support, some not), etc. Preliminary results mid summer, September for final. Where do we need to coordinate and how? It's not about an organization, but about community
- Quality assurance and certification (Certification related to FAIR: Https://openfair-cert.opengroup.org/home-public)
- How do we work together with others - group 1 and 3

3. EOSC skills/training in national digital skills policies/strategies
- Need for a glossary
- Use skillsets for EOSC (group 1) and organization models for competence center (group 2)
- Stakeholders involved in training (policy makers)
- Staff for competence centers and functions (for different level)
- Digital skills in libraries and universities, how about training and education? National libraries and archives as well. Operators of services
- Stakeholder mapping exercise
- Costs/funding (and where funding will come from)
- What the career perspectives are and how it's linked to the European workforce; cross sectoral; transferable skills
- A report - ingredients for the national strategy
- Different templates for institutional strategies (use landscape analysis to highlight some success stories)
- Commission this as an external party project
- Governance
- Include all this in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) - November deadline, contribution mid summer would be useful
- Sources of funding for training now - Digital Europe and EOSC Legal Entity. What's in EOSC MVP will get funding

Outlining our work and deliverables -   Prioritization. Milestones and deadlines

Logistics: Task forces and responsibilities - Please sign up for one or more Task forces:
1. EOSC minimal skillset: what is it?
2. Competence centers: Options for organizational models for regional/thematic/EU competence centers and their coordination
3. National level: EOSC skills/training in national digital skills policies/strategies
4. Specifications for training catalogue(s)

Internal collaboration tools, conf call meeting schedule, aligning with other initiatives (e.g., OECD, LIBER, EUA), external communication, next f2f meetings

Interaction with GB
Periodical telecoms between the Ministry and WG members to inform, align ideas; also with scientific representatives from other institutions

Bi-monthly face-to-face meetings with the Ministry and other WG members
Monthly calls
Meetings
Email reports from the meetings.
Informal interaction with the Ministry
Regular meetings with national representatives in WGs, OpenAIRE NOAD, RDA Node, EGI
Node, etc.

Actions

Sign up for one or more Task forces

Create a doodle for next meetings starting from March every two months, suggest locations
(Amsterdam, Frankfurt airport, etc.)

Create a slide template to collect information on what's available in other countries,
especially in English language (similar to Celia's presentation)

Please add to these minutes if you were keeping your own notes of this meeting (all)